

# SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA 2013

## OPEN STAGE DOOR OFFERINGS

### OPERA

#### **Mese Mariano/ Le Villi**

*Directed by Stefano Viziolo*

Sottile Theatre, 44 George Street

Monday, May 27 at 7:00pm

Sunday, June 2 at 7:00pm

The 2013 Festival presents an operatic double-bill by two beloved Italian composers, a pair of rarely performed, emotionally rich works steeped in the anguish of a woman's love. In Umberto Giordano's *Mese Mariano*, Carmela longs to see the son she gave up to an orphanage in her youth. Giordano, best known for *Fedora* and *Andrea Chénier*, surrounds Carmela's story with the lush music for which he was famous. Puccini's first opera, *Le Villi* is the tale of a young man who abandons his lover for the riches of the city only to be tormented by the scorned woman's vengeful spirit after her death. After its premiere performance Puccini wrote to his mother saying, "Theatre packed, immense success; anticipations exceeded; eighteen calls; finale of first act encored thrice," and thus his career as an opera composer was launched. Directed by internationally recognized director Stefano Vizioli; Maurizio Barbacini conducts the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

### DANCE

#### **Compagnie Kafig**

TD Arena, 301 Meeting Street

Saturday, May 25 at 2:00pm

When Compagnie Käfig first appeared at Spoleto Festival USA in 2002, the relatively unknown young troupe was an instant audience hit. Since then the innovative hip-hop ensemble, under the superb direction of choreographer Mourad Merzouki, has become an international phenomenon, touring the world with sold out performances. Inspired by an encounter with eleven young dancers from the shantytowns of Brazil, Merzouki created *Correria* and *Agwa*, two heart-stopping works that showcase a sensational combination of athletic samba, hip-hop, and capoeira dance styles. This all-male company returns to the Festival with a program packed with acrobatic skill and dazzling virtuosity.

#### **Ballet Flamenco de Andalucia**

TD Arena, 301 Meeting Street

Saturday, June 1 at 2:00pm

Under the direction of Ruben Olmo, one of flamenco's brightest contemporary stars, the eighteen exquisite dancers of Spain's renowned Ballet Flamenco de Andalucia take the stage in a blaze of castanets, fans,

and traditional *bata de cola* dresses. *Noche Andaluza* is a study in contrasts – between the classical and folk elements in the dance itself, and between the impeccable, highly disciplined technique of an ensemble and the passionate interpretation of soloist Pastora Galvan, considered by many to be the most exciting dancer working in flamenco today.

### **Le Grand C**

*Compagnie XY*

Memminger Auditorium, 56 Beaufain Street

Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00pm

Compagnie XY make their Spoleto Festival USA debut with a quintessentially French circus spectacle of heart-stopping stunts, stunning skill, and distinctive style, recalling recent Festival favorites *Circa* and *Traces*. With trust as their only safety net, 17 daring acrobats toss, tumble and tower into one human formation after another: first a vertical column of men and women stacked head to toe, next a human catapult that shows what it's like to fly. Set to traditional French music, *Le Grand C* is a portrait of expressive movement, powerful physicality and continuous surprise, a jaw-dropping, edge-of-your-seat experience for audiences of all ages.

### **Lucky Plush Productions**

*The Better Half*

Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip Street

Saturday, June 1 at 7:00pm

Spinning off *Gaslight*, the 1944 film noir classic in which a woman is slowly driven mad by her conniving husband, *The Better Half* playfully captures the habitual patterns, escapist tendencies, and resilience in contemporary relationships. Heightened by inventive sound and lighting, this dance theater production grapples with fact and illusion, life and art, and the ways these opposites can get entangled. The result is emotionally rich, funny—and full of revealing surprises.

### **Shantala Shivalingappa**

Emmett Robinson Theatre at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip Street

Thursday, June 6 at 7:00pm

In Sanskrit, swayambhu refers to a stone or rock whose shape naturally resembles the features of a deity; metaphorically, swayambhu is the spontaneous and sudden experience of an altered sense of reality. In the hands of the “divinely gifted” (*The New York Times*) Shantala Shivalingappa, Swayambhu is an almost mystical expression of Kuchipudi, India’s millennia-old theatrical dance form. Shantala has captivated audiences worldwide with the vibrant, precise storytelling embodied in her performances. Now, after her triumphant Spoleto debut in 2008, Shantala returns to the Festival accompanied by four classical Indian musicians in a spellbinding performance of dramatic contrasts and breathtaking virtuosity.

## **THEATER**

### **Oedipus**

Memminger Auditorium, 56 Beaufain Street

Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00pm

Thursday, June 6 at 7:00pm

The citizens of Thebes are in the grasp of devastation, famine, and plague; Oedipus the King will not rest until he has lifted the curse. Celebrated actor and director Steven Berkoff (*Salomé*, 1990) brings his distinctive physical style to this adaptation of Sophocles' classic Greek tragedy, *Oedipus Rex*. Berkoff is well known for his villainous presence in films from *Octopussy* and *Rambo* to *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*; but it is for his powerful and unforgettable stage work—as actor, writer, and director—that he is most acclaimed. In this original adaptation he masterfully captures the menacing truth behind a destiny the arrogant Oedipus cannot escape. Following their acclaimed presentation of *The Burial at Thebes* at the 2008 Festival, Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company returns to Charleston with a visually stunning rendering of an epic story that is at once faithful to the original yet completely modern.

### **The Intergalactic Nemesis**

Sottile Theatre, 44 George Street

Inspired by *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Star Wars*, and the pulp serials of the 1930s, *The Intergalactic Nemesis* is an adventure story—with a twist. With more than 1,250 original full-color comic-book images blasting from a two-story-high projection screen, three actors voicing dozens of colorful characters, a Foley artist creating a plethora of unbelievable sound effects, and a keyboardist accenting every move with an original score, *The Intergalactic Nemesis* is a spectacle unlike any other and a show for the kid in everyone. Are you ready for the adventure?

### **Book One: Target Earth**

Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00pm

Pulitzer Prize–winning reporter Molly Sloan and her intrepid research assistant team up with a mysterious librarian to face the most terrible threat humanity has ever known: an invading force of sludge monsters from outer space known as the Zygonians.

### **Book Two: Robot Planning Rising**

Thursday, June 6 at 7:00pm

Sunday, June 9 at 1:00pm

Molly Sloan takes on new adventures as she contends with a missing emissary, a sinister robot, a duplicitous Soviet spy and a malfunctioning Cerebretron. Will it all get sorted out? Or is there another, more evil, thread to this complex tapestry?

## **MUSIC**

### **Bank of America Chamber Music**

Dock Street Theater, 135 Church Street

Thursday, May 30 at 11:00am Program IV

Thursday, May 30 at 1:00pm, Program V

Wednesday, June 5 at 11:00am, Program VIII

Saturday, June 8 at 11:00am, Program X

The Bank of America Chamber Music concerts have been called the heart and soul of Spoleto Festival USA—and justifiably so. This popular series features a rotating roster of stellar musicians in eleven distinctive programs, performed three times each, in the intimate atmosphere of the historic Dock Street Theatre. Under the dynamic leadership of violinist Geoff Nuttall, the 2013 series will see the return of many familiar faces who have become part of the Festival's extended family, such as the St. Lawrence String Quartet, bassist Anthony Manzo, pianist Pedja Muzijevic, and cellist Alisa Weilerstein, who join series newcomers percussionist Steven Schick, the Brentano Quartet, and composer-in-residence Samuel Carl Adams.

### **Adams / Ravel / Vasks**

Conducted by John Kennedy

Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

Sottile Theatre, 44 George Street

Monday, June 3 at 7:30pm

John Adams' mighty *Harmonielehre* ("Book of Harmony") is one of the signal orchestral works of our time and an enduring celebration of musical minimalism. The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, led by John Kennedy, will bring Adams' masterpiece to life in a remarkable program that also includes the American premieres of the Ravel/Boulez *Frontispice* and Pēteris Vasks' *Credo* (2009), a passionate response to the world's ecological issues.

### **Music in Time**

Memminger Auditorium, 56 Beaufain Street

Monday, May 27 at 9:00pm

Pioneering composer and vocalist Pamela Z processes her voice in real time to create dense and complex musical layers. In her Festival debut she combines operatic bel canto, extended vocal techniques, text, and sampled sounds in a powerful multi-media performance idiom.

## **JAZZ**

### **Eli Degibri**

College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 66 George Street

Sunday, May 26 at 9:00pm

Eli Degibri's ability to tell a story with his saxophone has earned him a place on the stage next to some of jazz's leading figures. Thriving along with his lyricism, notes *All About Jazz*, is "a robust, warm tone and an unpredictable sense of phrasing." An active bandleader and composer, his unique songwriting voice has an appeal far beyond the traditional jazz audience. "Eli's music treads uncharted waters," says Herbie Hancock, "he has the potential to be a formidable force in the evolution of jazz."

**Andre Mehmani**

College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 66 George Street

Saturday, June 1 at 9:00pm

Where Keith Jarrett melded the realms of jazz and classical music into one, André Mehmani has gone a step further. By incorporating the rhythms of his native Brazil, he has created a language of unprecedented expressive power that is helping define music in the 21st century. Both a keyboard virtuoso and a skilled composer, Mehmani roams from the tender and romantic to the hard-driving and dramatic, speaking clearly and profoundly in a luminous instrumental voice. The trio returns to Spoleto following their U.S. debut at the 2005 Festival.

**Iiro Rantala**

Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip Street

Monday, May 27 at 5:00

Imagine a fluent jazz improviser, a poetic composer, and a virtuosic classical pianist all wrapped into one, and you have Iiro Rantala, one of Finland's greatest contemporary musicians. Rantala recently embarked on a new solo career, releasing *Lost Heroes* in homage to some of his favorite musicians. The vastness of expression revealed in this music earned him the German equivalent of the Grammy, the Deutsche Phono-Akademie's *ECHO* award for pianist of the year. Performing a delightfully diverse repertoire, from improvisations on Bach's *Goldberg Variations* to his own crystalline compositions, Rantala offers an evening of music not to be missed.

**Alessandro Penezzi & Alexandre Ribeiro**

Simons Center Recital Hall at College of Charleston, 54 St. Philip Street

Thursday, June 6 at 7:00pm

Brazilian guitarist extraordinaire Alessandro Penezzi made his first Festival appearance in a rousing 2010 performance with clarinetist Nailor "Proveta" Azevedo. He now returns with Proveta's exceptional young protégé, clarinetist Alexandre Ribeiro, for intimate duo concerts in the Simons Center Recital Hall. Expert in Brazil's many musical forms, both musicians have special affection for the choro, a style rich with syncopation and counterpoint, whose dynamic drive and improvisational character are akin to American jazz.