Connections

Celebration of Margaret Bonds

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 · 7:00PM

in collaboration with Rienzi

Presented in collaboration with

MFA
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

LIVE STREAM

ROCO CONNECTIONS

Unique collaborations with dynamic partners throughout the community

CELEBRATION *of* Margaret Bonds

Thursday, February 4 • 7:00pm

in collaboration with Rienzi

Timothy Jones, *bass-baritone* · **Howard Watkins,** *piano*

Margaret Bonds
The Negro Speaks of Rivers
(Text: Langston Hughes)

Margaret Bonds
Three Dream Portraits
(Text: Langston Hughes)
I.Minstrel Man
II. Dream Variations
III. I, Too

Ned Rorem
War Scenes
(Text: Walt Whitman)

Discussion with the Artists: Bonds Discovery & Recording

Margaret Bonds
Troubled Waters

Robert Owens
Tearless
(Text: Langston Hughes)

Live Q&A with the Artists

Florence Price
Night
(Text: Louise Wallace)

Florence Price
Song to the Dark Virgin
(Text: Langston Hughes)

--- CONCERT RUN TIME: 1 HOUR ---

TIMOTHY JONES

bass-baritone

American Bass-Baritone **Timothy Jones** enjoys a reputation as a charismatic presence on operatic and concert stages throughout the United States, Europe and South America. The Boston Globe hailed his voice as "stentorian and honeyed" and the Chicago Tribune called his "complete connection with the text extraordinary." The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review praised him for his theatricality, noting that he "relished the dramatic possibilities of the songs' text and music." His eagerly anticipated performances combine intelligent musicianship, commanding vocal technique and a unique ability to connect with audiences. Highlights of the 2016-2017 season include performances with Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Ars Lyrica Houston, University of Houston Brahms Festival, and Houston River Oaks Chamber Orchestra.

A distinguished concert performer, Mr. Jones has soloed with the Cleveland Orchestra singing Handel's Messiah and Bach's St. Matthew Passion. He has also performed with Boston Baroque, Baltimore Symphony, St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra, Austin Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, Houston Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Portland Symphony, Saginaw Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Utah Symphony, Wichita Symphony Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony. His repertoire includes Bach's St. John Passion, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, Mozart's Requiem, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Verdi's Requiem and "A Sea Symphony" by Vaughn Williams.

Mr. Jones is widely celebrated as an enthusiastic champion of new and contemporary music. His tour de force performance of "Eight Songs for a Mad King" by Peter Maxwell Davies was called "an amazing feat, making unnatural demands seem natural … bizarre behavior coalesced into a sympathetic portrayal." (The Salt Lake Tribune) He has commissioned and premiered numerous compositions by composers Derek Beryl, Robert Avalon, James Balentine, Laura Carmichael, John Vasconcelos Costa, Kevin Puts, Marcus Maroney, Pierre Jalbert, Karim Al-Zand, Anthony Brandt, Kieren MacMillian, David Passmore, David Cutler, Jeffrey Goldberg, David Heuser, Doug Opel, and Jeffrey Nytch. His annual appearances with Kevin Noe and the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble are a highpoint of the season. The Salt Lake Tribune raved over his performance of Argento's "A Waterbird Talk" conducted by Keith Lockhart, stating "Jones was a marvelous singing actor…his wry enjoyment was contagious." His performance of Pulitzer Prize Winning Composer Kevin Puts' Einstein on Mercer Street is featured on PNME's recent recording "Against the Emptiness". Other recordings include "Drunken Moon" and "The World of Ruth Crawford Seeger".

Mr. Jones is an alumnus of Centenary College and the University of Michigan. He is currently a professor of voice at the University of Houston Moores School of Music.

https://roco.org/artists/timothy-jones/

HOWARD WATKINS

pianist

American pianist **Howard Watkins** is a frequent associate of some of the world's leading musicians on the concert stage and as an assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. His appearances throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, Russia, and Israel have included collaborations with Joyce DiDonato, Diana Damrau, Kathleen Battle, Grace Bumbry, Mariusz Kwiecien, Anna Netrebko, Matthew Polenzani, and violinists Xiang Gao and Sarah Chang at such venues as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Spivey Hall, Kennedy Center, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the United States Supreme Court, Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the three stages of Carnegie Hall, and the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. He has accompanied the classes of legendary artists Renata Scotto, Frederica von Stade, Regine Crespin, Birgit Nilsson, Sherrill Milnes, and George Shirley. Mr. Watkins has served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, the Tanglewood Music Center, the Aspen Music Festival, the Mannes School of Music, the North Carolina School of the Arts, the International Vocal Arts Institute (Israel, Japan, and China), IIVA in Italy, the Brancaleoni Music Festival in Italy, the Tokyo International Vocal Arts Academy (TIVAA), and VOICExperience in Orlando, Tampa, and Savannah. He has also worked on the music staffs of Palm Beach Opera, the Washington National Opera, and the Los Angeles Opera. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Mr. Watkins completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Accompanying and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan. In 2004, he was honored as the recipient of both the Paul C. Boylan award from the University of Michigan for his outstanding contributions to the field of music, and a Special Achievement Award from the National Alumni Association of the University of Dayton. He is the 2019 recipient of the Lift Every Voice Legacy Award from the National Opera Association.

ROCO

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

ROCO has been live streaming for many years and this season we will be offering all of our performances virtually. We also have a vast collection of audio recordings from past concerts, as well as videos on our rocohouston channel on YouTube. All you need is a sense of curiosity and an internet connection and you can be transported to a ROCO experience under the listen tab at **roco.org** or on all streaming channels!

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ROCO

Season 16

CALENDAR

In Concert
Full chamber orchestra

Unchambered
Intimate chamber ensemble series featuring individual ROCO musicians

Connections
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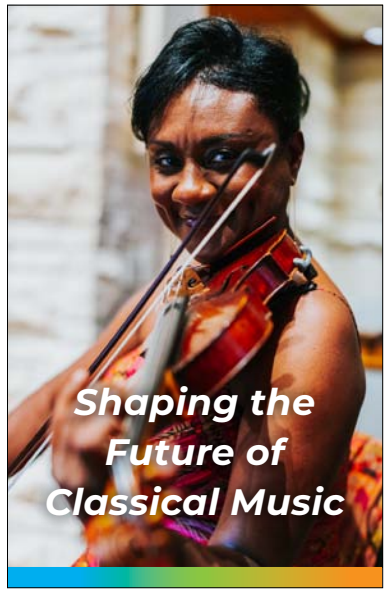
Kaleidoscope
February 13, 2021
5:00PM

Shadows
February 27, 2021
5:00PM

Blackbird
March 6, 2021
5:00PM

Journey to America
March 11, 2021
7:00PM

Flamenco
April 24, 2021
5:00PM



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