

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
LAWRENCE BROWNLEE | TENOR  
KEVIN MILLER | PIANO**



**Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – February 1, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents the exquisite tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** and pianist **Kevin Miller** on **Thursday, February 29, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**. Their program will consist of selections from Brownlee’s Grammy®-nominated recording, *Rising*, along with a selection of bel canto arias. **Tickets are \$75/\$65/\$55 and can be purchased at [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org) or by calling 415.392.2545. Tickets can also be purchased at the door as available, including 50% off student rush tickets and 20% off senior rush tickets.**

“We are honored to bring back the remarkable tenor Lawrence Brownlee for another engaging evening of song. As Brownlee himself has said ‘I want people to feel like they’re listening to someone who has something thoughtful and meaningful to say.’ And he certainly does, in this very personal program called *Rising*, which sets texts from many Harlem Renaissance authors to music written by some of today’s most exciting composers. Always deeply thoughtful about his connection to audiences, the program concludes with some of the opera arias that he has made his own.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

**ABOUT LAWRENCE BROWNLEE**

**Lawrence Brownlee** is a leading figure in opera, both as a singer on the world’s top stages, and as a voice for activism and diversity in the industry. He’s been widely praised by critics and audiences worldwide.

Brownlee's 23-24 season includes Opera Rara's Donizetti Song Project, where he joined pianist Carlos Rizzi at Wigmore Hall for a recital and recording of Donizetti's rarely-performed repertoire, in addition to a gala concert at the 2023 George Enescu International Festival and duo recital with Levy Sekgapane at Grand Théâtre Genève. Brownlee also travels to Wiener Staatsoper to perform as Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* ahead of his role as Tonio in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's *La Fille Du Regiment* in November. In December, Brownlee joined the Wiener Konzerthaus for their 2023 Christmas in Vienna Gala before reuniting with Michael Spyres for the Game of Tenors - concert in Bratislava.

Brownlee kicks off 2024 with recital engagements at the Dallas Opera and the La Jolla Music Society, before bringing selections from his acclaimed *Rising* program to San Francisco Performances in February 2024 and the Concertgebouw in June 2024. Brownlee will also return to Teatro alla Scala as Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* before ending his season as Don Ramiro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* at the Bayerische Staatsoper.

In 2021, Brownlee joined The Juilliard School as a Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member. He serves as artistic advisor for Opera Philadelphia, where his responsibilities include increasing and expanding audience diversity, advocating for new works, and liaising with the General Director from the perspective of a performing artist. "As an artist, I think it is important that we are actively advocating for this beautiful art form we love so much," said Brownlee, "ensuring that it will be alive and well for many years to come." Mr. Brownlee also serves as an Ambassador for Lyric Opera of Chicago's Lyric Unlimited, and is an Ambassador for Opera for Peace. Highlights of Brownlee's most recent past seasons include his role debut in the title role of Rameau's *Platée* with Opéra National de Paris to great acclaim.

## **ABOUT KEVIN MILLER**

American pianist and collaborator **Kevin J. Miller** is acclaimed for his dynamically artful performances. Recent collaborations include recitals with international tenor Lawrence Brownlee at Carnegie Hall and Houston Grand Opera, countertenor John Holiday at the Kennedy Center and The Barbican in London, Joseph Calleja and Nadine Sierra at the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as an appearance with Mr. Calleja on NPR's *Tiny Desk* Concert series. Miller prepared soprano Jessye Norman for performances of Laura Karpman's production of *Ask Your Mama*, which was performed at Carnegie Hall. He also collaborated with the acclaimed countertenor, David Daniels, in a recital at the Glimmerglass Festival. He can be heard on piano on the recording *Been in da Storm So Long*, which features baritone Kenneth Overton.

This New York native has been on the fast track to success since his days as a student at the Boys Choir of Harlem. Beginning his musical studies at the age of 8, Miller was a featured soprano soloist - most notably in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Lake George Opera Association's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. While a student at the Boys Choir of Harlem, he studied piano with the late conductor and pianist Warren Wilson. It was also during these years that Miller began his work as an accompanist, having accompanied the choir on its tours of Europe, Israel, Austria, and Japan.

Miller studied at the Mannes College of Music, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano. He continued his studies at the University of Michigan School of Music where he received both a Master of Music degree and the Artist Diploma in Collaborative Piano under the tutelage of Martin Katz.

In addition to his formal studies, Miller has been a participant in some of the country's most prestigious festivals and young artist apprenticeships that include The Tanglewood Institute of Music, Aspen Summer Music Festival, The Cleveland Art Song Festival, San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program, Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program and the Glimmerglass Festival. Upon completion of his apprenticeship at the Glimmerglass Festival, he was invited to serve as a vocal coach at the Glimmerglass Festival.

[Watch](#) Lawrence Brownlee

[Watch](#) Kevin Miller

**The evening's program will be as follows:**

**JOSEPH MARX:** *Nocturne; Selige Nacht; Die Elfe; Christbaum; Hat dich die Liebe berührt*

**JASMINE BARNES:** *Peace*

**BRANDON SPENCER:** *I Know My Soul*

**CARLOS SIMON:** *Vocalise III*

**DAMIEN SNEED:** *Beauty that is never old; The Gift to Sing*

**SHAWN OKPEBHOLO:** *Romance*

**JOEL THOMPSON:** *My People*

**VERDI:** *Ad una stella; Aria from Rigoletto: La donna mobile*

**DONIZETTI:** *Me voglio fa'na casa; Aria from Rita: Allegro io son*

**ROSSINI:** *La lontanaza; Aria from L'occasione fa il ladro: D'ogni piu sacro impegno*

**BELLINI:** *La ricordanza; Aria from Il pirata: Nel furor delle tempeste*

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**Please note our health and safety protocols:** Masks and up-to-date vaccinations are encouraged but not required to attend our performances. This policy will be adjusted if city or state health orders change.

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**ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES**

San Francisco Performances has been a leader in the Bay Area cultural scene since our founding in 1979. With a strong curatorial vision and adventurous programming, we are the city's premier presenter of intimate concerts and solo performances.

We have introduced hundreds of established and emerging classical music, jazz, and dance artists to audiences, including Yo-Yo Ma, the Juilliard String Quartet, Philip Glass, Wendy Whelan, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. We also champion a new generation, committed to building a contemporary and equitable repertoire. Performers like the Catalyst Quartet, violinist Jennifer Koh, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and pianist/composer Vijay Iyer are moving their art into the present and future, making it accessible to younger audiences while converting many traditionalists to new possibilities. They represent the path forward.

Quality, intimacy, and connection are the hallmarks of San Francisco Performances. We nurture unique relationships with today's best artists to create an accessible, warm, and engaging arts experience.

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

(Please include [our name as the presenter](#) --many thanks!)

**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**LAWRENCE BROWNLEE, TENOR and KEVIN MILLER, PIANO**

**WHEN: Thursday, February 29, 2024, 7:30pm**

**WHERE: Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco**

**PROGRAM: JOSEPH MARX:** *Nocturne; Selige Nacht; Die Elfe; Christbaum; Hat dich die Liebe berührt;*

**JASMINE BARNES:** *Peace;* **BRANDON SPENCER:** *I Know My Soul;* **CARLOS SIMON:** *Vocalise II;*

**DAMIEN SNEED:** *Beauty that is never old; The Gift to Sing;* **SHAWN OKPEBHOLO:** *Romance*

**JOEL THOMPSON:** *My People;* **VERDI:** *Ad una stella; Aria from Rigoletto: La donna mobile;*

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*L'occasione fa il ladro: D'ogni piu sacro impegno;* **BELLINI:** *La ricordanza; Aria from Il pirata: Nel furor delle tempeste*

**CONCERT TICKETS: \$75/\$65/\$55**

**CONTACT: (415) 392.2545; [sfperformances.org](http://sfperformances.org)**

**For high-resolution images, contact Terry Conway at [terry@sfperformances.org](mailto:terry@sfperformances.org)  
or click [here](#)**

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