

LIEDER ALIVE!

RE-INVIGORATING THE TEACHING, PERFORMANCE AND APPRECIATION OF GERMAN LIEDER

Maxine Bernstein, Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2014

LIEDER ALIVE! Presents

“Life in Lieder”

An evening of Lieder from Schubert to Strauss and the
World Premiere of Composer-in-Residence

Kurt Erickson’s “Trio”

with

Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano

Paul Yarbrough, viola

George Fee and Kurt Erickson, piano

Friday, February 28 at 8:00 pm

(Doors open at 7:30 pm)

The Music Salon at Salle Pianos

1632C Market Street, San Francisco

Full calendar listing below

San Francisco – LIEDER ALIVE! will open its Third Annual Liederabend Series on Friday, February 28 with a special program titled **“Life in Lieder,”** which will focus on the four main themes explored by the great composers of this wonderful genre of song: Heightened Individuality, the Evocative World of Nature, the Seductiveness of Mystery, and Spiritual Salvation. This beautifully crafted program will be performed by **mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich** and **pianist George Fee**, and will include Lieder by **Johannes Brahms, Franz Liszt, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Richard Strauss, and Hugo Wolf.** Neue Lieder – composed in the 21st Century – will not be ignored on this provocative program. Ms. Scharich will also perform the World Premiere of a new work by LIEDER ALIVE!’s **Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson** with **violinist Paul Yarbrough** and the composer at the piano. This composition, titled **“Trio: Hinüber wall’ ich”** (The Journey Over), was commissioned as part of LIEDER ALIVE!’s **Neue Lieder Commissioning Program.** The recital will take place at **The Music Salon at Salle Pianos** – an intimate performance space perfectly suited to the tradition of *Liederabend* – located in the City’s lively Performing Arts District. The program will be followed by a reception with the artists.

About the Series

The annual Liederabend Series (“Evenings of Song”) was inaugurated by LIEDER ALIVE! in 2012 to increase audience awareness and appreciation of the wonderful musical genre of Lieder. Liederabend recitals are presented in the intimate setting of the Salle Music Salon in San Francisco, and feature performances by some of the most outstanding professional musicians in the Bay Area and beyond; past programs have included soprano Heidi Moss; mezzo-sopranos Kindra Scharich and Katherine Tier; bass Kirk Eichelberger; and collaborating pianists John Parr (LIEDER ALIVE!’s Master Coach), Steven Bailey, Bryan Baker, George Fee, and Simona Snitkovskaya. The 2012/13 season closed with a performance by Ms. Scharich with violist Paul Yarbrough (of the award-winning Alexander String Quartet) and Mr. Parr; in his San Francisco Classical Voice review, critic Jason Victor Serinus wrote: “[The] performance was so beautiful, and so honored the essence of love and longing at the heart of Brahms’ music, that I wanted it to go on and on.” The setting, at Salle Music Salon, is another key feature of the series: Mr. Serinus concluded his review by saying, “If there is a more refreshing setting for a lieder recital in the Bay Area, let alone a less stuffy, more respectful audience composed of people of all ages, please point me to it.”

About the Program

“Life in Lieder” is a concert program that was created by pianist George Fee and mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, and that is based, in great measure, on material gathered from *Poetry into Song: Performance and Analysis of Lieder* (Oxford University Press, 1996), an outstanding book by Deborah Stein and Robert Spillman. In it, the authors discuss the elements of German Romanticism in terms of four main themes: Heightened Individuality, the Evocative World of Nature, the Seductiveness of Mystery, and Spiritual Salvation. “Heightened Individualism” was epitomized by the figure of the Wanderer, “the solitary figure whose travels through the world reflected a similar spiritual journey within.” The selections chosen for “Life in Lieder” – composed by Johannes Brahms, Kurt Erickson, Franz Liszt, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Richard Strauss, and Hugo Wolf – follow the spiritual journey of this Romantic protagonist, found in his feelings of alienation and longing for childhood, for home, for lost love; in his search for consolation in religious feeling, music, and nature; in the mysteriousness of night and dreams; and in his confrontation of death and, ultimately, spiritual salvation.

The “Life in Lieder” program comes full circle with the World Premiere of a Neue Lied by LIEDER ALIVE!’S Composer-in-Residence, Kurt Erickson. “Trio: Hinüber wall’ ich” (The Journey Over) is a setting of a poem by Novalis, the pseudonym used by Georg Philipp Friedrich Freiherr von Hardenberg, a poet, author, and philosopher of early German Romanticism. LIEDER ALIVE! commissioned this work – which Mr. Erickson wrote for mezzo-soprano, viola, and piano – as part of its Neue Lieder Commissioning Program. LIEDER ALIVE! is strongly dedicated to the development of the Neue Lieder Songbook through commissioning. Founder Maxine Bernstein said, “If we are truly to keep Lieder alive and vital, it is essential that the outstanding composers of our time have the opportunity to contribute to the canon with their own work.” Mr. Erickson will premiere numerous other commissioned Neue Lieder on the 2014 Liederabend Series, including a song cycle written expressly for soprano Heidi Moss.

About the Artists

Mezzo Soprano **KINDRA SCHARICH** has been praised by The San Francisco Chronicle for her “noble, vocally assured singing, with stately grace and deep-rooted pathos.” Accustomed to singing in a broad range of styles, she is equally at home on the operatic or concert stage. Current and past season operatic highlights include singing Hansel and Zerlina in Opera San Jose’s productions of *Hansel and Gretel* and *Don Giovanni*, as well as the Countess Lydia Ivanovna in OSJ’s West Coast Premiere of David Carlson’s *Anna Karenina*. She has also frequently been seen in Los Angeles Opera’s “Saturday Morning at the Opera” series. Enthusiastic about working with living composers, in 2014, Ms. Scharich

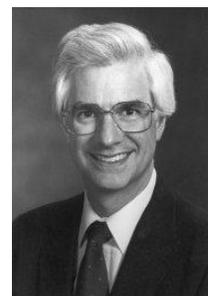


will premiere a new work by composer Kurt Erickson, and she is currently collaborating with composer Janis Mattox on a new Spanish chamber opera, *Sueños de Medianoche (Midnight Dreams)*. A dedicated recitalist, Ms. Scharich's many performances include those presented by the American Composer's Forum in Los Angeles, as well as by LIEDER ALIVE! of San Francisco.



Violist **PAUL YARBROUGH** is a native of Clearwater, Florida, whose teachers have included Elaine Lee Richey, Lillian Fuchs, Raymond Page, and Sally Peck. He is a founding member of the Alexander String Quartet, renowned throughout the world as one of the most outstanding chamber music ensembles performing today. The Alexander was the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition in 1985, and has since then gained widespread admiration for its performances of both standard repertoire and contemporary music at major halls throughout North America and Europe. Performing with the Quartet over the past three decades, Mr. Yarbrough has collaborated with some of the most acclaimed musicians in the world, such as pianist Menahem Pressler, clarinetist Richard Stolzman, cellist Lynn Harrell, soprano Elly Ameling, mezzo-soprano Joyce Di Donato, and many more. A frequent soloist with orchestras, Mr. Yarbrough has also given numerous solo recitals throughout the United States and was principal violist of the Chamber Orchestra of New England.

Pianist **GEORGE FEE** received his doctorate in piano performance from Indiana University, graduating with Highest Distinction. Having begun his collegiate study at the Eastman School of Music, he earned his bachelor's degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory and his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. His teachers at these schools were Menahem Pressler, Cecile Genhart, Jack Radunsky, and Howard Karp. Pre-college and summer study was with Willis Bennett, Rosina Lhevinne, Frank Mannheimer, and Aiko Onishi. He later coached with Igor Kipnis and Freda Rosenblatt. Dr. Fee has performed numerous solo recitals throughout the country, as well as appearing as chamber musician, soloist with orchestra, and accompanist. He has received many awards, including first place National Piano Award in the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Student Auditions and third prize in the National Guild of Piano Teachers' International Piano Recording Competition.



Composer/pianist **KURT ERICKSON** studied piano performance with Philip Lorenz at California State University Fresno, and continued his graduate studies with William Cerny at The University of Notre Dame, and composition at Mills College with Pauline Oliveros and Alvin Curran. He has received awards from ASCAP, American Composers Forum, and the Seaver Institute, and has been commissioned by Festival Opera, the Lone Star Lyric Theater Festival (Houston), the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the Sacramento Philharmonic, choreographer Lawrence Pech, and many others. In 2001, he was appointed Composer-in-Residence at the National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi, where he composed for Schola Cantorum; a recording of Mr. Erickson's choral works by this outstanding ensemble has garnered considerable critical acclaim. In 2006 he participated in the prestigious Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute, under the direction of Aaron Jay Kernis. His current projects include "Andalusian Love Songs," commissioned by the acclaimed countertenor Brian Asawa; a new work for guitar and mandolin for the German duo, Ahlert & Schwab; and the expansion of Festival Opera's 2012 commission, *Mister Merrick*, based on the story of the so-called "Elephant Man." Mr. Erickson was appointed Composer-in-Residence at LIEDER ALIVE! in July 2013.

About LIEDER ALIVE!

LIEDER ALIVE! is a San Francisco-based organization that was founded in 2007 to reinvigorate the teaching, performance, and appreciation of Lieder, an intimate and radiant art form that is generally described as 19th and early 20th Century songs with piano, set to Romantic German poetry. One of our core programs is our Vocal Master Workshop series, which has included master classes by baritone Thomas Hampson, mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, soprano June Anderson, and baritone Håkan Hagegård. LIEDER ALIVE!'s educational programming also includes The Lieder Institute, directed by our Master Coach John Parr (the former head of music staff at the San Francisco Opera who recently accepted the same post at Deutsche Oper Berlin); "Bringing Lieder to Life!," a collaboration with soprano Heidi Moss aimed novice and experienced singers alike; and year-round coaching and consulting by LIEDER ALIVE!'s founder and director, Maxine Bernstein. Our public programming includes the annual Liederabend Series – literally, "Evenings of Song" – which includes Lieder performances by some of the most outstanding professional singers in the Bay Area and beyond; "Hausmusik," presented in collaboration with pianist Peter Grunberg and his organization, SongStage; and "For the Love of Lieder," an occasional series for advanced pre-professional singers. LIEDER ALIVE! is strongly committed to the development of new work, and in 2012/13 we inaugurated our Neue Lieder Commissioning Program with the World Premiere of two songs by our new Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson. LIEDER ALIVE! has developed numerous important partnerships in the community, including the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Seminar and Festival, directed by the Alexander String Quartet, under the auspices of San Francisco State University's Morrison Chamber Music Center; the Goethe Institut; and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in San Francisco. The only organization of its kind in America that is so thoroughly devoted to the performance, training, and appreciation of German Lieder, LIEDER ALIVE! is dedicated to continuing to present outstanding master artists and exceptional singers and instrumentalists who share our unwavering commitment to keeping Lieder where it belongs—alive!

CALENDAR INFORMATION

WHO:	LIEDER ALIVE! presents mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, violist Paul Yarbrough, and pianists George Fee and Kurt Erickson
WHAT:	"Life in Lieder" An Evening of Lieder ("Liederabend") from Schubert to Strauss, plus the World Premiere of Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson's "Trio"
PROGRAM:	Lieder by Johannes Brahms, Kurt Erickson, Franz Liszt, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Richard Strauss, and Hugo Wolf
WHEN:	Friday, February 28 @ 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm)
WHERE:	The Music Salon at Salle Pianos 1632C Market St, San Francisco (between Franklin and Gough)
TICKETS:	\$35 donation in advance, \$40 at the door (includes wine reception) Buy Tickets through Eventbrite or call 415.561.0100
MORE INFO:	www.LiederAlive.org

Please note: High-res jpegs are available at the LiederAlive.com media page ([LIEDER ALIVE! Media Page](#))

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