



Past Guest Artists



Naomi Louisa O'Connell

March 19-22, 2018

Join us for *Lunch and Learn* with Naomi Louisa O'Connell! [Click here for more information.](#)

Artist Information:

Hailed by The New York Times as "radiant," Irish performer **Naomi Louisa O'Connell** made her professional stage debut in 2012 starring on London's West End in Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play *Master Class* in the role of Sharon Graham, an aspiring young opera singer opposite Tyne Daly who portrayed Maria Callas. *The Times* called her performance "...spectacular," and *The Independent* lauded her "...thrilling rendering of an aria from Verdi's *Macbeth*."

Highlights of her 2016-17 season include performances with the Cincinnati Symphony and Maestro Louis Langrée as part of the CSO's *Pelléas Trilogy*, and in Brazil with the Orquestra Jovem do Estado de São Paulo, singing Bernstein's *Jeremiah* Symphony under the baton of George Stelluto. In recital, she sings in New York three times: a return to NYFOS in February at Merkin Concert Hall; a repeat of her German cabaret, *FRAU*, at the Neue Galerie; and Irish songs at Weill Recital Hall for a special concert on the CAG series. Additional recitals across the US include performances at Stanford University, CA, Reston, VA, Pittsburg, KS and a special performance at Festival Napa Valley. On the theatre stage, Naomi performs the role of Harriet da Ponte in a workshop of Richard Nelson's new play *Oblivion* at Lincoln Center Theatre and the leading role of Lilli Vanessi in *Kiss Me, Kate* at Opera North. On the operatic stage, she sings with Geneva Opera in *Figaro Gets A Divorce*, Opera Omaha in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, and makes her Spoleto Festival debut in the US premiere of the Vivaldi opera, *Farnace*, with director Garry Hynes.

In 2015-2016, Naomi made her debut at the Welsh National Opera in *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Figaro Gets A Divorce*, directed by David Pountney. New York recital performances included her *'Bird in a Gilded Cage'* recital as part of the MET Museum series and her cabaret, *FRAU*, at the Neue Galerie. In the 2014-2015 season, she made her German debut at Oper Frankfurt in the title role of a new production of Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and her Atlanta Opera debut as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. In the 2013-2014 season, Naomi returned to Garsington Opera for Offenbach's *Vert-Vert* in the role of man-eating opera diva La Corilla, whose "coloratura tours-de-force simply blew the lid of this performance." In the USA, she debuted in Stephen Wadsworth's adaptation of the Beaumarchais *Figaro Plays* as Rosine to great critical acclaim.

A gifted musician and natural performer, Naomi deftly balances her love of opera with that of art song, musical theater and popular song with repertoire ranging from Schumann, Strauss and Ravel to Bernstein, Gershwin and Randy Newman. This versatility led to her First Prize victory at the 2011 Concert Artists Guild International competition, and at her subsequent Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall—entitled *Witches, Bitches & Women in Britches*—where *The New York Times* hailed her as "a natural in the recital format, winning over the audience with her rich, silvery voice and charming stage presence." Her strong partnership in recital with pianist Brent Funderburk began in 2011 for her debut at Alice Tully Hall in the Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital, and has continued with collaborative recitals across the US; notable recital series include the Neue Galerie, Merkin Concert Hall, Rockefeller University and the American Irish Historical Society, as well as the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Purdue University Convocations and the Artist Series of Tallahassee.

In the US, Naomi has performed with the Marlboro Music Festival, Steans Musical Institute at Ravinia, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, MUSE/IQUE in Los Angeles, NYC's Five Boroughs Music Festival, Fabbri Chamber Concerts, The Song Continues and Ensemble for the Romantic Century, the Juilliard ChamberFest and FOCUS! Festivals and the New York Festival of Song. Notable awards include Garsington Opera's 2012 Leonard Ingrams Award, First Prize at the 2011 Caruso/Altamura International Vocal Competition, the Novick Career Advancement Grant and Makiko Narumi Award for Outstanding Mezzo-soprano from The Juilliard School, and First Prize in Operetta at the 2008 International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition.

Born to Irish/German parents in County Clare, Ireland, Naomi Louisa O'Connell began her studies with Archie Simpson and is an alumna of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where she studied with voice teacher Mary Brennan. She holds a Master of Music degree and an Artist Diploma in Opera Studies from The Juilliard School where she studied with voice teachers Dr. Robert White and Marlena Malas and acting teacher Stephen

Wadsworth. Naomi is currently based in New York City where she lives with her husband and enjoys writing, yoga, telling terrible jokes and yearning after her neighbor's dogs.

Read more about Naomi Louisa O'Connell by visiting her website:

www.naomioconnell.com.

Orion Weiss

Tuesday, November 14 to Saturday, November 18, 2017

Sponsor: Soderstrom Skin Institute



"When you're named after one of the biggest constellations in the night sky, the pressure is on to display a little star power — and the young pianist Orion Weiss did exactly that..." – The Washington Post

One of the most sought-after soloists in his generation of young American musicians, the pianist Orion Weiss has performed with the major American orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and New York Philharmonic. His deeply felt and exceptionally crafted performances go far beyond his technical mastery and have won him worldwide acclaim. The 2015-16 season will see Orion performing with the Iceland Symphony, among others, and in collaborative projects including those with the Pacifica Quartet and with Cho-Liang Lin and the New

Orford String Quartet in a performance of the Chausson Concerto for piano, violin, and string quartet. The 2014-15 season featured Orion's third performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as a North American tour with the world-famous Salzburg Marionette Theater in an enhanced piano recital of Debussy's *La Boîte à Joujoux*. In 2015 Naxos released his recording of Christopher Rouse's *Seeing* – a major commission Orion debuted with the Albany Symphony – and in 2012 he released a recital album of Dvorak, Prokofiev, and Bartok. That same year he also spearheaded a recording project of the complete Gershwin works for piano and orchestra with his longtime collaborators the Buffalo Philharmonic and JoAnn Falletta.

The 2013-14 season featured Orion with orchestras around North America, including the Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Vancouver Symphonies, and the 2012-13 season saw Weiss in repeat engagements with the Baltimore Symphony and New World Symphony. Named the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year in September 2010, in the summer of 2011 Weiss made his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood as a last-minute replacement for Leon Fleisher. In recent seasons, he has also performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and in duo summer concerts with the New York Philharmonic at both Lincoln Center and the Bravo! Vail Valley Festival. In 2005, he toured Israel with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Itzhak Perlman.

Also known for his affinity and enthusiasm for chamber music, Weiss performs regularly with his wife, the pianist Anna Polonsky, the violinists James Ehnes and Arnaud Sussman, and cellist Julie Albers, as well as ensembles including the Pacifica Quartet. As a recitalist and chamber musician, Weiss has appeared across the U.S. at venues and festivals including Lincoln Center, the Ravinia Festival, Sheldon Concert Hall, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Music Society SummerFest, Chamber Music Northwest, the Bard Music Festival, the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, and Spivey Hall. He won the 2005 William Petschek Recital Award at Juilliard, and made his New York recital debut at Alice Tully Hall that April. Also in 2005 he made his European debut in a recital at the Musée du Louvre in Paris. He was a member of the Chamber Music Society Two program of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center from 2002-2004, which included his appearance in the opening concert of the Society's 2002-2003 season at Alice Tully Hall performing Ravel's *La Valse* with pianist Shai Wosner. Weiss's impressive list of awards includes the Gilmore Young Artist Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Gina Bachauer Scholarship at the Juilliard School and the Mieczyslaw Munz Scholarship. A native of Lyndhurst, OH, Weiss attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Paul Schenly, Daniel Shapiro, Sergei Babayan, Kathryn Brown, and Edith Reed. In February of 1999, Weiss made his Cleveland

Orchestra debut performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1. In March 1999, with less than 24 hours' notice, Weiss stepped in to replace André Watts for a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He was immediately invited to return to the Orchestra for a performance of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto in October 1999. In 2004, he graduated from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Emanuel Ax.

Venues and Appearances

- Lunch and Learn
- TV appearance
- Visit with residents of Lutheran Hillside Village, Buehler Home, and Proctor Place
- Appearance at Morton High School and Quest High School
- Visit with Bright Futures pre-school and performance
- Guest soloist with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra on the 120th season concert "Serenade for Strings"

Harmony Zhu

Wednesday, October 19 to Saturday, October 22, 2016

Sponsors: OSF HealthCare and Soderstrom Skin Institute

Richard Hirschl

Wednesday, November 16 to Saturday, November 19, 2016