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Tickets & Information: www.nyfos.org

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NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)

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

“NYFOS NEXT: JOSEPH THALKEN & FRIENDS”

November 8, 2011 at 7:00PM

Featuring music by SAM DAVIS, PETER FOLEY, JOSEPH THALKEN

**Mary Flagler Cary Hall at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music
450 West 37th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues**

Free admission • Reservations are required

646-230-8380 or info@nyfos.net

Complimentary beverages will be served

*"Joseph Thalken's music doesn't remind me of anyone else's.
His songs have a beautiful, subtle transparency that continually takes us by surprise."
— Brian Kellow, Features Editor, Opera News*

On **Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00pm**, the **New York Festival of Song (NYFOS)** presents the first of this season's two-part contemporary music mini-series *NYFOS Next* with **JOSEPH THALKEN & FRIENDS** at Mary Flagler Cary Hall in the DiMenna Center for Classical Music. Thalken hosts the evening and curates an hour of new theater music showcasing the songs of two gifted composers **Sam Davis** and **Peter Foley**, as well as his own. All three composers will play their own songs from the piano.

Following up on last year's debut season of *NYFOS Next*, which featured modern icons Gabriel Kahane and Phil Kline, this second installment spotlights the musical theater works of **Joseph Thalken** and, later in the season, the exquisite lyricism of **Russell Platt** on April 24, 2012. *NYFOS Next* looks to the future, opening a forum for the next generation of song composers and interpreters. Audiences enjoy an up-close encounter with the creative process, and freshly-minted songs are shared among creative companions—some for the first time. With an emphasis on spontaneity, novelty, and collaboration, *NYFOS Next* pioneers an experimental venue for song, paralleling the New York Festival of Song's celebrated concert series in Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center.

Joseph Thalken and Friends features the work of three composers who have garnered considerable acclaim and awards from foundations and companies throughout the United States. The upward trajectory between these three is uniquely intertwined: both Peter Foley and Sam Davis were jointly Jonathan Larsen grant recipients in 1999; Thalken and Foley both recently received significant grants from the Signature Theatre to develop new work; and individually their resumes range from

an NEA grant, Richard Rodgers Award and Stephen Sondheim Award (Foley) to Broadway conducting credits of *Curtains*, *Follies*, *The Apple Tree* and *Cabaret* (Davis) to extensive touring as musical director and pianist with Patti LuPone, Bernadette Peters, Denyce Graves, and Kristin Chenoweth (Thalken).

The November 8 *NYFOS Next* program will feature two sets of selections from Joseph Thalken to open and finish the evening, including works from his shows *Was* (lyrics by Barry Kleinbort), *Harold and Maude — an intimate musical* (lyrics by Tom Jones) and *And The Curtain Rises* (lyrics by Mark Campbell). The center portion of the program will include songs from Sam Davis, whose work includes *The Scottish Musical*, *Dysfunctional Fables*, *A Good Boy* and numerous individual songs—as well as Peter Foley, whose stage work consists of the multiple award-winning *The Hidden Sky*, *The Bear*, music for “To Sing” from *Songs From An Unmade Bed*, and a vast array of art songs and cabaret material.

Admission to *NYFOS Next* concerts is free of charge. Reservations are required and may be made after November 1 by calling 646-230-8380 or emailing info@nyfos.net. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis. There is a four-ticket limit per customer.

JOSEPH THALKEN BIO

Joseph Thalken is an award-winning composer who gained acclaim in 2003 when he became the first (and, to this date, the only) composer to ever have two musicals showcased the same year at the prestigious National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) Festival in New York. The two shows were *Harold & Maude (an intimate musical)*, book/lyrics by *Fantasticks* co-creator Tom Jones (later produced at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ; TheatreWorks, Palo Alto; Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton; and other theaters from Cleveland to Tokyo); and *Was*, book/lyrics by Barry Kleinbort, based on Geoff Ryman’s novel (workshopped at Lincoln Center Theatre, NYC; produced at Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton; and Northwestern University’s American Music Theatre Project).

His most recent musical, *And the Curtain Rises* (based on a true story about the birth of the first American musical) with book by Michael Slade and lyrics by Mark Campbell, was one of three new works commissioned by the Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA, and the Shen Family Foundation, and made its world premiere in March of this year. His latest project, *Borrowed Dust*, is being written with Martin Moran and will premiere early next year as part of the *Inner Voices: Solo Musicals* series in New York City.

Thalken has also written art songs, choral, concert and chamber music works, including *Tales of Music and Magic* (Skaneateles Festival); and contributed to Mark Campbell’s *Songs from an Unmade Bed* (New York Theatre Workshop). His music and orchestrations can be heard on albums by Rebecca Luker, Howard McGillin, BJ Ward, opera star Nathan Gunn, among others. On Broadway, Thalken conducted *Victor/Victoria* with Julie Andrews and Liza Minnelli, and *Gypsy* with Patti LuPone. He’s also conducted the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra; New Jersey Symphony Orchestra; Aachen Stadttheater (Germany); and International Opera Studio (Zurich). As a pianist and musical director, he has toured extensively with LuPone, and worked with Bernadette Peters, Elizabeth Futral, Denyce Graves, Polly Bergen, Faith Prince, Kristin Chenoweth, Marin Mazzie, Jason Danieley and many more.

Previous honors include two Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Musical Theater

Commendations, the Constance Klinsky Award, Meet the Composer award, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a proud graduate of Northwestern University.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Michael Barrett

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Barrett,_Michael.php

Steven Blier

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Blier,_Steven.php

Sam Davis

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

DiMenna Center for Classical Music

<http://www.oslmusic.org/dimenna-center>

Peter Foley

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

New York Festival of Song

<http://www.nyfos.org/>

"New York Festival of Song is the most important nucleus of contemporary song in the world." — Ned Rorem

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebagartner.com.

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