

Welcome and Introduction

Jennifer Boesing, Ben Bernstein and Mark Morash

Working with the Singers

In The Singer's Gym we focus on four areas of connection: to the score (music and libretto); to the space; to the characters and to their relationships.

Sarah Benzinger will sing "D'amor sull'ali rosée" from Act 4 of Verdi's opera, *Il Trovatore*. Sarah sings the role of Leonora. Leonora is in love with Manrico who has been taken prisoner and sentenced to death. Leonora has come to the prison to pray for her beloved. She asks the breezes to reach out to her beloved to comfort him and to share how she suffers without his love.

Taylor Thompson sings the first vocal solo from the opening of Handel's oratorio *Messiah*. After the overture ends, the tenor sets the scene of the oratorio with a message of comfort, expectation and justice in the recitative and aria "Comfort ye, my people...Ev'ry valley shall be exalted".

Sarah and Tay perform the duet "Ange adorable" from the first act of Charles Gounod's opera *Roméo et Juliette*. The opera opens at a masked ball at the Capulet palace. Roméo and Mercutio have sneaked in undetected. Roméo sees Juliette for the first time and is instantly smitten. At the first opportunity for Roméo to speak to Juliette alone, he nervously begins by complimenting her as an adorable angel. Juliette's response makes it clear that the attraction is mutual.



The Singer's Gym is a non-profit arts organization.
We depend on public support for our programs and public outreach.
All donations, large and small, are welcome and are tax deductible.
Please donate at [SingersGym.org/donate](https://www.SingersGym.org/donate).
Thank you!

About the Artists

SARAH BENZINGER, soprano, just finished performing the role of Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* with Opera Modesto. Born and raised in Northern California, Sarah has enjoyed performing with various local companies including West Bay Opera, and Chamber Music Silicon Valley. She was a student of Sheri Greenawald, and a Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Seattle. www.SarahBenzinger.com

BEN BERNSTEIN, is the Founder and General Director of The Singer's Gym. Trained by Viola Spolin (*Improvisation for the Theater*), and Ronald Watkins (*On Producing Shakespeare*), Ben holds an M.A. in Music Composition from Mills College. An award-winning composer and director, Ben is also a licensed performance psychologist and is the author of *Crush Your Test Anxiety* and other books. www.DrBYourBest.com

JENNIFER BOESING, Emcee, originated roles in Minneapolis as a singer/actor with various companies including Mabou Mines Theater and the Minnesota Opera. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she has performed with many Bay Area opera companies. Jennifer is the Founding Artistic Director of the Youth Musical Theater Company, a professional training company for young artists. www.YMTCBayArea.org

BETH CLOUTIER (Livestream Director for this benefit). Through her company, Live Media Content, Beth has produced and directed livestreams for multiple conferences that have international audiences in the thousands. A former board member for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (The Emmy's), Beth also consults with companies on creating livestream productions, using the newest technologies and processes. LiveMediaContent@gmail.com

MARK MORASH, conductor and pianist, was the Director of Musical Studies at San Francisco Opera for over two decades. Mark has conducted for San Francisco Opera Center, the Merola program, Opera Colorado, Hawaii Opera Theatre and Opera Santa Barbara. He has appeared in concert with such singers as Leah Crocetto, Elza van den Heever and Quinn Kelsey. His masterclasses have taken him throughout the USA, Canada and New Zealand. MorashMark@gmail.com

TAYLOR THOMPSON, tenor, from Fairfield CA, found his love for music through church and family. Tay received his B.M. in vocal performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He has sung with the San Francisco Opera, Opera San Jose, Island City Opera, Verismo Opera, and Festival Opera. Tay recently made his radio debut on NPR's Capital Public Radio's "Summer Garden Concerts." Taylor.Tenore@gmail.com



Cover photography by David Hand. DavidHandCreative.com

About The Singer's Gym

The purpose of The Singer's Gym is to give singers the experience of full connection, spontaneity and vitality in their singing. While we do not focus on vocal technique, singers *sound* better through their work in "The Gym." Over the years we have trained more than 500 singers in our workshops and have had the privilege of working with the Merola Opera Program and the Adler Fellowship Program at the San Francisco Opera.

The Singer's Gym was founded in 1995 by Ben Bernstein. He and Kathy Cathcart created the "curriculum" for the four session program, which has well stood the test of time. Our early supporters, Jayne C. Davis and the late Rusty Rolland, were instrumental in getting us on our feet.

When Kathy retired, she was succeeded by Darryl Cooper as accompanist and collaborative coach. After our COVID hiatus, we are thrilled to welcome Mark Morash as our new coach and accompanist.

In the coming years we would like to expand our programs to include singers of different musics as well as offer community programs. Everyone loves to sing!



Hearty thanks to...

Bill Riess, Rachel Matthews, Tammy Hauck, Corrine Beauvais, Luz Sacramento and the residents and staff of Lake Park Retirement Community.

...and to special friends of The Singer's Gym

Nancy Quinn, Jan Masaoka, Sue Sigler, Kathy Cathcart, Darryl Cooper, Sheri Greenawald, Jayne and Peter Davis, Silvia Lin, Suk Wah Bernstein, Dylan Pratt, Dev Gupta, Ron Wheatley and David Hand.



...and to all of you for supporting us!

To everyone who donated during this livestream and everyone who will donate...*thank you for supporting The Singer's Gym.*

Your donations keep us alive and help us grow! If you haven't donated yet, please do, at SingersGym.org/Donate.

Thank you for being with us today!

Livestream BENEFIT

October 24, 2021



THE SINGER'S GYM
vitality : spontaneity : connection

SingersGym.org

Ben Bernstein, General Director