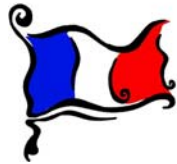


The Art Song Preservation Society of NY  
*Where music speaks and words sing!*



<http://www.ArtSongPreservationSocietyNY.org>

The Art Song Preservation Society  
of New York -  
Master Class Series

With guest artist:

**Thomas Grubb**

The French Mélodie  
19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Compositions

*Sunday, April 18, 2010*

*1-5pm*

*The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS)* is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing the art song while simultaneously promoting the art song recital. Through pragmatic monthly workshop discussions, educational lectures, a master class series, concert and recital performances, competitions, mentorship programs for singers and accompanists and community outreach programs for the broader public, *ASPS* plans to ensure that New York's classical singers, accompanists and art song enthusiasts always have access to performing and/or appreciating this area of classical vocal literature through the financial support of patrons and grants for the arts. *ASPS* also promotes the art song through showcasing the talents of a roster of singers who make up this unique art song company.

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**ASPS continues its Master Class series with a look at selected works from the French vocal literature tradition. Guest Artist, Thomas Grubb, will provide a brief lecture about the French sounds and pronunciation.**

## Upcoming ASPS Workshops and Master Classes 2010 Calendar

### ASPS Workshop & Master Class Series:

January - Free Forum: Art Song Workshop: Two Songs in any Language 1/16/10, 1-3:30pm

February - Henri Duparc's Melodies 2/20/10, 1-3:30pm

March - Italian Art Songs Master Class Preparation Workshop 3/13/10, 1-3:30pm

**March - Italian Art Songs Treasures of the Ages Master Class, 3/21/10, 1-5pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Corradina Caporello, Italian Vocal Lit. Coach, The Juilliard School)*

April - The French Art Song Master Class Preparation Workshop, 4/10/10, 1-3:30pm

**April - The French Art Song Master Class: 19th & 20th Century Composers 4/18/10, 1-5pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Thomas Grubb, French Vocal Literature Coach, The Juilliard School)*

May - The German Lieder Master Class Preparation Workshop, 5/8/10, 1-3:30pm

**May - German Lieder: Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, Strauss and Mahler 5/16/10, 1-5pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Thomas Muraco, Coach/Accompanist, The Manhattan School of Music)*

June - The Songs of Christopher Berg - Preparation Workshop & Performance by Mr. Berg 5/12/2010 1-3:30pm

**June - The Songs of Christopher Berg Master Class - 6/20/10 1-5pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Christopher Berg, Composer/Accompanist)*

July - The songs of Claude Debussy 7/17/10. 1-3:30pm

August - The Art of The Recital Performance Master Class Preparation 8/14/10, 1-3:30pm

**August - The Art of The Recital Performance Master Class 8/22/10, 1-5pm**

*(Master Class and Performance by quest artist, TBA)*

September - The German Lieder 9/18/10, 1-3:30pm

October - The songs of Francis Poulenc Master Class Preparation Workshop 10/16/10, 1-3:30pm

**October - The songs of Francis Poulenc Master Class 10/24/10, 1-5:00pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Dalton Baldwin, Coach/Accompanist, Westminster Choir College)*

November - The American Art Song Master Class Workshop Preparation 11/20/10, 1-3:30pm

**November - The American Art Song Master Class 11/21/10, 1-5:00pm**

*(Master Class by quest artist, Paul Sperry, American Lyric Tenor, Joy In Singing)*

December - Free Forum Art Song Workshop 12/18/10, 1-3:30pm

*There is a \$15 entry fee to the monthly workshops and \$20 entry fee to the master classes*

*Workshops and Master Classes are held at the Singer's Forum, 49 West 24th Street, 4th Floor, NYC*

**To RSVP for our monthly workshop meet-ups, please visit [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com)**

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The photographing or sound recording of any master class or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside the theater, without the written permission of the Founder & Artistic Director of ASPS, is prohibited.

Funding is provided by the generosity of individuals and organizations who seek to cultivate the talent of musicians interested in the arts. ASPS has been incorporated and applied for 501(c)3 status. Until our 501(c)3 status has been fully approved, any contributions and donations made to ASPS are not yet tax-deductible. Please check back for confirmation of approval.

ASPS is very thankful for the support of the following donors who have made significant contributions to help ensure the organization's future.

**Major Donors:**

Ruth McDonald  
Jannis Giotakis  
Jacqui Sakellaropoulos  
Richard Seavey  
John Zarmakoupis

To support *The Art Song Preservation Society of New York* please send an email to: [ASPSNY@gmail.com](mailto:ASPSNY@gmail.com) or call (646) 263.7829.

***Volunteer opportunities are also available!***

*Join our group of volunteers to help with our mailings, performances and senior outreach program and enjoy an educational and exceptional musical experience up close! Please contact Blair Boone or Cristie Strongman and let us know how you believe that you can best help as a volunteer.*

Follow ASPS



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**Thomas Grubb** - Thomas Grubb is the author of SINGING IN FRENCH, A MANUAL OF FRENCH DICTION AND FRENCH VOCAL REPERTOIRE (Schirmer Books, 1979, with a Foreword by Pierre Bernac, now distributed by Thomson Learning). Since 1986 Mr. Grubb has been a member of the coaching staff of New York City Opera where he assists in the preparation of all the French productions. In the past, he has been a member of the coaching staffs of Houston Grand Opera and the Opera Society of Washington, D.C. Since 1985 Mr. Grubb has been a member of the faculty at The Juilliard School where he conducts classes in French Vocal Repertoire and Diction. From 1984 until May of 2007 he taught Advanced Vocal Performance and French Diction at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. Previously he served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music (1964-1985), The Curtis Institute of Music (1970-1977) and the Academy of Vocal Arts (1977-1983), both in Philadelphia, as well as at New York University in the early 1970s. From 1970 until 1977, Thomas Grubb assisted the renowned maitre of French song, Pierre Bernac, in his master classes throughout the United States, Canada and France as both pianist and coach. Mr. Bernac eventually became his primary mentor and the inspiration for his specialization in French Vocal Repertoire. In addition, Pierre Bernac generously monitored the writing and editing of Mr. Grubb's above-mentioned book. Among his most influential piano teachers were Magda Tagliaferro, with whom he studied in Paris for three years, as well as Dora Zaslavsky and Artur Balsam with whom he studied at the Manhattan School of Music where he earned his Master of Music degree in Applied Piano in 1966. In 1962, Mr. Grubb received a Master of Arts degree in French Literature from Yale University Graduate School and in 1960 his Bachelor of Arts in French and Piano from the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music. As a performing pianist, Thomas Grubb has appeared in recital with Elly Ameling, Benita Valente, Eleanor Steber, Elizabeth Mannion and Dawn Upshaw, plus numerous others. He also made two North American concert tours with the French trumpet-player, Maurice Andre, as both pianist and translator. Mr. Grubb has recorded for both the Orion and the Lyra chord labels with Carol Kimball, mezzo-soprano, and Gerald Tarack, violinist. Thomas Grubb has given master classes throughout the United States, in France, Germany, Lithuania, Korea and annually in Taiwan from 1991 until 2006. In the coming year he will be giving a series of classes in Auckland, New Zealand. Mr. Grubb has participated as adjudicator for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions, the International Voice Competition of Paris, the Fulbright Commission Auditions, the Rockefeller American Music Competition of Carnegie Hall, various NATS competitions and those of the Oratorio Society of New York. In May, 2002, Mr. Grubb was decorated as Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in Paris for his advancement of French culture throughout the world. Presently, Thomas Grubb is working on a second edition of his Singing in French as well as a companion book to Pierre Bernac's Interpretation of French Song. While he continues to coach at New York City Opera and teach at the Juilliard School, he maintains a private studio on the Upper West Side of Manhattan not far from Lincoln Center where he has resided since 1974. Thomas Grubb was born in Bridgehampton, New York and is an American citizen.

## *The Art Song Preservation Society of NY Presents*

### The French Mélodie 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Compositions

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**Singers:** Risa Renae Harman, (soprano); Carl Erik Fisher, (baritone);  
La Toya Lewis, (soprano); Sahoko Sato, (mezzo-soprano); Clayton Okaly,  
(baritone); Laetitia Spitzer (mezzo-soprano); Jennifer Skeete-Eyges (soprano)  
**Pianists:** Dror Semmel; LaMont Barlow; Larissa Sokoloff

#### 1) **Sahoko Sato, mezzo-soprano**

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

Education: New England Conservatory (BM), Manhattan School of Music  
(MM & Prof. Studies)

Brief Bio: Sahoko has sung in opera and in concert in the US and in  
Asia. She recently sang a solo recital of all Andalusian songs in  
Granada, Spain upon winning the Miguel Zanetti Spanish Song  
Competition.

#### **Larissa Sokoloff, pianist**

Hometown: Nutley, NJ

Education: Cincinnati, Piano BA magna cum laude from Harvard College with a  
joint concentration in Music and Slavic Studies, and an MM from the Peabody  
Conservatory as a student of Leon Fleisher. Larissa also studied at the Liszt  
Academy in Budapest as a Fulbright Scholar. Previous teachers include  
Menahem Pressler at Indiana University in Bloomington, and Lazar Berman. A  
recipient of several national and international awards, Larissa has appeared in  
recital in 14 countries as a soloist, collaborative pianist and chamber musician.  
After completing her MBA at the University of Rochester Simon Graduate School  
of Business in June 2009, she worked as an investment banking associate at  
Grandwood Capital in New York

- o **Les Filles de Cadix (Viardot)**

## The Art Song Preservation Society of NY

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**Blair Boone – Founder & Artistic Director, The Art Song Preservation Society**

Hometown: New York (Originally, Houston, Texas)

Education: B.M. (Honors) Voice Performance, M.A. French Language, Literature and Culture, Syracuse University. Voice and Piano Accompaniment, The Strasbourg Conservatory of Music in Strasbourg, France.

Master Thesis-Henri Duparc: His Influence on the French *Mélodie Remembrance Scholar Award, The SU Graduate Teaching Fellowship in French*

After graduating and moving to New York City, Blair began teaching French and coaching singers in French diction and the interpretation of the French *Mélodie*. He has given art song recitals representing such composers as Berlioz, Brahms, Debussy, Duke, Duparc, Faure, Hahn, Mahler, Poulenc, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, and Tchaikowsky. Blair is the Founder and Artistic Director for *The Art Song Preservation Society of NY* and has studied voice with Mary Trueman (Rice University), JoElyn Walkefied-Wright (Syracuse University), Elisabeth Schroeder (The Strasbourg Conservatory of Music) and Lorraine Nubar (The Juilliard School) and has sung in master classes with Oren Brown (The Juilliard School), Phyllis Curtain (Yale and Boston University) and Norma Newton (American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria). Blair has also studied piano accompaniment with Mary Trueman and Steve Heyman (Syracuse University).

**Cristie Strongman - Project Director, The Art Song Preservation Society**

Hometown: New York (Originally, Panamá City, Panamá/ Kaiserslautern, Germany)

Education: Voice Performance, The University of Texas at El Paso. Cristie performed extensively with the International Festival de la Zarzuela, El Paso, TX with the late Metropolitan Opera soloist lyric baritone, Pablo Elvira, and The Jarvis Conservatory in Napa, California before making her move to New York, to study with Metropolitan Opera soloists lyric tenor, Francisco Casanova and dramatic soprano, Atarah Hazzan. She has performed internationally in operas, oratorios, recitals and concerts depicting the works of classical, contemporary and experimental composers of operas, art songs and zarzuelas. She also takes great pride in bringing music to a diverse group of people through the organizing and performing in outreach programs such as *The Educational Enhancement for Mothers and Daughters Program A.K.A. Mothers Daughter Program* (El Paso, TX) and the community of The Navajo Tribe (NM).

**2) Carl Erik Fisher, baritone**

Hometown: Glen Ridge, NJ

Education: Majored in Biology and Music, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. M.D., Columbia University

After graduating from college, Carl went to Seoul, South Korea on a Henry Luce Foundation Scholarship, where he sang with the Kim Cha-Kyung Opera Company and did neuroscience research at Yonsei University. While in medical school, he appeared in various roles in NYC-area amateur opera companies, including Germont in *La Traviata*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. He is currently a resident in psychiatry at Columbia University, with particular research interests in both systems-level public health interventions for the most severely mentally ill and the legal and social implications of advances in neuroscience.

**LaMont Barlow, pianist**

Hometown: South Bend, IN

Education: Majored in Biochemistry, Harvard University

Attended Interlochen Arts Camp five times, where he was the second person in the camp's 72-year history to win their concerto competition on two different instruments in consecutive years. LaMont has also been a repeat winner of the South Bend Symphony Young Artist Competition, the LaPorte Symphony Young Artist Competition, the Stickley Memorial Piano Competition, and the Chopin Piano Competition. His woodwind quintet won the Geoffroy Prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition three times. While primarily studying biochemistry at Harvard, he remained active in music, serving as Associate Principal Bassoon of the New England Philharmonic, performing regularly in other ensembles, and serving as assistant conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. He was also active as a pianist, including a recital at Carnegie Hall with violinist Jonathan Leong, and he won Harvard's campus-wide concerto competition in his final year there. He is currently in his final year at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, and will be staying at Columbia as a urology resident next year.

o **Sanglots (Poulenc)**

### 3) La Toya Lewis, soprano

Hometown: Brooklyn

Education: MM from Binghamton University and a BM from Purchase College.

This past summer, Ms. Lewis performed the title role in a production of the rarely performed one act, *Il segreto di Susanna* by Wolf-Ferrari with Opera Manhattan. Other roles performed include: Fiordiligi (*Così Fan Tutte*) with Underworld Productions, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) and Micaela (*Carmen*) with Tri-Cities Opera. Cover roles include: Miriam (*The Scarf, Lee Hoiby*) with Chelsea Opera & Clara (*Porgy and Bess*) with Utah Festival Opera. Concert credits include: Bach B-Minor Mass and Vivaldi Gloria. Ms. Lewis placed second in the 2nd Annual Charles A. Lynam Vocal Competition and was a Finalist in the 2006 Jenny Lind Competition.

### Larissa Sokoloff, pianist

- • **Fleur Jetée (Fauré)**

## ~ Intermission ~

### 4)Risa Renae Harman, soprano

Hometown: New York, NY

Education: Hartt School of Music, State University of New York Stony Brook  
American soprano, has been widely acclaimed for her technical virtuosity and communication skills as an artist. Favorite roles include the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*. Opera companies with whom she has sung include New York City Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland and Glimmerglass Opera. As a frequent recitalist and oratorio soloist, Miss Harman has appeared at the Kennedy Center, National Cathedral, and Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Trinity Church and Weill Hall. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards among them the Sullivan Foundation, Shoshana Foundation, Washington International Competition, Jenny Lind Competition and Licia Albanese Puccini Competition.

### Dror Semmel, pianist

Hometown: Jerusalem, Israel

Education: BMus – Jerusalem Music Academy, MMus – Mannes College of Music,

DMA candidate – Stony Brook University

Dror, an Israeli pianist, has been playing in Israel, Europe and America as soloist with orchestras, in solo recitals and chamber music. He recently played a series of recitals presenting Beethoven's last 3 sonatas op. 109, 110 and 111, as well as several chamber concerts playing the Brahms violin sonatas.

- **C'est l'extase from Ariette Oubliées (Debussy)**

### 5) Clayton Oakley, baritone

Hometown: Whitehouse Station, NJ

Education: University of Delaware - BM; University of Colorado - Boulder - MM  
Clayton recently moved to New York after obtaining his Masters in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from University of Colorado - Boulder, and more recently spent the summer singing the role of Oreste in Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* with the Franco-American Vocal Academy in the south of France. Most recently he was seen as Harlekin in Brooklyn Repertory Opera's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and is currently preparing to sing the role of Morales in Regina Opera's June production of *Carmen*. Very much a fan of art song repertoire, Clayton looks forward to working with ASPSNY in the future!

### LaMont Barlow, pianist

- **Ballade de Villon à s'amy from Trois Ballades de Francois Villon (Debussy)**

### 6) Laetitia Beck Spitzer, mezzo-soprano

Hometown: France

Education: Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music under Mr. Neil Rosenshein and was accepted on a merit scholarship to pursue her Masters at the prestigious Juilliard School in NYC where she is studying with Mrs. Edith Bers.

Laetitia has performed many recitals in Portugal, Spain, Belgium, France, and in the U.S. Her most recent opera performances include, the role of Nancy from *Albert Herring* and Jenny from the *Beggar's Opera* by Benjamin Britten. She has also performed with the Charlemagne orchestra, the role of Dorothee from *Cendrillon* by Massenet and the *Second Lady* from *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart. This Year she will be performing in two operas, *Dialogues des Carmelites* by F. Poulenc.

### LaMont Barlow, pianist

- **L'île inconnue - Les Nuits d'Été (Berlioz)**

### 7) Jennifer Skeete-Eyges – special guest of Mr. Grubb

### Larissa Sokoloff, pianist

- **L'invitation au voyage (Duparc)**