



SFCM
SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

SF SYMPHONY

Sasha Cooke, *mezzo-soprano*

Masterclass

Friday, January 28, 2022, 4:00 PM

Barbro Osher Recital Hall

with

Kevin Korth, *piano*

Jarron Carlson, *piano*

Entrance

David Conte

from *Everyone Sang: Four Songs for Baritone and Piano* (b. 1955)

Kurt Winterhalter, *baritone*

Kevin Korth, *piano*

Come Slowly - Eden

Jarron Carlson

(b. 1999)

Lindsay Martin, *mezzo-soprano*

Jarron Carlson, *piano*

I am Harriet Tubman, Free Woman

Nkeiru Okoye

from *Songs of Harriet Tubman*

(b. 1972)

Rayna Campbell, *soprano*

Kevin Korth, *piano*

*Cameras, recording equipment, food and drink are not permitted in Conservatory performance halls.
Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic equipment before the performance begins.*

“Dawn ... still darkness”
from *Flight*

Jonathan Dove
(b. 1959)

Kyle Tingzon, *countertenor*
Kevin Korth, *piano*

Elizabeth’s Aria
from *Elizabeth Cree*

Kevin Puts
(b. 1972)

Gabriela Linares, *mezzo-soprano*
Kevin Korth, *piano*

This masterclass is co-presented with the San Francisco Symphony.

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Artist Profile

Two-time Grammy Award-winning mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** has been called a “luminous standout” by the *New York Times* and “equal parts poise, radiance and elegant directness” by *Opera News*. Ms. Cooke has sung at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, English National Opera, Seattle Opera, Opéra National de Bordeaux, and Gran Teatre del Liceu, among others, and with over 70 symphony orchestras worldwide frequently in the works of Mahler.

In the 2021-2022 season, Ms. Cooke returns to the Metropolitan Opera for her role debut as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. On the concert stage, she joins the Boston Symphony Orchestra first for performances of Janáček’s *Glagolitic Mass*, conducted by Jakub Hrůša, and then again as Margret in *Wozzeck*, both in Boston and on tour at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Andris Nelsons. She also joins the Minnesota Orchestra for Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and subsequently for Mahler’s *Symphony No. 8*, the latter conducted by Osmo Vänskä. Additionally, she performs Michael Tilson Thomas’ *Meditations on Rilke* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by the composer, scenes from Nadia Boulanger’s *Faust et Hélène* with the Houston Symphony, led by Fabien Gabel, Berlioz’s *Les nuits d’été* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Karina Canellakis, Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Mahler’s *Symphony No. 2 Resurrection* with the Oregon Symphony, Jake Heggie’s *The Work at Hand* and Elgar’s *Sea Pictures* with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, led by Gemma New, Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with the New World Symphony, and a holiday concert with the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra. Finally, she gives a solo recital alongside pianist Myra Huang at the Tucson Desert Song Festival where she premieres a new work by Jennifer Higdon.

The coming season also marks the release of Ms. Cooke’s new CD, entitled *how do I find you*, on the Pentatone label. The recording, which features 17 newly written songs by Caroline Shaw, Nico Muhly, Missy Mazzoli, Jimmy Lopez and others, is intended as a tribute to both the struggles and hopes of artists that have been wrought by the pandemic. Ms. Cooke will perform the world premiere with pianist Kirill Kuzmin on January 30th, 2022, as part of the San Francisco Symphony’s Great Performers Series, before giving subsequent recitals at the Shriver Hall Concert Series and elsewhere.

In the 2020-2021 season, Ms. Cooke sang a solo recital at Houston Grand Opera with pianist Kirill Kuzmin, performed Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with Vasily Petrenko and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and joined the Cincinnati May Festival for a performance of Copland’s *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson*. She also made her debut at Bard SummerScape as Genièvre in Chausson’s *Le roi Arthus*, sang Jan Arnold in a new recording of Joby Talbot’s *Everest* with Opera Parallèle, and returned to Dallas Opera for a Pops Concert.

Artist Profile

Previously scheduled engagements included appearances at the Metropolitan Opera as Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, at Dallas Opera as Sylvie in the world premiere of Talbot's *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, and at San Francisco Opera as Offred in Poul Ruder's *The Handmaid's Tale*. Concert performances were to include Bach's *Mass in B minor* with the Orchestre National de France under the direction of Trevor Pinnock, Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* with the Minnesota Orchestra and music director Osmo Vänskä, *Missa Solemnis* with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, and a duo recital tour alongside soprano Susanna Phillips.

As a dedicated recitalist, Ms. Cooke was presented by Young Concert Artists in her widely acclaimed New York and Washington debuts at Carnegie's Zankel Hall and the Kennedy Center. She has also appeared in recital at Alice Tully Hall, The Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and the 92nd St Y. Her recordings can be found on the Hyperion, BIS, Chandos, Pentatone, Naxos, Bridge Records, Yarlung, GPR Records and Sono Luminus labels. Most recently she appears on recordings including *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope* by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer on Pentatone, Michael Tilson Thomas' *Meditations on Rilke* with the San Francisco Symphony with won the 2021 Grammy Award for Best Classical Compendium, *L'enfance du Christ* with Sir Andrew Davis and the Melbourne Symphony on Chandos, Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* on Pentatone which won the 2019 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording, Mahler's *2nd Symphony* with Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota Orchestra on BIS and *Sasha Cooke LIVE* a collection of her performances from the Music@Menlo chamber music festival released on their label.

A graduate of Rice University and The Juilliard School, Sasha Cooke also attended the Music Academy of the West, the Aspen Music Festival, the Ravinia Festival's Steans Music Institute, the Wolf Trap Foundation, the Marlboro Music Festival, the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, and Seattle Opera and Central City Opera's Young Artist Training Programs. Ms. Cooke has given masterclasses throughout the United States and Canada. She lives near Houston, TX with daughters Evelyn and Julia and husband baritone Kelly Markgraf.