Inside the Classics: Love That Dare Not Speak

Minnesota Orchestra
Sarah Hicks, conductor | Sam Bergman, host and viola
Debbie Duncan, vocals | Mary Louise Knutson, piano

Inside the Classics
Saturday, June 1, 2019, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Throughout much of music’s history, LGBTQ musicians and composers were marginalized and censored, even as they permanently transformed the landscape of classical music. In this concert, we celebrate the talent and legacy of composers who ignored convention and created lasting masterpieces.

Samuel Barber  
Overture to *The School for Scandal*  
ca. 8’

Aaron Copland  
*Saturday Night Waltz*, from *Rodeo*  
ca. 4’

Francis Poulenc  
*Allegro con fuoco*, from *Sinfonietta*  
ca. 5’

Billy Strayhorn  
*Lush Life*  
Debbie Duncan, vocals | Mary Louise Knutson, piano  
ca. 3’

Pauline Oliveros  
*Dissolving Your Earplugs*  
ca. 6’

Jennifer Higdon  
*blue cathedral*  
ca. 11’

**INTERMISSION**  
ca. 20’

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Serenade for Strings in C major, Opus 48  
Movement I: Pezzo in forma di sonatina: Andante non troppo  
ca. 9’

David Diamond  
*Romeo and Juliet: Balcony Scene*,  
from *Music for Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet*  
ca. 4’

Leonard Bernstein  
*Lonely Town (Pas de deux)*, from *On the Town*  
ca. 3’

Peter Maxwell Davies  
*An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise*  
ca. 13’

**Meet the Musicians Onstage:** Following tonight’s concert, the audience is invited to join Minnesota Orchestra musicians onstage for conversation and beverages after the stage is cleared.
Sarah Hicks, conductor
Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra’s principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. In July she will lead the Orchestra in a Musical Feast concert celebrating food and music, as well as a collaboration with The Moving Company exploring the life of composer-pianist Clara Schumann. During the 2019-20 season, she will conduct performances with Cloud Cult and a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald featuring Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare; Home for the Holidays performances; the Sam & Sarah series, which is the successor to Inside the Classics; and live performances of movie scores as the complete films Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, Up and It’s a Wonderful Life are shown on a large screen. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.

Debbie Duncan, vocals
Debbie Duncan is a jazz vocalist who draws inspiration from a deep well of Gospel, folk, blues, R&B and classical music. She has commanded audiences everywhere from the Guthrie Theater—headlining and opening for giants like Herbie Hancock—to the Blues Al Femminile Festival in Torino, Italy; the du Maurier Festival in Vancouver; the legendary Snug Harbor Club in New Orleans; and Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola in New York. The recipient of numerous major music awards throughout Minnesota, she was presented with the first-ever Perpetually Outstanding Performer Award at the Minnesota Music Awards. She earned a starring role in Blues in The Night at the McKnight Theatre, and she has released six CDs to date. She has been one of the most revered figures in the vibrant Twin Cities music scene for the last three decades, and the breadth of this admiration was shown when August 24, 2018, was proclaimed Debbie Duncan Day in the state of Minnesota. More: debbieduncan.net.

Mary Louise Knutson, piano
Minneapolis-based jazz pianist-composer Mary Louise Knutson has been acclaimed by critics as as one of today’s most exciting jazz pianists. She tours regularly with former Tonight Show bandleader trumpeter Doc Severinsen as well as the Mary Louise Knutson Trio, and she has performed with such jazz greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Bobby McFerrin, Dianne Reeves, Kevin Mahogany, Ernie Watts, Randy Brecker, Mike Stern, Nicholas Payton and Slide Hampton, among many others. Her newest jazz trio CD, In the Bubble, made JazzWeek’s Top 10 and stayed in the Top 50 for 19 consecutive weeks. She can be heard regularly in the Twin Cities with her trio, with vocalists Connie Evingson and Patty Peterson, and with a variety of instrumental groups, including the JazzMN Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra. More: marylouiseknutson.com.

Sam Bergman, host and viola
Sam Bergman joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2000. In addition to performing as violist, he serves as host and writer for the Orchestra’s Inside the Classics concert series, and he also hosts the Orchestra’s Symphonic Adventures programs for high school audiences. In recent years he has performed as a guest or substitute musician with ensembles including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, IRIS Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra. He has appeared in many Minnesota Orchestra chamber music concerts, including a performance last February of Bacewicz’s Piano Quintet No. 1. He has written frequently for the Orchestra’s website, including a series of posts about the historic Cuba tour in 2015. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.