



SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spoleto Festival USA 2013 Presents American Premiere of Toshio Hosokawa's Opera *Matsukaze*

Program also includes the first fully-staged U.S. production of Umberto Giordano's *Mese Mariano* in an operatic double-bill with Giacomo Puccini's first opera, *Le Villi*

Festival Resident Conductor John Kennedy leads the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra in a performance of works by Adams, Ravel and Vasks

Spoleto Festival USA Artistic Director for Choral Activities Joseph Flummerfelt conducts his farewell concert in a performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*

Music In Time series presents contemporary music programs with works by Pamela Z, Nathan Davis and Toshio Hosokawa

The Bank of America Chamber Music Series features Samuel Carl Adams as composer-in-residence

April 18, 2013 (CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA) —Internationally recognized for its adventurous opera and classical music programming, Spoleto Festival USA offers an eclectic program of music and opera for its 37th season. In addition to the American premiere of *Matsukaze*—the first of Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa's operas to be produced in the United States—the program includes American premiere performances of Pēteris Vasks' *Credo* and Pierre Boulez's arrangement of Ravel's *Frontispice*. Also to be performed are a double-bill of rarely performed Italian operas, Puccini's *Le Villi* and Giordano's *Mese Mariano*, and Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt in his farewell appearance as Spoleto's Artistic Director for Choral Activities.

OPERA

***Matsukaze* (American Premiere)**

Spoleto Festival USA presents the first American performance of *Matsukaze* since its world premiere in Brussels in May, 2011. Created by award-winning contemporary Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa, *Matsukaze* will open at the Festival on Friday, May 24, at 7:30pm at the Dock Street Theatre, and will run for five performances.

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Matsukaze, meaning “wind in the pines,” is based on ancient Japanese Noh text and tells of two ghost sisters bound to wander the earth until they can find it in themselves to let go of the mortal love that has confined them there. Sung in German with English supertitles, this production is conducted by Spoleto Festival USA Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy and directed by Chen Shi-Zheng, who directed previous Festival productions including *Monkey: Journey to the West* and *The Peony Pavilion*. The opera features sopranos Jihee Kim and Pureum Jo as the sisters Murasame and Matsukaze, and baritones Thomas Meglioranza (fisherman) and Gary Simpson (monk). Set Designer Chris Barreca, Video Designer Olivier Roset, Costume Designer Elizabeth Caitlin Ward, and Lighting Designer Scott Zielinski have collaborated on a staging half way between the real world and the spirit world.

Mese Mariano/Le Villi

The 2013 Festival’s second opera offering is a double-bill program of two rarely performed one-act Italian works. *Le Villi* by Giacomo Puccini and *Mese Mariano* by Umberto Giordano (an opera that has never been fully staged in the United States) will be presented on a common set designed by Obie Award-winning designer Neil Patel, and will share the same lead soprano: Jennifer Rowley, who will make her Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2013/14 season as Musetta in *La Bohème*. On playing both roles, Ms. Rowley commented, “The operas both center around the theme of abandonment. I am presented with the challenge of experiencing that abandonment from opposite sides—Carmela is guilt ridden and heartbroken because of having given up her child, while Anna is broken completely by having been abandoned by the man she loves. Putting these two pieces together is absolutely genius; they are about 30 years apart in composition, but the musical language is so rich and lush that they go together as if they were meant to be.”

The casts are rounded out by Dinyar Vantias (tenor, Roberto, *Le Villi*), Levi Hernandez (baritone, Guglielmo, *Le Villi*), Ann McMahon Quintero (mezzo soprano, Sour Paziienza, *Mese Mariano*), Yanzelmalee Rivera (soprano, Suor Cristina, *Mese Mariano*), and Linda Roark-Strummer (soprano, Superiora, *Mese Mariano*). Both operas are conducted by Maurizio Barbacini and directed by Stefano Vizioli, whose work has been seen at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Santa Fe Opera among others. Roberta Guidi di Bagno, Costume Designer, and Matthew Frey, Lighting Designer, join Patel on the creative team, along with Pierluigi Vanelli, who will create the set for *Le Villi*. The double-bill will have its first performance at the Festival in the Sottile Theatre on Saturday, May 25, at 7:00pm and will run for seven performances.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra

Formed anew each year, the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra is comprised of young musicians from across the country, selected from more than 600 applicants through highly competitive nationwide auditions. Orchestra alumni now perform in virtually every major orchestra in America and around the world, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Baltimore Symphony, Concertgebouw Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, and San Diego Symphony. Under the baton of Resident Conductor John Kennedy, the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra will offer the first American performances of the Pierre Boulez arrangement of Ravel’s *Frontispice*,

originally composed in 1918 for piano and arranged by Boulez in 2007 for small orchestra. Also featured are Pēteris Vasks' *Credo*, a musical lamentation on the world's ecological crisis, and John Adams' *Harmonielehre* (*Book of Harmony*). The concert will be presented in the Sottile Theatre on Monday, June 3, at 7:30pm.

Renowned conductor Stefan Asbury is Chief Conductor of the Noord Nederlands Orkest and a regular with the world's leading orchestras, including Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra among others. On Tuesday, May 28, at 7:30pm, Asbury leads the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra in a second concert at the Sottile Theatre comprising orchestral works with origins in folk music, including Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* and Bartók's rarely-performed suite from the ballet *The Wooden Prince*. Also on the program is a piece that has never been performed at Spoleto Festival USA: Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, an orchestral showpiece and the composer's final work.

Choral Music

After more than three decades of dedicated artistic leadership, Joseph Flummerfelt makes his farewell appearance as Spoleto's Artistic Director for Choral Activities on June 6 conducting the Westminster Choir, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra in a performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, a work he has conducted many times during his illustrious career. Over his tenure at the Festival, Mr. Flummerfelt has conducted more than 100 concerts—more than any other conductor in the history of Spoleto Festival USA. The concert will be presented on Thursday, June 6, at 8:00pm, in the TD Arena at the College of Charleston, a state-of-the-art basketball facility that is being transformed by Spoleto Festival USA into an acoustically balanced performance venue, complete with a traditional stage and full theatrical lighting.

Under the direction of Joe Miller, the Westminster Choir presents a program ranging from Holst's *Nunc dimittis* to Sydney Guillaume's *Kalinda*, a Haitian song of praise. One of the missions of the Westminster Choir is to promote new American choral works, and the program features three: *Ride in the Chariot*, arranged by Brandon Waddles, and *Lullaby* and *The Heart's Reflection* by Daniel Elder, the first and last of which were written especially for the Westminster Choir. The concert will be performed twice in the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul, on Thursday, May 30, and Monday, June 3, at 5:00pm.

New Music

Two Spoleto Festival USA music series, Music in Time and Intermezzi, showcase Festival musicians in a more intimate setting. The Intermezzi series presents three late-afternoon interludes: a performance by young conductor Aik Khai Pung leading the Festival Orchestra in a concert of works by Copland and Stravinsky on May 27 at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul; "Spotlight on the Orchestra" featuring virtuosic instrumental solos and ensemble works on June 5 at Grace Episcopal Church; and "Vocal Splendor," a recital of art songs and arias performed by soprano Jihee Kim and baritone Thomas Meglioranza, cast members from the Festival's opera production, *Matsukaze*.

Spearheaded by the Festival's Resident Conductor John Kennedy, Music in Time explores Contemporary music over the course of four evening concerts all performed in the Simons Center Recital Hall. Composers featured this year include Pamela Z, Nathan Davis and *Matsukaze* composer Toshio Hosokawa. On May 27, multi-media pioneer Pamela Z processes her own voice in real time to create musical layers by mixing sound samples and voice recordings. Mr. Davis, who also works electronically, will present his piece *Crawl/Space* for solo laptop, and *Bells* which uses audience members' mobile phones as the musical framework for the piece on June 2. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, the concert on May 29 will feature a "deconstructed *Rite*" composed of pieces inspired by the famous work, and all played without pause. Hosokawa's *Im Frühlinggarten* will be performed in the final program on June 7, which also features works by Missy Mazzoli and William Duckworth.

The Bank of America Chamber Music Series

The 33-concert Bank of America Chamber Music Series comprises 11 programs, each repeated three times throughout the Festival at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm daily in the Dock Street Theatre. Led by Geoff Nuttall, now approaching his fourth season as Spoleto Festival USA's Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director for Chamber Music, this year's series highlights include a world premiere by composer-in-residence Samuel Carl Adams and the Festival debuts of the Brentano String Quartet, young Russian pianist Pavel Kolesnikov, and percussionist Steven Schick. Returning to the series in 2013 are bassist Anthony Manzo, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, pianist Pedja Muzijevic, violinist Livia Sohn, flutist Tara Helen O'Connor, clarinetist Todd Palmer, oboist James Austin Smith, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet, the Arthur and Holly Magill Quartet in Residence.

Opera and Classical Music At-a-Glance

Opera

Matsukaze: May 24, 7:30pm; May 26, 8:30pm; June 1, 8:30pm; June 4, 8:00pm; June 8, 8:30pm

Mese Mariano/Le Villi: May 25, 7:00pm; May 27, 7:00pm; May 29, 7:00pm; May 31, 7:00pm; June 2, 7:00pm; June 4, 7:00pm; June 7, 7:00pm

Orchestral and Choral Concerts

Rimsky-Korsakov/Bartók/Rachmaninoff: May 28, 7:30pm

Westminster Choir: May 30, 5:00pm; June 3, 5:00pm

Adams/Ravel-Boulez/Vasks: June 3, 7:30pm

Messa da Requiem: June 6, 8:00pm

Intermezzi

Copland and Stravinsky: May 27, 5:00pm

Spotlight on the Orchestra: June 1, 5:00pm

Vocal Splendor: June 5, 5:00pm

Music In Time

Pamela Z: May 27, 9:00pm

100th Birthday party for *The Rite of Spring*: May 29, 5:00pm

Music of Nathan Davis: June 2, 5:00pm

In a Spring Garden: June 7, 5:00pm

Bank of America Chamber Music Series

Program I: May 24, 1:00pm; May 25, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Program II: May 26, 11:00am and 1:00pm; May 27, 11:00am

Program III: May 27, 1:00pm; May 28, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Program IV: May 29, 11:00am and 1:00pm; May 30, 11:00am

Program V: May 30, 1:00pm; May 31, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Program VI: June 1, 11:00am and 1:00pm; June 2, 11:00am

Program VII: June 2, 1:00pm; June 3, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Program VIII: June 4, 11:00am and 1:00pm; June 5, 11:00am

Program IX: June 5, 1:00pm; June 6, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Program X: June 7, 11:00am and 1:00pm; June 8, 11:00am

Program XI: June 8, 1:00pm; June 9, 11:00am and 1:00pm

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased online at spoletousa.org, by phone at 843.579.3100, in person at the Festival's Box office located at the Charleston Visitor Center at 375 Meeting Street from Mar 25 – June 9, or by downloading the Festival's new mobile app, Spoleto Festival USA, from the iTunes App Store, Android App Market, or Google Play.

SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

May 24 – June 9, 2013

Considered America's premier international performing arts festival, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston, SC's historic theaters, churches and outdoor spaces with over 160 performances by world-renowned artists and emerging performers in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, bluegrass, and jazz music. For more information on Spoleto Festival USA, visit spoletousa.org or call 843.579.3100.

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