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**MICHELLE BRADLEY, SOPRANO & WILL LIVERMAN, BARITONE –
BOTH 2017 GEORGE LONDON AWARD WINNERS – OPEN THE GEORGE
LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS 2018-19 SEASON ON SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2018, AT 4:00 PM AT THE MORGAN**

Bradley, who just sang the title role of *Aida* with National Opera of Lorraine, and Liverman, a 2019 Sphinx Medal of Excellence winner who makes his Metropolitan Opera debut in *Marnie*, will sing songs of Barber, Poulenc, and Vaughan Williams, arias, and the *Aida* duet “Ciel! Mio padre!”



Michelle Bradley, Will Liverman

On Sunday, December 2, two of opera’s brightest rising stars, soprano **Michelle Bradley**, who in October made her debut at the National Opera of Lorraine in the title role of *Aida*, and baritone **Will Liverman**, recently announced as a winner of the 2019 Sphinx Medal of Excellence who makes his Metropolitan Opera debut this fall in Nico Muhly’s *Marnie*, join to open the 2018-19 season of the George London Foundation for Singers. The two will perform a recital in the intimate Gilder Lehrman Hall of The Morgan Library & Museum – the same venue in which they both won George London Awards in 2017 at the foundation’s annual competition. They are joined by Ken Noda at the piano.

The George London Foundation for Singers, named for the great American bass-baritone, has been honoring, supporting, and presenting the finest young American and Canadian opera singers since 1971. The foundation’s annual recital series, which celebrated its 20th anniversary with a star-studded gala in 2016, presents pairs of outstanding singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award, the prize of the foundation’s annual vocal competition.

Michelle Bradley will sing Samuel Barber's 10-song cycle *Hermit Songs*, "Pace, pace, mio Dio!" from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, and "Es gibt ein Reich" from *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Will Liverman will perform Poulenc's *Quatre Poèmes de Guillaume Apollinaire*, four selections from *Songs of Travel* by Vaughan Williams, Grigory's aria from Act I of Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride* (the selection with which he won his George London Award), and "Heiterkeit und Fröhlichkeit" from Lortzing's comic opera *Der Wildschütz*. The two will conclude the program with a performance of the duet "Ciel! Mio padre!" from Verdi's *Aida*.

"Rich and powerful voice," and "suave and compelling"

"Bradley's voluminous voice maintains impressive flexibility and surprising lightness in a wide range of repertory, from its rich, warm, vibrant middle and lower registers to its bright, full, thrilling top," said Opera News in a profile earlier this year. Of Michelle's October debut at the National Opera of Lorraine in the title role of *Aida*, Opera Online said, "Michelle Bradley sings Aida's score wonderfully with the wide palette of her rich and powerful voice." Bradley returns to France later this year for her Paris debut, performances of Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with the Orchestre de Paris conducted by Thomas Adès.

Will Liverman's past 12 months have included performances as Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (Florentine Opera) and as Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* (Seattle Opera) as well as in Gregory Spears's new opera *Fellow Travelers* in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Lyric Unlimited production, a performance praised by the Hyde Park Herald as "suave and compelling." Earlier in 2017, Liverman reprised his part in Daniel Schnyder's *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* with English National Opera, about which The Times said, "You would be hard-pressed to find a new opera sung with more verve or virtuosity...Indeed, as you listen to [Parker's] duet with Will Liverman's Dizzy Gillespie you really feel something of the freewheeling joy that those pioneers generated in their 1940s heyday, albeit transferred here from instruments to voices."

The George London Foundation's 2018-19 season continues with three more events:

- The 48th annual **George London Foundation Competition** begins with three days of preliminary auditions and culminates with the final round and award ceremony open to the public. The 2019 competition takes place February 18-20, and the public is invited to attend the competition finals and awards announcement on **Friday, February 22, 2019, at 4:00 pm.** The 2018 competition winners were soprano Lauren Margison; mezzo-sopranos Raehann Bryce-Davis, Rihab Chaieb, and Emily D'Angelo; baritone Benjamin Taylor; and bass-baritone Lawson Anderson.
- **Anthony Dean Griffey**, tenor, and **Amy Owens**, soprano, with Warren Jones, piano. Griffey, arguably the world's reigning interpreter of the title role of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, appears in the 2018-19 Metropolitan Opera U.S. premiere production of Nico Muhly's *Marnie*. Amy Owens won a \$5,000 prize at the 2018 George London competition, and was praised by New York Classical Review for the "steely, pinpoint-accurate rendition of 'I am the wife of Mao Tse Tung,'" from Adams's *Nixon in China*. **Sunday, March 24, 2019, at 4:00 pm**

- **Julie Adams**, soprano, and **Emily D'Angelo**, mezzo-soprano, with Ken Noda, piano, and special guest artist **David Chan**, concertmaster of the MET Orchestra. Adams, a 2015 George London Award winner, starred in the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts's *Silent Night* with Opera San Jose last year, prompting Opera Today to say, "Her rich, creamy, agile soprano was of the highest quality, the kind that prompts excited 'who-is-she?' intermission chatter (and beyond)." When D'Angelo won her 2018 George London Award, and was praised thus by New York Classical Review: "D'Angelo [was] among the most impressive, with a sublime rendition of Rosina's 'Una voce poco fa' fitting her smoky mezzo-soprano over the contours of the aria like an impeccably tailored glove." **Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 4:00 pm**

The George London Foundation Awards and Recital Series

The George London Foundation Awards competition is one of the oldest vocal competitions in the United States and Canada, and it offers among the most substantial awards. Through the annual juried competition for outstanding young American and Canadian opera singers (under the age of 35 who must have performed at least one professional engagement), awards are given to the most promising performers: at the 2018 competition, a total of \$83,000 was given in the form of six George London Awards of \$10,000, three awards of \$5,000, and eight awards of \$1,000. The recital series began at the Morgan in 1995 as a way to give grantees exposure and experience, and, in many cases, a New York debut.

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.

Michelle Bradley, soprano (2017 George London-Leonie Rysanek Award), a native of Houston, Texas (and born in the small town of Versailles, Kentucky), is an alumna of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. While there, the soprano appeared in Mozart's *Idomeneo* under the baton of James Levine and was the high priestess in Verdi's *Aida*. At the opening of the Met's 2017-18 season, Michelle gained much acclaim for her role as Clotilde in Sir David McVicar's new production of *Norma*. She has recently appeared in Santiago de Chile as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and on the concert stage as the soprano in Verdi's Requiem at Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's May Festival. Later this fall, she makes her Paris debut, performances of Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with the Orchestre de Paris conducted by Thomas Adès. www.michellebradleysoprano.com

Will Liverman, baritone (2017 George London Award), a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is quickly gaining a reputation for his compelling performances, while making significant debuts at opera houses across the world. He makes his Metropolitan Opera debut this season as Malcolm Fleet in Nico Muhly's *Marnie*. Additionally this season, he appears with Tulsa Opera as The Pilot in *The Little Prince*, with

Philadelphia Opera Dallas Opera as Schaunard in *La Bohème*, and with Santa Fe Opera as the Foreman at the Mill in *Jenůfa* and Schaunard in *La Bohème*. Will Liverman will be awarded a 2019 Sphinx Medal of Excellence by the Sphinx Organization at an event in March 2019. www.willliverman.com

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 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
MICHELLE BRADLEY, Soprano
WILL LIVERMAN, Baritone
Ken Noda, Piano**

(Program order to be announced)

POULENC *Quatre Poèmes de Guillaume Apollinaire*
Will Liverman & Ken Noda

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Songs of Travel* - Four selections:
"Let Beauty Awake"
"The Roadside Fire"
"Whither Must I Wander"
"Bright Is The Ring Of Words"
Will Liverman & Ken Noda

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Grigory's Aria from Act I of The Tsar's Bride*
Will Liverman & Ken Noda

LORTZING "Heiterkeit und Fröhlichkeit" from *Der Wildschütz*
Will Liverman & Ken Noda

VERDI "Pace, pace, mio Dio!" from *La Forza del Destino*
Michelle Bradley & Ken Noda

BARBER *Hermit Songs*
Michelle Bradley & Ken Noda

STRAUSS "Es gibt ein Reich" from *Ariadne auf Naxos*
Michelle Bradley & Ken Noda

VERDI "Ciel! Mio padre!" from *Aida*
Michelle Bradley, Will Liverman, and Ken Noda

Tickets: \$55

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

www.georgelondon.org

www.themorgan.org

October 23, 2018