

presents...

BENJAMIN APPL | Bass-Baritone
JAMES BAILLIEU | Piano

Friday, October 24, 2025 | 7:30pm
Herbst Theatre

FOR DIETER: THE PAST AND THE FUTURE
Homage to Dietrich Fisher-Dieskau

FRANZ SCHUBERT **Liebesbotschaft (Rellstab) D. 957/1**

FIRST ENCOUNTER

FRANZ SCHUBERT **Am Bach im Frühling (Schober) D. 361**
Der Musensohn (Goethe) D. 764

CHILDHOOD IN BERLIN

ALBERT FISCHER-DIESKAU **Heidenröslein (Goethe) from his *Singspiel Sesenheim***

KLAUS FISCHER-DIESKAU **Nocturne I (excerpt) (*Der Mutter gewidmet*) Op. 1/1**
Wehmut (Goethe) Op. 3/2

YOUTH AND FIRST STEPS AS A SINGER

JOHANNES BRAHMS **Wie bist du, meine Königin (Daumer) Op. 32/9**

FRANZ SCHUBERT **Der Lindenbaum (Müller) D. 911/5**

WAR TIMES AND BEING A SOLDIER 1943-1945

HUGO WOLF **Andenken (Matthison)**

ARIBERT REIMANN **Tenebrae (Celan)**

PRISONER OF WAR 1945-1947

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY **Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt (Goethe) Op. 6/6**

EDUARD KÜNNEKE **Ich bin nur ein armer Wandergesell (Haller/Rideamus)**

RETURNING HOME IN 1947

HANNS EISLER **Die Heimkehr (Brecht)**

EDVARD GRIEG **Ein Traum (Bodenstedt)**

INTERMISSION

FIRST STEPS OF A WORLD CAREER

JOHANNES BRAHMS **Vier ernste Gesänge Op. 121**

Denn es gehet dem Menschen (Ecclesiastes)

Ich wandte mich (Ecclesiastes)

O Tod, wie bitter bist du (Book of Sirach)

Wenn ich mit Menschen (Corinthians)

SONG ACCOMPANISTS AND FRIENDS

FRANZ SCHUBERT **An mein Klavier (Schubart) D. 342**

BIRTH OF THREE SONS AND THE BITTER LOSS OF IRMEL IN 1963

BLAKE **Proverb III., Op. 7**

CARL LOEWE **Süßes Begräbnis (Rückert) Op. 62/4**

DEATH OF MOTHER THEODORA 1966

HANNS EISLER **Mutterns Hände (Tucholsky)**

MARITAL LIFE

RUTH LEUWERIK 1965–1967 | KRISTINA PUGELL 1968–1975 | JULIA VARADY 1977–2012

FRANZ SCHUBERT **Liebhaber in allen Gestalten (Goethe) D. 558**

CLARA SCHUMANN **Liebst du um Schönheit (Rückert) Op. 12/2**

EPILOGUE

CARL MARIA VON WEBER **Meine Lieder, meine Sänge (Löwenstein-Werthheim) op. 15/1**

FRANZ SCHUBERT **Litanei auf das Fest Aller Seelen (Jacobi) D. 343**
An die Musik (Schober) D. 547

This program is made possible in part by the generous support of Patrick McCabe.

Benjamin Appl is represented by Jensen Artists jensenartists.com

James Baillieu is represented by Etude Arts etudearts.com

Steinway Model D, Pro Piano, San Francisco

ARTIST PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents Benjamin Appl and James Baillieu for the second time. They made their series debut in May 2023. Mr. Baillieu also appeared with violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen in April of that year.



Baritone **Benjamin Appl** is celebrated for a voice that “belongs to the last of the old great masters of song” with “an almost infinite range of colours” (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*).

A former BBC New Generation Artist (2014–16), Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and ECHO Rising Star (2015–16), Benjamin was named Gramophone Award Young Artist of the Year in 2016. He signed exclusively to Sony Classical that same year and later began a multi-album deal with Alpha Classics, whose first release *Winterreise* (2021), won widespread acclaim.

Appl's musical journey began as a chorister with the renowned Regensburger Domspatzen, later continuing his studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Mentored by the legendary Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Appl describes the partnership as an ‘invaluable and a hugely formative influence. He [Fischer-Dieskau] is an inspiration—someone who is always searching and seeking a deeper understanding of music and of life. He was a role model for how to prosper as an artist, never just delivering, but each time creating.’

An established recitalist, Appl has appeared at major music festivals worldwide including Ravinia, Rheingau, Schleswig-Holstein, Edinburgh, Heidelberg Frühling, Oxford, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and the KlavierFestival Ruhr. His concert performances have

taken him to many prestigious venues including the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Vienna, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Musée du Louvre, Palau de la Musica, Philharmonie de Paris and Shanghai Symphony Hall.

In equal demand as soloist with orchestra, his recent collaborators include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Klaus Mäkelä, Oslo Philharmonic/Klaus Mäkelä, Munich Philharmonic/Andrew Manze, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse/Ton Koopman, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra/Andreas Reize, NHK Symphony Orchestra/Paavo Järvi, Philadelphia Orchestra/Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Staatskapelle Dresden/Christian Thielemann, Philharmonia/Maxim Emelyanychev, Seattle Symphony/Thomas Dausgaard and Vienna Symphony/ Karina Canellakis. In the 2024–25 season, Benjamin was named Artist in Residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, making his conducting debut in a sold-out New Year's performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

Some of Appl's recent recital debuts include Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Performances, Dallas Opera, Boston Celebrity Series, New York's Park Avenue Armory (of all three Schubert song cycles), Sydney Opera House, Mozarteum Salzburg, Festival St. Denis, and three presentations of *Winterreise* by the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona. A creative and innovative programmer, Benjamin seeks out diverse and enriching onstage partnerships including with pianists James Baillieu, Graham Johnson, David Fray, Alice Sara Ott, Arthur & Lucas Jussen, and Kit Armstrong; the Armida String Quartet; accordionists Martynas Levickis and Ksenija Sidorova and lutenist Thomas Dunford.

A revered interpreter of early music, Benjamin enjoys regular collaborations with Les Talens Lyriques, B'Rock, Ensemble Masques and the Berliner Barocksolisten. Equally at home in new music, Benjamin has premiered compositions by Jörg Widmann, Nico Muhly, David Lang and Matthias Pintscher, as well as enjoying a significant long-term partnership with composer György Kurtág.

On the opera stage, Appl recently performed Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at the Hamburgische Staatsoper and Opéra Rouen, made his role and house debut as Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and looks forward to his upcoming house and role debut at the

Teatro Real Madrid as Mercutio *Roméo et Juliette*.

In 2025, Appl released two albums, each devoted to a significant figure in his musical career: *Lines of Life* dedicated to György Kurtág, and *For Dieter* to his long-time mentor and teacher Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. Other recent standout recordings include *The Christmas Album* (2024) with the Regensburger Domspatzen, *Forbidden Fruit* (2023), Schubert Lieder with orchestra (Münchner Rundfunkorchester), Hans Sommer songs (RSB), Schumann duets with Ann Murray, and a Wigmore Hall Live Schubert recital with Graham Johnson. His Sony debut album *Heimat* was Gramophone-nominated and won the Prix Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (2017–18).

Beyond the concert hall, Appl has starred in a filmed realisation of Schubert's *Winterreise* in the Swiss Alps, commissioned by the BBC and SRF broadcast on BBC4 in 2022. He also presented BBC Radio 3's *A Singer's World* and appeared in *Breaking Music*, a film exploring the meeting of Argentinian tango and German Lied. Benjamin is Professor of German Song at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.



Described by *The Daily Telegraph* as “in a class of his own,” **James Baillieu** is one of the leading song and chamber music pianists of his generation. He has given solo and chamber recitals throughout the world and collaborates with a wide range of singers and instrumentalists including Benjamin Appl, Jamie Barton, Ian Bostridge, Allan Clayton, Louise Alder, Tara Erraught, Lise Davidsen, the Elias and Heath Quartets, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Adam Walker, and Pretty Yende. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Ulster Or-

chestra, English Chamber Orchestra, and the Wiener Kammer-symphonie.

James is a frequent guest at many of the world's most distinguished music centres including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vancouver Playhouse, Berlin Konzerthaus, Vienna Musikverein, the Barbican Centre, Wiener Konzerthaus, Bozar Brussels, Pierre Boulez Saal, Cologne Philharmonie, Wiener Staatsoper, Fundación Juan March and the Laeiszhalle Hamburg. Festivals include Aix-en-

Provence, Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Festspillene i Bergen, Edinburgh, Spitalfields, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Bath, City of London, and Brighton Festivals.

James was prize winner of the Wigmore Hall Song Competition, Das Lied International Song Competition, the Kathleen Ferrier and Richard Tauber Competitions, and was selected for representation by Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT) in 2010 and in 2012 received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship and a Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust Award. In 2016 he was shortlist-

ed for the Royal Philharmonic Society Outstanding Young Artist Award.

Recording projects include *For Dieter: Hommage à Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau* (Alpha Classics), *Forbidden Fruit* (Alpha Classics), *Winterreise* (Alpha Classics) and *Heimat* (Sony Classical) with Benjamin Appl, the complete works of CPE Bach for violin and piano with Tamsin Waley-Cohen (Signum Records), and albums on the Chandos, Opus Arte, Champs Hill, Rubicon, and Delphian Record labels as part his critically acclaimed discography.