

*Master*  
VOICES

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*Master*  
TED SPERLING VOICES  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



2017 | 2018 SEASON

# MESSAGE FROM TED SPERLING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Welcome to MasterVoices' 2017-18 season! In the coming pages you'll find the art of musical storytelling on full display with stories spanning from Greek mythology to the Gershwins, all brought to life through the power of the human voice.

*Of Thee I Sing* is an uproarious spoof of electoral politics; *Our America* reminds us how much immigrants bring to the tapestry that we know as American music; and *Naamah's Ark* asks the question, "Are we prepared for an environmental catastrophe? And can we cross all our normal divides to survive it?" More eternally, *Orphic Moments* asks us to consider: what are beauty and art really worth to us?

The storytelling one encounters in the theater or concert hall is found nowhere else in life. To experience these stories together is to give ourselves a common place from which to consider life's big questions. And this is the heart of MasterVoices' mission – using the power of the human voice to connect, unite, and inspire.

Last year I promised you more commissions, more theatricality and more new artists joining the MasterVoices family. All three are in evidence this season, so I hope you'll join us for as many concerts as you can. There's no joy like the joy of discovery, so be sure to pick some new adventures along with your favorites!

Warmly,

# SEASON AT A GLANCE

## OF THEE / SING



Songs by **George** and **Ira Gershwin**  
Book by **George S. Kaufman** and **Morrie Ryskind**

Featuring **Bryce Pinkham**, **Richard Kind**,  
**Elizabeth Stanley** and **David Pittu**

**MasterVoices Chorus** and **Orchestra**

Directed and Conducted by **Ted Sperling**

Musical Staging by **Andrew Palermo**

**Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7pm**

Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage | CARNEGIE HALL

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**A PROGRAM OF DIVERSE WORKS  
CELEBRATING OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS**

**MasterVoices Chorus** | Conducted by **Ted Sperling**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7pm**

The Great Hall | THE COOPER UNION

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## ORPHIC MOMENTS



**ORFEO ED EURIDICE**

Music by **Christoph Willibald Gluck**

Libretto by **Ranieri de' Calzabigi**

**THE ORPHIC MOMENT**

Music and Lyrics by **Matthew Aucoin**

Featuring **Kiera Duffy**, **Keir GoGwilt** and **Bobbi Jene Smith**

Directed by **Zack Winokur** | Scenic Design by **Douglas Fitch**

**MasterVoices Chorus** | **Orchestra of St. Luke's**

Conducted by **Ted Sperling**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 8:30pm**

**Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7pm**

Rose Theater | JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER

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## NAAMAH'S ARK



Music by **Marisa Michelson** | Libretto by **Royce Vavrek**

Featuring **Victoria Clark**

**MasterVoices Chorus** | Conducted by **Ted Sperling**

**Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 7pm**

LOWER MANHATTAN, location TBA

*Co-presented by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council  
as part of the River To River Festival 2018*

# OF THEE I SING



Music by **George Gershwin**

Lyrics by **Ira Gershwin**

Book by **George S. Kaufman** and **Morrie Ryskind**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2017** at **7PM**

STERN AUDITORIUM / PERELMAN STAGE AT CARNEGIE HALL



Bryce Pinkham



Richard Kind



Elizabeth Stanley



David Pittu

**MasterVoices Chorus** and **Orchestra**  
Directed and Conducted by **Ted Sperling**

A comic classic with satire that feels ripped from today's headlines, *Of Thee I Sing* was the first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize when it debuted in 1931. With a tuneful and witty score by George and Ira Gershwin and a libretto by Kaufman and Ryskind, written during the time of their famed association with the Marx Brothers, our production features Bryce Pinkham (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), Richard Kind (*Mad About You*), Elizabeth Stanley (*On the Town*) and David Pittu (*The Coast of Utopia*) in a tale of truth, justice, and corn muffins. Warning: no matter your political persuasion, it may remind you of some people you know.

Tickets ranging from **\$20** to **\$155** go on sale September 11 at the Carnegie Hall Box Office.

[CARNEGIEHALL.ORG](http://CARNEGIEHALL.ORG) |  
[MASTERVOICES.ORG](http://MASTERVOICES.ORG)

[CARNEGIECHARGE](http://CARNEGIECHARGE)  
212-247-7800

[BOX OFFICE](#)  
57th and Seventh

## FALL GALA | November 2

Join us at MasterVoices' Annual Fall Gala! Tickets include pre-concert cocktails and post-concert dinner and dessert with artists in the Rohatyn Room at Carnegie Hall, as well as preferred seating for *Of Thee I Sing*. Call 646-435-9052 for more information and to reserve your ticket.



# OF THEE I SING



# OUR AMERICA

A PROGRAM OF DIVERSE WORKS  
CELEBRATING OUR IMMIGRANT ROOTS

**MARCH 7, 2018 at 7PM**

THE GREAT HALL AT THE COOPER UNION

**MasterVoices Chorus** | **Ted Sperling, Conductor**

American music is immigrant music — a glorious merging of voices and traditions that has fueled the invention of whole new musical genres. *Our America*, conceived by Artistic Director Ted Sperling, puts MasterVoices' diverse chorus in service of the wide range of stories and sounds that have come to define American music, with a combination of newly commissioned work, American premieres, and new arrangements of classics. The concert marks MasterVoices' debut at the historic Great Hall at The Cooper Union — birthplace of the NAACP, the women's suffrage movement, and some of the earliest workers' rights campaigns, as well as the site of speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Emma Goldman.

*Tickets, ranging from **\$30** to **\$55** are available at [mastervoices.org](http://mastervoices.org) beginning on October 30.*



# OUR AMERICA



# ORPHIC MOMENTS

## ORFEO ED EURIDICE

Music by **Christoph Willibald Gluck**  
Libretto by **Ranieri de' Calzabigi**

## THE ORPHIC MOMENT

Libretto and Music by **Matthew Aucoin**

**MAY 6, 2018 at 8:30PM & MAY 7, 2018 at 7PM**

ROSE THEATER AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER



Matthew Aucoin



Kiera Duffy



Keir GoGwilt



Bobbi Jene Smith

**MasterVoices Chorus** | **Orchestra of St. Luke's**

**Ted Sperling**, Conductor

**Zack Winokur**, Director | **Douglas Fitch**, Scenic Designer

When *Orphic Moments* premiered at National Sawdust last March, the rave *New York Times* review ended with a lament: "Why does it run for just two consecutive evenings, and for fewer than 300 people?" We felt the same way! This inventive evening pairs a new dramatic cantata, *The Orphic Moment*, by young composer Matthew Aucoin, with an innovative staging of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, in a version specially re-conceived for MasterVoices. The effect is a provocative probing of the psychology of Orpheus' crucial turning point, directed by Zack Winokur with scenic design by Douglas Fitch, featuring soprano Kiera Duffy, violinist Keir GoGwilt, and dancer Bobbi Jene Smith. Don't miss this unforgettable evening that brings new insight to a classic tale!

Tickets ranging from **\$30** to **\$175** can be purchased beginning November 20 at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Box Office within the Time Warner Center.

**JAZZ.ORG**  
**MASTEROICES.ORG**

**CENTER CHARGE**  
212-721-6500

**BOX OFFICE**  
Broadway & 60th

## SPRING BENEFIT

MasterVoices' annual spring benefit takes place on **Monday, May 7 at 6pm** in the Ascent Lounge in the Time Warner Center. Tickets include pre-performance cocktails and post-performance dinner with artists, as well as preferred seating for *Orphic Moments*. Call **646-435-9052** to learn more and reserve your ticket.





# ORPHIC MOMENTS

# NAAMAH'S ARK

Music by **Marisa Michelson**

Libretto by **Royce Vavrek**

**JUNE 17, 2018 at 7PM**

LOWER MANHATTAN, location to be announced



Victoria Clark



Marisa Michelson



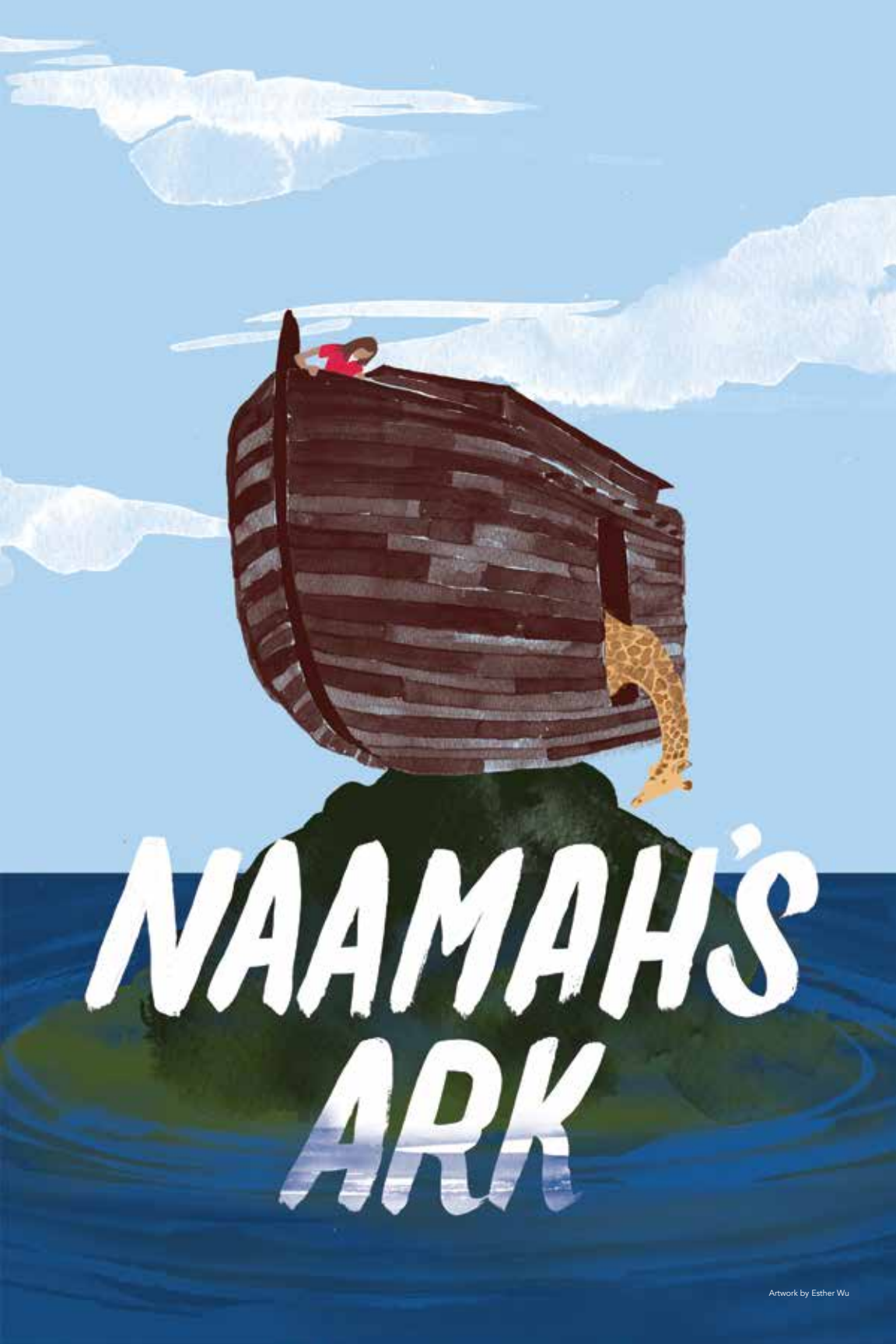
Royce Vavrek

**MasterVoices Chorus** | **Ted Sperling**, Conductor

This dramatic oratorio by composer Marisa Michelson and librettist Royce Vavrek tells the story of Noah's Ark, from the perspective of Noah's wife, Naamah, a strong woman who must guide all the diverse species of animals in coming together as the Ark reaches dry land. From the birds to the hippos, each group has its own concerns. Can they learn to live together after the crisis has passed? In this new version of the MasterVoices commissioned piece, community members from Lower Manhattan join MasterVoices in shared music-making, exploring themes of diversity, the role of women in society, and the possible devastation of climate change.

*Tickets are free and the event is open to the public.*

*Namaah's Ark is co-presented by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council as part of the River To River Festival 2018. Please visit [LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net) for additional information.*



# NAAMAH'S ARK

# GUEST ENGAGEMENTS

## **OF THEE I SING**

MasterVoices will reprise *Of Thee I Sing* on Long Island

**November 4, 2017**

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post | Brookville, NY

For more information and tickets, visit [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org)

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## **MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 3**

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta

Presented by Carnegie Hall

**November 8, 2017**

Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage | Carnegie Hall

For more information and tickets, visit [carnegiehall.org](http://carnegiehall.org)

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## **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Presented by Stamford Symphony

MasterVoices Chamber Chorus | Ted Sperling, Conductor

**December 9, 2017**

Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist | 279 Atlantic Street, Stamford, CT

For more information and tickets, visit [stamfordsymphony.org](http://stamfordsymphony.org)





# ABOUT US



**MasterVoices** was founded in 1941 by conductor Robert Shaw, the “dean of American choral singing,” who believed in the voice as the world’s most powerful instrument. Today the human voice remains at the heart of our concerts, from our acclaimed 100+ member chorus to the dazzling array of world-class soloists who perform with us each year.

Our productions are known for their vitality and scale, and our repertoire spans multiple genres – we perform choral classics, operas in concert, musical theater works, and newly commissioned pieces at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall and New York City Center to site-specific concerts at synagogues, airplane hangers, museums, and bandshells. We often tour internationally, most recently appearing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland.

Our concerts serve a deeper purpose as well: to nurture the artists of tomorrow. Our Faith Geier Initiative gives debuts to promising young soloists, and most of our performances include high school students from our Side-by-Side program, which invites aspiring and diverse young singers to join us in our concerts and tours, guided by experienced chorus members as mentors.

Now under the baton of Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Ted Sperling, our vision is expanding. Our musical theater offerings have become richer – thanks in part to the establishment of The Roger Rees Fund – and our new Bridges program has started to introduce composers to specific New York City communities to create new choral works inspired by their stories.

Please stay tuned for more news and events. For our discography and more details, please visit [mastervoices.org](https://mastervoices.org)!

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## JOIN OUR MV FAMILY!

We rely on the tremendous generosity of our donors to bring you the exceptional programming that has defined MasterVoices for over 75 years. Please join our MasterVoices family of supporters – gifts of all sizes make a difference.

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**\$250 - \$999**  
donation

*Benefits include:*

- Invitations to rehearsals
- Opportunities to purchase tickets in advance of public sale
- Recognition in MasterVoices programs

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**\$1,000 - \$4,999**  
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*Benefits include all of the above, plus:*

- Invitations to exclusive Patron events and musicales with Artistic Director Ted Sperling
- Invitations to dress rehearsals
- Opportunities to travel with the company on tour (when available)

MAESTRO'S CIRCLE  
**\$5,000 +**  
donation

*Benefits include all of the above, plus:*

- Annual Maestro's Circle Dinner with Artistic Director Ted Sperling
- Priority access to house seats for every performance
- Special recognition opportunities throughout the season

For a full list of benefits, visit [mastervoices.org](http://mastervoices.org).

### MAKE A DONATION TODAY

visit [mastervoices.org](http://mastervoices.org) | call 646-202-9623

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(checks made out to MasterVoices)

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