

 한국문화원 Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		Press Release			
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A Midsummer Night's Art Song in LA ***Canzoni di una notte di mezza estate***



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- ▶ **Title: A Midsummer Night's Art Song in LA**
(Canzoni di una notte di mezza estate)
 - ▶ **Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 at 7:00pm**
 - ▶ **Place: Ari Hall (3F) at Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles**
(5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036)
 - ▶ **Presenters: Korean Cultural Center, LA (KCCLA) &**
Istituto Italiano di Cultura Los Angeles
 - ▶ **Online Reservation: www.kccla.org**
 - ▶ **For more Info: kelly@kccla.org or 323-936-3015 Kelly Che**
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June 27, 2022 - Los Angeles, CA – The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) will present a special summer performance, **“A Midsummer Night’s Art Song”**, in Ari Hall (5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036), on Friday, July 29th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are free but reservations are required.

This concert organized by the KCCLA in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute (Istituto Italiano di Cultura) in Los Angeles—represents a cultural exchange in the form of music, through the art songs of both countries, and provides an opportunity to strengthen cultural understanding among communities.

This concert features various art songs from both countries. For Italy, we have ‘La promessa’(1852) by Gioachino Rossini, ‘Ideale’(1882) by Francesco Paolo Tosti, ‘Il Bacio’(1863) by Luigi Arditi, as well as famous Neapolitan songs such as ‘Torna a Surriento’(1894) by Ernesto De Curtis, ‘O sole mio’(1898) by Eduardo di Capua and others. For Korea, we have ‘I will live in Chungsan’(1973) by Younjoon Kim, ‘Star’(1960) by Sooin Lee, ‘Pollock’(1953) by Hoon Byun, ‘Barley Field’(1952) by Yongha Yoon and many other songs. The audience will have a chance to listen and sing along to these songs with the performers.

Most of the performers for this concert are stellar members of LA Opera and LA Master Chorale - Soprano Courtney Taylor, Tenor Todd Strange, Bass Paul Chwe MinChul An. We also have a new generation of vocalists represented by Rachel Yeo and Maxine Park. And introducing Sunjoo Yeo as a music director, who is a veteran vocalist and current member of LA Opera and LA Master Chorale.

Sangwon Jung, Director of Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, said, “There are a lot of similar cultural aspects between Korea and Italy. We both love food, family and fun, which I would call ‘3Fs’. **“A Midsummer Night’s Art Song”** will be a special summer night concert and will highlight Korean and Italian art songs. Koreans are already familiar with some Italian songs (like ‘O Sole Mio’ or ‘Caro Mio Ben’). And don’t get me started with all the popular Italian operas. Meanwhile, there are so many beautiful Korean art songs as well, which you will enjoy if you like Italian art songs. And lastly, this concert will be interactive – you will listen and sing along.”

“We are very happy to partner with the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles for this summer concert, a wonderful opportunity to share the music and culture of Italy in a new setting and with a new audience, while also enjoying and learning about Korean vocal music” adds Emanuele Amendola, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles.

“**A Midsummer Night’s Art Song**” is a free concert, but RSVP is required. To RSVP or for inquiries, please visit the KCCLA website, www.kccla.org or call (323) 936-7141.

Covid-19 Policy

Please note that Ari Hall has limited capacity. To ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our guests and staff, everyone in attendance is required to show proof of full vaccination or proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken within 48 hours before the event (We can’t guarantee your entrance without it.) Masks are required while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Performer’s BIO-----

Sunjoo Yeo

Sunjoo Yeo (soprano) received her Master’s Degree in Vocal Arts from University of Southern California. She has been a featured soloist in oratorios, cantatas, and operas. Notable solo appearances include Messiah Sing-

Along and Stories from Korea conducted by Grant Gershon at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Clocks and Clouds conducted by Esa-PekkaSalonen at Hollywood Bowl, Opera Everyone Loves conducted by Edwin Benachowski at McCallum theatre and Beethoven’s Ode to Joy conducted by Ivan Oak at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. She has performed with Ojai Festival, San Luis Obispo Festival, and Mainly Mozart Festival. She received an award from the Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival with Honorary Danny Glover. She also performed in the world premiere, A Map of Los Angeles by David O as Heavenly Trio. Other recent solo appearances include Requiem by Faure with Jinju Civic Chorus in Jinju, South Korea, Messiah by

Handel with New Choir in San Jose, Moorpark Summer Art Festival and Camarillo Art Festival with Moorpark Symphony Orchestra, and Japan tour concert with Roger Wagner Chorale. She performed as a soloist for Messiah with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and toured with the LA Philharmonic for the European premiere of Gospel According to the Other Mary by John Adams, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. In 2015, she made an appearance as a soloist in the LAMC 50th Anniversary Concert. She has acted as the youth choir director for Independent Opera Company in their production of Midsummer Night's Dream and for Celestial Opera in their production of Pagliacci. She was a soloist for Brahms' German Requiem (2016) and Bach's Mass in B Minor (2017). She also directed the 24th Annual Bach to Broadway benefit concert and the 2018 and 2019 Ari Project, hosted by the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles. Currently she is member of the LA Opera Chorus and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She is also the director of a nonprofit organization, Global Growth Youth Federation (www.globalgrowthyouth.com).

Courtney Taylor

Soprano Courtney Taylor is a native of Santa Cruz, CA. Courtney performs regularly with Los Angeles Opera and the Los Angeles Master Chorale both as a preference/roster chorister and soloist. Ms. Taylor is thrilled to have begun working as an artist with LA Opera Connects in 2020. Courtney made her Kennedy Center Debut in November 2019 singing a new work, The Three Paderesky's as a soloist. Ms. Taylor holds degrees from USC, Graduate Certificate in Vocal Performance 2014, a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Manhattan School of Music, NY and a Bachelor of Music from Chapman University. Some of Courtney's professionally performed roles include Pat Nixon, Adams with LAMC, Pamina, Donna Anna, Suor Angelica, Adina, Violetta, Susannah, Musetta and Countess. Notable Oratorio performances include Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, Mozart C Minor Mass (soprano I and II) and the Beethoven 9. At the Aspen Opera Theater Center Courtney had the honor of singing the role of Marie alongside Deborah Voigt in Rufus Wainwright's opera Prima Donna. Ms. Taylor has won several prestigious vocal competitions and scholarships among them semifinalist for the Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition in 2012 and 2014. Courtney has performed extensively internationally, singing the title role of Suor Angelica in Viterbo Italy with the Tuscia Music Festival ILAR as well as various concert work in Salzburg and Vienna Austria. Ms. Taylor is a member of SAG-Aftra and has sung on many film and TV scores including Disney's Mulan, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, Alita Battle Angel, Transformers and Venom.

Todd Strange

Lyric Tenor, Todd Strange is a well rounded performing artist specializing in opera, solo concert work, musical theater, in addition to session singing and professional choral/ensemble work. Mr. Strange is currently a roster member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Opera, and is a soloist in many regional opera companies and symphonies across the United States and abroad. Professional highlights include both leading and supporting roles with The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Long Beach Opera, New York City Opera, Arizona Opera, Ohio Light Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Stockton Opera and San Diego Opera. Todd has been featured on various recordings with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Master Chorale, and can be heard performing several lead roles with Ohio Light Opera on Albany Records. Todd has sung on various popular film scores, including the blockbuster, Sing! as the operatic Camel. Todd had the privilege of working with John Williams for Star Wars, The Last Jedi. Other movies include Us, The Lion King, Smallfoot, Star Wars, Deadpool 2, Rogue One, Frozen, Minions, Jungle Cruise, Mulan, Bumblebee, and The Simpsons. Past roles with Long Beach Opera include the title role in Candide, Taylor in the World Premier of Fallujah by Tobin Stokes, and the Tenor Soloist in Philip Glass' Hydrogen Jukebox.

Paul Chwe MinChul An

Critically acclaimed bass Paul Chwe MinChul An has performed over 70 roles in a career spanning two decades. His operatic and concert soloist credits include roles with NY Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, LA Opera, San Diego Opera, Nashville Opera, Orlando Opera, PROTOTYPE Festival, Long Beach Opera, and the Juilliard School.

Rachel Yeo

Rachel Yeo received her Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Mount Saint Mary's University with a full scholarship. During her time at school, she sang for numerous academic festivities, commencements, and local charity events. She was also a Senior Category winner for the 2014 Pasadena Schubertiade Lieder Competition as well as for VOCE in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, she was invited to perform in the Korean Music

Association of Southern California's Young Artist Debut Concert. Rachel has performed with the Independent Opera Company (IOC) in their production of *Macbeth* and sang the role of Cobweb in the IOC's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She also participated in the Celestial Opera Company's production of *Madame Butterfly*. In 2018 and 2019, she was featured as a young artist for the Korean Cultural Center's Ari Project. In 2021, she sang as a soloist in the St. Andrew Church's 26th Annual Bach to Broadway Concert. She has been singing with the Wagner Ensemble since 2012 and has been a soprano soloist at Oneonta Congregational Church in South Pasadena since 2014. Recently she sang the role of Ngon Hong in LA Opera Connects' May 2022 production of *On Gold Mountain* at the Huntington Library.

Maxine Park

Maxine Park is a veteran youth singer for Global Growth Youth Federation, having shared the stage with members of the LA Opera and LA Master Chorale in both classical and Broadway musical performances. Maxine was the featured soloist in the LA Youth Orchestra's 2020 Christmas concert performance of *O Holy Night*. She has received several vocal recognitions, including first place Solo Classical Voice at the Mount Saint Mary University High School Musical Competition, state Classical Voice finalist at VOCE and national finalist in the Classical and Musical Theatre divisions of the Hal Leonard Vocal Competition. Maxine has appeared in numerous youth musical theatre productions, including *Cinderella* (Cinderella), *Les Miserables* (Fantine), and *Willie Wonka* (Veruca Salt) as well as LA Opera Camp's *The White Bird of Poston* (Grandmother).