



FACULTY RECITAL

***Vocal Arts Faculty
Showcase***

Katherine Lerner Lee, Mezzo Soprano

Jack LiVigni, Tenor

Dimitri Pittas, Tenor

Christòpheren Nomura, Baritone

Annie Cao, **Pelayo Ciria**, and **Eric Sedgwick**, Piano

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 | 7:30PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

GIUSEPPE VERDI
(1813–1901)

Brindisi from *La traviata*

Katherine Lerner Lee and **Dimitri Pittas**
Eric Sedgwick, piano

FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797–1828)

Selections from *Die Schöne Müllerin*

Das Wandern

Halt!

Danksagung an den Bach

Am Feierabend

Christòpheren Nomura, Baritone
Pelayo Ciria, piano

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862–1918)

Chanson de Bilitis

1. *La flûte de Pan*

2. *La chevelure*

3. *Le tombeau des Naiades*

Katherine Lerner Lee, Mezzo Soprano
Eric Sedgwick, piano

ROBERT PATERSON
(b. 1970)

Batter's Box

1. Batting Practice
2. Catching
3. Rain Delay
4. Hitting
5. Post Game Interview

Dimitri Pittas, Tenor

Annie Cao, piano

THREE NEAPOLITAN SONGS

ERNESTO DE CURTIS
(1875–1937)

1. *Non ti scordar di me*

2. *Tu ca nun chiagne*

ERNESTO TAGLIAFERRI
(1889–1937)

3. *Passione*

Jack LiVigni, Tenor

Eric Sedgwick, piano

JAY KUO
(b. 1968)

Gaman from *Allegiance*

Christòpheren Nomura, Baritone

Pelayo Ciria, piano

ERNEST CHARLES
(1895–1984)

When I have sung my songs to you

(Arr. Eric Esparza)

Katherine Lerner Lee, **Jack LiVigni**,

Dimitri Pittas, and **Christòpheren Nomura**

Annie Cao, Piano

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Katherine Lerner Lee, Mezzo Soprano

Based in New York City, Katherine has cultivated a full musical life performing art song, opera, chamber and contemporary music. In performance, she prizes deep musical thought, authenticity, and close collaborative relationships with fellow musicians and composers. She can be heard on the premiere recording of Susan Botti's *River Spirits* (New Focus Records), and has premiered works by John Musto, Jon Deak, Scott Wheeler, Juliana Hall and Tim Mukherjee. She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space and made her Merkin Hall debut in May of 2025. The 2026 season includes productions of Handel's *Radamisto* and *Tolomeo*, appearances with Brooklyn Art Song Society, the 21st Century Consort and concerts throughout New York. Katherine holds a double Bachelors in Voice and French from Oberlin College and Conservatory, and a Masters in Music from Bard Conservatory. She serves on faculty at Manhattan School of Music, Concordia Conservatory and the University of Mount Saint Vincent.

Jack LiVigni, Tenor

Sicilian tenor Gioacchino Lauro (Jack) Li Vigni has performed at top international venues, including the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Opera, Michigan Opera, Oper Frankfurt, Dutch National Opera, L'Opéra de Marseille, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Beijing Opera, Sao Paolo Opera, and others. Trained by his father, celebrated tenor Salvatore Li Vigni, as well as Carlo Bergonzi, Franco Corelli, Arrigo Pola, and Salvatore Fisichella.

He is a voice instructor for the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House (Covent Garden), for National Opera in Amsterdam, Frankfurt Oper, and others.

His students have performed on every major operatic stage and recorded for major record labels. Many are recent winners and finalists at major competitions such as Operalia, BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, and the Francisco Viñas International Singing Competition. They have attended young artists programs at Covent Garden, Bayerische Staatsoper, Opéra Bastille, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Komische Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Wien, Theater an der Wien, Oper Frankfurt, and Staatsoper Stuttgart.

Mr. Li Vigni is the founder and General Director of Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival (MOSF) in Sicily, which provides a platform for the development of young artists.

Dimitri Pittas, Tenor

Tenor Dimitri Pittas has graced leading opera stages across North America and Europe, including the Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Bolshoi, and Canadian Opera Company. A graduate of The Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Dimitri joins the company once again for the 2026-2027 season opening production of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. He has also portrayed iconic roles such as Rodolfo, Macduff, Nemorino, and Tamino on the Met stage. His repertoire spans the title roles of *Don Carlo*, *Werther*, and *Faust*, Don José in *Carmen*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, and more.

Recent engagements include debuts as Cavaradossi with Opera Utah, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and Irish National Opera, and as Don José at Welsh National Opera. Dimitri also performed Pinkerton in Anthony Minghella's production of *Madama Butterfly* at English National Opera. In concert, he has sung Verdi's Requiem with the Atlanta Symphony, the Portland Symphony, and at the BBC Proms, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Oslo Philharmonic. In 2022, Mr. Pittas joined the vocal arts faculty at Manhattan School of Music, where he brings a wealth of experience and inspires students with his passion for the performing arts.

Christòpheren Nomura, Baritone

Christòpheren Nomura, baritone, began his musical journey at the age of six as a boy soprano with the San Francisco Boys Chorus and has since enjoyed an international career spanning more than five decades. His operatic repertoire includes leading baritone roles such as Count Almaviva, Figaro, Papageno, Malatesta, Mercutio, Don Giovanni, Guglielmo, and Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), performed with major companies including San Francisco Opera, Dallas Opera, Seattle Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Boston Lyric Opera, and Carolina Opera, among others.

Equally devoted to the concert stage, Mr. Nomura has performed repertoire ranging from Monteverdi and Bach to contemporary works, earning particular acclaim as Philip Glass's chosen baritone for the world premiere of *The Passion of Ramakrishna* at Carnegie Hall. His career also includes a recent appearance on Broadway in *Allegiance* at the Longacre Theatre, alongside George Takei and Lea Salonga.

A dedicated recitalist, Mr. Nomura has sung over 300 recitals worldwide in collaboration with such distinguished pianists as Martin Katz, Dalton Baldwin,

Gilbert Kalish, Craig Rutenberg, and Margo Garrett. A winner of the Fulbright, Naumburg, and Young Concert Artists International competitions, he studied with legendary mentors including Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Gérard Souzay, Sir Thomas Allen, and José van Dam.

Mr. Nomura earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Artist Diploma degrees from New England Conservatory, where he was named the Gunther Schuller Scholar. He is currently on the voice faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

Annie Cao, piano

Annie Yu Cao began her piano studies at the age of four and has continued to blossom into a mature and enthusiastic performer. Since 2010, she has participated in numerous festivals and competitions ranging from local to international stages, consistently earning recognition and first place prizes. The past few years have been especially noteworthy with award winning performances in the B.C. Performing Arts festival, the Canadian Music Competition, Vancouver International Music Competition, Pacific Youth International Piano Competition, and many more. Annie has successfully graduated from the University of Toronto with the Bachelor of Music in Performance with Honors. She recently graduated with the Master of Music and continues to pursue Doctor of Musical Arts under the tutelage of Jeffrey Cohen at Manhattan School of Music. Beyond her academic and performance pursuits, Annie is the founder and artistic director of the Pacific Opus Music Festival, launched in Vancouver in the summer of 2025. The festival brings together distinguished faculty from leading conservatories and provides young musicians with opportunities for intensive study, performance, and artistic collaboration in a vibrant, supportive environment.

Pelayo Ciria, piano

Pelayo Ciria is an award-winning pianist with an international career as a soloist and collaborative musician. He has received prizes at several international competitions, as an individual performer and with his piano duo, Duo Rex, with whom he has premiered numerous contemporary works and performed in prominent venues across Europe, including the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum and the Rector's Palace Hall in Dubrovnik.

In Spain, he has appeared at major concert halls and festivals and collaborated regularly with orchestras. His orchestral highlights include performances of Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at the National Auditorium of Spain, Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 5 at the Otoño Soriano

Festival, and Liszt's *Totentanz* at the Miguel Delibes Auditorium, working with internationally renowned conductors such as Dimitris Botinis, Borja Quintas, and Manuel Coves.

Particularly committed to contemporary music, he has premiered works by several composers and maintains a close artistic collaboration with composer Guiomar Ortiz, performing her original compositions as well as new works written specifically for him. In 2022, he was invited to take part in the Teatro de la Zarzuela's production of *El Sobre Verde*, performing multiple shows to critical acclaim. He has appeared at leading venues in Europe and the United States, including Carnegie Hall, and continues an active international performing career.

Eric Sedgwick, piano

Eric Sedgwick has appeared onstage with many of the music industry's top talents including Sanford Sylvan, Marni Nixon, Will Liverman, Nicholas Phan, Laquita Mitchell, Justin Austin, Patrick Carfizzi, Brittany Renee, Briana Hunter, and Broadway leading ladies Sarah Rice and Carole Demas. He has recorded for WQXR in New York and for the Irreverence Music and Bridge labels, and has performed on the NPR series "Selected Shorts" and the BBC "Arts in Motion" series with Benjamin Bernheim. He has also worked as a répétiteur at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis for the last four seasons and has been on the staff for the vocal program at the Tanglewood Music Center since 2015. As pianist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra he has played under the batons of Andris Nelsons, John Williams, Thomas Ades, Bramwell Tovey, Michael Tilson Thomas, James Gaffigan and Sir Andrew Davis. He has been a regular pianist for events with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and an artistic contributor to the Met's Lindemann Young Artist program, and has also worked for Bard Summerscape, Beth Morrison Projects, Opera Omaha, LA Opera, Carnegie Hall's Music Education Workshops with Joyce DiDonato, the International Vocal Arts Institutes in NYC and Montreal, Opera Williamsburg, and the OperaWorks training program. A member of the coaching staff at Manhattan School of Music since 2009, he holds a Master's Degree in Piano Performance from MSM and a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Brown University, *summa cum laude*.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 1,025 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from 54 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 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.

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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.



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