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“One of the longstanding delights of New York’s music scene.”  
— *The New York Times*

# **NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)**

Steven Blier, Artistic Director • Michael Barrett, Associate Artistic Director

opens its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with

## ***MR. GERSHWIN GOES TO WASHINGTON***

*An election satire*

Lyrics by **IRA GERSHWIN**

Music by **GEORGE GERSHWIN** and **BURTON LANE**

Adapted and directed by **LAURENCE MASLON**

from the libretti by **GEORGE S. KAUFMAN** and **MORRIE RYSKIND**

starring

**MARC KUDISCH** as John P. Wintergreen

**ANNE-CAROLYN BIRD** as Mary Turner

**LAUREN WORSHAM** as Diana Devereaux

**DAVID GARRISON** in six comic roles

NYFOS Artistic Director **STEVEN BLIER**, piano

**JOSEPH THALKEN**, piano

and a surprise guest from the political news media as narrator

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 at 8:00PM**

Merkin Concert Hall at Kauffman Center, 129 West 67th St.

### **TICKETS**

Single Tickets: \$40-\$55 • Student Tickets: \$10

Real Deal Tickets: \$20, Advance Purchase, Limited Availability and Seating

Subscriptions: \$140-\$200 for Entire Four Concert Series

*Post-concert meet-the-artists wine reception open to all. Performed without intermission.*

A NYFOS ON TOUR encore performance will take place on Monday, October 22 at 7:30PM  
at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC

“New York Festival of Song reinvented the song recital.” — *The New Yorker*

The [NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG](#) opens its 2012-2013 season amidst election fever with a semi-staged political musical theater satire, [MR. GERSHWIN GOES TO WASHINGTON](#), on **Saturday, October 20 at 8:00PM at Merkin Concert Hall**.

Directed and adapted by [Laurence Maslon](#), the evening gathers George and Ira's best satirical songs about politics—including "Of Thee I Sing," "Love is Sweeping the Country," "Union Square," and "Strike Up the Band"—into a headline narrative about the trials and tribulations of presidential hopeful John P. Wintergreen, played by three-time Tony Award-nominee [Marc Kudisch](#), whose "expressive gusto" and "robust, rich tone" have been praised by *The New York Times*.

The "lustrous" soprano (*Opera News*) [Anne-Carolyn Bird](#) plays Mary Turner, Wintergreen's devoted wife and aspiring first-lady-to-be; [Lauren Worsham](#), who "delights with her pure, warm tone and her agile comic delivery" (*The New York Times*) plays *femme fatale* Diana Devereaux; and portraying an array of six comic foils, [David Garrison](#), award-winning Broadway and television favorite, completes the zany troupe.

Conductor and composer [Joseph Thalken](#) teams up with NYFOS artistic director [Steven Blier](#) to form a dazzling piano duo. A distinguished member of the political news media hosts the evening as a surprise guest narrator.

A NYFOS *On Tour* encore performance will be presented by Vocal Arts DC at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC on Monday, October 22 at 7:30PM.

## TICKETS

Subscriptions for the entire four concert Merkin Hall series are available for \$140-\$200, with more information available online at [www.nyfos.org/subscriptions](http://www.nyfos.org/subscriptions). Single tickets are available for \$40-\$55, with discount tickets available for students at \$10, and a limited number of advanced purchase Real Deal tickets at \$20. Every concert is accompanied by a post-show wine reception with the cast.

## ABOUT THE PIECE

*MR. GERSHWIN* is an original concert put together by music-theater historian Laurence Maslon for Ira Gershwin's centennial in 1997. The concert draws from the Gershwin brothers' three political musicals (*Strike Up the Band*, the Pulitzer Prize winning *Of Thee I Sing*, and *Let 'Em Eat Cake*) that were originally written in collaboration with George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind. The adaptation folds the plots of all three original shows into one new storyline that showcases the brilliant lyrics, thrilling music, and provocative comedy of George and Ira, American musical theater's resident geniuses.

While the 2011-12 Broadway season hosted the tragic sweep of *Porgy and Bess* and the giddiness of the Roaring Twenties with *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *MR. GERSHWIN GOES TO WASHINGTON* celebrates that final essential component of the Gershwins' body of work: timeless political satire. As the country gears up for another presidential election, "Mr. Gershwin Goes to Washington" provides a much-needed dose of comic perspective and Broadway flair.

The show had its premiere at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in April of 1997, where it featured Peter Jennings as the host, and has also been performed at the Hamptons Music Festival in 2000, hosted by George Plimpton; in Washington D.C., hosted by Dick Cavett; and at the Juilliard School

in 2002. It was most recently performed at Guild Hall in East Hampton on August 12, 2012 under the musical direction of Steven Blier with a cast including Marc Kudisch, David Garrison, and Anne-Carolyn Bird, and Emily Swallow.

## FEATURING

**JOHN P. WINTERGREEN** (Marc Kudisch) is a good-looking, amiable fellow. He's a bit of a dope, getting through life with his charm. He'd be quite lost without Mary, but he knows the world of politics and how important it is to keep up a good front. He may well have been a song-and-dance man in an earlier avocation.

**MARY TURNER** (Anne-Carolyn Bird) is a determined and delightful woman. She has her head screwed on straight--which is a good thing, as her husband needs to have some guidance occasionally. She is sensitive, but will also do anything to stand by her man.

**DIANA DEVEREAUX** (Lauren Worsham) is a pure Louisiana spitfire. She is drop dead gorgeous and knows how to get her man. She lays her Southern drawl on with a trowel. She is also determined to become First Lady and will do anything to achieve that goal.

**ALEXANDER THROTTLEBOTTOM** (David Garrison) is a thoroughly baffled *schmendrik*

**HORACE J. FLETCHER** (David Garrison) is an egotistical Midwest millionaire

**GENERAL TWEEDLEDEE** (David Garrison) is a paranoid, gruff military man

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE** (David Garrison) is an older, serious fellow

**COMRADE KRUGER** (David Garrison) is a scruffy, slightly weasely, urban anarchist

**REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE** (David Garrison) is, well, extremely French

with  
a surprise host  
Member of Political News Media, *The Anchorman*

and  
Steven Blier, *piano*  
Joseph Thalken, *piano*  
Laurence Maslon, *director*

## "MR. GERSHWIN GOES TO WASHINGTON" SONGLIST

WINTERGREEN FOR PRESIDENT ("Of Thee I Sing," 1931) Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin	Company
TYPICAL SELF-MADE AMERICAN ("Strike Up the Band," 1927) Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin	Fletcher & Co.
LOVE IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY ("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)	Wintergreen and Diana

Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

SOME GIRLS CAN BAKE A PIE  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Mary, Wintergreen,  
Diana, Announcer

STRIKE UP THE BAND  
("Strike Up the Band," 1927)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Fletcher and Company

I WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOM  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Diana

MINE  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Mary and Wintergreen

A KISS FOR CINDERELLA  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Wintergreen

OF THEE I SING  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Wintergreen and Mary

DOWN WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S UP  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Kruger and Company

WHO CARES?  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Announcer,  
Wintergreen and Mary

IF I BECAME THE PRESIDENT  
("Strike Up the Band," 1930)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Diana and Tweedledee

TWEEDLEDEE FOR PRESIDENT  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Company

COMES THE REVOLUTION  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Throttlebottom, Mary, Wintergreen

LET 'EM EAT CAKE  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Wintergreen and Mary

THE ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

France

JILTED  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)

Diana and France

Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

THROTTLE THROTTLEBOTTOM  
("Let 'Em Eat Cake," 1933)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Kruger and Wintergreen

I'M ABOUT TO BE A MOTHER  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Mary

IN OUR UNITED STATE  
(The film "Give a Girl a Break," 1953)  
Ira Gershwin/Burton Lane

Mary and Wintergreen

FINALE ULTIMO:  
POSTERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER  
("Of Thee I Sing," 1931)  
Ira Gershwin/George Gershwin

Company

## LINKS

**Anne-Carolyn Bird**

[http://www.uzanartists.com/?post\\_type=portfolio&p=857](http://www.uzanartists.com/?post_type=portfolio&p=857)

**Marc Kudisch**

<http://www.marckudisch.net/>

**David Garrison**

<http://www.davidgarrison.com/>

**Lauren Worsham**

<http://www.laurenworsham.com/>

**Steven Blier**

[http://nyfos.us/blier\\_bio.html](http://nyfos.us/blier_bio.html)

**Joseph Thalken**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBlkCZP1zm4>

**Laurence Maslon**

<http://app.tisch.nyu.edu/object/MaslonL.html>

## ***NYFOS 2012-2013 SEASON AT A GLANCE***

Sunday, October 14, 2012, 1:30pm

***Dvorak and the American Soul***

Calderwood Hall at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA

Saturday, October 20, 2012, 8:00pm

***Mr. Gershwin Goes to Washington***

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Monday, October 22, 2012, 7:30pm  
**Mr. Gershwin Goes to Washington**  
Presented by Vocal Arts DC  
Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00pm  
**NYFOS Next: Carla Kihlstedt & Friends**  
Carla Kihlstedt, host and curator  
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 8:00pm  
**Women**  
Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

January 16, 2013, 8:00pm  
**A Night at the Operetta**  
NYFOS@Juilliard  
Alice Tully Hall

Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 7:00pm  
**NYFOS Next: Kevin Puts & Friends**  
Kevin Puts, host and curator  
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 8:00pm  
**Jacques Brel and Charles Trénet Revisited**  
Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 8:00pm  
**Jacques Brel and Charles Trénet Revisited**  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 4:00pm  
**Song of the Midnight Sun**  
Music Room, Rosen House, Caramoor Festival of Arts, Katonah, NY

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00pm  
**Song of the Midnight Sun**  
Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Monday, April 8, 2013, 7:00pm  
**Spring Gala**  
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Tuesday, April 30, 2013, 7:00pm  
**NYFOS Next: Mohammed Fairouz**  
Mohammed Fairouz, host and curator  
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Monday, May 13, 2013, 7:30pm  
**NYFOS's 25th Anniversary Celebration**  
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

*All NYFOS programming is funded, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

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*Mr. Gershwin Goes to Washington is funded, in part, by the A.L. and Jennie L. Luria Foundation.*

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,  
please contact Aleba & Co. at 212/206-1450 or [aleba@alebaco.com](mailto:aleba@alebaco.com)

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