

**For Immediate Release**

February 26, 2010

**Internationally Renowned Soprano Christine Brewer to Perform World Premiere of David Carlson's *The Promise of Time* with Marin Symphony**

Marin Symphony presents a dramatic duo of concerts on April 11 and 13 that will feature Grammy Award-winning soprano **Christine Brewer** performing the world premiere of **David Carlson's *The Promise of Time*: Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra**. It's the first public performance of this 21<sup>st</sup>-century piece, with libretto by award-winning poet **Susan Kinsolving**.

Carlson and Kinsolving's creation is one of 14 new orchestral works commissioned through the innovative **Magnum Opus** project, founded in 2003 by San Francisco venture capitalist **Kathryn Gould**. Marin Symphony is among only three Bay Area orchestras chosen to participate in the first stage of this prestigious program.

*The Promise of Time* was written specifically for Christine Brewer, whose powerful voice with its honeyed tones has led to leading roles with the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Opera as well as star turns with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Staatskapelle Berlin, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, to name a few.

Carlson and Kinsolving previously collaborated on a cantata for the Glimmerglass Opera. As Kinsolving puts it, "Poetry and music are transcendent experiences, alive with sounds, but very different disciplines from page to performance. The joys and challenges of that initial collaboration have expanded with this new song cycle for Christine Brewer."

In addition, guest conductor **Edward Abrams** will conduct Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Samuel Barber's** Essay for Orchestra No. 2, Opus 17. "Teddy" Abrams was only 10 and a clarinetist with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, when he first met Alasdair Neale. Mr. Abrams became a highly versatile musician who performs as a conductor, clarinetist and pianist in addition to composing. He has studied conducting with Michael Tilson Thomas and was a student of Otto-Werner Mueller at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Contrasting the clean, sharp drama of Carlson and Barber's contemporary compositions will be two seminal works by 19<sup>th</sup> century operatic composer **Richard Wagner**.

One of Wagner's few non-operatic pieces, *Siegfried Idyll*, is a 20-minute symphonic poem for chamber orchestra. Wagner wrote it as a birthday present for his second wife, Cosima, after the birth of their son Siegfried in 1869. The melodic line shimmers with a sense of birdsong, sunrise, and the awakening of new love.

Ms. Brewer will bring her powerful voice to interpret Wagner's *Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*, one of the landmark operas of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her singing will bring to life Wagner's explorations of love and death, passion and loss, in this brief, achingly beautiful piece of music.

The combination of all these elements in one program makes for one of the Bay Area's richest evenings of classical music to be performed this spring.

### **Concert Sponsors**

The concerts are made possible by LVP Marin Realtors, U.S. Bank and Peter Levi Plumbing.

### **Tickets**

Tickets are \$29, \$54 and \$70 (students half price) and are available at the Marin Center Box Office at 415.499.6800, or at [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org). The Box Office is open Monday-Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday 11am-3pm. Tickets may also be purchased at the door one hour before each performance (based on availability).

### **About Marin Symphony**

Each year the Marin Symphony Orchestra presents five pairs of classical concerts in the Marin Veteran's Memorial Auditorium from October through May. Established in 1954, the organization supports a variety of youth programs which includes the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Crescendo Workshops and the Symphony@Schools programs. To learn more visit [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org) or phone 415.479.8100.

*Photos of Christine Brewer, David Carlson, Susan Kinsolving and Edward Abrams available upon request*

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### **Calendar Item**

**Sunday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:30 pm**

Magnum Opus, Magnificent Epics

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Edward Abrams, guest conductor

Christine Brewer, soprano

### **Complete program includes:**

Samuel Barber: *Essay for Orchestra No. 2, Opus 17*, 1942

David Carlson: *The Promise of Time*, Magnum Opus world premiere, completed in 2009 and written for Christine Brewer

Richard Wagner: *Siegfried Idyll*, 1869

Richard Wagner: Prelude and *Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*, 1865

**Tickets:** \$29/\$54/\$70 (students half price) at the Marin Center Box Office, 415.499.6800, or visit [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org)

**Venue:** Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael.

**Additional:**

- Free pre-concert talks (with purchase of a concert ticket) will feature composer David Carlson, poet Susan Kinsolving and conductor Alasdair Neale discussing the creation of the Magnum Opus world premiere. The talks will take place from 6:30-7pm.
- The Tuesday April 13 performance will be followed by a wrap party at Embassy Suites Hotel, 10 McInnis Parkway. It features complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a no-host bar and the opportunity to socialize with Maestro Neale, the orchestra musicians, special guests and fellow audience members.