

Aleba & Co.

134 Henry Street • New York, NY 10002
212 206 1450 • aleba@alebaco.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tickets & Information: 646/230-8380; www.nyfos.org

Press Contact:

Aleba Gartner, 212/206-1450; aleba@alebaco.com

“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

presents

WOMEN

An evening of songs exploring the lives of women

Featuring world premieres by

MARK ADAMO, HAROLD MELTZER, CARLA KIHLESTEDT, MOHAMMED FAIROUZ

Additional songs by

**JUDY COLLINS, THEA MUSGRAVE, JOHN MUSTO, NED ROREM,
ERNEST CHAUSSON, ARNOLD SCHOENBERG, BENJAMIN BRITTEN**

starring

**CORINNE WINTERS, soprano • SASHA COOKE, mezzo-soprano
ANDREW GARLAND, baritone**

with

NYFOS Artistic Director **STEVEN BLIER**, piano
NYFOS Associate Artistic Director **MICHAEL BARRETT**, piano
JAY CAMPBELL, cello

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 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

Include post-concert wine reception with cast

FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEVEN BLIER:

“After the pleasure of working on *Manning the Canon*, our show about gay men, I felt we needed to balance the account with an evening celebrating women. After much discussion and much dissent, we settled on the simplest possible title for the show—*Women*—and announced it in the late spring. Within a few weeks, we got not one but

three messages from composers with offers of world premieres. All of them came from men: Mark Adamo, Mohammed Fairouz, and Harold Meltzer. Michael Barrett and I accepted their generosity with open arms; it was a bonanza to receive three new pieces, and a beautiful way to celebrate NYFOS's Silver Anniversary. Grateful as we were, we knew we also wanted a new song written by a woman. Carla Kihlstedt had made a deep impression on all of us last April when she performed her music at Russell Platt's *NYFOS Next* evening, and she quickly accepted our invitation to compose the fourth premiere for *Women*."

The [NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG](#) presents a new program entitled [WOMEN](#) on **Tuesday, December 4 at 8:00PM** at **Merkin Concert Hall**. One of the highlights of its 2012-2013 season, this will be an evening exploring the lives of women, narrated both in their own words, and also observed through the eyes of men.

The program, hosted by NYFOS artistic directors and pianists [Steven Blier](#) and [Michael Barrett](#), will feature world premieres by composers [Mark Adamo](#), [Harold Meltzer](#), [Carla Kihlstedt](#), and [Mohammed Fairouz](#). Rounding out the program will be songs by **John Musto, Ned Rorem, Benjamin Britten, Arnold Schoenberg, Thea Musgrave** and **Judy Collins**.

Three rapidly rising singers return to NYFOS: soprano [Corinne Winters](#), who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2011 and has been acclaimed by *Opera News* for her "passionate lyricism and deep burgundy coloring"; mezzo-soprano [Sasha Cooke](#), whom Alex Ross of *The New Yorker* commended for her "luminous tone, a generously supported musical line, a keen sense of verbal nuance, and a flair for seduction"; and baritone [Andrew Garland](#), whose previous NYFOS appearances have been praised for their "commanding intensity" (*The New York Times*) and "beautifully tragic overtones" (*The Washington Post*).

The "brilliant theatre composer" (*The New Yorker*) **Mark Adamo**, who first came to prominence with his opera *Little Women*, contributes a new song cycle: ***The Racer's Widow***. The cycle, to be sung by Sasha Cooke, combines contemporary humor and timeless sentiment through five poems by Linda Pastan, Louise Gluck, Marge Piercy, Sara Teasdale, and the only male poet of the group, Tennessee Williams. Blier says "Mark writes modern music that is tonal, and he's not afraid of opulence, melody and emotions other than anger. He is also deeply sensitive to the relationship of words and music, a natural gift for a composer who also writes his own libretti. His next big premiere will take place in June of 2013 at San Francisco Opera: *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, written for Sasha Cooke."

Violinist, vocalist, composer, and "the sexiest woman in the avant-garde" (*San Francisco Weekly*) **Carla Kihlstedt** contributes a new piece titled ***A Woman's Body***. Inspired by Susan Sontag's matter-of-fact list of observations about her own body, Kihlstedt asked some favorite women for their own lists, which make up the lyrics to the piece. The song finds universal resonance in the unique one-gender-level-removed storytelling of baritone Andrew Garland.

NYFOS presents its first-ever work in Arabic with **Mohammed Fairouz's *A Prayer to the New Year***. The four-movement piece sets the hopeful words of Fadwa Tuqan, a 20th Century Arabic woman, as a duet for soprano and mezzo. Fairouz, just 27, has already

been recognized as an "expert in vocal writing" by *The New Yorker* and a "post millennial Schubert" by *Gramophone Magazine*. Straddling Eastern and Western idioms, Fairouz has emerged as a leading musical force of his generation; his work has been performed throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Australia.

The fourth and final premiere is by the "quirky and continually inventive" (*The New York Times*) **Harold Meltzer**, who presents a setting of a Sharon Olds poem ***Topography*** as a duet for soprano and mezzo. NYFOS premiered Meltzer's elegant song cycle *Beautiful Ohio* in 2010, to great acclaim.

TICKETS

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.

THE PROGRAM

Good and Bad Relationships

I Stop Writing the Poem (Musto)
Rome: In the Café (Musto)
A Birthday (Rorem)
We Never Said Farewell (Rorem)

Sacred and Profane Love

Galathea (Schoenberg)
Cantique à l'épouse (Chausson)

Contemporary Life

The Racer's Widow (Adamo)

An Intimate Look

Woman's Body (Kihlstedt)
Topography (Meltzer)

Fathers and Mothers

I Love My Jean (Musgrave)
My Father (Collins)
Sephestia's Lullaby (Britten)

The Middle East

A Prayer to the New Year (Fairouz)

FEATURING

Corinne Winters, soprano
Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano

Andrew Garland, baritone
Steven Blier, piano
Michael Barrett, piano
Jay Campbell, cello

LINKS

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG
<http://nyfos.org/>

STEVEN BLIER
http://nyfos.us/blier_bio.html

MICHAEL BARRETT
http://nyfos.org/barrett_bio.html

MARK ADAMO
<http://www.markadamo.com/>

SASHA COOKE
<http://sashacooke.com/>

MOHAMMED FAIROUZ
<http://www.mohammedfairouz.com/>

ANDREW GARLAND
<http://andrewgarland.com/>

CARLA KIHLESTEDT
<http://www.carlakhilstedt.com/>

HAROLD MELTZER
<http://www.haroldmeltzer.com/>

CORINNE WINTERS
<http://corinnewinters.com/>

MERKIN CONCERT HALL at the KAUFMAN CENTER
<http://kaufman-center.org/mch>

UPCOMING NYFOS EVENTS

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00pm
NYFOS Next: Carla Kihlstedt & Friends
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: Fire and Fantasy

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 8:00pm

Jacques Brel and Charles Trénet: Fire and Fantasy

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

"New York Festival of Song reinvented the song recital."

— ***The New Yorker***

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.

NYFOS at Merkin Concert Hall and NYFOS Next at DiMenna Center are funded, in part, by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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

#

#

#