Biographies

Joseph Frank

Since his San Francisco Opera debut in 1974, tenor Joseph Frank has received critical acclaim for his specialized interpretation of the lyric character tenor repertoire. In a career spanning 35 years, the tenor has sung over 80 roles. He made his Metropolitan Opera and European debuts in 1979. In addition to the Metropolitan and San Francisco Operas, the tenor appears regularly with other leading opera companies here and abroad, including the opera companies of Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Washington, San Diego, Pittsburgh, Miami, London, Toulouse, and Santa Fe. He has also appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic; the symphonies of Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis and Atlanta with noted conductors James Levine, Christoph Eschenbach, Julius Rudel, Eduardo Müller and Emil Tchakarov.

Recent engagements included Monsieur Triquet in *Eugene Onegin* for the Pittsburgh Opera, *Peter Grimes* for the San Diego Opera, the revised premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon=s *The Grapes of Wrath* for the Pittsburgh Opera, and Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* for Austin Lyric Opera. In 2007 Frank performed in *Boris Godunov* and a new production of *Wozzeck,* by director Des McAnuff (of Jersey Boys), both for the San Diego Opera. Other recent appearances include famed film director William Friedkin=s production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, in which the tenor was referred to as Athe airborne Dancing Master.@, *Tosca,* with Samuel Ramey and Salvatore Licitra and the world premiere of *Nicholas and Alexandra* with Placido Domingo all for the Los Angeles Opera. Future engagements have the tenor appearing in *Salome* and *Turandot* for San Diego Opera and the Pittsburgh Opera.

On DVD, he can be seen in David Hockney=s *Turandot* and the MET=s *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Jessye Norman, and Kathleen Battle. On CD, he can be heard as Count Shuisky in *Boris Godunov* for SONY, The L=Abate di Chazeuil in *Adriana Lecouvreur*, Goro in *Madama Butterfly* both opposite Renata Scotto for MYTO, Beppe in *Pagliacci* with Placido Domingo and Ingvar Wixell, and *Pong* in Turandot with Luciano Pavarotti and Montserrat Caballe, conducted by Riccardo Chially for GALA.

The tenor received an Opera Diploma from the famed Curtis Institute of Music and his Bachelor of Music, Masters of Music, and the coveted Performers Certificate from Indiana University. Frank joined the SJSU faculty in 1991 and is presently Professor of Voice, Vocal Area Coordinator, and Undergraduate Advisor. He regularly gives master classes and has been an adjudicator for many musical organizations throughout the country.

Louise Costigan-Kerns

Louise Costigan-Kerns has performed internationally as a concert pianist, accompanist and conductor. She began studying the piano at age two and a half with her mother Beatrice Costigan in Blairmore, Alberta, Canada. At age five she gave her first public recital and began competing in Alberta Music Festivals, where she was a consistent winner through high school. After earning her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees with honors from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, she taught on the piano faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School and was the Founding Director of the New England Conservatory Extension Division Opera Studio. In Boston she studied piano with Irma Wolpe and Victor Rosenbaum, opera with John Moriarty and Boris Goldovsky and vocal repertoire with Allen Rogers. Ms. Costigan-Kerns maintained an active performing career in the Boston area as a solo pianist and accompanist. Over the years she was a member of the Opera Department faculty at Boston University, piano faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy and Artist in Residence at Brandeis University. In 1994 she moved with her family to the San Francisco Bay area. In the Bay Area she has worked for Opera San Jose, Stanford University, San Francisco Conservatory and the San Francisco Symphony. Ms. Costigan-Kerns is active as a recital pianist, opera coach and accompanist for singers and instrumentalists. Her first solo piano CD "My Favorite Performances" was released in December 2004. "Piano With Passion", her second CD, was released in December 2007 and is available on iTunes and cdbaby.com.

Gwendolyn Mok

Gwendolyn Mok is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at San Jose State University. Recognized as one of the leading experts in Ravel, she has recorded the complete works on a historic Erard piano on Musician Showcase Recordings. Gwendolyn's recording of the Ravel G Major Concerto with the Philharmonia was nominated for an alternative Edison award. Next year her chapter on Performance Practice of Ravel's solo piano works will appear in an anthology of writings by other prominent pianists. Currently Mok is preparing a recording of Brahms' Opus 116, 117, 118 on an 1871 Viennese Streicher and an 1875 Erard. In the coming season and next year, Gwendolyn appears in chamber concerts with members of the NY Philharmonic, SF Opera Orchestra, the Ives Quartet and the Tel Aviv Quartet.

William Wellborn

Equally sought out for his activities as a pianist, teacher, and lecturer, William Wellborn is vice-president of the San Francisco Chopin Foundation, on the national board of the American Liszt Society, and the founding president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of ALS. Guest artist appearances include the New Orleans Institute for the Performing Arts, the Paderewski Festival, the American Liszt Society, the Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton, Canada, and the Chopin chez George Sand festival de piano in La Châtre, France, as well as numerous lectures, master classes, and workshops for Music Teachers Associations across the United States, and the conservatories of Toronto and Paris. Wellborn has led ten European tours exploring the lives and music of great composers, and this summer he will co-direct the Chopin tour 2010, which will visit Poland and France. A faculty member of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 1989, Wellborn teaches piano in the Preparatory and Adult Extension divisions and Piano Pedagogy in the Collegiate division. His students frequently win top prizes in numerous state, national, and international piano competitions. Wellborn holds degrees from the New England Conservatory and the University of Texas, and records for the Marco Polo and Cambria Master Recordings labels; for more information on Dr. Wellborn's upcoming activities, please visit his website at www.williamwellborn.com.