

Eden

Joyce DiDonato Mezzo-soprano

il Pomo d'Oro Orchestra • **Zefira Valova** Conductor

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 | 7:30PM





Dear Friends,

February brings a variety of musical experiences, both new and timeless, as we explore different ways for artists to connect with our audience. We begin tonight with Joyce DiDonato, who has treated us again and again to wonderfully unexpected programs. Now she channels her immense creativity into *EDEN*, exploring our connection to the natural world through music. On February 9, legendary jazz pianist Fred Hersch will share how music sustains him through chronic illness in the finale of our new Healing with Music series. Fred will also participate in a free live music meditation that afternoon that prizes deep and focused listening, connecting mind, body, and spirit. The extraordinary, young violinist Alexi Kenney makes his Concert Classics series debut on February 16 with a thoughtful program that contextualizes the music of J.S. Bach within the framework of contemporary music. And legendary pianist Mitsuko Uchida returns on February 21 to play Beethoven's final three piano sonatas—"if heaven existed, they're heaven," as she describes them.

What ties all these experiences together, in addition to exceptional music-making, is a deeply held belief that the timeless relevancy of classical music is an integral part of our contemporary world.

At PUC there is something for everyone, and everyone is welcome. I invite you to join us many more times this month, and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marna Seltzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Marna Seltzer

Director of Princeton University Concerts

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 7:30PM • Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall

EDEN

Joyce DiDonato Mezzo-soprano

il Pomo d'Oro Orchestra

Zefira Valova Conductor

Co-commissioned by University Musical Society of the University of Michigan; the Harriman-Jewell Series, Kansas City; Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation; Cal Performances at University of California, Berkeley; Stanford Live; and University of California, Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures.

In consideration of the artists and the audience, please refrain from the use of electronic devices during the performance.

Photographing, sound recording, or videotaping this performance is prohibited.

PROGRAM

This evening's performance is approximately 90 minutes in duration and is performed without intermission.

CHARLES IVES (1874–1954)

The Unanswered Question

RACHEL PORTMAN (b. 1960)

The First Morning of the World

Commissioned by Linda Nelson in memory of her beloved Stuart

GUSTAV MAHLER (1860–1911)

“Ich atmet’ einen linden Duft!” from *The Rückert Songs*

MARCO UCCELLINI (d. 1680)

Sinfonia terza (a cinque stromenti), Op. 7

BIAGIO MARINI (1594–1663)

“Con le stelle in ciel che mai” from *Scherzi e canzone*, Op. 5

JOSEF MYSLIVEČEK (1737–1781)

“Toglierò le sponde al mare” from *Adam and Eve*

AARON COPLAND (1900–1990)

“Nature, the gentlest mother” from *8 Poems of Emily Dickinson*

GIOVANNI VALENTINI (c.1582–1649)

Sonata enharmonica

FRANCESCO CAVALLI (1602–1676)

“Piante ombrose” from *La Calisto*

CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK (1714–1787)

Danza degli spettri e delle furie: Allegro non troppo from

Orfeo ed Euridice, Wq. 30

GLUCK

“Misera, dove son!...Ah! non son io che parlo”

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685–1759)

“As with Rosy steps the morn” from *Theodora*, HWV 68

MAHLER

“Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen” from *The Rückert Songs*

CREATIVE TEAM

Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-soprano/Executive Producer
Zefira Valova, Conductor/Violin
il Pomo d'Oro, Orchestra
Manuel Palazzo, Actor

Marie Lambert-Le Bihan, Stage Director
John Torres, Lighting Designer

Colin Murphy, Production Manager
Zoe Morgan, Stage Manager
Valentin Bodier, Light Board Operator
Javi Castrillon, Set Technician

Set created by Escenografia Moia
Sergi Galera Nebot, Technical Director
Joan Font, Design Consultant

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International Teaching Artists Collaborative
Botanical Gardens Conservation International

Seeds provided by Grupo Posta, containing chamomile seeds

Princeton Girlchoir
“Seeds of Hope” composed by the children of Canterbury Choir,
Bishop Ramsey Church of England School, England, with Mike Roberts

Translations are taken from the *EDEN* album booklet,
used by kind permission of Warner Classics.

Princeton University Concerts gives special thanks to Reba Orszag and
Nancy Becker for their special support of tonight's performance.

About THE ARTISTS

PHOTO CREDIT:
Sergi Jasanada

JOYCE DIDONATO Executive Producer and Mezzo-soprano

Multi-Grammy Award winner and 2018 Olivier Award winner for “Outstanding Achievement in Opera,” Kansas-born Joyce DiDonato entrances audiences across the globe and has been proclaimed “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation” by *The New Yorker*. With a voice “nothing less than 24-carat gold” according to *The Times* (London), Joyce has soared to the top of the industry both as a performer and a fierce advocate for the arts, gaining international prominence in operas by Handel and Mozart, as well as through her wide-ranging, acclaimed discography. She is also widely acclaimed for the bel canto roles of Rossini and Donizetti.

Joyce’s exciting 2022/23 season includes further touring of her newly released album *EDEN* around Europe and the USA with il Pomo d’Oro; appearing as Virginia Woolf in the Metropolitan Opera’s world-premiere production of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts’s *The Hours*, and as Patricia Westerford in Tod Machover’s *Overstory Overture* at Alice Tully Hall in New York and Seoul Arts Center in South Korea; and a residency at Musikkollegium Winterthur.

Recent seasons included performances of her baroque-inspired program *My Favorite Things* with il Pomo d'Oro in Bayreuth and Valencia, as well as a recital for the Met Stars Live in Concert series. Other highlights have included performances of Schubert's *Winterreise* at the Musikverein, Vienna and Festspielhaus, Baden-Baden, as well as tours of Joyce's *In My Solitude* recital program with pianist and long-time collaborator Craig Terry, in cities including Oviedo, Madrid, Barcelona, Essen, Amsterdam, Moscow, and St. Petersburg.

In opera, Joyce's recent roles include Agrippina at the Metropolitan Opera and a new production at the Royal Opera House; Didon in *Les Troyens* at the Vienna State Opera; Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito*, Cendrillon; and Adalgisa in *Norma* at the Metropolitan Opera; Agrippina in concert with il Pomo d'Oro under Maxim Emelyanychev; Sister Helen in *Dead Man Walking* at the Teatro Real Madrid and London's Barbican Centre; Semiramide at the Bavarian State Opera and Royal Opera House; and Charlotte in *Werther* at the Royal Opera.

Much in demand on the concert and recital circuit, Joyce has held residencies at Carnegie Hall and London's Barbican Centre, toured extensively in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia, and appeared as guest soloist at the BBC's Last Night of the Proms. Other concert highlights include the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under Sir John Eliot Gardiner, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and the National Youth Orchestra USA under Sir Antonio Pappano.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics/Erato, Joyce's expansive discography includes *Les Troyens*, which in 2018 won the Recording (Complete Opera) category at the International Opera Awards, the Opera Award at the BBC Music Magazine Awards and Gramophone's "Recording of the Year;" and Handel's *Agrippina*, which won the Gramophone Opera Recording and Limelight Opera "Recording of the Year" awards in 2020. Joyce's other albums include her celebrated *Winterreise* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin; *Songplay*; *In War and Peace*, which won the 2017 "Best Recital" Gramophone Award; *Stella di Napoli*; her Grammy Award-winning *Diva Divo*; and *Drama Queens*. Other honors include the Gramophone "Artist of the Year" and "Recital of the Year" awards, and an induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame.

This concert is her fifth live appearance at Princeton University Concerts. During the 2020-21 season, PUC presented Joyce in a Digital Artist Residency entitled *Sing for Today*, which is available for viewing at puc.princeton.edu/sing-for-today-with-joyce-didonato.

PHOTO CREDIT:



IL POMO D'ORO

The ensemble il Pomo d'Oro was founded in 2012. It is characterized by an authentic, dynamic interpretation of operas and instrumental works from the Baroque and Classical period. The musicians are all well-known specialists and are among the best in the field of historical performance practice. The ensemble has worked with the conductors Riccardo Minasi, Maxim Emelyanychev, Stefano Montanari, George Petrou, Enrico Onofri, and Francesco Corti. Concertmaster Zefira Valova leads the orchestra in various projects. Since 2016, Maxim Emelyanychev has been its chief conductor, and since 2019 Francesco Corti is principal guest conductor.

il Pomo d'Oro is a regular guest in prestigious concert halls and festivals all over Europe. After the worldwide success of the program *In War and Peace* with Joyce DiDonato, in 2020 il Pomo d'Oro and Maxim Emelyanychev presented the new program *My Favorite Things* with the American mezzo-soprano.

The discography of il Pomo d'Oro includes several opera recordings: Handel's *Agrippina*, *Serse*, *Tamerlano*, *Partenope*, and *Ottone*; Leonardo Vinci's *Catone in Utica*; and Alessandro Stradella's *La Doriclea*. It features recitals with the countertenors Jakub Józef Orliński, Franco Fagioli, Max Emanuel Cencic, and Xavier Sabata, with mezzo-sopranos Ann Hallenberg and Joyce DiDonato, and with sopranos Francesca Aspromonte and Eموke Baráth.

Among the instrumental albums, the recordings of Haydn's violin and harpsichord concertos as well as an album with cellist Edgar Moreau received Echo Klassik Awards in 2016. Further instrumental recordings are dedicated to the violin concertos and the harpsichord concertos by J.S. Bach, with Shunsuke Sato and Francesco Corti as soloists, and to virtuoso violin concertos with Dmitry Sinkovsky.

il Pomo d'Oro is an official ambassador of El Sistema Greece, a humanitarian project to provide free musical education to children in Greek refugee camps. il Pomo d'Oro

(continued on page 10)

NEXT CONCERT



“Breath by Breath”

Responding to Illness Through Music

Fred Hersch Piano

with **Drew Gress** Bass • **Jochen Rückert** Drums

Crosby Street String Quartet

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 | 7:30PM

Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall



TICKETS: 609.258.9220 | puc.princeton.edu

plays charity concerts and offers workshops and music lessons according to the El Sistema method on a regular basis in various refugee camps in Greece.

The name of the ensemble *il Pomo d'Oro* refers to Antonio Cesti's opera from the year 1666. Composed for the wedding celebrations of Emperor Leopold I and Margarita Teresa of Spain, *il Pomo d'Oro* was probably one of the largest, most expensive, and most spectacular opera productions in the still young history of the genre, including 24 different stage designs, a horse-ballet of 300 horses, a fireworks display of 73,000 rockets, and numerous special effects.

PHOTO CREDIT: Mathias Bord



MARIE LAMBERT-LE BIHAN Stage Director

Marie Lambert-Le Bihan studied literature and drama in Paris and Bologna and trained at La Scala. She staged acclaimed productions of *La fille du régiment* (Liège), Leoncavallo's *Zazà* (Holland Park), and *La voix humaine* (Buxton Festival). She directed and lit *Mon amant de Saint-Jean* for Stéphanie d'Oustrac (Rouen) and lit *La casa*

de Bernarda Alba (Tenerife). She was the associate director for *Madama Butterfly* (La Monnaie) and *La Cenerentola* (Opéra de Paris). Recent collaborations include *The Rain* (virtual reality film by Hee-Won Lee). She revived *La traviata* (Liceu, Madrid, Scottish Opera), *La clemenza di Tito* (Toulouse, Marseille, Chicago, Liceu), *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Chicago, San Francisco), *Carmen* (Glyndebourne, Gothenburg), and *Andrea Chénier* (Liceu, Covent Garden). She also translated Offenbach's early operetta *Vent-du-Soir* into Italian (Maggio Musicale).

Lambert-Le Bihan has worked at La Scala, Wiener Staatsoper, Châtelet, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Strasbourg, Lille, Tokyo, Maggio Musicale, Ravenna Festival, Bologna, Parma, Turin, Genoa, Montpellier, Bari, Palermo, and Welsh National Opera. She is currently staging and lighting for *Le Villi* in Toulouse and staging the Molière/Lully/Charpentier celebration with Les Arts Florissants.



MANUEL PALAZZO Actor

Studying classical ballet from an early age at the Teatro Colón in his native Argentina, choreographer Manuel Palazzo has traveled the globe performing in both modern and classical dance, opera, theater, film, and TV. A regular at the Metropolitan Opera, as well as a featured dancer at the Teatro Liceu (Barcelona) and Teatro Real (Madrid), he has collaborated with directors Sir David McVicar,

Harold Prince, Laurent Pelly, and Robert Lepage. Dance credits include participation with Carcalla Dance Theater (Beirut), Belgrade National Theater (Serbia), Lanonima Imperial Dance Company (Barcelona), French Cultural Center (Kinshasa), and Teatro Colón (Buenos Aires). Film and TV credits include *Blood Ties*, directed by Guillaume Canet, and *Boardwalk Empire*, directed by Martin Scorsese.

PHOTO CREDIT: Maria Baranova



JOHN TORRES Lighting Director

John Torres is a New York-based lighting designer working in theatre, fashion, motion, print, and exhibitions. John has designed for artists such as stage designer and director Robert Wilson, choreographers Lucinda Childs and Trisha Brown, and directors Yuval Sharon and Zack Winokur. Recent and upcoming

theatrical engagements include *Turandot* at Opéra national de Paris and *Tristan und Isolde* at Santa Fe Opera. In fashion, John has designed recent shows for Gucci, Bottega Veneta, and Proenza Schouler, and is a regular collaborator with fashion photographer Steven Klein. In live music, John is a frequent collaborator with Solange Knowles and recently designed the residency for Usher at The Colosseum in Las Vegas. Within the visual art world, John has designed the exhibition *Who is Queen?* with artist Adam Pendleton at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and will be collaborating with artist Camille Norment for her upcoming exhibition at Dia Chelsea in New York.

PHOTO CREDIT: Petra Ambrosi



ZEFIRA VALOVA Conductor/Violin

Zefira Valova was born in Sofia, Bulgaria where she obtained a Master's degree at the National Music Academy. From 2009 until 2011 she specialized in baroque violin at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, having studied with Lucy van Dael.

From 2003 until 2008 she was concertmaster of several orchestras in Bulgaria, including The National Youth Orchestra of the Netherlands. She appeared as a soloist with the Academic Symphony Orchestra Sofia, Classic FM Radio Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra Orpheus, and Ars Barocca Ensemble—awarded by the Bulgarian National Radio with the prize “Ensemble of 2007.”

Valova is among the founders of the Sofia Baroque Arts Festival, the only annual event dedicated to early music and historically informed performance in Bulgaria. As a member of the European Union Baroque Orchestra in 2008, working with Roy

Goodman, Lars Ulrik Mortensen, and Enrico Onofri, she started her experience in the historical performance practice.

She has been concertmaster of il Pomo d'Oro since 2015, mainly under the direction of Maxim Emelyanychev. Since 2016, she has conducted the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra within their early music series. Last season she appeared as concertmaster of il Pomo d'Oro in performances with mezzo-sopranos Joyce DiDonato and Ann Hallenberg, countertenors Franco Fagioli and Jakub Orliński, and cellist Edgar Moreau. She collaborates with Helsinki Baroque Orchestra for a wide range of Baroque, Classical, and Romantic repertoire.

Joyce DiDonato would like to graciously thank the following for generous support of EDEN:

Dame Janet Baker	Ellen Marcus
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Joyce would like to thank the Hilti Foundation for their generous support of the EDEN Engagement program.

IL POMO D'ORO

Zefira Valova, Conductor/Violin

Violin I

Zefira Valova

Edson Scheid

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Violin II

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Double Bass

Maria Vahervuo

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Theorbo

Gianluca Geremia

Harpsichord

Alberto Gaspardo

Flute

Eva Ivanova

Oboe

Christopher Palameta

Clarinet

Francesco Spendolini

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**we are
tickled pink**

to perform tonight with Joyce DiDonato

**Semi-Tones will also make our debut
at Carnegie Hall in June!**

**Learn more about our exciting season ahead at
www.westrickmusic.org**

 **Princeton Girlchoir**

**use this QR code
to support our NY tour** 

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Supporting Princeton University Concerts is critical to our future. Ticket sales cover less than half of the cost of presenting the very best in world-class music. Remaining funds come, in part, from our generous endowment, left to PUC by the Ladies' Musical Committee in 1929. We remain eternally grateful for the support of the Philena Fobes Fine Memorial Fund and the Jesse Peabody Frothingham Fund.

Other support comes from donors like you. We are grateful to the individuals whose support at all levels ensures that musical performance remains a vital part of Princeton, the community, and the region.

If you wish to make a donation to Princeton University Concerts, please call us at 609-258-2800, visit puc.princeton.edu, or send a check payable to Princeton University Concerts to: Princeton University Concerts, Woolworth Center, Princeton, NJ 08544.

THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for all of the support we have received and thank all of our donors and volunteers. The list below acknowledges gifts of \$100 or more, received between April 15, 2022 and January 15, 2023. If you see an error or would like to make a change in your listing, please contact the Concert Office at 609-258-2800.

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We are happy to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their support.

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GROW YOUR

Eden



“EDEN is an invitation to return to our roots and to explore whether or not we are connecting as profoundly as we can to the pure essence of our being, to create a new EDEN from within and plant seeds of hope for the future.”

—Joyce DiDonato



22/23

SEASON



JESS GILLAM
Saxophone

CONCERT CLASSICS

Thursday, October 13 | 7:30PM

GENEVA LEWIS* Violin
AUDREY VARDANECA* Piano

Thursday, November 3 | 7:30PM

BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

Sunday, November 20 | 3PM

VIKINGUR ÓLAFSSON* Piano

Pre-concert talk by Professor Scott Burnham at 2PM

Thursday, February 16 | 7:30PM

ALEXI KENNEY Violin

Wednesday, March 8 | 7:30PM

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE Tenor
KEVIN J. MILLER* Piano

Thursday, March 30 | 7:30PM

JUPITER ENSEMBLE*

Thursday, April 6 | 7:30PM

ALINA IBRAGIMOVA* Violin
CÉDRIC TIBERGHEN* Piano

Thursday, April 27 | 7:30PM

EMERSON & CALIDORE STRING QUARTETS

PERFORMANCES UP CLOSE

Wednesday, October 26 | 6PM & 9PM

JESS GILLAM Saxophone
THOMAS WEAVER* Piano

Tuesday, December 13 | 6PM & 9PM

tenTHING BRASS ENSEMBLE*

Sunday, March 26 | 3PM & 6PM

CHIAROSCURO STRING QUARTET*

Wednesday, April 12 | 6PM & 9PM

CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT* Vocals
SULLIVAN FORTNER* Piano

RICHARDSON CHAMBER PLAYERS

Sunday, November 13 & Sunday, March 5 | 3PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, February 1 | 7:30PM

JOYCE DiDONATO Mezzo-soprano
IL POMO d'ORO* Orchestra

Tuesday, February 21 | 7:30PM

MITSUKO UCHIDA Piano

HEALING WITH MUSIC

Thursday, September 29 | 7:30PM

INTRODUCING CLEMENCY BURTON-HILL
Exploring music's role in brain injury recovery

Wednesday, November 9 | 7:30PM

JOSHUA ROMAN Cello
Living with Long COVID as a musician

Thursday, February 9 | 7:30PM

FRED HERSCH* Piano
Exploring music's role after an AIDS-related coma

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Featuring The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Saturday, October 22 | 1PM

MEET THE MUSIC, for ages 6–12

Saturday, May 20 | 1PM & 3PM

CMS KIDS, for neurodiverse audiences ages 3–6

AT THE MOVIES

Tuesday, October 11 | 7:30PM

FALLING FOR STRADIVARI

Wednesday, February 8 | 7:30PM

THE BALLAD OF FRED HERSCH

LIVE MUSIC MEDITATION

Matthew Weiner, Meditation Instruction

Thursday, September 29 | 12:30PM

ALEXI KENNEY Violin

Wednesday, October 26 | 12:30PM

JESS GILLAM Saxophone

Thursday, February 9 | 12:30PM

FRED HERSCH Piano

*Princeton University Concerts debut

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