

Dr. Maria Briggs, is a Russian-born, Australian soprano. Dr. Briggs holds a Bachelor degree in piano performance, Masters in vocal performance, and DMA in opera performance (Sydney University and Royal Northern College of Music, UK). Dr. Briggs has sung with Opera Australia, Pacific Opera, Lyric Opera Weimar and Glyndebourne Opera Festival, UK. Maria moved to California in 2016 and is Associate Professor of Voice at Fresno State. She lives in Fresno with her husband and two sons. Since joining Fresno State faculty Dr. Briggs performed major works with Fresno State Symphony orchestra, including Richard Strauss's "Four Last Songs", Tchaikowsky's Tatiana in "Eugene Onegin" and Puccini's Butterfly in "Madama Butterfly". Dr. Briggs made her American opera debut in 2017 performing the role of Tsarevna in Rimsky Korsakov's "Kashchey the Immortal", Island City Opera. Dr. Briggs is artistic director of Fresno State Art Song Festival and a contributing writer for the Classical Singer Magazine. Her American debut art song album "Winter Evening" will be released worldwide on November 18, 2022, Centaur Records.

John Cozza is in demand throughout California as teacher, coach/ accompanist, chamber musician, adjudicator and clinician. He has been the Staff Accompanist at Sacramento State since 2004, and took over as Music Director and Pianist/Organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Carmichael in January of 2018. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Northwestern University and the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria, Dr. Cozza was named Director of Accompanying at Baylor University (Waco, TX) in 1994 to design and implement the Masters of Music degree program in Piano Accompanying. Dr. Cozza's international engagements have included performances as soloist, accompanist and chamber musician in such European cities as Vienna, Bologna, Milan, Cologne, and Budapest. His principal teachers have been Daniel Pollack in Los Angeles, Dr. David Kaiserman in Chicago, and Professors Hans Graf (solo piano performance) and Georg Ebert (chamber music) in Vienna.

Songs of Ecstasy and Pain: Romantic Art Song

Maria Briggs, soprano
John Cozza, piano

TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 18, 2022
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

PROGRAM

The Inner Music <i>Внутренняя Музыка</i>	Alexander Gurilev (1803-1885) <i>Nikolai Ogarev (1813-1877)</i>
I Recall the Wonderful Moment <i>Я Помню Чудное Мгновенье</i>	Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857) <i>Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837)</i>
I'm Grieving <i>Мне Грустно</i>	Alexander Dargomyzhsky (1813-1869) <i>Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841)</i>
Where Are You, Little Star? <i>Где Ты Звёздочка?</i>	Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881) <i>Nikolai Grekov (1807-1866)</i>
No, Only the One Who Knew... <i>Нет, Только Тот Кто Знал</i>	Piotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) <i>Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)</i>
So Soon Forgotten <i>Забывать Так Скоро</i>	Piotr Tchaikovsky <i>Aleksey Apukhtin (1840-1893)</i>
In the Silence of the Mysterious Night <i>В Молчаньи Ночи Тайной</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943) <i>Afanasy Fet (1820-1892)</i>
Spring Waters <i>Весенние Воды</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov <i>Fyodor Tyutchev (1803-1873)</i>
L'Invitation au voyage <i>Invitation to the Voyage</i>	Henri Duparc (1848-1933) <i>Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867)</i>

PROGRAM

Extase <i>Ecstasy</i>	Henri Duparc <i>Jean Lahor (1840-1909)</i>
Chanson Triste <i>Sad Song</i>	Henri Duparc <i>Jean Lahor</i>
Freundliche Vision, Op. 48 No. 1 <i>A Friendly Vision</i>	Richard Strauss (1864-1949) <i>Otto Julius Bierbaum (1865-1910)</i>
Ständchen, Op. 17 No. 2 <i>Serenade</i>	Richard Strauss <i>Adolf Friedrich, Graf von Schack (1815-1894)</i>
"Marietta's Lied" from <i>Die Tote Stadt</i> <i>Marietta's Song from The Dead</i> <i>City</i>	Erich Korngold (1897-1957) <i>Georges Rodenbach (1855-1898)</i>

The Inner Music - Nikolai Ogarev

Oh glorious moment when music I hear
 My heart follows trembling with wonder and fear
 It's easy to follow, to suffer, to fly
 Oh glorious moment, it's easy to die

Trans: Maria Briggs

I Recall the Wonderful Moment - Alexander Pushkin

A magic moment I remember:
 I raised my eyes and you were there,
 A fleeting vision, the quintessence
 Of all that's beautiful and rare

Time passed. A rebel storm-blast scattered
 The reveries that once were mine
 And I forgot your soothing accents,
 Your features gracefully divine.

Then came a moment of renaissance,
 I looked up - you again are there
 A fleeting vision, the quintessence
 Of all that's beautiful and rare

Translation: unknown

I'm Grieving - Mikhail Lermontov

I'm grieving because I love you,
 And I know that your blooming youth
 Will not be spared by cunning, persecuting gossip!
 For every bright day or sweet moment
 With tears and longing you will repay your fate!
 I'm grieving because you are joyful!

Trans: Maria Briggs

Where Are You, Little Star? - Nikolai Grekov

Where's the little star?
 Where's the maiden fair?
 Your beloved friend is alone my dear.
 Stormy clouds hide little star tonight
 Fair maiden lies in the cold, hard ground.

Trans: Maria Briggs

No, Only the One Who Knew... - Wolfgang von Goethe

A man who suffered longing knows

My suffering and yearning
 Away from love, away from piece
 My anguish ever burning.

Trans: Maria Briggs

So Soon Forgotten - Aleksey Apukhtin

So soon forgotten, Lord above! Our life together and our love!
 Forgotten hopes and dreams that fade, forgotten promises you made.
 So soon forgotten, Lord above! Our life together and our love!

Trans: Maria Briggs

In the Silence of the Mysterious Night - Afanasy Fet

Mysterious night brings stillness and phantoms of your smiles,
 Your whispers and your hair locks that fall on charming eyes.
 The night will waken all the same with the incantation of your name!

Trans: Maria Briggs

Spring Waters - Fyodor Tyutchev

The fields are still laying all covered in white
 But waters are rushing to cast it aside
 The spring has arrived! This message we bring,
 And May comes to follow the waters of Spring!

Trans: Maria Briggs

L'Invitation au voyage (Invitation to the Voyage) - Charles Baudelaire

My child, my sister,
 Think how sweet
 To journey there and live together!
 To love as we please,
 To love and die
 In the land that is like you!
 The watery suns
 Of those hazy skies
 Hold for my spirit
 The same mysterious charms
 As your treacherous eyes
 Shining through their tears.
 There - nothing but order and beauty dwell,
 Abundance, calm, and sensuous delight.
 See on those canals
 Those vessels sleeping,

Vessels with a restless soul;
 To satisfy
 Your slightest desire
 They come from the ends of the earth.
 The setting suns
 Clothe the fields,
 Canals and all the town
 With hyacinth and gold;
 The world falls asleep
 In a warm light.
 There - nothing but order and beauty dwell,
 Abundance, calm, and sensuous delight.

Trans: Richard Stokes

Extase (Ecstasy) - Jean Lahor

On a pale lily my heart is sleeping
 A sleep as sweet as death:
 Exquisite death, death perfumed
 By the breath of the beloved:
 On your pale breast my heart is sleeping...

Trans: Richard Stokes

Chanson Triste (Sad Song) - Jean Lahor

Moonlight slumbers in your heart,
 A gentle summer moonlight,
 And to escape the cares of life
 I shall drown myself in your light.
 I shall forget past sorrows,
 My sweet, when you cradle
 My sad heart and my thoughts
 In the loving calm of your arms.
 You will rest my poor head,
 Ah! sometimes on your lap,
 And recite to it a ballad
 That will seem to speak of us;
 And from your eyes full of sorrow,
 From your eyes I shall then drink
 So many kisses and so much love
 That perhaps I shall be healed.

Trans: Richard Stokes

Freundliche Vision (A Friendly Vision) - Otto Julius Bierbaum

I did not dream it in my sleep,
 In broad daylight I saw it fair before me:
 A meadow full of daisies;
 A white house deep in green bushes;
 Statues of gods gleaming from the foliage.
 And I walk with one who loves me,
 My heart at peace, into the coolness
 Of this white house, into the peace,
 Brimming with beauty, that awaits our coming. *Trans: Richard Stokes*

Ständchen (Serenade) - Adolf Friedrich, Graf von Schack

Open up, open up! but softly, my child,
 So that no one's roused from slumber!
 The brook hardly murmurs, the breeze hardly moves
 A leaf on the bushes and hedges;
 Gently, my love, so nothing shall stir,
 Gently with your hand as you lift the latch!
 With steps as light as the steps of elves,
 As they hop their way over flowers,
 Flit out into the moonlit night,
 Slip out to me in the garden!
 The flowers are fragrant in sleep
 By the rippling brook, only love is awake.
 Sit down! Dusk falls mysteriously here
 Beneath the linden trees.
 The nightingale above us shall dream of our kisses
 And the rose, when it wakes at dawn,
 Shall glow from our night's rapture. *Trans: Richard Stokes*

"Marietta's Lied" from Die Tote Stadt - Georges Rodenbach

My only remaining joy, come to me my true love.
 Evening descends in the grove, you are my light and day.
 Our hearts beat together, hope soars to heaven.
 How true is the sad song that must die. I know it well, I heard it in my
 youth.
 Dark troubles draw near. Come to me my love, lower your pale face, death
 will not separate us.
 If you go before me, trust there is resurrection.