

Perspectives: Joyce DiDonato

Celebrated mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato curates a multi-event Perspectives series that showcases her vocal creativity and multifaceted talents, ranging from programs that include familiar and forgotten repertoire from the Baroque and bel canto eras to works by Jake Heggie written expressly for her. Her series includes a concert performance of Handel's *Alcina*, a recital of Venice-themed works, a chamber concert with the Brentano String Quartet that features a new work by Jake Heggie, and a concert of bel canto arias and ensembles with The Philadelphia Orchestra and starry vocalist friends.

Ms. DiDonato's Perspectives begins in October 2014, when she sings the title role in a concert performance of Handel's *Alcina* with The English Concert and Harry Bicket in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage. She returns in November to perform a Venice-inspired recital with pianist David Zobel, featuring music that spans from the Baroque to the 20th century. Ms. DiDonato's Perspectives series moves to Zankel Hall in February for a concert in collaboration with the Brentano String Quartet to include the New York premiere of *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire* by composer Jake Heggie, a frequent collaborator. The program also includes the world premiere of *MotherSongs*, specially commissioned by Carnegie Hall and arranged by Mr. Heggie. The work features songs composed as part of the Lullaby Project, a series of songwriting workshops created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute that provides young expectant mothers throughout New York City the opportunity to write a lullaby for their child. Ms. DiDonato completes her Perspectives series in March in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage with The Philadelphia Orchestra and conductor Maurizio Benini, singing both beloved and rare bel canto arias and ensembles with close colleagues soprano Nicole Cabell and tenor Lawrence Brownlee.

As part of her Perspectives, Ms. DiDonato also shares her gifts as a dynamic educator and passionate advocate for music by taking part in a number of education and community programs created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. In addition to her work with the Lullaby Project, her involvement includes a series of master classes for young singers and work with New York City middle school singers who take part in WMI's Count Me In program.

Recipient of the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo, Kansas-born Joyce DiDonato's signature roles include the bel canto roles of Rossini, and she also specializes in operas by Handel and Mozart. Ms. DiDonato is in demand on the recital circuit as well. In 2013, she received critical acclaim

for her debut recital tour of South America, where she returns in the summer of 2014. She has recently appeared in concert and recital in Berlin, Vienna, Toulouse, Milan, and Aspen. An exclusive recording artist with Erato / Warner Classics, Ms. DiDonato's Grammy Award-winning solo CD *Diva Divo* comprises arias by male and female characters, celebrating the dramatic world of the mezzo-soprano. This was followed by *Drama Queens*, recently nominated for a 2014 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo. A retrospective of her first 10 years of recordings entitled *ReJOYCE!* was released in September 2013. Other honors include the *Gramophone* Artist of the Year and Recital of the Year awards and a German Echo Klassik award as Female Singer of the Year.



Nick Heavican



Joyce DiDonato

Sunday, October 26 at 2 PM | Stern/Perelman

The English Concert

HANDEL *Alcina* (opera in concert)

Harry Bicket, Artistic Director and Conductor

Joyce DiDonato, *Alcina*

Alice Coote, Ruggiero

Anna Christy, Morgana

Christine Rice, Bradamante

Ben Johnson, Oronte

Wojtek Gierlach, Melisso

Anna Devin, Oberto

Tuesday, November 4 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-Soprano David Zobel, Piano

A JOURNEY THROUGH VENICE

Works by Vivaldi, Fauré, Rossini, Head, and Hahn

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Thursday, February 5 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

Brentano String Quartet Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-Soprano

CHARPENTIER Suite in D Minor

DEBUSSY String Quartet in G Minor

LULLABY PROJECT *MotherSongs* (arr. Jake Heggie)
(World Premiere, commissioned by Carnegie Hall)

JAKE HEGGIE *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire* (NY Premiere)

This concert is made possible, in part, by an endowment fund for young artists established by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony B. Evnin and the A. E. Charitable Foundation.

Wednesday, March 18 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Maurizio Benini, Conductor

Nicole Cabell, Soprano

Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-Soprano

Lawrence Brownlee, Tenor

A highlight of Joyce DiDonato's Perspectives series is this celebration of music from the bel canto era. Curated by the mezzo-soprano, this evening of arias, ensembles, and orchestral selections ranges from Rossini and Bellini to surprising gems by lesser-known composers of the time. Joining The Philadelphia Orchestra is a lineup of well-known bel canto stars: soprano Nicole Cabell, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and conductor Maurizio Benini.

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