

OPERA, et AL

THEME:

"Heart Songs"

DIRECTORS:

Gina Colao Decker

Wil Decker (also advertising director)

PERFORMERS:

Tamara Cashour (Pianist)

Gina Colao Decker (Soprano)

John Gioia (Tenor)

Arthur Lai (Tenor)

Lucia Stolzenburg (Soprano)

Linda Tagliaferro (Coloratura)

SONG ARRANGEMENTS:

Wil Decker

PROGRAM DESIGN:

Dr. Lilli Decker

ABOUT OPERA ET AL

We are a group of dedicated singers and musicians who perform from our hearts and our love of good music. We plan to provide a series of classic performances to bring good music to Smithtown and surrounding areas. Since great music comes in many shapes and forms, we strive to open opportunities to the best of each. If you are interested in performing or in attending future performances, please email us directly at

GFDNY1@yahoo.com.

An extra special thanks to Reverend Woodward for sponsoring the performance.

OPERA, et AL

presents

"Heart Songs"

*A potpourri of beautiful music...opera arias,
Neapolitan classics, and American classics
sung like by seasoned performers.*



Saturday, February 23, 2013, 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road,
Greenlawn, NY 11740
631-261-2150

Donations \$10. All proceeds to benefit Church charities.

THE ARTISTS

GINA COLAO DECKER has been singing ever since she was a toddler. While in school, her records were made and sold at the music stores in her home town. At age 10, she began singing arias and won many contests and prizes. She has natural voice and her musicality was spotted by her college music instructor, who recommended her to the Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan. She was given a full scholarship to study with Mrs. Elvira Neidlinger, who taught voice at Michigan University. Among Mrs. Neidlinger's students was the famous tenor, Richard Tucker and Roberta Peters, renowned star of Opera and television. Gina has performed many leading operatic roles in concerts on Long Island and upstate New York including "Opera on the Sound", "An Afternoon of Song", and "Bouquet of Song". Her concerts have been touted as "extremely interesting" because she believes in varying the fare, singing a variety of songs including arias, Neapolitan classics, Art songs and American standards. Gina says, "I don't want to bore my audiences".



JOHN GIOIA, tenor, was born in Sicily, Italy and began singing at a very early age. He has performed for many years in concerts over the world including Italy, Canada and the United States, including New York and Long Island. As a young man, he won a role in "Viva l'Italia", a movie directed by the iconic movie director Roberto Rossellini. He was one of three tenors who sang at the Waldorf Astoria for the show "The Three Tenors". John has several homes on Long Island and in Sicily and travels between them throughout the year. We are happy to have him with us!



LINDA TAGLIAFERRO is a coloratura soprano who has taken classes at the Juilliard School, many opera workshops at Mannes College, at the Lucy Moses School/Kaufman Center and at Singers Forum in Manhattan. She has performed scenes as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Violetta in *La Traviata* by Verdi, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, also by Verdi, and others. She has performed in the chorus of the Amore Opera's production of *Carmen* and Footlight Players' productions of *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*. An artist and writer, Linda has also studied flamenco dancing, Bharata Natyam, Balinese dance and other genres. Born in Brooklyn, she grew up in Queens and has lived in every New York City borough except the Bronx. She has lived and studied in Denmark, Italy and Indonesia. As a freelance writer, she wrote about Long Island people and places for The New York Times - Long Island section for nine years, and she currently writes About.com's Long Island website at longisland.about.com.



ARTHUR LAI, tenor, was born in Shanghai, China. A member of New York Vocal Artists Research Center (NYVARC), Arthur has performed at Columbia University, New York University, Yale University, the Annual Italian Heritage Day of Columbia Association of U.S Customs, the "Opera Night" Concerts on Long Island, Annual "Chinese American Night" on Long Island, the 2nd "Annual Marco Polo Day" in New York. Spring Concert, Saratoga Spring, New York, World Expo 2011 Concert, New York, West Connecticut University Concert, First Asian American Art Festival, 60th Chinese National Day Celebration, NYVARC annual concerts, In February 2011, he made his Carnegie Hall debut at Isaac Stern Auditorium in collaboration with Yale Concert Band conducted by Dr. Thomas Duffy. Arthur also performed at Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University in Indianapolis with Butler University Wind Ensemble conducted by Dr. Robert Grechesky. In October 2011, Arthur debuted at the Music Center at Strathmore, Maryland. In July 2012, He performed at Merkin Concert Hall of Kaffman Center in New York City.



LUCIA STOLZENBURG, soprano, has been singing opera since November 2000, when she worked with Mezzo Soprano Gloria Hillborn, who nurtured her love of singing opera. Since that time, she has sung in numerous concerts on Long Island, including Opera Night in Northport and Music on the Sound, Port Jefferson, NY. She has worked as a Cantor in a local Catholic church. Her love of Sacred Music inspires her, and it is her desire to inspire others spiritually through this genre of music.



TAMARA CASHOUR is one of New York City's most sought-after collaborative pianists. She regularly accompanies solo singers and instrumentalists, as well as opera and choral organizations. Present and past affiliations in the New York area include: The Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music (vocal recitalist and accompanist), William Paterson University (instrumental accompanist), The Bronx Concert Singers, and Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle. Tamara made her Carnegie-Weill accompanying debut in February 2002 and has also sung at the hall as a soprano. Tamara has also been a coach accompanist for Lake George Opera, Natchez Opera, and the Indianapolis Opera and is currently the rehearsal and performance pianist for The Footlight Players in Rockville Centre. For more information, visit her website: www.tamaracashour.com.



PROGRAM

1. Se tu m'ami.....Giovanni Pergolesi
2. Caro nome.....Giuseppe Verdi (from *Rigoletto*)
Linda Tagliaferro, Coloratura
3. Santa Lucia.....Teodoro Cottrau
4. Torna a Surriento.....Ernesto de Cupua
John Gioia, Tenor
5. Nina.....Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
6. Fenestra che lucive.....Unknown composer
Gina Colao Decker, Dramatic
Soprano
7. Nessun dorme.....G. Puccini (from *Turandot*)
8. Pourquoi me reveiller.....Massenet
Arthur Lai, Tenor
9. O Divine Redeemer.....Charles Gounod
10. Senza Mamma.....Giacomo Puccini (from *Suor Angelica*)
Lucia Stolzenburg, Dramatic
Sopran

INTERMISSION

11. HabaneraGeorges Bizet (from *Carmen*)
12. O mio babbino caro.....G. Puccini
Gina Colao Decker
13. O sole mio.....Eduardo di Capua
14. Non ti scordar di me.....Ernesto di Curtis
John Gioia
15. Spargia D' amaro pianto.....Gaetano Donizetti
(from *Lucia di Lammermoor*)
Duet: Arthur Lai & Linda
Tagliaferro
16. Ave Maria.....Charles Gounod
17. Vissi d'Arte.....Giacomo Puccini (from *Tosca*)
Lucia Stolzenburg