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Contact: Marlisa Monroe
212-875-5776
mmonroe@chambermusicsociety.org

CMS Chamber Music Society
of Lincoln Center

**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER
DAVID FINCKEL AND WU HAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS
PRESENTS**

LOVE SONNETS

**WORKS BY FRANCK, RAVEL, & DVOŘÁK,
PLUS NEW YORK PREMIERE OF
JONATHAN BERGER'S
*RIME SPARSE***

**ARTISTS INCLUDE
SOPRANO JULIA BULLOCK,
PIANISTS MICHAEL BROWN & WU HAN,
VIOLINIST ARNAUD SUSSMANN,
VIOLIST PAUL NEUBAUER,
& CELLIST DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT**

**MARCH 12
ALICE TULLY HALL**



The Chamber Music Society presents *Love Sonnets*, Sunday, March 12, at 5:00 PM in Alice Tully Hall. In this ebullient program, love and courtship take center stage with Franck's Sonata in A major for Cello and Piano, a wedding gift for Eugène Ysaÿe; Ravel's romantic *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* for Soprano and Piano; and a collection of Petrarch's love sonnets brought to electrifying life in *Rime Sparse*, a new work by Jonathan Berger for Soprano, Violin, Cello, and Piano (CMS Co-Commission) (New York Premiere) (2016). Bringing the concert to a thrilling conclusion will be Dvořák's Quartet in D major for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello, Op. 23. A wonderful cast of performers includes soprano Julia Bullock, in her CMS debut; pianists Michael Brown and Wu Han; violinist Arnaud Sussmann; violist Paul Neubauer; and cellist Daniel Müller-Schott. There will be a pre-concert discussion with composer Jonathan Berger at 4:00 PM in the Rose Studio. [Pictured: Julia Bullock; photo: Christian Steiner.]

Soprano **Julia Bullock**, equally at home with concert repertoire and opera, has been hailed for her versatile talent. This season she debuts with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Baltimore Symphony, and appears as Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress* at Aix en Provence, and Kitty Oppenheimer in the BBC Symphony's production and recording of John Adams' *Dr. Atomic*. She has appeared with orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the San Francisco Symphony. She performed the title role in Henry Purcell's *The Indian Queen* at the Perm Opera House, the Bolshoi, Teatro Real, and the English National Opera, and she sang the lead role in the Berlin Philharmonic's Orchestra Academy performance of Kaija Saariaho's *La passion de Simone*, directed by Peter Sellars, which she reprised at the Ojai Festival. Other opera roles include Pamina in Peter Brook's *A Magic Flute*, Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and the title roles in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. As first prize winner of the 2012 Young Concert Artists Auditions, she has been presented in recitals across North America. She is also a winner of the 2014 Naumburg International Vocal Competition, and recipient of a 2016 Sphinx Foundation Medal of Excellence, and Lincoln Center's 2015 Martin E. Segal Award. She holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Bard Graduate Vocal Arts Program, and The Juilliard School.

Jonathan Berger's research and creativity have both been driven by what his web site calls "a wide range of fields relating to music, science, and technology. His compositions, often inspired by science and the human condition, include the adaptation of satellite imaging data to turn the dispersal of an oil spill into music (*Jiyeh*), spatial representation of brain activations of a schizophrenic hallucination (*Theotokia*), and sonic expression of the chemical spectroscopy of cancer (*Diameters*).... His chamber operas *Theotokia* and *The War Reporter* explore hallucination and haunting memories."

Berger began his undergraduate work as a philosophy major, but a course in aesthetics intrigued him about the central part music plays in human activity and he went on to earn advanced degrees in music and fine arts at the California Institute of the Arts, and Stanford University. After completing his doctorate, Berger taught at Yale, where he was founding director of university's Center for Studies in Music Technology, before returning to Stanford to teach composition, music theory, and cognition. He is now the Denning Family Provostial Professor in Music at Stanford, where he teaches at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, is founding co-director of the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (now the Stanford Arts Institute), and runs the annual Music and the Brain Symposium.

***Rime Sparse* (2017)**

Written over the course of forty years (from 1327-1368) Francesco Petrarca's monumental collection of 366 canzoni, titled *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta* (fragments written in the vernacular) commonly known as "Rime Sparse" (Scattered rhymes), spans the gamut of emotions associated with love – from first gaze to distant memory, from infatuation through exasperation, from gentle joy to pain and fury, through life and beyond death. In "The Development of the Sonnet," Michael Spiller described the work as "the single greatest influence on the love poetry of Renaissance Europe until well into the seventeenth century." The poet's object of desire has been speculatively associated with Laura de Noves, a married woman, six years younger than Petrarch. However, beyond the mortal beauty, Laura serves as a base from which deeply psychological perspectives on desire, devotion, and time are unfurled.

It was around the words and spirit of Petrarch's poetic monument to one of life's most powerful and enduring sentiments that John Berger weaves his *Rime Sparse*. He frames the work with uncertainty, with the repeating metaphor of being lost at sea on a rudderless boat. Vagueness moves from trepidation to uncontrollable desire, fusing fear and hope, before returning to the sense of confusion caused by unbridled emotion.

LISTING INFORMATION:

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall

Sunday, March 12, 5:00 PM

Tickets from \$38 available at the box office; by calling 212.875.5788;

on-line: www.ChamberMusicSociety.org

Pre-Concert Composer Chat with Johnathan Berger, 4:00 PM in the Rose Studio.

Free for concert ticket holders.

LOVE SONNETS

Julia Bullock, soprano; Michael Brown, Wu Han, piano; Arnaud Sussmann, violin;
Paul Neubauer, viola; Daniel Müller-Schott, cello

Franck Sonata in A major for Cello and Piano (1886)

Müller-Schott, Brown

Ravel *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* for Soprano and Piano (1904-06)

Bullock, Wu Han

Berger *Rime Sparse* for Soprano, Violin, Cello, and Piano (CMS Co-Commission) (New York premiere) (2016)

Bullock, Sussmann, Müller-Schott, Wu Han

Dvořák Quartet in D major for Piano, Violin, Viola, and Cello, Op. 23 (1875)

Brown, Sussmann, Neubauer, Müller-Schott
