
OPERA America's

creators in concert

LAURA KAMINSKY

THE NATIONAL **OPERA CENTER**
AMERICA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 | 7:00 P.M.

MARK CAMPBELL AND KIMBERLY REED, LIBRETTISTS

SARAH MOULTON FAUX, SOPRANO

BLYTHE GAISSERT, MEZZO-SOPRANO | TAYLOR RAVEN, MEZZO-SOPRANO

JORELL WILLIAMS, BARITONE | MILA HENRY, PIANO

PROGRAM

From *As One* (2014)

“Paper route”
“A Christmas story”
“Close”

Blythe Gaissert
Jorell Williams

From *Some Light Emerges* (2016)

“George Washington Into Mona Lisa”

Taylor Raven

From *Today It Rains* (2018)

Duet from Scene 2
Scene 7

Sarah Moulton Faux
Blythe Gaissert
Jorell Williams

Conversation with Laura Lee Everett, Director of Artistic Services, OPERA America

ABOUT THE CREATORS



LAURA KAMINSKY, “one of the top 35 female composers in classical music” (The Washington Post), frequently addresses issues including sustainability, war and human rights in her work. “Full of fire as well as ice, [her music] contrasts dissonance and violence with tonal beauty and meditative reflection. It is strong stuff.” (American Record Guide) With co-librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, she created *As One*, the most widely produced contemporary opera in the U.S. and Canada in the 2017–2018 season, with over two dozen productions since its premiere at BAM in 2014, as well as *Some Light Emerges* (Houston Grand Opera, 2017), and the forthcoming *Today It Rains* (Opera Parallèle/American Opera Projects, 2019). Also upcoming are a Piano Quintet for Ursula Oppens and the Cassatt String Quartet; and with Reed, *Postville: Hometown to the World*, inspired by the 2008 devastating immigration raid, for a consortium led by The Santa Fe Opera and San Francisco Opera. Kaminsky will be featured as composer/curator in a New York Festival of Song program commissioned for the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall. Head of composition at the Conservatory of Music/SUNY Purchase, she is a BMI composer. laurakaminsky.com

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Librettist/lyricist **MARK CAMPBELL** has created librettos for 28 operas (including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*), lyrics and/or books for seven musicals, lyrics for four song cycles and text for one oratorio. Campbell's works have been produced in more than 70 venues around the world, and he has collaborated with over 40 composers, including three Pulitzer Prize winners. Upcoming premieres include *Today It Rains* with composer Laura Kaminsky and co-librettist Kimberly Reed (Opera Parallèle/American Opera Projects), *Edward Tulane* with composer Paola Prestini (Minnesota Opera), *Empty the House* with composer Rene Orth (Opera Philadelphia), *Stonewall* with composer Iain Bell (New York City Opera), *Eight Stages of Luna* with composer Kamala Sankaram and *Dear Mayor* with composer Mark Baechle (Sparks and Wiry Cries), as well as a new oratorio with composer Paul Moravec (Oratorio Society of New York) and *Les Girls, a musical* with composer Cole Porter (Théâtre du Châtelet). markcampbellwords.com



KIMBERLY REED designed projections for and wrote, with co-librettist Mark Campbell, *As One*, composed by Laura Kaminsky. The team then collaborated for *Some Light Emerges* (Houston Grand Opera) and *Today It Rains* (Opera Parallèle). A consortium of opera companies led by The Santa Fe Opera and San Francisco Opera commissioned her to create *Postville: Hometown to the World*, again with Kaminsky. She was commissioned by OPERA America to write the libretto for the dramatic song cycle *Fierce Grace: Jeannette Rankin*, which received its world premiere at the Library of Congress in 2017. Her written work is published in *The Moth*, a *New York Times* best seller. Her documentary film *Prodigal Sons* premiered at the Telluride Film Festival, won 14 awards, and was released in theaters and broadcast worldwide. Her Sundance Award-winning documentary *Dark Money* will be released in 2018 by PBS Distribution.

PHOTO OF REED: CLAIRE JONES; CAMPBELL: NACHO GUEVARA

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



“A winsome beauty with a voice to match” (Berkshire Fine Arts), **SARAH MOULTON FAUX** has been lauded for her “full, silvery soprano” (Opera News) and “mesmerizing” performances (Brooklyn Spectator) in repertoire ranging from opera’s most famous heroines, to contemporary works, to forgotten masterpieces by female composers. Having made her professional debut in New York City Opera’s acclaimed production of *Candide* at the David H. Koch Theater, she has since appeared as *Violetta* in *La traviata*, *Gilda* in *Rigoletto*, *Susanna* in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Rosina* in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Musetta* in *La bohème*, *Zerlina* in *Don Giovanni*, *Lauretta* in *Gianni Schicchi*, *Mademoiselle Silberklang* in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, *Almirena* in *Rinaldo*, *Ännchen* in *Der Freischütz* and *Rose Maybud* in *Ruddigore* with companies including Regina Opera Company, Amore Opera, Utopia Opera, Pocket Opera of New York, Chelsea Opera and the Blue Hill Troupe. She is currently recording her first album, featuring the music of American composer Lola Williams, with American Opera Projects. sarahmoultonfaux.com



Mezzo-soprano **BLYTHE GAISSERT** has established herself as one of the preeminent interpreters of some of the brightest stars of new classical music. A true singing actress, she has received critical acclaim for her interpretations of both new and traditional repertoire in opera, concert and chamber repertoire. Known for her warm tone, powerful stage presence, and impeccable musicianship and technical prowess, she “has a pure, powerful and appealing voice and a forceful stage presence to match” (Denver Post). In the 2018–2019 season, Gaisert will create the role of Georgia O’Keeffe in the world premiere of Kaminsky/Campbell/Reed’s third opera, *Today It Rains*, in San Francisco with Opera Parallèle and American Opera Projects. She will also reprise her role as Hannah After in her sixth production of *As One*, with New York City Opera/American Opera Projects; sing Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with both the Buffalo Symphony and Sarasota Orchestra; and workshop Laura Kaminsky’s fourth opera (with librettist Kimberly Reed), *Postville: Hometown to the World*, with Opera Fusion: New Works.

PHOTO OF MOULTON FAUX: ANDREW BRUCKERGAISSERT; TAYLOR HOOPER

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



Lauded for her “sublime” playing (*Feast of Music*), **MILA HENRY** is a versatile member of New York’s music community who is comfortable leading at both the piano and the podium. She was music director for Pittsburgh CLO’s *These Girls Have Demons* (SPARK Festival); conductor for Julius Eastman’s *The Moon’s Silent Modulation* (Lincoln Center); vocal director for Ripe Time’s Obie-winning *The World is Round* (BAM); principal pianist for Opera Philadelphia’s *We Shall Not Be Moved* (Dutch National Opera, Apollo Theater) and Beth Morrison Projects’ *Thumbprint* (LA Opera,

PROTOTYPE); and assistant conductor for Laura Kaminsky’s *As One* (BAM). With OPERA America, she premiered *Fierce Grace: Jeannette Rankin* (Library of Congress) and accompanied *Creators in Concert* presentations for Anthony Davis, Missy Mazzoli and Kamala Sankaram. Her recordings include *Love & Trouble* (Roven Records) and *Voices of Women* (Affetto Records). Upcoming performances include *Words on the Street* (Baruch Performing Arts Center) and *Liberation/Enchantress* (Opera Ithaca). milahenry.com



Mezzo-soprano **TAYLOR RAVEN** is a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at LA Opera, where she made her debut as Vanderdendur in *Candide*. She will begin her second season with the company as Tebaldo in *Don Carlo*. As a 2018 Filene Artist with Wolf Trap Opera, she performed as a soloist in Bernstein’s Songfest and Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*. In 2016, she performed the role of Hannah After in Seattle Opera’s production of *As One*. Raven was a Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist in the 2016–2017 season, performing as Oronte in Handel’s *Riccardo*

Primo and Hannah After in *As One*. Other credits include San Francisco Opera’s Merola Opera Program and Central City Opera. She received first prize in the 2018 Loren L. Zachary Competition and a 2017 Sara Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation. She holds degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and UC-Boulder.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



JORELL WILLIAMS is a baritone with a wide variety of experience, from standard repertoire to premiere pieces. Praised for his “magnificent, rich-toned” voice (The New York Times), Williams begins the 2018–2019 season with the American premiere of Frank London’s Cuban-Yiddish opera *Hatuey: Memory of Fire* with Music-Theatre Group and Peak Performances; returns to Victory Hall Opera in the role of Mr. Gobineau in Gian Carlo Menotti’s *The Medium*; and reprises the role of Hannah Before in a co-production of Laura Kaminsky’s critically acclaimed chamber

opera *As One* with American Opera Projects and New York City Opera at Merkin Hall. He will also debut with the Mimesis Ensemble at Carnegie Hall in “*A Long Way from Home*,” and joins the Brooklyn Art Song Society for *Aaron Copland’s Old American Songs* and David Ludwig’s *Songs from the Bleeding Pines*.

JOIN US FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER:

CONVERSATIONS: RYAN SPEEDO GREEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

While in the midst of *Aida* performances at the Met, bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green will come to the Opera Center to sit down with OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca and discuss his pathway to the world's leading stages. This season, Green also appears at the Wiener Staatsoper for roles including Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Der Einarmige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and Lodovico in *Otello*.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITALS: WOLF TRAP OPERA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

This recital features the resident artists of Wolf Trap Opera, which offers emerging professional singers one of the best career-development and performing experiences in the nation. Through a rigorous annual audition tour, the company selects its artists from among the best classical vocalists in the country.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITALS: FLORIDA GRAND OPERA STUDIO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

This recital features the artists of Florida Grand Opera Studio, who act as the face of opera in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. These emerging singers spend the full season performing principal and comprimario roles alongside FGO's roster of acclaimed directors, conductors and musicians.


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