

LIEDER ALIVE!

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

Maxine Bernstein, Director

Media Contact:

Chris Wybenga, (562) 413-7416

chris@liederalive.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2014

LIEDER ALIVE! Presents

A "Lieder-Nachmittag"

"Ich und Du"

A Wolf and Strauss Lieder Recital also featuring the

World Premiere of Neue Lieder by

Kurt Erickson

with

Heidi Moss, soprano

Paul Yarbrough, Viola

Peter Grünberg and Kurt Erickson, piano

Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 1:30 p.m.)

The Music Salon at Salle Pianos

1632C Market Street, San Francisco

Full calendar listing below

San Francisco – The World Premiere performance of a three-song set of Neue Lieder written by **Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson** expressly for acclaimed Bay Area **soprano Heidi Moss** will continue LIEDER ALIVE!'s third annual recital series on Saturday, April 5. Ms. Moss, a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Liederkrantz Competition, and the MacAllister Award, will perform Mr. Erickson's contemporary settings of *Dein blaues Auge*, *Mondnacht*, and *Ich und Du*, with the composer at the piano. These songs were composed as part of LIEDER ALIVE!'s **Neue Lieder Commissioning Program**, and represent an important part of our **Neue Lieder Songbook**. Mr. Erickson is widely sought-after as a composer; his recent commissions have included works for tenor Brian Asawa, the San Francisco Opera Ballet, and the San Francisco Girls Chorus. The April "Lieder-Nachmittag" recital (literally, "Songs for Mid-day") will also feature songs by **Richard Strauss** and **Hugo Wolf**, performed by Ms. Moss with **pianist Peter Grünberg** at the keyboard. Mr. Grünberg is former Head of Music Staff at the San Francisco Opera and currently serves as Musical Assistant to Michael Tilson Thomas at the San Francisco Symphony; he is active as a solo performer and has collaborated in recital with such artists as Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, and Joshua Bell. The concert will take place at **The Music Salon at Salle Pianos**—an intimate and convivial performance space perfectly suited to the tradition of Lieder performance—located in the City's lively Performing Arts District. The program will also include a brunch 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. Recitals – which are from time to time offered as brunch performances at “mittag” – 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 Neue Lieder Commissioning Program

While the majority of LIEDER ALIVE!’s programming is focused on the great body of repertoire that already exists for this art form, we realize that 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. We are advancing this innovative notion through the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program, under the direction of our Composer-in-Residence, Kurt Erickson. Mr. Erickson recently completed his first set of Neue Lieder for LIEDER ALIVE!; this set of three songs – contemporary settings of *Dein blaues Auge* (Klaus Groth), *Mondnacht* (Joseph von Eichendorff), and *Ich und Du* (Friedrich Hebbel) – is dedicated to soprano Heidi Moss, who will perform the set in its full-length premiere on the April 5 Liederabend recital; the first two songs in the cycle – *Mondnacht* and *Ich und Du* – were premiered by Ms. Moss on the opening concert of our 2013 Liederabend Series. As part of the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program, Mr. Erickson is also writing songs for other LIEDER ALIVE! artists: most recently, on the 2014 Liederabend series opener, mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich and violist Paul Yarbrough premiered his work *Trio: Hinüber wall’ ich (The Journey Over)*, with the composer at the piano. Later this season, bass Kirk Eichelberger will premiere another set of Mr. Erickson’s songs, created especially for him. In the next several years, LIEDER ALIVE! hopes to release a recording of Neue Lieder; additionally, Mr. Erickson is in conversation with industry professionals regarding the publication of these works.

About the Artists



Since her move from New York City just over a decade ago, soprano **HEIDI MOSS** has performed regularly throughout the Bay area. An ardent interpreter of Lieder, art song, and opera, Ms. Moss appeared as recitalist with LIEDER ALIVE! in “Three Ladies Who Strauss” in 2012, and opened the Liederabend Series in 2013. She has been seen recently in performances with West Edge Opera, Ensemble Parallèle, Festival Opera, Pocket Opera, Livermore Opera, Fremont Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Sacramento Choral Society, West Bay Opera, and the San Francisco Lyric Opera. Ms. Moss has also worked with Gordon Getty on his opera *Usher House* with both the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and the Russian National Orchestra. Additionally, she recently formed a trio called “M2B” with soprano Ann Moss and pianist Steven Bailey, performing new works and creating new sonorities for existing pieces in unique piano/voice pairings.

Australian-born pianist **PETER GRÜNBERG** served as Head of Music Staff at San Francisco Opera from 1992 to 1999 and is currently Musical Assistant to Michael Tilson Thomas at the San Francisco Symphony. He has appeared as a piano soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, performed at the Aix-en-Provence and Salzburg festivals, and collaborated in recital with such artists as Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, and Joshua Bell. He has conducted at the Moscow Conservatory, Grand Théâtre de Genève, and the Pacific Music Festival. He was the principal collaborator on the Symphony's Keeping Score project, both as music editor for the documentaries and as music consultant for the website. In 2013, he founded SongStage, which is dedicated to exploring song in all of its manifestations through conversation and performances by some of the most brilliant young singers working today; SongStage and LIEDER ALIVE! are co-presenters of the new "Hausmusik" series.



Composer/pianist **KURT ERICKSON** studied piano performance with Philip Lorenz at CSU Fresno and William Cerny at the University of Notre Dame; he also studied composition at Mills College with Pauline Oliveros and Alvin Curran. Mr. Erickson 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. His most recent premiere was of *Four Arab Love Songs*, commissioned by the acclaimed countertenor, Brian Asawa; Rodney Punt, writing in the Huffington Post, commented that the composition "captured the spirit of the poems and established a lineage of emotional tone-painting that Erickson has inherited from the songs of Franz Schubert." Mr. Erickson is currently creating a new work for guitar and mandolin for the German duo, Ahlert & Schwab, and is at work on the expansion of Festival Opera's 2012 commission, *Mister Merrick*, based on the story of the so-called "Elephant Man." He was appointed Composer-in-Residence at LIEDER ALIVE! in 2013.

About LIEDER ALIVE!

LIEDER ALIVE! 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 Master Coach John Parr (recently appointed Head of Music Staff at Deutsche Oper Berlin); "Bringing Lieder to Life!," a collaboration with soprano Heidi Moss aimed at novice and experienced singers alike; and year-round coaching and consulting by LIEDER ALIVE!'s founder, Maxine Bernstein. Our public programs include the Liederabend Series, which includes performances by some of the most outstanding professional singers in the Bay Area and beyond; "Hausmusik," presented in collaboration with pianist Peter Grünberg and his organization, SongStage; and "For the Love of Lieder," an occasional series for advanced pre-professional singers. In 2013 LIEDER ALIVE! named Kurt Erickson our Composer-in-Residence and launched the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program. 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 soprano Heidi Moss and pianists Peter Grünberg and Kurt Erickson
- WHAT: "Ich und Du"
A Lieder-Nachmittag Recital of works by Wolf and Strauss, also featuring the World Premiere of Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson's first three-song set of "Neue Lieder"
- PROGRAM: Lieder by Kurt Erickson, Richard Strauss, and Hugo Wolf
- WHEN: Saturday, April 5 @ 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.)
- WHERE: The Music Salon at Salle Pianos
1632C Market Street, San Francisco (between Franklin and Gough)
- TICKETS: \$35 donation in advance, \$40 at the door (includes brunch 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)

This just in! Special guest **violinist Paul Yarbrough** will join **soprano Heidi Moss** and our **Composer-in-Residence, Kurt Erickson** on a repeat performance of Erickson's Viola Trio on the second concert of our 2014 Liederabend Series.

###