

MASTER CLASS

**Stephanie Blythe,**  
**mezzo-soprano**

The American Songbook for  
Classical Singers

Friday, March 18, 2022 | 4 PM  
William R. and Irene D. Miller Recital Hall

MASTER CLASS

**Stephanie Blythe, mezzo-soprano**

The American Songbook for Classical Singers

**PROGRAM**

MEREDITH WILLSON “Till There Was You” from *The Music Man*  
(1902–1984)

**Sofia Farrell**, soprano  
*Harleysville, Pennsylvania*  
*Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell*

**Xueliang Wu**, piano  
*Chengdu, China*  
*Student of Kenneth Merrill*

RICHARD RODGERS & OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN “If I Loved You” from *Carousel*  
(1902–1979) /  
(1895–1960)

**Kevin Lee**, tenor  
*Singapore*  
*Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell*

**Shaobai Yuan**, piano  
*Changzhou, China*  
*Student of Kenneth Merrill*

COLE PORTER  
(1891–1964)

“So in Love” from *Kiss Me Kate*

**Margaret Shannon**, mezzo-soprano  
*Flatonina, Texas*  
*Student of Maitland Peters*

**Marissa Carlson**, piano  
*Delta, Colorado*  
*Student of Thomas Muraco*

RICHARD RODGERS & “Soliloquy” from *Carousel*

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN

**James Harris**, baritone  
*Parlin, New Jersey*

*Student of Maitland Peters*

**Marco Rizzello**, piano  
*Mercato Saraceno, Italy*

*Student of Warren Jones*

Alternate:

WILLIAM BOLCOM

(b. 1938)

“George” from *Cabaret Songs*

**Daiyao Zhong**, mezzo-soprano  
*Guangzhou, China*

*Student of Mignon Dunn*

**Artyom Pak**, piano  
*Tashkent, Uzbekistan*

*Student of Warren Jones*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

### Stephanie Blythe

A renowned opera singer, recitalist, and cabaret artist, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe is one of the most highly respected and critically acclaimed artists of her generation. Her repertoire ranges from Handel to Wagner, German lieder to contemporary American art song, and classic American songbook to rock and roll.

Ms. Blythe has sung in many of the renowned opera houses in the U.S. and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and the Opera National de Paris. Her many roles include the title roles in *Carmen*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *La Grande Duchesse*, *Tancredi*, *Mignon*, and *Giulio Cesare*; Frugola, Principessa, and Zita in *Il Trittico*, Fricka in both *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*, Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung*, Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, Ulrica in *Un ballo in maschera*, Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress*, Ježibaba in *Rusalka*, Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex*, Mere Marie in *Dialogues des Carmélites*; Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*, and Ino/Juno in *Semele*, and Madame de Haltière in *Cendrillon*. She also created the role of Gertrude Stein in Ricky Ian Gordon's *27* at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

Ms. Blythe has also appeared with many of the world's finest orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Orchestra of New York, Minnesota Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Ensemble Orchestre de Paris, and the Concertgebouworkest. She has also appeared at the Tanglewood, Cincinnati May, and Ravinia festivals, and at the BBC Proms. The many conductors with whom she has worked include Harry Bicket, James Conlon, Charles Dutoit, Mark Elder, Christoph Eschenbach, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Alan Gilbert, James Levine, Fabio Luisi, Nicola Luisotti, Sir Charles Mackerras, John Nelson, Antonio Pappano, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Robert Spano, Patrick Summers, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

A frequent recitalist, Ms. Blythe has been presented in recital in New York by Carnegie Hall in Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center in both its Great Performers Series at Alice Tully Hall and its American Songbook Series at the Allen Room, Town Hall, the 92nd Street Y, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has also been presented by the Vocal Arts Society and at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.; the Cleveland Art Song Festival, the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Shriver Hall in Baltimore, and San Francisco Performances.

A champion of American song, Ms. Blythe has premiered several song cycles written for her, including *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* by the late James Legg, *Covered Wagon Woman* by Alan Smith, which was commissioned by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and recorded with the ensemble (CMS Studio Recordings); and *Vignettes: Ellis Island*, also by Alan Smith and featured in a special television program entitled *Vignettes: An Evening with Stephanie Blythe and Warren Jones*.

Ms. Blythe starred in the Metropolitan Opera's live HD broadcasts of *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Il Trittico*, *Rodelinda*, the complete Ring Cycle, and *Cendrillon*. She also appeared in PBS's Live From Lincoln Center broadcasts of the New York Philharmonic's performance of *Carousel* and her acclaimed show, *We'll Meet Again: The Songs of Kate Smith*. Her recordings include her solo album, *as long as there are songs* (Innova), and works by Mahler, Brahms, Wagner, Handel, and Bach (Virgin Classics).

In 2009, Ms. Blythe was named Musical America's Vocalist of the Year. Her other awards include the 2007 Opera News Award and the 1999 Richard Tucker Award. Since 2019, she has been the Artistic Director of the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College. She also occasionally moonlights as her drag alter-ego, tenor Blythely Oratonio, and is an official artist of Lanikai Ukuleles.

This season, Ms. Blythe appears with the Metropolitan Opera as Madame de Haltière, in recital at San Diego Opera, debuts in the world premiere of *The Lesson Plan* with On Site Opera, sings the role of Kathy Hagen in *Champion* with Boston Lyric Opera, and makes her debut as Don Jose in *Carmen* with Chicago Opera Theater.

## ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 985 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

### Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit [msmnyc.edu/support](https://msmnyc.edu/support)

### Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

**M** Manhattan  
School of Music