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LATONIA MOORE, SOPRANO, AND RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, BASS-BARITONE, OPEN THE GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS 2019-20 SEASON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019, AT THE MORGAN

Moore & Green are featured in the Met's season-opening *Porgy & Bess*



Latonia Moore, Ryan Speedo Green (photo by Dario Acosta) ([click for hi-res photos](#))

The George London Foundation for Singers 2019-20 season marks the centennial of the birth of its namesake, the legendary Canadian-American bass-baritone who was one of the greatest opera singers of the 20th century. The season opens at The Morgan Library and Museum on Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 4:00 pm, with a recital by two young American rising stars and George London Award winners: Latonia Moore, soprano, and Ryan Speedo Green, bass-baritone, with Ken Noda, piano.

Both singers are featured in the cast of the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* that opens the season on September 23: Moore as Serena, and Green as Jake.

Latonia Moore, a 2002 George London Award winner and Houston native, last season won acclaim in an English National Opera production of *Porgy and Bess*, Anthony Tommasini saying in The New York Times, "Perhaps best of all is the impassioned, radiant soprano Latonia Moore as Serena"; this past June, she made her Washington National Opera debut in the title role of

Tosca, about which Washington City Paper said, “this *Tosca* boasts a dynamite titular heroine, Latonia Moore.... The American soprano emotes with her powerful voice and whole body.”

Ryan Speedo Green, a native of Suffolk, Virginia, who won his George London Award in 2014, has been called a “real showstopper” by The New York Times. He won the Marian Anderson Vocal Prize in 2018, was the subject of the book *Sing for Your Life*, by New York Times journalist Daniel Bergner, and a recent profile on *60 Minutes*. About his performance in *La Bohème* at the Vienna State Opera in April of this year, The Opera Critic said, “Ryan Speedo Green scored a hit with an outstanding Colline - full of character, wit, and dexterity, and delivering a ‘Vecchia zimmara, senti’ with faultless line and equanimity.”

At the George London Foundation event, Latonia Moore will sing “L'altra notte in fondo al mare” from Boito’s *Mefistofele*, and songs by Duparc, Hahn, Liszt, Quilter, and Katherine Kennicott Davis. Ryan Speedo Green sings “Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge” from Wagner’s *Das Rheingold*, “Abbieta zingara fosca vegliarda” from Verdi’s *Il Trovatore*, and songs by Beethoven, Liszt, Mahler, and Wolf. They will join to conclude the program with the duet “Or siam soli” from Verdi’s *La Forza del Destino*. (Complete program details follow below.)

The recital is followed by a reception with the artists. In a happy coincidence, as Verdi is on the program, The Morgan’s current exhibition *Verdi: Creating Otello and Falstaff—Highlights from the Ricordi Archive* will be open for concert attendees.

The George London Foundation for Singers has been honoring, supporting, and presenting the finest young opera singers in the U.S. and Canada with activities including an annual competition and recital series, that Opera News has called “a living testament to the peerless bass-baritone’s talent and generosity.” The 2019-20 season continues with three more events:

- The 49th annual **George London Foundation Competition** begins with three days of preliminary auditions and culminates with the final round and announcement of George London Award winners. The 2020 competition takes place February 17-19, and the public is invited to attend the competition finals and awards announcement on **Friday, February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm.** The 2019 George London Award winners were soprano Rebecca Pedersen, mezzo-sopranos Samantha Gossard and Carolyn Sproule, and tenors Charles Sy and Kyle van Schoonhoven.
- “**Celebrating George London’s 100th Birthday,**” a gala benefit reception at New York’s famed Metropolitan Club, will gather former colleagues of London’s and past winners of the competition to celebrate the singer’s centennial and honor the work that the foundation continues in his name. **Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Metropolitan Club**
- **Rihab Chaieb**, mezzo-soprano, and **Lawson Anderson**, bass-baritone, perform a duo-recital with Ken Noda, piano. Both singers are 2018 George London Award winners; in its coverage of the competition, New York Classical Review described Anderson’s voice in his award-winning performance as “like granite, perfectly firm, but with a richly

veined tone,” and Chaieb’s performance as “captivating.” [Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm.](#)

The Legacy of George London

The goal of the London Foundation, the support and nurturing of young singers, was an abiding interest of the great American bass-baritone George London, who devoted a great part of the time and energy of his later years to this purpose. “Remembering his difficult road to success, George wanted to devise a way to make the road a little easier for future generations of singers,” said George London Foundation President Nora London. Initially created under the auspices of the National Opera Institute, the George London Awards program has been administered since 1990 directly by the Foundation as a living legacy to George London’s own exceptional talent and generosity. Visit www.georgelondon.org.

Latonia Moore, soprano, a native of Houston, TX, made her debut in 1998 at the Palm Beach Opera in West Palm Beach, and was engaged as a student in the same year at the Houston Ebony Opera. She continued as a student of Bill Schuman at the Academy of Vocal Arts, in Philadelphia, from where she graduated in 2005. In 2000 she won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Moore won critical praise for her 2008 performance with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Puccini’s *Edgar*, and in 2012 she made her Metropolitan Opera debut as a late replacement for Violeta Urmana on short notice in the title role of *Aïda* in a live broadcast. When she performed that role with the English National Opera in 2017, *The Guardian* said, “This is a remarkable voice, wonderful in its amplitude at full throttle, yet also capable of sustaining beautiful, rapt pianissimos.” In 2016, Moore performed for the newly revived New York City Opera in Puccini’s *Tosca* at the Rose Theater in Lincoln Center; later that year, she sang the lead role of Cio-Cio San in the San Diego Opera’s performance of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. In addition to her George London Award and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions win, she has won a Richard Tucker Foundation Grant (2005), and the first prize and audience award at Concours International d’Opéra in Marseille (2003), among others. [Management page](#)

Ryan Speedo Green, bass-baritone, a native of Suffolk, VA, has been praised by Anthony Tommasini of the *New York Times* for his “robust voice” and Anne Midgette of *The Washington Post* as an artist “fully ready for a big career,” and is quickly establishing himself as an artist of international demand at the world’s leading opera houses. This fall he performs the role of Jake in the Metropolitan Opera’s season-opening production of *Porgy and Bess* and returns to the Vienna State Opera for productions of *Macbeth* (Banquo), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Raimondo), and *Il Trovatore* (Ferrando), as well as a recital in the Opera’s Mahler-Saal. In the 2018-19 season Mr. Green returned to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the King in *Aïda*, conducted by Nicola Luisotti and for a reprise of Colline in *La Bohème*. Mr. Green also performed with the Vienna State Opera as a member of the ensemble with roles including Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Der Einarmige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and Lodovico in *Otello*, among others. In the fall of 2016, Little, Brown published *Sing for Your Life*, by *New York Times* journalist Daniel Bergner. The book tells the story of Mr. Green’s personal and artistic journey: from a trailer park in southeastern Virginia and time spent in Virginia’s juvenile facility of last resort to the Metropolitan Opera stage. www.ryanspeedogreen.com

Ken Noda, piano, recently retired from the staff of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. He began working at the Met in 1991 after he retired from a full-time performing career as a concert pianist. Noda studied with Daniel Barenboim and performed as soloist with such orchestras as the Berlin, Vienna, New York, Israel, and Los Angeles philharmonics, under such

conductors as Abbado, Barenboim, Chailly, Kubelík, Levine, Mehta, Ozawa, and Previn. He has also collaborated as a chamber musician with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Nigel Kennedy, and the Emerson String Quartet. He has been a regular participant at the Marlboro Music Festival, taught for four summers at the Renata Scotto Opera Academy at the invitation of Miss Scotto, and has given master classes at Juilliard and Yale.

[Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 4:00 pm](#)

**Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street, New York City**

The George London Foundation Recital Series presents

LATONIA MOORE, Soprano

RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, Bass-baritone

Ken Noda, Piano

Program order to be announced

BOITO	“L'altra notte in fondo al mare” from <i>Mefistofele</i>
DUPARC	“L'invitation au voyage”
	“Le manoir de Rosamonde”
HAHN	“L'énamouré”
LISZT	“Enfant, si j'étais roi”
QUILTER	“Dream Valley”
	“Love's Philosophy”
K. KENNICOTT DAVIS	“Nancy Hanks”

Latonia Moore and Ken Noda

WAGNER	“Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge” from <i>Das Rheingold</i>
VERDI	“Abbieta zingara fosca vegliarda” from <i>Il Trovatore</i>
BEETHOVEN	“In questa tomba oscura”
LISZT	“Die Vätergruft”
MAHLER	“Urlicht”
WOLF	<i>Michelangelo Lieder</i>
	“Wohl denk ich oft an mein vergangnes Leben”
	“Alles endet, was entstehet”
	“Fühlt meine Seele das ersehnte Licht”

Ryan Speedo Green and Ken Noda

VERDI	“Or siam soli” from <i>La Forza del Destino</i>
	Latonia Moore, Ryan Speedo Green, and Ken Noda

Tickets: \$55

Call (646) 461-3578, e-mail info@georgelondon.org

www.georgelondon.org

www.themorgan.org

September 17, 2019