

Lincoln Center's

February–May 2017

American Songbook

Lead Support provided by PGIM

The Program

Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 8:00 pm

Julian & Leon Fleisher: The Man I Love

Bill Moring, *Bass*
David Berger, *Drums*
Matt Ray, *Piano*

This evening's program is approximately 75 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.

Major support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Amy & Joseph Perella.
Endowment support provided by Bank of America

This performance is made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Steinway Piano
Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Meg and Bennett Goodman, Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, Inc., The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, Jill & Irwin B. Cohen, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

Public support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE STANLEY H. KAPLAN PENTHOUSE:

Friday, March 24, at 8:00 pm

Olga Bell

Monday, March 27, at 8:00 pm

Matt Gould & Griffin Matthews

Tuesday, March 28, at 8:00 pm

The Cactus Blossoms

Wednesday, March 29, at 8:00 pm

Ruby Amanfu

IN ALICE TULLY HALL:

Friday, April 14, at 7:30 pm

Sutton Foster

Saturday, May 13, at 7:30 pm

Rhiannon Giddens

The Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse is located at 165 West 65th Street, 10th floor.

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit AmericanSongbook.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 or visit AmericanSongbook.org for complete program information.

Join the conversation: #LCSongbook

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. Flash photography and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

CRAIG MARSDEN



Julian Fleisher

During his 25 years in New York, Julian Fleisher has cultivated a diverse creative life across a range of disciplines. As a performer, he has starred in *February House* (Long Wharf Theatre, Public Theater) and *Coraline* (Lucille Lortel Theatre). As a concert artist, he fronts his own ten-piece Rather Big Band, performing with such guests as Jennifer Holiday, Molly Ringwald, the New Standards, Tonya Pinkins, Martha Plimpton,

Justin Vivian Bond, Nellie McKay, Kenny Mellman, Mo Rocca, and Thomas Bartlett. Mr. Fleisher recently released a new CD of music, *Finally*, on Modern Records.

As a composer and songwriter, his work has appeared in movies, on television, and in the theater. On Broadway he composed the music for *The Performers* at the Longacre Theatre, and Off-Broadway he composed the score for John Cariani's play *Almost, Maine*. He has also composed music for productions at the Mark Taper Forum, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, and Portland Stage Company. Mr. Fleisher has sung his own songs in films such as *Dogtown* and *The Man from Elysian Fields*, and this fall, Chinese superstar Chiling Lin will be seen singing *Me and the Moon*, a song he wrote expressly for her in the film *Beijing/New York*.

The son of legendary concert pianist Leon Fleisher, Julian has produced recordings for Molly Pope, Kiki and Herb, Isabel Rose, and Ana Gasteyer, among others. As an author, he has published over a dozen books on subjects as diverse as grammar and vocabulary (for the Princeton Review and Random House) and drag (*The Drag Queens of New York: An Illustrated Field Guide* for Riverhead/Penguin). He is the host of *The Naked American Songbook*, a nationally syndicated music and talk show from WNYC and WQXR, as well as *44 Charlton* at the Greene Space.

A graduate of Yale University, Mr. Fleisher is the recipient of the Peter S. Reed Award. His new musical *Measure of Success*, for which Kirsten Guenther is writing the book, has been in residence at the Lark Play Development Center, the Orchard Project, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in Tarrytown, New York. He is a member of downtown theater company Elevator Repair Service and serves on the board of the Musical Theatre Factory.

Leon Fleisher



KOICHI IMURA

Pianist Leon Fleisher thrives in an enduring career as conductor and soloist, recitalist, chamber music artist, and master-class mentor. He made his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1944, and in 1952 became the first American to win the prestigious Queen Elisabeth of Belgium competition, establishing himself as one of the world's premier classical pianists. At the height of his success, he was suddenly struck at age 36 with a neurological affliction

later identified as focal dystonia, rendering two fingers on his right hand immobile. Rather than end his career, Mr. Fleisher began focusing on repertoire for the left hand only, conducting, and teaching. In the mid-'90s he was able to return to playing with both hands after undergoing experimental treatments.

A recipient of numerous honors and awards, Mr. Fleisher was made a Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Ministry of Culture and was chosen for the Kennedy Center Honors in 2007. He is the subject of the 2006 Oscar- and Emmy-nominated documentary film *Two Hands*. In 2013 Sony Classical issued a 23-CD box set of his entire recorded output, and in 2014 Mr. Fleisher released his first solo CD in a decade, the Grammy-nominated *All the Things You Are*. At age 88, in addition to his teaching at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Fleisher continues with an international schedule of master classes, performances, and orchestral guest conducting.

Bill Moring

Bill Moring (bass) is a versatile jazz artist whose scope includes playing in the big bands of legends Count Basie and Woody Herman, jamming jazz/funk and beyond with the Stryker/Slagle Band, and stretching harmonic and rhythmic boundaries with John Hart and Chris Potter. He has played with legends Dizzy Gillespie, Slide Hampton, Cal Collins, Frank Foster, Al Cohn, Clark Terry, Mickey Roker, Tommy Flanagan, Junior Cook, Roland Hanna, and Ray Barretto; with big bands including the Village Vanguard Orchestra, Toshiko Akiyoshi-Lew Tabackin Big Band, and the Bill Mobley Jazz Orchestra; and has toured with Woody Herman's Thundering Herd and the Count Basie Orchestra. Mr. Moring has also performed and/or recorded with many contemporary artists including John Abercrombie, Gary Bartz, Manolo Badrena, Larry Coryell, Vic Juris, Dave Kikoski, Billy Hart, John Hart, Eddie Henderson, Joe Locke, Mulgrew Miller, Chris Potter, Dom Salvador, Dave Stryker, and James Williams.

David Berger

David Berger (drums) is a drummer, writer, arranger, music director, and band-leader. His recent work includes recording and touring with Amy Helm, Ana Gasteyer, and performances with various artists including Justin Vivian Bond, Julian Fleisher, and Deva Mahal. He has also performed with Meow Meow, Joey Arias, Taylor Mac, and Bridget Everett. Mr. Berger co-leads the Night Owls Trio, based in New York City, and has appeared on over 30 commercial recordings.

Matt Ray

Matt Ray (piano) is a pianist, singer, songwriter, arranger, and music director. His recent work includes arrangements and piano for Taylor Mac's show *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, performing at Carnegie Hall with Kat Edmonson, touring with reggae legend Burning Spear, playing on the American Songbook series with Joey Arias (2015), shows in Paris and the U.K. with Justin Vivian Bond, co-writing songs for Bridget Everett's hit show *Rock Bottom*, and music directing Mac's Obie Award-winning play *The Lily's Revenge*. Mr. Ray has released three albums as a bandleader: *We Got It!* (2001), *Lost In New York* (2006), and *Songs for the Anonymous* (2013).

American Songbook

In 1998 Lincoln Center launched American Songbook, dedicated to the celebration of popular American song. Designed to highlight and affirm the creative mastery of America's songwriters from their emergence at the turn of the 19th century up through the present, American Songbook spans all styles and genres, from the form's early roots in Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's singer-songwriters. American Songbook also showcases the outstanding interpreters of popular song, including established and emerging concert, cabaret, theater, and songwriter performers.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of more than 3,000 free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers 15 programs, series, and festivals including American Songbook, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Midsummer Night Swing, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and the White Light Festival, as well as the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11

resident organizations. In addition, LCPA led a \$1.2 billion campus renovation, completed in October 2012.

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For American Songbook

Rocky Noel, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Michael Nazario, *Sound Engineer*

Janet Rucker, *Company Manager*

Rocky Noel

Lighting designer Rocky Noel returns to Lincoln Center's American Songbook after recently completing two weeks on Broadway with Kristin Chenoweth in *My Love Letter to Broadway*. Mr. Noel calls New York City home and has worked extensively with artists such as Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand, Alan Cumming, Chita Rivera, Christine Ebersole, Elaine Paige, Stephanie J. Block, and Joel Grey, among countless others.

Scott Stauffer

Scott Stauffer has been the sound designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook since 1999. His Broadway design credits include *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact* (also in London and Tokyo), *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Off-Broadway Mr. Stauffer has worked on *Subverted*, *Promises*, *Hereafter*, *A Minister's Wife*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Third*, *Belle Epoque*, *Big Bill*, *Elegies*, *Hello Again*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Pageant*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His regional credits include productions at the Capitol Repertory Theatre, University of Michigan, Hanger Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Alley Theatre. His concert credits include many Lincoln Center galas, as well as the Actors Fund con-

certs of *Frank Loesser*, *Broadway 101*, *Hair*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. At Carnegie Hall he has worked with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell. As a sound engineer, Mr. Stauffer has worked on *The Lion King*, *Juan Darién*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel*, *Once on This Island*, and the original *Little Shop of Horrors*.