

PCD2017/04/17

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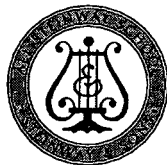
School of Music

presents

guest artist

Rexford Tester, *tenor*
Gabriel Dobner, *piano*

Monday, April 17, 2017
8 pm
Recital Hall



There is one intermission.

Program

An Chloe Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Das Veilchen (1756-1791)
Adelaide Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

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Fussreise Hugo Wolf
Verschwiegene Liebe (1860-1903)
Auf einer Wanderung

~

Poème d'un jour Gabriel Fauré
Rencontre (1845-1924)
Toujour
Adieu

Intermission

Petrarch Sonnets Franz Liszt
Pace non trovo (1811-1886)
Benedetto sia'l giorno
I vidi in terra angelico costume

~

The Monk and His Cat Samuel Barber
Monks and Raisins (1910-1981)
A Green Lowland of Pianos

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personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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of this production is strictly prohibited
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Biographies

A Virginia-born tenor and JMU alum, **Rexford Tester** is a member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at the Washington National Opera. This 2016-17 season at WNO, Mr. Tester was seen as Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and debuted the role of Cheap Petrol Protestor in the world premiere of *The Dictator's Wife* by Mohammed Fairouz. Also this season, Mr. Tester will be seen in *Justice at the Opera with Ruth Bader Ginsberg* and as Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. In the 2015-2016 season, he made his WNO debut as El-Remendado in *Carmen*, and appeared as Lorrin Thurston in the world premiere of *Better Gods*. Next season at Washington National Opera, Mr. Tester will be singing the role of Oronte in Handel's *Alcina*.

Mr. Tester was a Young Artist at The Glimmerglass Festival in 2015 and 2016, where he covered Tamino and First Priest in *The Magic Flute*, as well as performed the role of Tamino in the Young Artists' production. Also at The Glimmerglass Festival, he covered Giannetto in *The Thieving Magpie* and sang Count Alberto in *Lost Luggage*. Mr. Tester was an Apprentice Singer with the Santa Fe Opera in 2014, where he covered Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* and performed in a scene from *La finta giardiniera*. Other credits include Lindoro in Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri* (Tri-Cities Opera), Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and Tonio in Donizetti's *La fille du Régiment* (CoOPERative Program), and Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. Mr. Tester's recent concert credits include the tenor soloist in Mozart's Coronation Mass both with The Apollo Orchestra and the Washington National Cathedral Choral Society, *Obadiah* in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and a tenor soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*. He has also performed as a tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* in D minor, and Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*. He was the tenor soloist for The Dallas Opera's production of *Mozart & Co.* in collaboration with the

Dallas Opera Orchestra. He has sung under the baton of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Barenboim, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin at The Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall with The Westminster Symphonic Choir.

Tester was a National Finalist in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2014, and he won second place at The Jensen Foundation Competition in 2015. He has participated in masterclasses with Frederica von Stade, Matthew Epstein, Martin Katz, Matthew Polenzani, and Christine Goerke. He earned his B.M. from James Madison University and his M.M. from Westminster Choir College.

Gabriel Dobner has recorded for Ottavo, MDG and Hänssler Klassik Profil. His first recording for MDG, consisting of songs of Liszt, Dvorák and Mahler with mezzo-soprano Cornelia Kallisch, won high praise from BBC Music Magazine, Fono Forum and the West German Radio in Cologne, who referred to Mr. Dobner as a "master among collaborative pianists". Mr. Dobner's first recording with Metropolitan Opera star, Gerhard Siegel was released in the fall of 2015 for Haenssler Klassik Profil, a program featuring songs of Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg and Kurt Hessenberg. Mr. Dobner's latest recording with Baritone Laurence Gien was completed in early fall, 2016 and will be used for a feature film focusing on Schubert's Winterreise song cycle. Gabriel Dobner has also recorded extensively for radio broadcasts, including those for Saint Paul Sunday, the Bayerischer Rundfunk, Südwestfunk, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk and the Chubu-Nippon Broadcasting Company in Japan. Gabriel Dobner joined the faculty at James Madison University in the fall of 2001.

Upcoming Events

April 2017

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| JMU Jazz Ensemble | Tues., Apr. 18 @ 8 pm, Concert Hall* |
| String Chamber Ensembles II | Wed., Apr. 19 @ 6:30 pm, Anthony-Seeger* |
| JMU Jazz Band | Wed., Apr. 19 @ 8 pm, Concert Hall* |
| Madison Singers & JMU Chorale | Thurs., Apr. 20 @ 8 pm, Concert Hall* |
| Turtle Island Jazz Quartet | Sat., Apr. 22 @ 8 pm, Concert Hall* |
| JMU Symphony Honors Concert | Sun., Apr. 23 @ 2 pm, Concert Hall* |
| JMU Steel Band | Sun., Apr. 23 @ 8 pm, Anthon-Seeger* |

*These concerts provide student credit for MUS 195.

For tickets and further information, visit www.jmuforbescenter.com or call the Forbes Center Box Office at (540) 568-7000. For more on the School of Music, go to www.jmu.edu/music or call (540) 568-6714.

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