

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



**The Art Song  
Preservation Society  
of New York**

Presents

*An afternoon of the German Lieder*

With guest artist:

**Thomas  
Muraco**

Saturday, March 19, 2011  
1-5pm

*The Singer's Forum*

*The Art Song Preservation Society of NY (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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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 is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status.

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:**

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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.*

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## The Art Song Preservation Society of NY

### Board of Directors

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**Thomas Muraco** - The Manhattan School of Music

**Janet Price** - Soprano, Opera Rara

**Dr. Arlene Shrut** - New Triad for Collaborative Arts

**Paul Sperry** - American Tenor, Joy In Singing

**Eduardo Valdes** - Tenor, The Metropolitan Opera

*ASPS welcomes our new Fundraising Director,  
Courtenay Schowalter*

**ASPS** begins our 2011 Master Class series with a look at the great German composers of the German Lied tradition (Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Strauss, Mahler and Wolf). Guest Artist, Thomas Muraco, will open the afternoon with a discussion of the German song.



Upcoming Event:

French Art Song Workshop Meetup,  
April 16th, 1-3:30pm

Singer's Forum  
Dorothy Jones Theater

49 W 24<sup>th</sup> St., 4<sup>th</sup> Fl.

NYC

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*There is a \$15 entry fee to the monthly workshops and \$20 entry fee to the master classes with RSVP.  
Master Classes are \$25 at the door.*

To RSVP for our monthly Workshops and Master Classes, please visit [www.Meetup.com](http://www.Meetup.com)  
[www.meetup.com/The-Art-Song-Preservation-Society-of-NY/](http://www.meetup.com/The-Art-Song-Preservation-Society-of-NY/)



**Thomas Muraco** – Mr. Muraco has earned such accolades through a combination of technical virtuosity, tonal beauty, and a unique understanding of the underlying poetry of music. His performances in major concert halls throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Asia reflect his command of a repertoire remarkable for its complete range of musical styles, periods and forms. He has been praised for his insightful interpretations of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Brahms,

Wolf, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, and premieres of William Schuman and George Perle. Mr. Muraco has partnered among others such singers as Adele Addison, John Aler, Martina Arroyo, Arleen Augér, John Cheek, Phyllis Curtin, Mary Dunleavy, Faith Esham, Maureen Forrester, Denyce Graves, Ben Heppner, Henry Herford, Ying Huang, Sumi Jo, Chris Merritt, Roberta Peters, Hermann Prey, Twyla Robinson, Jennie Tourel, Benita Valente and Dolora Zajick, and instrumentalists John Graham, Robert Mann, Arnold Steinhardt, Zara Nelsova, Ransom Wilson, Peter Winograd, and the American and Shanghai String Quartets. Highlights of his career include appearances at The White House, the Library of Congress, the Aspen, Banff, Bermuda, Casals, Cincinnati May and Ravinia Festivals, and on recital series at New York's major concert halls and at museums, universities and cultural centers throughout the US, Europe and Asia. Mr. Muraco has recorded on the Serenus, CRI and Musical Heritage labels, his most recent releases a program of music for viola and piano by Britten, Shostakovitch, Bergsma and Shapey with John Graham as well as a Liederabend of Brahms with contralto Maureen Forrester on CBC records. In addition to his busy performing schedule,

Mr. Muraco has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the State University of New York at Stony Brook., and is presently on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. There he trains pianists in the art of accompanying and coaching, as well as singers in all aspects of the art. He has taught master classes for pianists and singers at the Aspen and Banff Music Festivals and the St. Louis Conservatory. April 2010, Mr. Muraco conducted a workshop production of Rigoletto at the Manhattan School of Music and is currently preparing for a production of Falstaff in April 2011.



**Celeste Chau – Community Outreach Director**, is a native New Yorker, who began her musical studies as a child studying piano with Esther Lin and was greatly influenced by the devoted music lovers of her Chinese Peruvian family. She took a break from music during her high school years to study college at Pratt Institute's School of Architecture. During her time there, she caught her community service bug while studying low income housing and at their Community Development Program. She also started volunteering for the NYC branch of Habitat for Humanity during that time. After college she began taking voice lessons with Nicole Neiman who developed a unique pedagogy shaped by Neiman's background as a social worker using music as a therapy tool. Celeste later formed an informal chamber group

with fellow adult amateur musicians playing everything from Brubeck to Bach. The group participated in the music therapy program at Mt Sinai's Stroke Rehabilitation Clinic where she got her first taste of the rewards of musical outreach. She currently studies voice with Martha Arnold, pending faculty member at Turtle Bay Music School. She immersed herself into the New York amateur classical scene by joining Amateur Classical Musician's Association (ACMA) in early 2009. She served as their Executive Board member and helped to coordinate and produce ACMA's first concert at Carnegie Hall in 2009 where she also performed and will do again this year. In 2010, she became The September Concert Foundation's inaugural Community Music Coordinator, and is producing concerts at 8 different area senior centers/hospitals/nursing homes during the 3 day music festival. Already a member, Celeste proudly joins The Art Song Preservation Society of NY (ASPS) as their inaugural Community Outreach Director where she plans to introduce a series of mini-recitals and concerts throughout New York's senior centers, retirement communities, and hospices (as music therapy). These programs are designed to make art song interesting and accessible to audiences that may otherwise not have the chance to attend a performance but who in many ways stand to benefit the most.



**Courtenay Schowalter – Fundraising Director**, is a Soprano, who has performed with The Voices of Women, The Musica Bella Orchestra of New York, The Opera Project, Bacchanalia Baroque Ensemble, Brooklyn Repertory Opera, dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, the Hillyer Festival Orchestra and Opera Boston. Ms. Schowalter is an avid recitalist, performing in solo and group recitals in the New York City region and is delighted to be part of today's masterclass. This past year she performed two concerts with her recital group, The Voices of Women, and she is looking forward to making her Amore Opera debut in Carmen, singing Frasquita, this May. Other past highlights



include performing with the Hillyer Festival Orchestra at Boston's Hatch Shell on the Esplanade and performing a recital at the French Ambassador's home in Washington D.C. She lives in Brooklyn, NY, and studies voice with Margaret Lattimore. You can also visit her blog: [meetingvioletta.blogspot.com](http://meetingvioletta.blogspot.com)



**Blair Boone – Founder & Vice President**, is a native of Texas, who as a young tenor, began his study of voice and piano in Houston before moving to pursue his Bachelor's in Voice Performance (honors) and Master's in French Language, Literature and Culture at Syracuse University. During his academic tenure he was nominated for and received many awards such as Who's Who Among College Students at American Universities in 1994, the university's prestigious Remembrance Scholar Award in 1995 (named for the 35 students killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 Dec. 21, 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland), and The SU Graduate Teaching Fellowship in French in 1996. He also studied voice and piano at the Strasbourg Conservatory of Music in Strasbourg, France. After

graduating and moving to New York City, Blair began teaching French and coaching singers in French diction and the French Mélodie. Blair is a member of both the National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.) and the New York Singing Teachers Association (N.Y.S.T.A.). He is also a published film and music critic. Blair has given art song recitals representing such composers as Berlioz, Brahms, Debussy, Duke, Duparc, Faure, Hahn, Mahler, Poulenc, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss, and Tchaikowsky. He founded The Art Song Preservation Society of NY because of his deep interest in promoting the repertoire. Blair has studied voice with Mary Trueman (Rice University), JoElyn Walkefied-Wright (Syracuse University), and Elisabeth Schroeder (The Strasbourg Conservatory of Music) 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 also studied piano accompaniment with Mary Trueman and Steve Heyman (Syracuse University).



**Cristie Strongman - Project Director**, is a dramatic coloratura soprano and a native of Panamá City, Panamá, who began her musical studies as a child with her grandmother a lyric soprano, organist and pianist and continued her vocal studies in Kaiserslautern, Germany. She attended The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) as an Opera Performance Major and would perform extensively with the UTEP Conservatory Repertory Theater, The Italian Art Song Society under the direction of conductor, composer and pianist, Dr. Lucy Scarbrough, (Founder and Artistic Director of The El Paso Chopin Music Festival), The International Festival de la Zarzuela, El Paso, TX and Mexico alongside the late Metropolitan Opera soloist lyric baritone, Páblo Elvira, The Jarvis Conservatory Napa, CA 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, concerts and zarzuelas depicting the works of classical, contemporary and free form and experimental composers of art songs, operas and zarzuelas. She takes great pride in bringing music to diverse groups of people through the organizing and performing in outreach programs such as for *The Educational Enhancement for Mothers and Daughters Program A.K.A. Mother Daughter Program* (El Paso, TX), the community of The Navajo Tribe (NM). She recently had her Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall) debut in October, 2010.

In such master classes he emphasizes the unique relationship of poetry and music in all aspects of the vocal repertoire, bringing to bear his extensive knowledge of languages French, Italian, German and Portuguese among others. Influential teachers in Thomas Muraco's own training include Brooks Smith at the Eastman School of Music, from which he graduated with distinction, and Jeaneane Dowis at the Aspen Festival and in NYC, and John Nelson in conducting. Often asked to judge competitions such as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Mr. Muraco has been the chairman of the jury of the annual international vocal competition held in Vivonne, France in October each year, "De Vive Voix" at which festival he conducted a program of opera scenes in 2007 and in 2008 performed "Die Winterreise" to great acclaim. In August 2000 he conducted Lakmé in Tel Aviv for the International Vocal Arts Institute, La Bohème at the Manhattan School of Music in 2000, La Traviata at the Manhattan School of Music in April 2001 and Carmen there in April 2002. La Cenerentola was his debut with Opera San José in September 2002, in 2003 Die Zauberflöte, Idomeneo in January 2004 at Opera Mc Gill, Madama Butterfly in 2004 and Don Giovanni in May 2005, in May 2006 Dialogues des Carmélites and in March 2007 Il Tabarro and Gianni Schicchi, all at the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Muraco had the honor of assisting in the preparation of performances and a recording of La Bohème under the direction of Leonard Bernstein. In addition, he has assisted in preparing both operatic and symphonic repertoire for conductors John Nelson: in the US at Carnegie Hall (Verdi Requiem), with the New Japan Philharmonic (La Traviata and Schumann Scenes from Faust) , and with L'Ensemble Orchestral de Paris (Entführung aus dem Serail), and James Conlon (with the Cincinnati Symphony) adding yet another aspect to a career which has already established him in the front ranks of American musicians. During the 2007-2008 season, Mr. Muraco was the Studienleiter- Kapellmeister at the Theater Bremen where he conducted many performances of the 2007-2008 season including

Nabucco and Merlin of Carl Goldmark as well as overseeing the preparation of all repertoire in the season. During Jan-Feb, 2009 he performed to great acclaim with tenor Ben Heppner at La Scala, Dortmund Konzerthaus. In April 2010, Mr. Muraco conducted a workshop production of Rigoletto at the Manhattan School of Music.

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

### ***Presents***

#### ***An afternoon with Thomas Muraco and the German Lieder***

**Singers:** Andrea Leyton-Mange – soprano, Malcolm Merriwhether – baritone, Winnie Nip – soprano, Clayton Okaly – baritone, La Toya Lewis – soprano, Luke Scott – baritone, Courtenay Schowalter - soprano

**Pianist:** Eric Sedgwick

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1) **Andrea Leyton-Mange** - soprano  
Wie sollten wir geheim sie halten - Strauss  
Ganymed - Schubert  
Von ewiger Liebe – Brahms

2) **Malcolm Merriwhether** - baritone  
Laue sommernacht – Alma Mahler  
Morgen - Strauss  
Fussreise - Wolf

3) **Winnie Nip** – soprano  
Er ist's - Wolf  
Heidenröslein - Schubert  
Meine Liebe ist grün – Brahms

4) **Clayton Okaly** – baritone  
Morgen - Strauss  
Am Bach im Frühling - Schubert  
Cäcilie - Strauss

## *Intermission*

5) La Toya Lewis - soprano  
Gretchen am Spinnrade - Schubert  
In der Fremde- Schumann  
Allerseelen - Strauss

6) Luke Scott - baritone  
Der Erlkönig - Schubert  
Mondnacht from Liederkreis - Schumann  
Zueignung - Strauss

7) Courtenay Schowalter - soprano  
Suleika - Schubert  
Hoch beglückt in deiner Liebe- Wolf  
Liebeslied - Schumann



**Eric Sedgwick** is an active pianist, accompanist and vocal coach in New York City. He is a staff coach at the Manhattan School of Music, accompanist for the Riverdale Choral Society and for the Stonewall Chorale in New York, and has been a guest coach for the OperaWorks summer program in southern California. He performs regularly in classical voice recitals and with Broadway Concerts Direct, alongside such artists as Marni Nixon, Leona Mitchell and Sarah Rice. He often appears in cabaret settings as well, at venues including the Rose Theater at Lincoln Center, Birdland and the Metropolitan Room in New York. Mr. Sedgwick holds a Masters degree in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music and a B.A. in English Literature from Brown University. He has won numerous awards as a solo pianist, including the Buxtehude premium for excellence in music, the Brown

University Concerto competition (Brahms 2nd) and the Steinway Competition of Boston. An advocate of new music, Mr. Sedgwick has premiered works by many contemporary composers including Seymour Barab, J. Mark Stambaugh, Joelle Wallach and Louis Hardin.

## About Fractured Atlas

### Mission



Fractured Atlas is a non-profit organization that serves a national community of artists and arts organizations. The programs and services facilitate the creation of art by offering vital support to the artists who produce it. Fractured Atlas helps artists and arts organizations function more effectively as

businesses by providing access to funding, healthcare, education, and more, all in a context that honors their individuality and independent spirit. By nurturing today's talented but underrepresented voices, Fractured Atlas hopes to foster a dynamic and diverse cultural landscape of tomorrow.

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