



*With
a
Gleam
in her
Eye*

FORT WORTH ○PERA
presents the
Lesley Artist Recital Series

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GABRIELLE GILLIAM
Soprano

EVEN MITCHELL
Pianist

This concert features predominantly new music by living female composers. My theme stems from my experience and realizations throughout the pandemic. I realized that my music education had been steeped in white, male supremacy, and until this year, I never thought to question it. It is important to me when programming recitals now and in the future that I look beyond the typical classical canon and program music composed for TODAY'S audience.

It is essential that my audience grab the message and relate to it immediately in 2021 and beyond. Who is today's audience? They are bold, colorful, and full of dimension and self-expression. My mission is to be a performer that meets that market and helps in the facilitation of diversity in classical music rather than upholding the outdated standards of yesteryear.

- Gabrielle Gilliam

REPERTOIRE

Sull'aria from *Le nozze di Figaro* (1786)
W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

The Heart of a Woman (1941)
Florence Price (1887-1953)

Confessions (2008)
Clarice Assad (b. 1978)

Turn Back the Clock
What Will They Think
Fixation

Much in Common (1993)
Regina Harris Baiocchi (b. 1956)

Dov'è sono from *Le nozze di Figaro*
W. A. Mozart

Songs from Letters (1998)
Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

(Calamity Jane to her daughter Janey)
So Like Your Father's
He Never Misses
A Man Can Love Two Women
A Working Woman
All I Have

The House (2020)
Mason Byner (b. 1997)

Gabrielle Gilliam, a native of Houston, TX, is a Fort Worth Opera Lesley Resident Artist as well as a Regional Finalist for the 2020-2021 Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions. This season, she starred in the world premiere of composer Joe Illick and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Mark Campbell's *Bernadette's Cozy Book Nook* and was part of Fort Worth Opera's inaugural *FWO GO* program. Prior to the U.S. outbreak of Covid-19, she was engaged to join the inaugural class of Studio Artists at The Dallas Opera. Her debuts included Amore in *Orfeo ed Euridice* and the Heavenly Voice in *Don Carlo* for the 2020-21 season. Gabrielle was also scheduled to make her debut with Tulsa Opera as Amore in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. Praised for her "substantial and sweet timbre and bel canto flexibility" (*Texas Classical*), Gabrielle has been seen in previous seasons with The Dallas Opera's Outreach & Education program, portraying the roles of Bastienne in Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne* and Dorabella in John Davies' *The Bremen Town Musicians*. This summer, Gabrielle joins The Florentine Opera Company as a Resident Artist. Ms. Gilliam is a graduate of the University of North Texas and has had engagements with Opera North, Opera in the Rock, and American Baroque Opera Co.

Special thanks to Carol Wilson and Stephen Dubberly, as well as Joe Illick, Afton Battle, Sheran Keyton, and Charlene Lotz.

Fort Worth Opera requires all patrons to wear face coverings/masks at all times during the performance unless eating or drinking at the table. Patrons must also wear face coverings during the entrance, exit, and transit to and from the bar, facilities, and the venue in general. Per the CDC guidelines, face coverings/masks are to be worn over both the mouth and nose.

The tables will be spaced according to social distancing standards, and we will also provide hand sanitizer at each table to ensure a comfortable and safe environment for everyone to enjoy.

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