

PROGRAM

Company

I'll be Home for Christmas – K. Gannon and W. Kent arr. Paul Langford

Brian Cho

Von fremden Ländern und Menschen – R. Schumann

Matthew Bermudez

From Schwanengesang – F. Schubert
Liebesbotschaft
Ständchen

Meggie McKay

The Angel Gabriel – Basque folk carol
Midnight Watch – Leslie Uyeda

Ellita Gagner

Nocturne – G. Lekeu
Nuit d'étoile – C. Debussy

Renato Araujo

Widmung – R. Schumann
Cortadera plumerito – C. Guastavino
Vergin Tutto Amor – F. Durante

Company

We Wish You a Merry Christmas – Traditional English



HOME. A HOLIDAY CONCERT

CAN OF SOUP COLLECTIVE

December 4th, 2021 7pm

First St Andrews United Church

ARTISTS



ELLITA GAGNER – MEZZO-SOPRANO

Ellita Gagner is a London based mezzo soprano and arts administrator. She was noted in Opera Canada Magazine for her performance in Brott Opera's *Così fan tutte*, "the more impulsive Dorabella sang with style". Ellita holds a Bachelor of Music from Western University where she studied with acclaimed mezzo soprano, Patricia Green. Ellita has won categories in the London Community Orchestra's Young Soloists Concert, NATS, and OMFA. She has been seen in the roles of Dorabella (*Così fan Tutte*, Brott

Festival), Peep Bo (*The Mikado*, UWOpera), and in the chorus of *Dido and Aeneas* (Little London Opera).



RENATO ARAUJO – BARITONE

Renato Araujo holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance Voice and is currently receiving an Artist Diploma from the University of Western. Renato is studying under acclaimed Canadian Baritone, James Westman. At Western, Renato has been seen in the role of Melisso in *Alcina* (Handel), Betto in *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini), and as part of the chorus in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart) and *The Mikado* (Guillbert and Sullivan). He will be seen in UWOpera's Opera Gala in the Spring of 2022.

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BRIAN CHO – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Brian Cho is a London-based collaborative pianist from Mississauga, Ontario. Brian completed his Masters in Collaborative Piano at Western University. He has studied with accomplished pianists and educators including Dr. Leslie Klinton, Dr. John Hess, Prof. Tina Yanchus and Prof. Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich. He was a 2020 Magisterra fellow where he collaborated with the ensemble in their public concerts. Brian is an accomplished music director and

is known within the London community for his work with Pacheco Theatre, MTP Theatre, Kings Theatre, Theatre Western, and Original Kids Theatre.



MATTHEW BERMUDEZ - TENOR

Matthew Bermudez, is completing an Artist Diploma at Western University in Music Performance, studying under Torin Chiles. He has recently completed his Undergraduate Degree in Music Performance at Western University. He is a chorister for the Amabile Boy's and Men's Choir, as well as being awarded the London Opera Guild Scholarship in 2020 and 2021 and was a finalist in the 2020-2021 Marista BrookesConcerto Competition. Matthew's involvement with the UWOpera includes *Don Curzio* in *Lenozze di Figaro* (2019), *Don Anchise* in *La finta giardiniera* (2019) *Ferrando* in *Così fan tutte* (2020). Upcoming productions include *Can of Soup Collective's Pandora's Locker* (2022) as Alex, UWOpera's *Alcina* (2021) as Oronte, and a featured soloist in the UWOpera Gala (2022).



MEGGIE MCKAY - SOPRANO

Coloratura soprano and musicologist Meggie McKay is a vibrant and passionate musician, at home performing in recitals, operas, and musical theatre. She has a Master of Music in Literature and Voice Performance (2021) and an Artist Diploma in Voice Performance from Western University

(2019), a Master of Arts in Musicology with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Ottawa (2019), and a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Acadia University (2016). She plans on pursuing a PhD in Musicology once the global pandemic turmoil has lessened somewhat.

Who are we?

Despite the substantial number of artists in the community, London has largely been starved of independently run opera companies. Can of Soup Collective is a registered NPO which seeks to offer young and emerging artists professional performance opportunities in the London area. To donate or volunteer, please reach out to us at canofsoupcollective@gmail.com or check out our website canofsoupcollective.com