

44th SEASON



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ONLINE POSTING:**

January 4, 2024

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**SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
RAEHANN BRYCE-DAVIS | MEZZO-SOPRANO  
JEANNE-MINETTE CILLIERS | PIANO**



**Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 7:30pm  
Herbst Theatre**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – January 4, 2024 – San Francisco Performances (SFP) presents thrilling mezzo-soprano **Raehann Bryce Davis** in recital on **Saturday, January 27, 2024, 7:30pm** at **Herbst Theatre**, accompanied by pianist **Jeanne-Minette Cilliers**. **Tickets are \$65/\$55/\$45 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 look forward to welcoming this extraordinary young mezzo-soprano for her debut recital on our stage. While Raehann Bryce-Davis may be familiar to Bay Area audiences as a former participant in the SF Opera’s Merola program, her fearless performances and warm, rich sound will surely make her solo recital debut here one to remember.” — Melanie Smith, SFP President

**ABOUT RAEHANN BRYCE-DAVIS**

**Raehann Bryce-Davis** has been praised by critics as a “striking mezzo soprano” with an “electrifying sense of fearlessness.”

In the 2023-2024 season, Ms. Bryce-Davis debuted at Santa Fe Opera as Ježibaba in *Rusalka* in a new production directed by Sir David Pountney and conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya, and at Opera

Philadelphia as Lizzie in the world premiere of *10 Days in a Madhouse*. Raehann returned to the Metropolitan Opera as Ella in *X: The Life and Times of Malcom X* in a new production by Robert O' Hare and returns to the Dutch National Opera to sing La Zia Principessa in *Il Trittico* a new Barrie Kosky production conducted by Lorenzo Viotti. In concert engagements, She will sing Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with the Melbourne Symphony orchestra conducted by Jaime Martín and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Luxembourg Philharmonie. Ms. Bryce-Davis will be giving recitals at Vocal Arts Society in Washington D.C., San Francisco Performances, Music at Amherst and St. Matthew's Music Guild in California.

Last season, Ms. Bryce-Davis made noteworthy house debuts at Washington National Opera as Azucena in *Il trovatore*, at the Royal Danish Opera in her role debut as Amneris in *Aida*, and with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Dutch National in her role debut as Jezibaba in *Rusalka*, conducted by Joana Mallwitz. She also sang with the BBC Proms in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Additional concert engagements include the world premiere of *A Nation of Others* with the New York Oratorio Society at Carnegie Hall; a tour titled *Our Song, Our Story*, curated by Damien Sneed; and New York recitals for the George London Foundation and 89 Reade Series.

As a producer/performer, Ms. Bryce-Davis has released *To the Afflicted*, her first music video, which received widespread critical acclaim and was chosen as an official video for World Opera Day. Her second digital short, *Brown Sounds*, was co-produced with Los Angeles Opera and Aural Compass Projects, and won Best Music Video at film festivals around the globe including the New York International Film Awards, New York Cinematography Awards, Hollywood Boulevard Film Awards, the Anatolian Short Film Festival, and the Silk Road Film Awards – Cannes.

Concert highlights include the world premiere of Paul Moravec's *Sanctuary Road* at Carnegie Hall, the recording of which won a Grammy® Nomination, Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* both with conductor Kent Nagano and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal at the Olympic Stadium and the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall, Elgar's *Sea Pictures* at the Musikverein in Vienna with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, the world premiere of Anthony Davis' *We Call the Roll* with The Lied Society, Martinů's *Julietta* with the American Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, John Corigliano's *Of Rage and Remembrance* at the Aspen Music Festival, the world premiere of *Come, My Tan-Faced Children* by Melissa Dunphy at Lyric Fest, Mahler's Symphony No. 2 at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* with Philippe Entremont at Manhattan School of Music, and Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Bryce-Davis is a recipient of the George London; the 1st Place and Audience Prize-winner of the Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino, chaired by Dominique Meyer; winner of the 2016 Richard F. Gold Career Grant at the Merola Opera Program; winner of the 2015 Hilde Zadek Competition at the Musikverein in Vienna; and the 2015 Sedat Gürel – Güzin Gürel International Voice Competition in Istanbul. She holds a Master of Music and Professional Studies certificate from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Texas at Arlington.

#### **ABOUT JEANNE-MINETTE CILLIERS**

South African-born pianist **Jeanne-Minette Cilliers** has been hailed as “a pianistic poet,” garnering rave reviews for her color-rich and imaginative performances.

In high demand as a collaborator, Ms. Cilliers is a regular recital partner of mezzo-soprano Raehann Bryce-Davis, with other collaborators ranging from performers such as Janos Starker, Martina Arroyo, Eric Owens, Susan Graham, Joyce Castle, Lise Lindstrom, Lester Lynch, John Holiday, Justin Hopkins, Toby Girling, Victoria Yarovaya and Bo Skovhus, to conductors Alejo Pérez, Peter Rundel, Antonino Fogliani, Dmitri Jurowski, Cornelius Meister, Alexander Joel, Tomáš Netopil, Alberto Zedda, Harry Bicket, John Nelson and directors Peter Sellars, David Alden, Peter Konwitschny, Calixto Bieito and Claus Guth, as well as actor Vanessa Redgrave.

Ms. Cilliers fosters a strong interest in new music and has presented several scores in world and North American and European premieres. As head of music, she assisted conductor Titus Engel at Opera Vlaanderen (Belgium) and IRCAM, Paris in the widely acclaimed world premiere of Chaya Czernowin's opera *Infinite Now*. Also at Opera Vlaanderen, she worked with composer Héctor Parra and conductor Peter Rundel on the operatic adaptation of the controversial novel *Les Bienveillantes*. In this production, staged by Calixto Bieito, Ms. Cilliers also performed the on-stage piano part on a flying piano.

Ms. Cilliers has been on the music staff of the Glimmerglass Opera Festival, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, and the Bayerische Staatsoper (BSTO). From 2019–22, Ms. Cilliers has spearheaded the new Collaborative Piano program at The Royal Conservatory Antwerp, while additionally serving as Studienleiter for the voice department. At the Manhattan School of Music she is on the Piano Artistic Staff and the Vocal Arts Artistic Staff: Manager of Artistic Staff for Vocal Coaching & Collaborative Piano; Opera Theatre: Vocal Coaching.

Ms. Cilliers earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Michigan with pianist Anton Nel. As a student of Menahem Pressler, she earned an Artist Diploma from Indiana University. She remains the first and only recipient of an Artist Diploma in vocal accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music, where she worked with Warren Jones.

[Watch](#) Raehann Bryce-Davis

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

**AMY BEACH:** *Three Browning Songs*, Op. 44; *The Year's at the Spring*; *Ah, Love, but a day!*; *I send my heart up to thee!*

**WAGNER:** *Wesendonck Lieder*; *Der Engel*; *Stehe Still!*; *Im Treibhaus*; *Schmerzen*; *Träume*

**MELISSA DUNPHY:** *Come, My Tan Faced Children* (Text by Walt Whitman)

**MARGARET BONDS:** *Birth* (Text by Langston Hughes)

**FLORENCE PRICE:** *The Crescent Moon*

**MARIA THOMPSON CORLEY:** *The Beauty in My Blackness*; *I'm Not an Angry Black Woman*

**PETER ASHBOURNE:** *Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart*: No. 3—*Banyan Tree*; No. 4—*Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart*; No. 5—*Nobody's Business*

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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!)

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**RAEHANN BRYCE-DAVIS, MEZZO-SOPRANO**

**JEANNE-MINETTE CILLIERS, PIANO**

**WHEN: Saturday, January 27, 2024, 7:30pm**

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

**PROGRAM:** **AMY BEACH:** *Three Browning Songs, Op. 44; The Year's at the Spring; Ah, Love, but a day!; I send my heart up to thee!*; **WAGNER:** *Wesendonck Lieder, Der Engel; Stehe Still!; Im Treibhaus; Schmerzen; Träume;* **MELISSA DUNPHY:** *Come, My Tan Faced Children* (Text by Walt Whitman); **MARGARET BONDS:** *Birth* (Text by Langston Hughes); **FLORENCE PRICE:** *The Crescent Moon*; **MARIA THOMPSON CORLEY:** *The Beauty in My Blackness; I'm Not an Angry Black Woman*; **PETER ASHBOURNE:** *Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart: No. 3—Banyan Tree; No. 4—Fi Mi Love Have Lion Heart; No. 5—Nobody's Business*

**CONCERT TICKETS:** \$65/\$55/\$45

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

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

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