

Viewpoints

Made in China

New Voices in Western Opera

Thursday, June 19 2014 • 6:30–8:00 pm





Viewpoints

Made in China: New Voices In Western Opera

Confirming *Time* magazine's prediction that "the future of opera may be in China," state-of-the-art Chinese theaters now showcase Western repertory and new Chinese works, while Chinese-born singers have grabbed the spotlight on opera stages across the globe. Soprano Ying Huang and baritone Yunpeng Wang join pianist Siyi Fang to explore the shifting role of China on the international opera stage. This program will include live excerpts, film clips, and a lively discussion with music critic Ken Smith.

Viewpoints is an annual series featuring prominent, visionary figures in the creative arts and is made possible by the generous support of Aashish and Dinyar S. Devitre.

Ying Huang, a renowned lyric coloratura has been hailed as "the nightingale from China," and is one of the outstanding vocal artists active in opera and concert performances worldwide. After first gaining international attention in the title role in Frédéric Mitterrand's 1995 film adaptation of *Madame Butterfly*, she later sang the role of Pamina in the Metropolitan Opera's inaugural HD telecast of *The Magic Flute* in 2006 and three years later was included in the "Wall of Fame" in the Met's 125th Anniversary celebration. A champion of contemporary Chinese operas, she has created the leading roles in many new works, including Tan Dun's *Peony Pavilion*, Guo Wenjing's *Poet Li Bai*, and Zhou Long's *Madame White Snake*, which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize.

Yunpeng Wang is a dynamic 25-year-old baritone who performs regularly on three continents. In 2012, he won Second Place (as well as the Audience Award and the coveted Zarzuela Prize) at Plácido Domingo's Operalia Competition in Beijing. He made his Lincoln Center debut in 2013 in the *I Sing Beijing* Program at Alice Tully Hall with the New York City Opera Orchestra. A graduate of China's Central Conservatory and the Manhattan School of Music, Wang is currently a member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development program. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut this coming November in *The Barber of Seville* as Fiorello.

Siyi Fang, pianist was born in Guangzhou and came to the United States in 2005 as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. She was recently awarded a Master's degree in collaborative piano at the Juilliard School. A former assistant to the music director of the Beijing Oriental Songlei Musical Company, she was a pianist and musical coach for Chen Shi-zheng's acrobatic music-theatre piece *Monkey: Journey to the West* at Lincoln Center. She is currently a fellow of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara

Ken Smith (moderator) a journalist and author divides his time between Hong Kong, where he is the Asian performing arts critic for the Financial Times, and New York, where he writes for *Gramophone* magazine. A regular columnist for *Opera* magazine of Shanghai, he also covers opera in China for *Opera* magazine (UK) and *Opera Now*. He is the author of *Fate! Luck! Chance! Amy Tan, Stewart Wallace and the Making of The Bonesetter's Daughter Opera* and *Talking about Music* published by Beijing Normal University Press.

Upcoming Programs

Performance

Traditional Chorus of the Dong Dimen

Thursday, June 21• 8:00 PM–9:30 PM

Free admission

Performance

Jazz Saxophonist Sadao Watanabe

Wednesday, June 25• 8:00 PM–9:30 PM

Discussion

President's Forum with Arianna Huffington

Media, Asia, and Redefining Success and Well-Being

Thursday, June 26• 6:30 PM–8:00 PM

Film

New York Asian Film Festival in association with Asia Society

July 11, 13 & 14. Visit website for screening times and details

Discussion

Artist Talk: *Song of the Jasmine*

Wednesday, August 6• 6:30 PM–8:00 PM

Ranee Ramaswamy, Aparna Ramaswamy, and Rudresh Mahanthappa in conversation ahead of their New York premiere of *Song of the Jasmine*.

All programs are subject to change. Visit AsiaSociety.org/NYC for the most up-to-date schedule and ticket information.

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