

19 May 2019 - Concert by Celeste Siciliano and Ted Labow followed by celebration of Wagner's Birthday

2.00pm: Concert by dramatic soprano Celeste Siciliano and baritone Ted Labow, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Wilson
Followed by: celebration of Wagner's birthday

Goethe Institut, 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra

Program

Vier Letzte Lieder (selections) ~ Richard Strauss

II. September

III. Beim Schlafengehen

Tannhäuser ~ Richard Wagner

Act III: Wolfram's Aria

"O du mein holder Abendstern"

Elektra ~ Richard Strauss

Elektra's Monologue

"Allein! Weh, ganz allein"

~INTERMISSION~

Tristan und Isolde ~ Richard Wagner

Act III: Isolde's Liebestod

"Mild und Leise wie er lächelt"

Die Walküre ~ Richard Wagner

Act III: Scene & Wotan's Farewell

"In festen Schlaf...Leb' wohl"

Götterdämmerung ~ Richard Wagner

Act III: Brünnhilde's Immolation Scene

"Starke Scheite schichtet mir dort"

Our annual Wagner's birthday celebrations were preceded by a wonderful concert by Soprano Celeste Siciliano and her husband Baritone Ted Labow, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Wilson. We have supported Jonathan in the past and he gave a virtuoso performance. Celeste shared sensitive insights into the words of each of the pieces which were all about 'endings'. Her performance was powerfully sung and beautifully acted. The audience of about 40 members and guests was very appreciative and sang along with Celeste when she led us in "Happy Birthday dear Richard" and cut the birthday cake.

Details about Celeste Siciliano, her husband Ted Labow and pianist Jonathan Wilson appear below.

Celeste Siciliano



[Celeste Siciliano](#) is a dramatic soprano of international repute who has received support from the Wagner Society of New York, and is a prize winner in the Wagner Division of the Vocal Competition of the Liederkrantz Foundation of New York.

In 2018, she was seen as *Tosca* in Hans Walter Richter's critically acclaimed production at Landestheater Coburg in Germany under the baton of Maestro Roland Kluttig. This past October she sang the *Messa da Requiem* of Giuseppe Verdi (Soprano soloist) in Schwäbisch Gmünd and in Aalen, Germany with Maestros Walter Beck and Thomas Baur. In South Korea, has sung the role of Sieglinde in a concert version of *Die Walküre* with Simon O'Neill and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Constantin Trinks.

In her native New York, she was a featured soloist with One World Symphony Orchestra directed by Maestro Sung Jin Hong, singing the famous *Vier Letzte Lieder* of Richard Strauss and the role of Isolde in a concert version of *Tristan und Isolde*. At the National Opera Center, she sang the title role in *Elektra* with Manhattan Opera Studio under the baton of Maestro Benoit Renard. She has also performed in Bruno Walter Hall at Lincoln Center in concert versions of *Norma* and *Il Trovatore*.

She has been presented at Carnegie Hall several times through the Liederkrantz Foundation and as first prize winner of the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition. Other roles sung internationally include the title role in *Norma*, both at Staatstheater Kassel and at Landestheater Coburg, the role of Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera* and Mimi in *La Bohème*. She has also performed with Opera Lancaster in the title roles of *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly* in productions directed by John Darrenkamp.

She holds a Masters of Music from The University of Delaware, a Bachelors of Music from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a Certificate in Arts Administration from New York University. Other honors include the Lynne Cushman Award through Opera Project of New Jersey and Distinguished Vocalist Award through Metropolitan International Vocal Competition. She has received her advanced training from Conrad L. Osborne in New York City.

Ted Labow



Baritone, **Ted Labow** has sung on stages throughout the US, Italy and in his native Canada. In New York, he has portrayed the title role in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with The Long Island Opera and the role of Tonio in *Pagliacci* with New York Lyric Opera. As a featured soloist with One World Symphony in New York, he has sung the roles of The Forester in Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* and Valentin in *Faust* under the baton of Maestro Sung Jin Hong. He has sung the role of Wotan with the New York Lyric Opera in both *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* at Symphony Space and was seen as Wotan in *Das Rheingold* with New York Opera Forum in Bruno Walter Hall at Lincoln Center.

In his home city of Toronto, he has sung the roles of Tonio (*Pagliacci*) and Alfio (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) with Myriad Opera, Germont (*La Traviata*) with SOLT and the title role in *Eugene Onegin* with CAP Productions. Ted was a featured soloist in the Casalmaggiore Summer Festival in Italy where he sang the title role in *Rigoletto*. In a production directed by Metropolitan Opera veteran, John Darrenkamp, he sang Sharpless in Opera Lancaster's production of *Madama Butterfly*. Other roles include Michele in *Il Tabarro*, Count Di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, Iago in *Otello*, the title role in *Don Giovanni* and The Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He has also sung with Amici Opera, Opera Seabrook and the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. He created the role of Eli in the world premiere of *The Golden Arrow* by Dennis Hyams with The Opera Project of New Jersey.

Earning his Bachelors of Arts from York University, Ted studied Piano and Composition. Among his teachers are groundbreaking composer James Tenney and Srul Irving Glick. He received his vocal training from Italian pedagogue, Gofreddo Ricci. Quite a versatile musician, Ted has been featured on jazz albums (backing Dave Valentin) and has collaborated with the Nashville String Machine and Take Six. As a Cantor for the Jewish Reform movement, Ted has served and composed for congregations in Canada, throughout the USA, Singapore and here in Australia. His music has been featured at the URJ Biennial, Opera Project of New Jersey, and the George Nakashima Foundation for Peace.

Jonathan Wilson



Pianist [Jonathan Wilson](#) accompanied Celeste and Ted.

Jonathan returned to Australia after being awarded a Doctorate of Music (Piano Performance) by the University of Montreal, under the tutelage of Marc Durand and Paul Stewart.

Jonathan has performed regularly throughout Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia and France. Highlights include solo performances at such prestigious venues as Wigmore Hall, St James Piccadilly London, Australia House London (in the presence of the Governor General of Australia), the Jacqueline du Pre Hall in Oxford, the National Library of Estonia in Tallinn, the Glaaspaleis in Heerlen (Netherlands), the Birmingham Town Hall, and the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

He particularly enjoys collaborating with singers and instrumentalists. His concerto performances include Mozart Concerto K414 with the European Union Chamber Orchestra (Bromsgrove Festival), Liszt Concerto no.1 with the Sussex Concert Orchestra, Tchaikovsky Concerto no.1 with Finchley Chamber Orchestra (London) and with the Sussex Concert Orchestra. Jonathan's recitals have been broadcast nationally on ABC Classic FM.

Jonathan was a recipient of the Margaret Schofield Opera Scholarship and répétiteur with the Melba Opera Trust, a répétiteur with Pacific Opera in Sydney, and an official accompanist for the Sydney Eisteddfod.

He has won numerous competitions including first prize in the Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition, second prize in the Australian National Piano Award and third prize and highest placed pianist in the Bromsgrove Young Artists Platform. Jonathan's past teachers include Joan Havill and Anne Queffélec. He has participated in masterclasses with such well known pianists as Leon Fleisher, John Lill and Ferenc Rados.