

SMfSummer
Music
festival

AN EVENING OF SONG IN HONOR OF PEGGY SHIVERS

Brian Major, baritone**Susan Grace, piano****TUESDAY, JUNE 7**

7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

Mortal Storm, Op. 29*A House in Taos**Little Song**Jaime**Faithful One**Genius Child***ROBERT OWENS**

(1925-2017)

*poems by Langston Hughes***Nightfall (While you were dreaming ...)****Dead Fires****Prayer****CARLOS SIMON**

(b. 1986)

Laura Frautschi, violin; Stefan Hersh, violin
Virginia Barron, viola; David Ying, cello

— INTERMISSION —

Prayer**H. LESLIE ADAMS**

(b. 1932)

Life and Death**SAMUEL COLERIDGE TAYLOR**

(1875-1912)

Three Spirituals**ARR. BY MARVIN CURTIS**

(b. 1951)

*Give Me Jesus**Balm in Gilead**Changed My Name***David Ying, cello****Honor, honor****HALL JOHNSON**

(1888-1970)

God is a God**WENDELL WHALUM**

(1931-1987)

Witness**HALL JOHNSON**

(1888-1970)

The audience is cordially invited to a post-concert reception in the Packard Courtyard.

PEGGY SHIVERS is a music legend and philanthropist who, along with her late husband, Clarence Shivers, has touched countless lives in Colorado Springs — especially in the arts community.

Shivers was always reluctant to pursue singing as a career, but the soprano continually found opportunities to share her voice, to include performances with Duke Ellington when Shivers was in her mid-20s.

After arriving in Colorado Springs in 1979, she and her husband made an immediate impact. In 1993, the Shivers Fund at the Pikes Peak Library District helped establish an African American Historical and Cultural Collection at the library and continues to help fund events, concerts, and scholarships for young, aspiring artists. In 2019, Shivers was recognized as the year's Unstoppable Woman. She was also honored with the inaugural Excellence in Arts and Culture Trustee Award by the El Pomar Foundation in 2021.

**BRIAN MAJOR, baritone**

Baritone Brian Major has been praised for his “velvet voice” and “commanding stage presence.” In May, Mr. Major made his Boston Lyric Opera debut, playing Emile Griffith in “Champion: An Opera in Jazz” by Grammy Award-winning composer Terence Blanchard, with a libretto by Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Cristofer. Last year, Mr. Major returned to Opera Grand Rapids as Gary in Douglas Pew’s “Penny” and joined Lyric Fest for a filmed recital of Kurt Weill songs, the Princeton Festival for an Opera Gala, and Opera Delaware for a concert of Shakespeare selections. In 2020, Mr. Major returned to Toledo Opera as Marcello in “La Bohème” and made his South American debut as Amonasro in “Aida” with Teatro Municipal de Sao Paulo. Mr. Major joined Madison Opera in 2019 for their production of “La Traviata” as Baron Douphol and covered the role of Germont. In Montpellier, France, he performed an all-French opera concert with Maestro Michel Plasson. Other past performances include the title role in “Gianni Schicchi,” El Dancaïro in “Carmen,” and Speaker in “The Magic Flute.”

Quickly gaining renown for his proficiency in the iconic dramatic repertoire, *Opera News* praised Mr. Major’s Escamillo as “embracing the love of the spotlight” and “never losing the strength of the vocal line.” Major has been the baritone soloist in Handel’s “Messiah,” Vaughan Williams’ “Five

Mystical Songs,” and Mendelssohn’s “Elijah.” Mr. Major has won numerous awards and honors on the competition circuit. He holds degrees from Morehouse College, Boston University, and Michigan State University.

This concert is sponsored by **Colorado College, UHealth, Children’s Hospital Colorado,** and **The Summer Music Festival.**

