

Bard College Conservatory of Music

presents

SONGS FOR A SEASON

Kendra Colton, *soprano*
Kayo Iwama, *piano*

Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 4:00 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

An den Mond D. 259 (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)
Der Winterabend (Karl Gottfried von Leitner)

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Frauenliebe und -leben Op. 42 (Adelbert von Chamisso)
Seit ich ihn gesehen
Er der Herrlichste von allen
Ich kann's nicht fassen
Du Ring an meinem Finger
Helft mir, ihr Schwestern
Süsser Freund
An meinem Herzen
Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Auf dem See (Carl Simrock)
In stiller Nacht (Friedrich Spee von Langenfeld)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Nell Op.18, No. 1 (Charles-Marie-René Leconte de Lisle)
Les roses d'Ispahan Op. 39, No. 4 (Leconte de Lisle)
Le papillon et la fleur Op. 1, No. 1 (Victor Hugo)

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

It was a Lover and His Lass (William Shakespeare)

Gerald Finzi
(1901-1956)

Dora Williams (Edgar Lee Masters)

Andy Vores
(b. 1956)

Late Summer (Edward Shanks)

Peter Warlock
(1894-1930)

Love's Philosophy (Percy Bysshe Shelley)

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)

Peace Poem After an Ugaritic Inscription (2007)

Peter Child
(b. 1953)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

American soprano **Kendra Colton** is a versatile singer who performs repertoire from Baroque opera and oratorio to contemporary music. Trained in the United States and Europe she appears regularly in solo recital, in chamber music concerts, and with symphony orchestras. She has sung with conductors Bernard Haitink, Christopher Hogwood, Sir Neville Marriner, Nicholas McGegan, Seiji Ozawa, and Helmuth Rilling and with presenters across the country including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic to name a few. Her singing has been described as “touchingly musical” in the *NY Times* and “skillful and imaginative” in the *Boston Globe*. *Opera News* wrote that Ms. Colton is a soprano who sings “with beauty, brightness and poise”.

Ms. Colton has developed a niche for herself in the oratorio and sacred works of Bach (recording 6 CDs of cantata arias and duets), Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. Acclaimed not only for her performances of Handel and Mozart operas, she is also recognized as an interpreter of contemporary chamber music and has premiered and recorded numerous works including a release of vocal selections by John Harbison called *Late Air*. Her complete discography can be found on Spotify.

Works specifically composed for her voice are: *Finite Infinity* for soprano, oboe, and piano by Peter Child; *Uncertainty is Beautiful* for soprano and chamber orchestra and *The Reckless Heart* for soprano and piano by Andy Vores.

In addition to her performing schedule, Ms. Colton commutes from Boston to teach at Oberlin College Conservatory in Ohio. In her free time she is an avid hiker and has a life goal to visit all of the National Parks.

Pianist **Kayo Iwama** has concertized extensively with singers such as Stephanie Blythe, Kendra Colton, William Hite, Rufus Müller, Christòpheren Nomura, Lucy Shelton, and Dawn Upshaw throughout North America, Europe and Japan. She has performed in venues including the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall, Boston’s Jordan Hall, Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, the Kennedy Center, Tokyo’s Yamaha Hall and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. The Washington Post has called her a pianist “with unusual skill and sensitivity to the music and the singer” and the Boston Globe has praised her “virtuoso accompaniment...super-saturated with gorgeous colors”.

Iwama is the associate director of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard Conservatory, where she works in tandem with the artistic director, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe. In addition, she has given master classes and served as guest faculty at academic institutions in Asia and the United States, and has served as adjudicator for major competitions such as Young Concert Artists. She has been a faculty member at Songfest, as well as a participant of the Ravinia, Ojai, Token Creek and the Aldeburgh music festivals among others. For over two decades she taught at the Tanglewood Music Center, where she served as the coordinator of the Vocal Studies Program. A former resident of the Boston area, she was a frequent performer on WGBH radio, and performed with such groups as the Handel and Haydn Society and Emmanuel Music, and served as pianist and music director of the critically acclaimed Cantata Singers Chamber Series. She has held positions at the Hartt School of Music, the New England Conservatory of Music and the Boston Conservatory, and is currently a faculty member of the Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts at the Juilliard School. This season she will also serve on the faculty of the Lindemann Young Artist Program at the Metropolitan Opera.