

# UPSCALE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC WEEKLY



January 27, 2015

## News & Notes

**John Grimm** (BM '11, studio of **Brian Kauk**) has been selected for participation in the third season of Fort Worth Opera's annual new works program, "Frontiers", on May 7-8, 2015. His opera, *And Jill Came Tumbling After*, with a score by Houston-based composer Charles Halka, was one of eight works selected from an international application process for this year's program. Previously, the work received a public performance in 2013 by the Baltic Chamber Opera Theater in Kražiai, Lithuania.

During 2014, **Cyril Schurch** (MM '01, studio of **Robert Nelson**) was signed by German publisher Carus-Composer, who will publish his choral works, including *Missa brevis*, a work he composed while still an undergraduate at the MSM. He won second prize at the Swiss Youth Choir Festival 2015 composition competition for his works for children's choir, was a semifinalist at the C4 Composition Competition in New York City with for his choral work *Les Quatrain Valaisans*, was a finalist in the Mario Merz composition competition in Turin, Italy, for which he composed a new work for chamber ensemble, was a finalist in the composition competition of the Flute New Music Consortium, US, with his work, *Turbulence*, for eight flutes. The State Philharmonic Orchestra of Novosibirsk will play his new work, *Streaks*, in Russia and on their tour of Switzerland and Germany. He has been commissioned and will hold a residency at the the Europa Cantat Festival 2015 in Hungary where he will give talks, lectures and see his new work for children's choir rehearsed and performed.

**Mark Buller's** (DMA candidate, studio of **Marcus Maroney**) 45-minute opera, *The Pastry Prince*, commissioned by Houston Grand Opera's "Opera to Go!" program, premieres on January 29, 30, 31 at Houston Community College's Heinen Theatre. He participated in the Houston Grand Opera's project "Veterans Songbook," in which dialogue with veterans was set to music by composers, where he wrote six art songs that were premiered on January 25 in the lobby of the Wortham Center before HGO's performance of *Madame Butterfly*. The chamber version of Buller's 50-minute oratorio on themes of war and conflict, *Of Shrapnel and Blood*,

will be premiered by the Greenbriar Consortium on January 27. He will also have two major premieres in Houston, both in February: a new work for our AURA Contemporary Ensemble and a flute concerto for a performance at Rice University.

## Upcoming Events

### MOORES OPERA CENTER

**Buck Ross**, producer/director

**Raymond Harvey**, music director

Thursday, January 29, 7:30 pm/Saturday, January 31, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 1, 7:30 pm/Monday, February 2, 7:30 pm

### **The Elixir of Love**

by Gaetano Donizetti

*A shy young man wins the girl of his dreams, with a little help from a bottle. If only it were that easy in real life! Our production of this charming comedy is set in rural Texas in the 1930's. The opera was a favorite of both Pavarotti and Caruso and we're sure it will become yours as well. Sung in the original Italian with English surtitles.*

*Preview lecture 45 minutes before curtain.*

Friday, January 30, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 1, 2 pm

**Frau Margot** by Thomas Pasatieri

*Film noir meets opera. Atmospheric and enigmatic, Frau Margot is the opera that Hitchcock would have wanted to direct. In Amsterdam of 1938, the widow of a famous composer is reluctant to allow another composer to complete her late husband's unfinished opera until she has conducted a séance to ask his permission. Trust no one. American composer Thomas Pasatieri returns to opera after scoring many Hollywood films. Frau Margot is "a score of a voluptuous splendor that suggests Klimt's gilded paintings set to music... it has all the markings of a masterpiece." (Wes Blomster, operatoday.com) Sung in the original English with English surtitles.*

*The composer of Frau Margot, Thomas Pasatieri, is honoring us by attending both performances and will be speaking at the opera preview lecture 45 minutes before the curtain!*

## Upcoming Events

(continued)

Monday, February 2, 7 pm

*A Cappella Concert*

**ACABELLAS, ARDORE, FLOREAT, MEN OF MOORES, RHAPSODY**

A.D. Bruce Religion Center

University of Houston, Main Campus

Info: 713-743-5050

**32nd ANNUAL**

**INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL**

February 6 - 8

Friday, February 6, 7:30 pm

**Abbey Simon Recital**

Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin

Saturday, February 7

9 am

**Roberto Plano Guest Master Class**

Dudley Recital Hall

12:30 pm

**Artist Conversations Luncheon**

MSM Room 108

*Includes box lunch. Advanced reservation recommended.*

2 pm

**Abbey Simon Master Class**

Dudley Recital Hall

7:30 pm

**Robert McDonald Guest Recital**

Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Brahms

Sunday, February 8

11:30 am

**Robert McDonald Guest Master Class**

Dudley Recital Hall

3 pm

**Roberto Plano Guest Recital**

Works by Debussy, Scriabin, Say, Liszt

Info: [www.uh.edu/pianofestival](http://www.uh.edu/pianofestival)

Monday, February 16, 7:30 pm

**AURA CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE**

**Rob Smith**, *director*

**Michelle Perrin Blair**, *assistant director*

**Dan Gelok**, *alto saxophone*

**Ning Gelok**,\* *violin*

*Vantage Point*: Works by Buller, Chambers, Connesson, Hodge, Gannon, Reich

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 pm

**Lawrence Wheeler**, *viola*

**Tali Morgulis**, *piano*

Works by Britten, Mozart, Pigovát

Dudley Recital Hall

Friday, February 20, 7:30 pm

**WIND ENSEMBLE**

**David Bertman**, *director*

Sunday, February 22, 4 pm

**CONCERT CHORALE**

**Betsy Cook Weber**, *conductor*

*Songs of Lent*: Works by Allegri, Pärt, Esenvalds

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

4900 Jackwood St, Houston, TX

Info: 713-666-3111

*Deadline for Upscale Weekly*

*Submissions*

*Wednesday at 5 pm*

**UPSCALE  
UW WEEKLY**