

SAVANNAH
VOICE FESTIVAL
OPERA • MUSICAL THEATRE • SONG
Sherrill Milnes, Artistic Director
Maria Zouves, Executive Director

Stay-at-Home Season VIII

WE HAVE A VOICE



FRESH, NEW
PROGRAMMING

KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE
IN YOUR OWN HOME!

August 8 - 22, 2020



Dear Friends of VOICE,

Deciding to go virtual for our 2020 Festival was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make.

As VOICE Experience celebrates our 20th Anniversary, and as the Festival promised to grow even bigger in Season Eight, I knew we couldn't go dark completely. In talking with the young artists who were planning to come to Savannah to study, and the artists you know and love that perform each summer, I knew we had to keep the music going and "activate" immediately, with an online stream of short lectures and concerts called "Virtually Live."

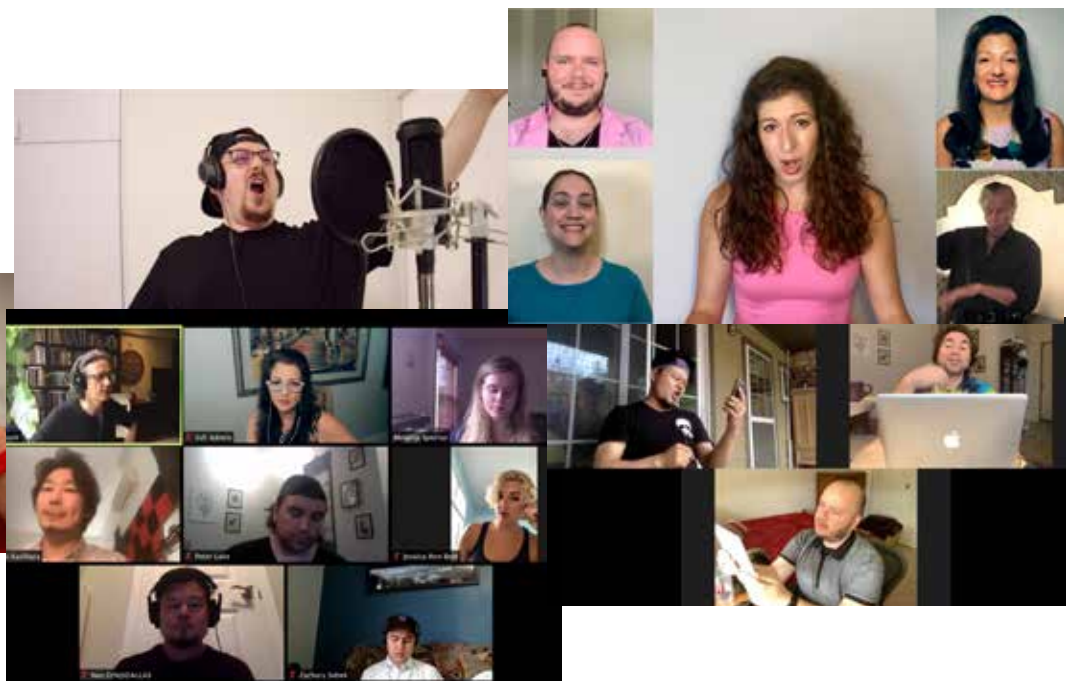
Upon the success of that in May, going online became the path ahead - albeit uncharted territory for many of us. To make all of this happen, our team of pianists created hundreds of audio and video recordings of the repertoire the artists would be working on in the studio and pre-recording for the Festival. Our faculty adapted to teaching lessons and presenting master classes via Zoom. A team of video editors was engaged to compile the 11 performances you'll see this summer, I even took on some editing myself.

I grew up watching and loving The Carol Burnett Show, as I'm sure many of you did. I thought "why can't we do that with music?" So that's what we're doing. Each show will last about 45 minutes and will include the great music you've come to expect out of the Savannah VOICE Festival; but we've added so much more. You'll enjoy comedic moments with great actors, as well as fun and informative segments with the conductors. We'll catch glimpses of what life is currently like for many of our young artists captured through a camera lens and song. We'll find the melodies that remind us how long 20 seconds takes while we wash our hands. We'll explore the great sights and sounds of Savannah. And, we'll explore why art matters.

This Festival is a culmination of three months of brainstorming, road-mapping, Zoom rehearsals, FaceTime check-ins, video and audio recordings, editing, and polishing. In creating this Stay-at-Home Season, we wanted to give as many people the opportunity to enjoy the music as we could. So each performance is presented absolutely free. I cannot thank the sponsors, who stepped up to help us present this digital Festival, enough. The name in a program booklet or on your computer screen doesn't fully express our gratitude, but it's the best we can do right now while we remain socially distant.

I encourage you to call, text, or email your friends and family. Make plans to tune into our shows, knowing your friends and family are safe at home, watching simultaneously. I cannot wait to see all of your friendly faces again when we return to in-person events in the Hostess City. Until then, enjoy our 2020 Stay-at-Home Season VIII "We Have a VOICE."

Yours truly,
Maria
Maria Zouves



2020 STAY-AT-HOME FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
We Have a VOICE
A Festival Kick-Off

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
#FairyTales Tonight!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
Death, by Aria

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12
Masters in VOICE I
American Aria:
An Evening with Sherrill Milnes

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
Mozart @ Home

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Savannah VOICE Festival Gala A 20th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Festival in Recital:
Emily Yocum Black, soprano

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Shooting Stars

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
VOICES in Meaningful Song

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Masters in VOICE II
In Honor of the Work:
Composer Michael Ching & Friends

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
Virtual Broadway: An Online Parody

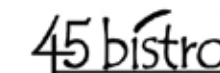
All Performances Begin at 7pm Eastern
with Matinee Replays at 11am Eastern the following day

The 2020 Stay-at-Home Season VIII Festival events are 45-50 minute variety shows that include music, comedy, educational moments and more!

All events will be made available for FREE
on www.SavannahVOICEFestival.org

Your Donations Keep Artists and Communities Engaged

2020 FESTIVAL SPONSORS



SHERRILL MILNES VOICE PROGRAMS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MUSIC MEETING LIFE



VOICE Experience Foundation (Tax ID #13-4145412), began in the year 2000, and is an educational non-profit arts organization that began the Festival in conjunction with its career development programs. VE shapes young singers, cultivating their talent and providing opportunities for growth. It also provides crucial outreaches to the communities it serves, cultivating audiences and perpetuating excellence in the art of singing. It provides training programs in New York, Florida, Illinois and in Georgia, as part of the Savannah VOICE Festival.

MISSION: *To perpetuate the legacy of great singing through arts education, artist training, and audience development, with access for all.*

Savannah VOICE Festival (Tax ID #90-0991948) is a non-profit arts organization that brings classical vocal excellence to Savannah through a celebration of concerts and events during the month of August, with educational presentations throughout the year. It offers music from opera, musical theatre and popular song.

MISSION: *To create a sought-after festival that becomes a unique destination for music lovers locally and globally, thus artistically and economically serving the community of Savannah.*



The Milnes VOICE Programs in Savannah:

Camp VOICE
Milnes VOICE Studio
Savannah VOICE Festival

Other Milnes VOICE Programs:

New York: Opera as Drama
Chicago: Opera Idol
Florida: Florida VOICE Project



SHERRILL MILNES A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sherrill Milnes - opera legend, mentor, teacher, family man, friend and inspiration to so many. How to summarize his extraordinary talent and career in just one short article? It is impossible.

I met Sherrill in person many decades after I became aware of his presence and the power of his baritone voice. I was fortunate to grow up in London, England, where I was exposed to opera from an early age - and Sherrill dominated the stages of Europe's great opera capitals, including the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden during my formative years. Internationally recognized as the leading Verdi Baritone of his time, he sang over 650 performances at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, where he was honored with sixteen new productions, seven opening nights, and ten national telecasts. He performed at the highest level around the world and recorded with the likes of Domingo, Pavarotti, Caballé, Sutherland, Sills, Horne, Price and Tebaldi. He is the winner of three Grammy Awards, and the most recorded American opera singer of his time. In 2008 he received the Opera News Award for Distinguished Achievement.

Sherrill is modest about his extraordinary achievements. He describes his long career as beginning with the assumption that he would teach young singers. Of course, it's well-known now that he ended up performing for a few decades before returning to make teaching his main focus. Having said that, Sherrill worked extensively with young singers throughout his career. He has led master classes and taught at the Juilliard and Manhattan Schools in New York City and other institutions around the world. He has served as faculty at the Yale School of Music and at Northwestern University, where he is the John Evans Distinguished Professor of Music Emeritus. He has served as a judge for several international competitions including the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, and for the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, of which he is a founding board member.

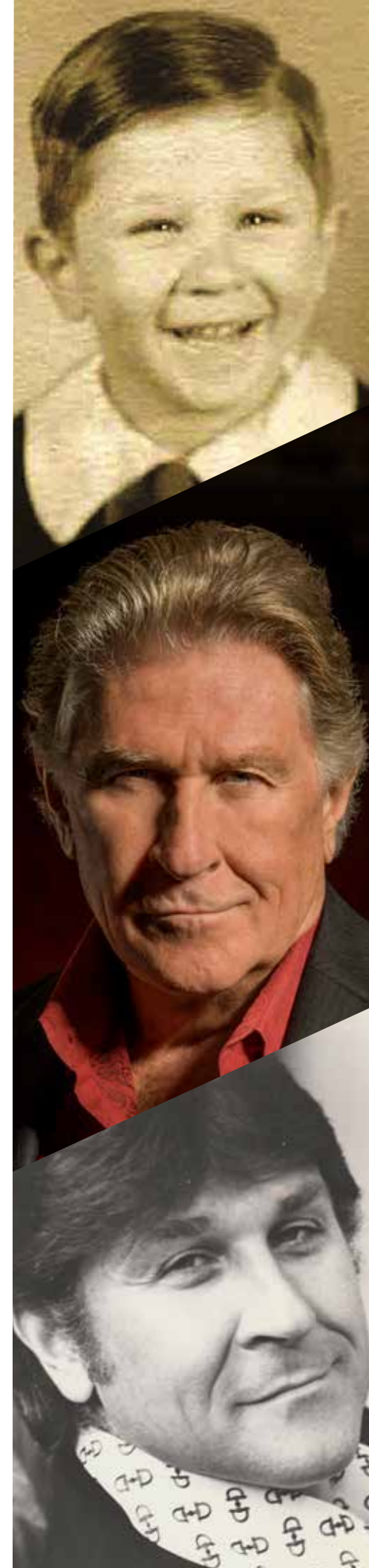
Twenty years ago, he and his wife, Maria Zouves, co-founded the VOICE Experience Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to pass on the traditions of great singing and develop new audiences for opera.

I met Sherrill Milnes and Maria Zouves for the first time in 2012 before working with them to raise awareness of the new Savannah VOICE Festival, which launched in 2013. As we look forward to the eighth annual Festival, themed "The Stay-at-Home Season," and consider the various and impactful Sherrill Milnes VOICE Programs, I am struck by his continuing energy and commitment to mentoring new generations of singers.

One thing I am certain of - Savannah is much richer for Sherrill Milnes selecting our city as the home of the VOICE Festival and Savannah Opera Company.

-Lesley Francis

Lesley Francis met Sherrill and Maria at the inception of the Savannah VOICE Festival, and has worked with them internationally to continue the legacy of great singing and advance music education and outreach.





LAWRENCE BARASA KIHARANGWA
The Little Prince 2019



MELANIE SPECTOR
Death, by Aria 2019

WE HAVE A VOICE

A Festival Kick-Off
Saturday, August 8 at 7:00pm

SVF has focused on the initiative to bring art and artists into focus in the midst of all else. Art has a Virtual VOICE as the Stay-at-Home Season VIII kicks off in your own living room to stream and enjoy beautiful voices that will not be silenced even when theaters are. Join us to launch a fun and meaningful season.

Sponsored by Naomi & Barry Cohen

#FAIRYTALES TONIGHT!

Sunday, August 9 at 7:00pm

You've heard the stories before, but enjoy them again in the comfort of your own home. Through the lens of the Milnes VOICE Programs, musical versions of your favorite tales remind you why the voice can tell a great story through song.



Sponsored by Carolyn Donovan

DEATH, BY ARIA

Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00pm

The Milnes VOICE Studio has been in session for 20 years each summer, training hundreds of artists in the excellence of the classical vocal arts. This concert introduces the emerging artists of this season's intensive, so join us for the introductions.

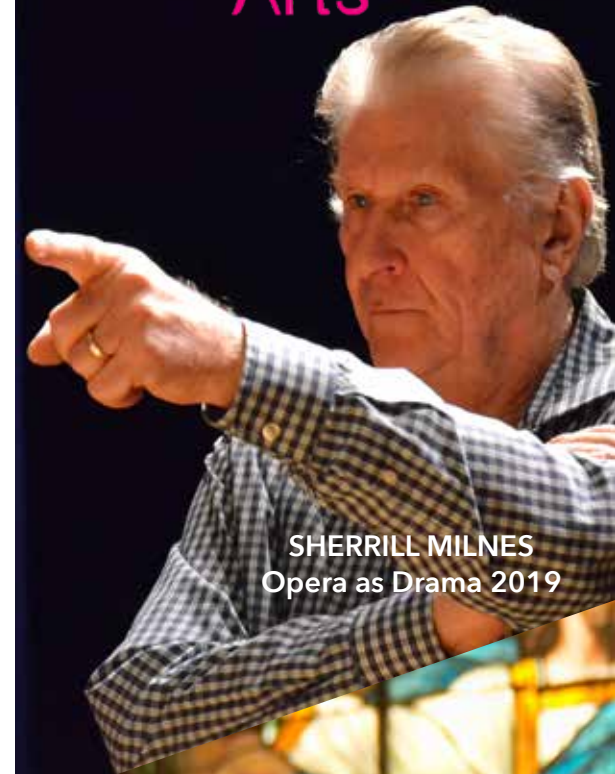
Sponsored by Dr. Harvey Lebos and Toby Hollenberg

**MASTERS IN VOICE I
AMERICAN ARIA: AN EVENING WITH
SHERRILL MILNES**

Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00pm

A voice that hasn't gone silent in over five decades, Milnes will take a trip down memory lane, bringing special friends and past Milnes VOICE Awardees -- Denyce Graves, James Morris, Neil Shichoff and Diana Soviero -- along for the ride.

*Sponsored by Ruth & Tom McMullin and
Georgia Council for the Arts*



SHERRILL MILNES
Opera as Drama 2019

MOZART @ HOME

Friday, August 14 at 7:00pm

One of the most known and beloved "voices" in classical music, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is celebrated in opera and song on a very special evening of his compositions and his influences on the artistic world.

*Sponsored by Arlene & Allan Ratner and
Winston Willis, in memory of Barbara Lane*

A BENTO BOX OF MUSIC!

Building a show isn't just about scenes and songs. Like any variety show, fun segments glue the music together in an entertaining and engaging way!

A MOMENT WITH THE MAESTRO - Musical things you need to know!

sponsored by Claudia & David Seyle

WASH YOUR HANDS! -- A musical moment to keep you safe!

THE PLAIDS - Your favorite quartet returns via Zoom

sponsored by Helen Downing

GIANI CANTO - What happens when Vegas hits the virtual opera scene

sponsored by Linda & Michael Zoller

POSTCARDS FROM SAVANNAH - The Hostess City goes global

sponsored by Visit Savannah

WELCOME TO MY WORLD - VOICE Studio Artists share how they see their world

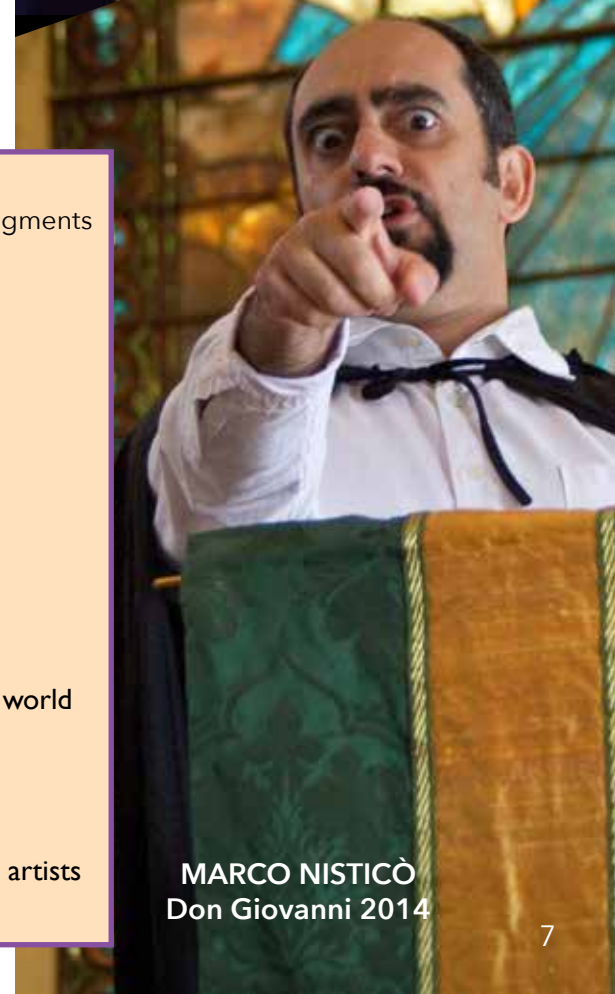
sponsored by Suzan Kiepper & Ron Krannich

ART MATTERS - Moments that celebrate sight and sound

sponsored by Dan & Phyllis Huffer

INSIDE THE VOICE STUDIO - Get a glimpse of how VOICE mentors emerging artists

sponsored by The Milnes Family, in honor of 20 Years of VOICE



MARCO NISTICÒ
Don Giovanni 2014



EMILY YOCUM BLACK
Shooting Stars 2019

**FESTIVAL IN RECITAL:
EMILY YOCUM BLACK, SOPRANO**

Saturday, August 15 at 7:00pm

Emily returns with her pianist Cindy Miller to the virtual format with SVF in a full recital from her home state of Kentucky. Emily presents songs that celebrate art and how it relates to her world today.

Sponsored by Daniel C. Cohen

SHOOTING STARS

Sunday, August 16 at 7:00pm

Artists, like art, contribute so much to our communities. They need to launch, even in a time when the stages are dark. SVF introduces new talent from the VOICE programs with mini concert segments - in three beautiful settings - giving them a moment to stream... and shine!

Performances by:

Kathleen Buccleugh, soprano (Alabama)
with Christy Vest, piano

Jean Carlos Rodriguez, baritone (Florida)
with Constantine Grame, piano

Tiana Sorenson, soprano (Illinois)
with Chuck Foster, piano

*Sponsored by Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Dobroski,
Middy Larson, and Marjorie E. & B.H. Levy, Jr.*

VOICES IN MEANINGFUL SONG

Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00pm

From Sacred to Art Song and much more, SVF shares some of the most beloved songs of inspiration from around the world and back again.

Sponsored by Kathie & Les Anderson



LIZ LANG
Rehearsing Alice Ryley



**MASTERS IN VOICE II
IN HONOR OF THE WORK:
COMPOSER MICHAEL CHING & FRIENDS**

Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00pm

Michael Ching, SVF composer-in-residence, interviews other composers and shares their work, as well as his own in opera and song.

*Sponsored by Jan & Sam Durham and Toby Hollenberg
and Georgia Council for the Arts*



Scott Joiner
composer



Libby Larsen
composer



Patrick Vu
composer



MICHAEL CHING
SVF Composer-in-Residence

VIRTUAL BROADWAY: AN ONLINE PARODY

Friday, August 21 at 7:00pm

What happens when you combine talented opera singers, musical theatre favorites and a sprinkle of "the world is upside down" to a live stream? The result is a night of parody --- where quarantine meets a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the Great White Way. It's definitely a review of a virtual kind!!!

*Sponsored by Audiology and
Hearing Aid Services*



PETER LAKE
At Home and in Rehearsal

**SAVANNAH VOICE FESTIVAL GALA -
A 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, August 22 at 7:00pm

From the year 2000 to now, the Milnes VOICE Programs have been inspiring artists and audiences to keep the legacy of great singing alive. In this challenging time for the performing arts, VOICE Experience and the Savannah VOICE Festival celebrates their collaboration and legacy with some moments from years past and great music from the artists of the season. *Don't miss a note of the season finale!*

Sponsored by Jean & John Fishburne



JESSICA ANN BEST &
HOWARD WATKINS
VOICE Gala 2019

2020 GUEST ARTISTS

The 2020 Stay-at-Home Season VIII includes surprise performances by VOICE alumni and friends of VOICE!



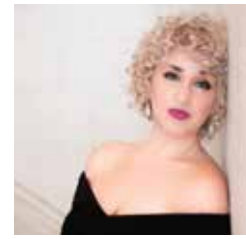
Sherrill Milnes
Artistic Director



Maria Zouves
Executive Director



Kerby Baier*
soprano



Jessica Ann Best
mezzo



Andrew Bisantz
conductor/pianist



Emily Yocum Black
soprano



Kathleen Buccleugh
soprano



Peiwen Chen
pianist



Michael Ching
composer/pianist



Sean Christensen
tenor



Christopher Cooley
pianist



William Desbiens*
baritone



Angela De Venuto
soprano



Michael A. Ferrara
pianist



Jessica Fishenfeld
soprano



Nathalie Fortin
pianist



Chuck Foster
pianist



Olivia Gasper*
soprano



Mariano Gladic*
baritone



Constantine Gramme
pianist



Paul Gutmann*
baritone



Justin Havard
pianist



Timothy Hall
pianist



Leah Huber*
soprano



Scott Joiner
tenor/pianist/composer



Lawrence Barasa Kiharangwa
tenor



Takaki Kurihara
baritone



Peter Lake
tenor



Liz Lang
soprano



Ripley Lucas-Tagliani*
soprano



Matthew Marco
pianist



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baritone



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pianist



Carlton Moe
tenor



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mezzo



Jorge Parodi
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baritone



JoAnna Pope*
mezzo



Lili Qin
pianist



Nan Qin
bass-baritone



Leo Radosavljevic
bass-baritone/pianist



Jean Carlos Rodriguez
baritone



Natalie Rumer*
mezzo



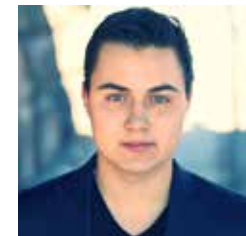
Scott Russell
bass



Evelyn Saavedra
soprano



Cloe SanAntonio*
mezzo



Zachary Sebek*
tenor



Amy Shoremount-Obra
soprano



Chad Sonka
baritone



Tiana Sorenson
soprano



Melanie Spector*
soprano



Luis Urbina
pianist



Christy Vest
pianist



Patrick Vu
composer/pianist



Jonathan Walker-VanKuren
tenor



Howard Watkins
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James Wright
baritone



Nick Yaquinto
tenor

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Lauren Auge, soprano
Kerby Baier, soprano
Joseph Calzada, baritone
Olivia Capozzi, soprano
Jasper Cox, tenor
William Desbiens, baritone
Olivia Gasper, soprano
Mariano Gladić, bass-baritone
Francisco Agustin Gonzalez, tenor

Paul Gutmann, baritone
Tanner Hoertz, baritone
Leah Huber, soprano
Haruna (Gloria) Kamo, soprano
Morena Le Vecchia Galan, mezzo
Ripley Lucas-Tagliani, soprano
Brittany Martin, soprano
Bryan McClary, baritone
Rachel Moon, mezzo
Carrie Moscoe, soprano
Mariah Muehler, soprano

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Natalie Rumer, mezzo
Cloe SanAntonio, mezzo
Charles Sciascia, tenor
Zachary Sebek, tenor
Melanie Spector, soprano
Ontario Williams, baritone
Madison Zahorsky, soprano

2020 GUEST SINGERS

Jessica Ann Best, mezzo
Emily Yocum Black, soprano
Kathleen Buccleugh, soprano
Sean Christensen, tenor
Angela De Venuto, soprano
Jessica Fishenfeld, soprano
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Peter Lake, tenor
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Tiago Matos, baritone
Carlton Moe, tenor
Nan Qin, bass-baritone
Leo Radosavljevic, bass-baritone
Jean Carlo Rodriguez, baritone
Scott Russell, bass

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Nick Yaquinto, tenor

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Chad Sonka, Outreach and Education Coordinator
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Emma Huennekens, Festival Assistant
Harriet Konstantinidis, Festival Assistant

Lesley Francis Public Relations is the official PR firm of the Milnes VOICE Programs

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Matthew Marco, Video Editor
Theophilos Milnes, Video Editor
Chapin Smith, Video Editor
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Additional editing provided by Michael Ching,
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Death, by Aria

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Ruth & Tom McMullin
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(production postponed to 2021)

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AN HOMAGE TO THE PLACES AND SPACES WHERE WE CANNOT BE

While we stream our Festival, we will miss the hosts and the buildings where our VOICES usually resonate.

Asbury Memorial Church Christ Church Episcopal Davenport House Museum The Demere Center for Living/Hospice Savannah The Green Meldrim House, St. John's Episcopal Church GSU Armstrong Campus	Jewish Educational Alliance The Charles H. Morris Center Plantation Club at the Landings Westin Savannah Harbor Resort Spa Yamacraw Center for the Performing Arts
--	--

until we meet again!

THANK YOU

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David and Judith Fleischer
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Savannah Morning News (in kind)

Mozart Level: \$15,000 - \$19,999
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 Do you like being in the know?
 Do you want to be the first to buy tickets for the Festival and special events?
 Do you enjoy being in your seat before others?

If you answered YES to these questions, join our growing family of VOICE Society members today!

Individual: \$175 | Couple: \$275 | Family: \$350

Membership is for one calendar year.

For more information, please call 855.766.7372
 or visit www.SavannahVOICEFestival.org/voice-society-membership

DON'T MISS A NOTE!

Stay connected to the Savannah VOICE Festival all year long! Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Instagram, Subscribe to our YouTube Channel, and new for 2020, Follow us on Spotify!



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OUTREACH & EDUCATION

A core mission of the Sherrill Milnes VOICE Programs is to INSPIRE and EXPOSE communities to opera as well as the classical voice in other genres of music.

HOW WE SERVE

- Student Workshops and Master Classes
- Community Opera Projects (*Hansel & Gretel, The Little Prince*)
- School Trips to attend Opera Performances with Talk Backs after the Show
- Community Concert and Goodwill Appearances
- Partnerships and Collaborations with other Arts Organizations
- Scholarships and Mentorship for Young Artists and Administrators
- Arts Initiatives and Outreaches with Chatham County Schools and Charter Schools
- Partnerships and Outreaches with Places of Worship
- Visits to Medical Facilities for Musical Therapy Partnerships

For more information about how to get involved with our outreach and education initiatives, please contact Chad Sonka at education@savannahvoicefestival.org
www.SavannahVOICEFestival.org/outreach-education

OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS AMIDST COVID-19

Savannah VOICE Festival's outreach & education programs have continued to positively influence the Savannah community despite COVID-19. We are finding innovative ways it reach out:

TO OUR YOUTH

The students at the Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts and Windsor Forest High School continue to help SVF's Composer-in-Residence, Michael Ching, write *A Royal Feast* to premiere next summer. Through a series of Zoom conference calls in March, two songs were created for the world premiere.

TO OUR COMMUNITY

SVF is still bringing public performances to Savannah by creating socially distant "Sing-By" performances with two of our wonderful local artists at various locations like Hospice House.

TO OUR PARTNERS

We have continued presenting at the Jewish Educational Alliance's "Food for Thought" via Zoom with special "Moments with the Maestro," series with Sherrill Milnes.

TO OUR AUDIENCES

In the hope of providing the gift of music to someone far away, we have developed personalized VOICE-a-Grams to order for various occasions. Virtual Cards have been personalized and sent from Savannah to Europe and the list keeps growing.

AND AROUND THE WORLD

Programming continued into our first ever "Virtually Live" week in May, which featured many informative lectures, events and recitals, reaching over 1200 homes in 7 different countries.

WE NEED ART NOW MORE THAN EVER and Savannah's enthusiastic response to our outreach programs has great meaning to Savannah and indeed, the world.

2021 VOICEXPERIENCE EVENTS

Opera Idol
Chicago, Illinois
Spring 2021

Florida VOICE Project
Walt Disney World
August 1 - 7, 2021

Milnes VOICE Studio
Savannah, GA
August 8 - 22, 2021

Opera as Drama
New York City
Spring 2021

Camp VOICE
Savannah, GA
August 8 - 15, 2021

Savannah VOICE Festival
Savannah, GA
August 8 - 29, 2021



SAVE THE DATE!
SAVANNAH
VOICE FESTIVAL
OPERA • MUSICAL THEATRE • SONG
Season IX
A NOBLE JOURNEY
August 8 - 29, 2021

The Savannah VOICE Festival looks forward to 2021 when we plan to return to live, in-person performances. Join us for Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, the world premiere of Michael Ching's *A Royal Feast*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and the Lerner & Loewe classic *Camelot*.



While the 2020 Stay-at-Home Season VIII Festival streams for free, the Savannah VOICE Festival and VOICE Experience Foundation are dedicated to its missions of arts education, artists mentorship and audience development.

**Your Donations Keep
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If you or your business would like to learn more about becoming a sponsor, please email Maria Zouves at info@savannahvoicefestival.org.

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