

# 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](mailto:chris@liederalive.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2014

LIEDER ALIVE! presents  
**Peter Grünberg's SongStage**  
in  
**"An Evening of Brahms and Liszt"**  
with  
**Erin Johnson, soprano**  
**Peter Grünberg, piano**

**Saturday, May 3 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 continue its third annual **Liederabend** (literally, "Evening of Lieder") **Recital Series** on Saturday, May 3, 2014 with a special program presented in partnership with **Peter Grünberg's SongStage**, featuring performances of **works by Johannes Brahms and Franz Liszt** by **soprano Erin Johnson** and **pianist Peter Grünberg**. Ms. Johnson is a second-year Adler Fellow at the San Francisco Opera Center who made her Company debut in March 2013 as Mrs. Medlock in the World Premiere of *The Secret Garden* at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall; since then, she has appeared in various roles in the World Premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, and as Marta in *Mephistopheles* and as Mary in *The Flying Dutchman*. 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 program will open with the pianist performing a set of **early variations by Brahms**, as a prelude to the two artists offering the composer's passionate and evocative cycle of eight **Zigeunerlieder** (Gypsy Songs): the second half of the program will include one of **Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies**, culminating with a set of **Lieder by Liszt**. 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. 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 Artists

Soprano **ERIN JOHNSON** is a second-year Adler Fellow who made her San Francisco Opera debut in March 2013 as Mrs. Medlock in the World Premiere of *The Secret Garden* at UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall, and appeared in various roles in the World Premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* the following June. In Fall 2014, she sang Marta in *Mephistopheles* and Mary in *The Flying Dutchman*. Johnson was a participant in the 2012 Merola Opera Program, where she performed in scenes as Giovanna Seymour (*Anna Bolena*) and Mab (*La Jolie Fille de Perth*). A native of New Jersey, she holds a master’s degree from Rice University; while at Rice, Johnson also studied in Florence through the Margaret Pack Italian Language Study Program in 2012. In 2009, she was accepted into the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program, where she appeared in scenes from *Roméo et Juliette*, *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*, and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Cairn University. Johnson’s performance on the Liederabend Series is presented with the permission of the San Francisco Opera Center and in collaboration with the Merola Opera Program.



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 a “Hausmusik” series in San Francisco.

## 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

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WHO:	LIEDER ALIVE! presents Peter Grünberg's SongStage, with soprano Erin Johnson and pianist Peter Grünberg
WHAT:	"An Evening of Brahms and Liszt"
PROGRAM:	Piano works and Lieder by Johannes Brahms and Franz Liszt.
WHEN:	Saturday, May 3 @ 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) <u><a href="#">Buy Tickets through Eventbrite</a></u> or call 415.561.0100

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

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