

Renée Fleming

Back Home Again in Indiana!

Richard Bado, Piano

Saturday, March 2, 2013 • 8:00 p.m.
Fisher Auditorium, IUP Performing Arts Center

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

O sleep, why dost thou leave me from *Semele*
To fleeting pleasures make your court from *Samson*
Endless Pleasure from *Semele*
Calm thou, my soul from *Alexander Balus*, HWV 65

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Ständchen, Op. 17, no. 2 Morgen, Op.27, no. 4
Zueignung, Op. 10, no. I

André Previn (b. 1929)

A Streetcar Named Desire
Soft People You left! I stayed and I struggled! Sea Air

• Intermission •

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Verlaine Settings
Green Spleen
Il pleure dans mon coeur Mandoline

Joseph Canteloube (1879-1957)

Chants d'Auvergne
Baïlèro Malurous qu'ò uno fenno La delaïssádo

Licinio Refice (1883-1954)

Ombre di nube

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi*

Riccardo Zandonai (1883-1944)

Ler della fabbrica a Triana from *Conchita*

Lyrics and Translations starting on page 13

Renée Fleming

One of the most beloved and celebrated musical ambassadors of our time and born in Indiana, Pennsylvania, soprano Renée Fleming captivates audiences with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry, and compelling stage presence. Known as “the people’s diva” and winner of the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo, she continues to grace the world’s greatest opera stages and concert halls, now extending her reach to include other musical forms and media. Over the past few seasons, Ms. Fleming has hosted a wide variety of television and radio broadcasts including the Metropolitan Opera’s *Live in HD* series for movie theaters and television, and *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS.

As a musical statesman, Renée Fleming has been sought after on numerous distinguished occasions from the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to per-



formances in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games. In January 2009, Ms. Fleming was featured in the televised *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial* concert for President Obama. In 2012, in a historic first, Ms. Fleming sang on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in the Diamond Jubilee Concert for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Ms. Fleming has also performed for the United States Supreme Court and, in November 2009, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Czech Republic’s “Velvet Revolution” at the invitation of Václav Havel. An additional distinction was bestowed in 2008 when, breaking a precedent, Ms. Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to solo headline an opening night gala.

In 2012, Renée Fleming added a new role to her repertoire, Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos*, at Baden-Baden in a new production by Philippe Arlaud and conducted by Christian Thielemann. She appeared in the title role of *Arabella* in a new production at the Paris Opera conducted by Philippe Jordan. Her Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, under the baton of Constantin Trinks, was seen at the Munich Opernfestspiele. Renée began the 2012-13 season as Desdemona in *Otello* at the Metropolitan Opera conducted by Semyon Bychkov and broadcast around the world via *The Met Live in HD*. This year will find her at Carnegie Hall and Lyric Opera of Chicago in André Previn’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*, playing Blanche DuBois, a role she created in the world premiere. In June of 2013, she returns to Vienna as the Countess in Strauss’s *Capriccio* conducted by Christoph Eschenbach.

Renée's busy concert calendar this year has included galas at the San Diego Opera, Providence Performing Arts Center, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center as well as appearances with the Seattle, Vancouver, Oregon, Colorado, San Antonio, Baltimore, and Cincinnati symphony orchestras and the Santiago Philharmonic. She began the 2012-13 season singing for the inaugural concerts of Christian Thielemann as principal conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden and Yannick Nézet-Séguin as music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Her 2012-13 recital schedule includes Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Quito, Bogotá, Guayaquil, Paris, Geneva, London, Vienna, Hong Kong, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Taipei. A January 2013 duo recital tour with Renée's friend, mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, included San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Desert, Chicago, New York and Boston.

A four-time Grammy winner, Ms. Fleming was awarded her latest Grammy on February 10, 2013, for *Poèmes* (Decca, 2012), a collection of 20th-Century French music including works composed especially for her by Henri Dutilleux. In June 2010, Decca and Mercury records released the CD *Dark Hope* featuring Ms. Fleming covering

songs by indie-rock and pop artists. Recent DVD releases include Handel's *Rodelinda*, Massenet's *Thaïs* and Rossini's *Armida*, three in the Met Live in HD series, and Verdi's *Traviata*, filmed at London's Royal Opera House. Ms. Fleming's 2010 DVD *Renée Fleming & Dmitri Hvorostovsky: A Musical Odyssey* in St. Petersburg follows her and baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky to Russia where they explore and perform in some of St. Petersburg's most historic locations. In recent years, this 14-time Grammy nominated artist has recorded everything from Strauss's complete *Daphne* to the jazz album *Haunted Heart* to the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. She recorded Alexandre Desplat's theme song "Still Dream" for the soundtrack of the Dreamworks animation feature, *Rise of the Guardians*, a major Thanksgiving 2012 release. Her recording honors range from the 2009 Echo Award for Strauss's "Four Last Songs" to the Prix Maria Callas Orphée d'Or by the Académie du Disque Lyric for TDK's DVD production of *Capriccio*. In February, 2012, Ms. Fleming received the Victoire d'Honneur, the highest award conveyed by the French Victoires de la Musique.

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Renée Fleming's artistry has been an inspiration to many other prominent artists such as Chuck Close and Robert Wilson, whose portraits of her were included in the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 fundraising auction. Two portraits of Ms. Fleming were also created by Francesco Clemente who revealed one in Salzburg in spring 2007, with the Metropolitan Opera displaying the other in 2008. Photographic portraits include works by Brigitte Lacombe, Annie Leibovitz, and Irving Penn, among others.

Ms. Fleming is a champion of new music and has performed works by a wide range of contemporary composers including recent compositions by Henri Dutilleux, Brad Mehldau, André Previn, and Wayne Shorter. Among her numerous awards are the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal (2011); Sweden's Polar Prize (2008); the *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* from the French government (2005); Honorary Membership in the Royal Academy of Music (2003); and honorary doctorates from Carnegie Mellon University (2012), the Eastman School of Music (2011), and The Juilliard School (2003), where she was also commencement speaker.

An advocate for literacy, Renée Fleming has been featured in promotional campaigns for the Association of American Publishers (*Get Caught Reading*) and the Magazine Publishers of America's READ poster campaign for the American Library Association. She was honored by The New York Public Library as a "Library Lion." Her book, *The Inner Voice*, was published by Viking Penguin in 2004 and released in paperback by Penguin the following year. An intimate account of her career and creative process, the book is also published in France by Fa-



yard Editions, in the United Kingdom by Virgin Books, by Henschel Verlag in Germany, Shunjusha in Japan, and by Fantom Press in Russia.

In addition to her work on stage and in recordings, Renée Fleming has represented Rolex timepieces in print advertising since 2001. In 2008,

she launched *La Voce by Renée Fleming*, a fragrance designed for her with the proceeds benefiting the Metropolitan Opera. Master Chef Daniel Boulud created the dessert "La Diva Renée" (1999) in her honor; and she inspired the "Renée Fleming Iris" (2004), which has been replicated in porcelain by Boehm. Having been added to Mr. Blackwell's best dressed list, her concert gowns have been designed by Reem Acra, Gianfranco Ferré, John Galiano for Dior, Douglas Hannant, Christian Lacroix, Oscar de la Renta, Angel Sanchez, and Vivienne Westwood. In addition to serving as the face of opera for two public transit campaigns in New York and London, Ms. Fleming has appeared on *The Martha Stewart Show*, *Spectacle: Elvis Costello with...*, *The View*, and *Prairie Home Companion* as "Renata Flambé," among numerous other media outlets.

Ms. Fleming is currently a member of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the board of Sing for Hope, and the advisory board of

the White Nights Foundation of America. In 2010, she was named the first ever Creative Consultant at Lyric Opera of Chicago. She is currently curating the creation of a world-premiere opera based on the best-seller *Bel Canto* for Lyric Opera's 2015-2016 season.

WWW.RENEEFLEMING.COM

Richard Bado

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Richard Bado made his professional conducting debut in 1989 leading Houston Grand Opera's acclaimed



production of *Show Boat* at the newly restored Cairo Opera House in Egypt. Since then, Mr. Bado has conducted at Teatro alla Scala, Opéra National de Paris, Houston

Grand Opera, New York City Opera, the Aspen Music Festival, the Tulsa Opera, the Russian National Orchestra, the Florida Philharmonic, the Montreal Symphony, Wolf Trap Opera, and Houston Ballet. He has also conducted the Robert Wilson production of Virgil Thomson's *Four Saints in Three Acts* at the Edinburgh Festival. This season marks Mr. Bado's 25th anniversary season as chorus master for the Houston Grand Opera.

An accomplished pianist, this season Mr. Bado appears in recital with Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, and Frederi-

ca von Stade. He has also played for Cecilia Bartoli, Denyce Graves, Marcello Giordani, Ramón Vargas, Samuel Ramey, and Nathan Gunn and has appeared on *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor.

Mr. Bado holds music degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where he received the 2000 Alumni Achievement Award, and West Virginia University. He has studied advanced choral conducting with Robert Shaw and is the director of the Opera Studies Program at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. He has been on the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School and the International Vocal School in Moscow and has served on the music staff of the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, the Bolshoi Opera Young Artist Program, Opera Australia, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Chautauqua Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera. Mr. Bado also regularly judges for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and served as Houston Grand Opera's head of music staff for 14 seasons.

Credits

Renée Fleming's gown by
Angel Sanchez

Ms. Fleming's jewelry by
Ann Ziff for Tamsen Z

Ms. Fleming's photographs by
Andrew Eccles (© Decca)

Ms. Fleming appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, 152 West 57th Street, New York, New York; and is an exclusive recording artist for Decca and Mercury Records (UK).

Mr. Bado performs tonight on the Reschini Steinway Grand Piano.