

3-25-2004

Guest Artist Recital: Sylvia McNair, soprano, & Ted Taylor, piano

Sylvia McNair

Ted Taylor

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ITHACA COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERTS 2003-4

Sylvia McNair, soprano
Ted Taylor, piano

"This Is All Very New To Me"

The program will include selections
by the following composers:

Vernon Duke
George Gershwin
Richard Rodgers
Stephen Sondheim
and others

FORD HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004
8:15 P.M.

ITHACA

THE ARTISTS

Sylvia McNair, vocalist Two-time Grammy Award-winning singer Sylvia McNair is equally at home on the stages of Lincoln Center and in the intimate environs of The Rainbow Room and the Algonquin Hotel. Her performing repertoire embraces both classical and cabaret, opera and Broadway musicals.

Ms. McNair has made over 70 recordings ranging from Mozart arias with Sir Neville Marriner and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Shéhérazade, a program of French music with Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to CDs with André Previn of music by Jerome Kern and Harold Arlen ("Sure Thing" and "Come Rain or Come Shine") as well as a recording of songs with lyrics by P. G. Wodehouse, and *Gershwin Live at Wigmore Hall* with pianists Steve Blier and Ted Taylor.

Sylvia McNair's lifelong love of American musical theater has been showcased recently in appearances in Chicago, Cleveland, New York City, and Washington, D.C. "The soprano really stole hearts ... Blossom suddenly was transformed into an enormous cabaret with McNair as regal lounge singer and [Ted] Taylor as stylish partner... 'Spring is Here' can rarely have sounded so exquisite..." (*Plain Dealer*, 2001)

When asked to name a few highlights of her 20 year career, she responds, "Singing a performance of the Bach *Mass* in B-minor with the Vienna Philharmonic for Pope John Paul II at The Vatican and singing for Hillary Clinton in Salzburg." In May 1999, she presented a recital at The United States Supreme Court by special invitation from Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. In 1999 and 2000, she was featured in new works commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Sylvia McNair has appeared at Covent Garden, the Salzburg Festival, and the Metropolitan Opera. She has been a regular guest soloist with major American and European orchestras working with an array of today's most prominent conductors, including Kurt Masur, Claudio Abbado, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Leonard Slatkin, and the late Robert Shaw—the musician she credits with giving her the early and important opportunities that started her career. A native of Mansfield, Ohio, McNair earned a master's degree with distinction from the Indiana University School of Music. She has received honorary doctorates from Westminster College (1997) and Indiana University (1998). In 1999, she received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Entertainment from Ohio Governor Bob Taft.

Ted Taylor, pianist Equally at home on the stage accompanying some of the world's preeminent vocalists or in the pit conducting a varied repertoire of 40 operas and musicals, Ted Taylor enjoys a varied international career. This past season he appeared in recital with Kathleen Battle, Ben Heppner, Christine Schaefer, and Sylvia McNair, among others.

Formerly Music Director for the New York City Opera National Company for two years and Mobile (Alabama) Opera for eight seasons, he has appeared with many American opera companies, including those of Atlanta, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Wolf Trap, and Central City, as well as serving on the conducting staffs of the Metropolitan Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. November 2002 marked his debut at the New York City Opera, leading *La Traviata*.

Over the years, Mr. Taylor has appeared with many wonderful singers, among them Eileen Farrell; her CBS cable show, for which he was the pianist, ran the musical gamut from lieder to blues. As an accompanist in master classes, he has worked with such legendary artists as Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Regine Crespin, and Carlo Bergonzi. On CD, he may be heard as harpsichord soloist with Seiji Ozawa in the Phillips recording of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and as pianist with Sylvia McNair in the recently released disc of Gershwin songs on BBC Worldwide, *Live from the Wigmore Hall*.

In the field of contemporary opera, Mr. Taylor served as composer Tan Dun's assistant for the premiere of *Marco Polo* at the Munich Biennale and prepared the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Tokyo Philharmonic orchestras for subsequent performances. Last season he led excerpts from three of the new works presented by New York City Opera's Showcasing American Composers.

As an educator, in addition to his work on the faculty of the opera program at the Mannes College of Music, he has been invited to guest conduct at such music schools as Indiana University, where he led Mark Adamo's *Little Women*, and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, conducting Rossini's *Il Viaggio a Reims*. A native of Texas, Mr. Taylor did his graduate studies in conducting and opera at Indiana University. He makes his home in Manhattan, where he maintains an active studio as coach and teacher.

MUSIC EVENTS CALENDAR

March

- 27 8:30 University Singers (NYU); Francisco Nunez, conductor and Women's Chorale; Janet Galván, conductor
- 28 4:00 Faculty Recital; David Parks, tenor
8:15 Faculty Recital; Angus Godwin, baritone
- 29 8:15 Faculty Chamber Recital; Ithaca Brass and Ithaca Wind Quintet

April

- 8:15 Jazz Workshop; Steve Brown, musical director
Walter White, trumpet
- 3 8:15 Wind Ensemble; Kevin Zamborsky, graduate conductor
- 4 4:00 Faculty Chamber Recital; Ariadne String Quartet
- 6 8:15 Student Recital; Composition Premieres IV
Something Olde, Something New Series
- 7 8:15 *Guest Artists Recital: reconstruction*
"Bedlam, Back, and Beyond: The Agony and Ecstasy of Love"
- 8:15 Jazz Workshop; Walter White, musical director
Andy Middleton, tenor saxophone
- 12 8:15 Guest Lecture; Robert Beaser, composer
2003-4 Karel Husa Visiting Professor of Composition
- 13 7:00 Piano Ensemble; Diane Birr, coach
- 14 7:00 Flute Ensemble; Heather Kriesel, graduate conductor
8:15 Tuba Ensemble; David Unland, conductor
- 16 8:15 Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Laurie Keegan, musical director
- 17 4:00 Alumni Recital; National Saxophone Quartet
- 18 3:00 Choir; Anna Sagdeeva, graduate conductor and Madrigal Singers; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
- 20 7:00 Women's Chorale; Janet Galvan, conductor
- 21 8:15 Chamber Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
- 22 7:00 Student Recital; Woodwind Chamber Ensemble
8:15 Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, director
- 23 4:00 Student Recital; String Chamber Ensembles
7:00 Student Recital; String Chamber Ensembles
- 24 12:00 All-Campus Band; Beth Peterson, conductor
7:00 Brass Choir; Beth Peterson, conductor
8:15 Opera Workshop; Patrick Hansen, director
- 25 3:00 Chorus; Janet Galván, conductor
8:15 Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout, conductor
- 26 7:00 Student Recital; Collaborative Piano Duos
8:15 Symphony Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
Frank G. Campos, trumpet; Keiji Ishiguri, piano
- 27 8:15 Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor
Michael Galván, clarinet
- 28 8:15 Symphonic Band; Henry Neubert, conductor
- 29 8:15 Concert Band; Keith Kaiser, conductor
- 30 7:00 Glimmerglass Opera Young American Singers

May

- 15 8:30 Gala 37th Commencement Eve Concert
"Roots: Our American Musical Traditions"
Dana Wilson, music director