



Interlochen

ARTS ACADEMY

Interlochen, Michigan
105th Program of the 62nd Year

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GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

Nathan Gunn, baritone
Julie Gunn, piano

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:30pm, Dendrios Chapel/Recital Hall

- "I am an Opera Singer" Cake
"I Love a Piano" Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
"The Piano Has Been Drinking" Tom Waits (b. 1949)
"The Circus Band" Charles Ives (1874-1954)
"Polka Dots and Moonbeams" Jimmy Van Heusen & Johnny Burke
(1913-1990) (1908-1964)
"I've Got the World on a String" Harold Arlen (1905-1986)
"At Howard Hawks' House" Gene Scheer (b. 1958)
"Omaha Beach" Gene Scheer
"With Rue My Heart is Laden" Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
"Here's That Rainy Day" Jimmy Van Heusen & Johnny Burke
"This is the Life" from *Love Life* Kurt Weill & Alan Jay Lerner
(1900-1950) (1918-1986)
"Lonely Town" from *On the Town* Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
"City of New Orleans" Steve Goodman (1948-1984)
"General William Booth Enters into Heaven" Charles Ives
"Black Max" William Bolcom (b. 1938)
"Captain Hook's Soliloquy" from *Peter Pan* Leonard Bernstein
"Fur" William Bolcom

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" Ben Moore (b. 1960)
 "Darkling, I Listen" Ben Moore
 "Over the Piano" William Bolcom
 "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" Jay Gorney & Yip Harburg
 (1896-1990) (1896-1981)
 "The Parting Glass" Traditional

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Through his performing career and life-long study of singing, **NATHAN GUNN** has encountered an abundance of expressions of excellence and creativity in the performing arts. He feels it is a privilege to share these experiences with audiences, artists, and communities in order to encourage thoughtful, healthy, and expressive artistry.

His interest in music began in South Bend, Indiana where he grew up. He sang in his school musicals and his church choir, but it wasn't until his junior year of high school after being introduced to Mozart's opera, *Die Zauberflöte*, that he thought of devoting his life to it. Consumed by a desire to learn more, Gunn went the University of Illinois to study music and was mentored by pianist John Wustman and master teacher William Miller.

As a performer, Gunn is respected as an artist, a musician, and as a singing actor. He has performed on the greatest stages in the world, and television, radio, video recording, and live simulcasts. Gunn's famous portrayal of Papageno (*The Magic Flute*) was brought to the world stage in the first ever live HD broadcast performed at the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to Papageno, he has reinterpreted classic roles such as Billy Budd, Figaro, and Don Giovanni, garnering many awards, including a Grammy award for his portrayal of Billy Budd and the coveted Beverly Sills award. He has also been widely acclaimed for his work in musical theater. His performances of Billy Bigelow, Lancelot (both for *Live at Lincoln Center*) and most recently Max von Mayerling at the John F. Kennedy Center's Broadway Center Stage have been widely acclaimed as well and have led to collaborations with such Broadway stars as Mandy Patinkin, Stephanie J. Block, Kelli O'Hara, and Audra McDonald.

Gunn believes that music is a living art form and has performed dozens of new songs, operas, and other forms of sung theater in a multitude of venues. Of his latest project *In our daughter's eyes*--a one man show in which he was the co-creator with composer DuYun and librettist Michael McQuilken--*Broadway World* said, "Gunn's the real thing, the quintessential performer who lets himself be subsumed by the composer and librettist and his own elements to the painting coming to life in front of us: a kind of "Sunday in the Park with

Gunn". His newest project which premiered in September 2023 is by composer Paola Prestini and librettist Royce Vavrek and is titled "The Old Man and the Sea", based on Ernest Hemingway's masterpiece of the same name. He frequently collaborates with *Hershey Felder Presents*, most recently playing the role of Francesco Naclerio in *Il Quarto Uomo* at the 3000-year-old amphitheater in Fiesole, Italy.

Gunn and his wife, Julie, have been married for 31 years and have been partners in music for even more. They are often seen in recital and cabaret settings where they enjoy creating programs unique to the special event. This past year, "Nathan Gunn: The Art of Opera" was on display at The Peoria Riverfront Museum. This was a curation of famous prints and posters designed to promote the premieres of new operatic and musical theater productions. The display was brought to life through musical performances designed to highlight the pieces. Through their production company, *Shot in the Dark*, they are creating and producing a new musical by composer Peter Hilliard and librettist Matthew Boresi. Currently, it's being workshopped with the help of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and will be premiered in its 2024-25 season.

Gunn is a professor and Swanlund Chair at the University of Illinois. He teaches the art of singing to a full studio of students from freshman year through doctoral degree. He is co-director of *Lyric Theatre @ Illinois* (a comprehensive program embracing a broad continuum of opera and musical theatre while supporting the development of new works, and centered on his values of flexibility, creativity, and wellness.) He is also one of the program's stage directors; next season, he will be directing a new opera by Ilya Demutsky entitled *Black Square*, in its academic world premier. He and Julie developed and founded the first ever Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre curriculum in the nation. It is part of the School of Music at the University of Illinois and housed in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to life as a performer and educator, Gunn is an avid promoter and advocate of the arts. He and Julie care very much about the younger generation and support programs that help them develop their artistic potential.

Nathan and Julie raised their five children in Champaign, Illinois, where they have lived since 1989.

Music has always been a part of **JULIE GUNN**'s life, and yet it is her devotion to it that has brought her accolades from around the world as a performer, producer, teacher and advocate. Her work often supports and promotes emerging creative or performing artists. Trained as a pianist, she has performed on most of the world's most prestigious recital series with distinguished colleagues, but most importantly with her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn.

Co-Director of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Dr. Gunn produces numerous operas or musical theatre works each year at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and other regional venues. She enjoys producing larger celebrations—Lyric Under the Stars at Allerton Park and Retreat Center—and Carnaval! at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts—combining spectacular performances with festive hospitality. The Gunns’ production company, Shot in the Dark Productions Inc, specializes in customized musical and theatrical events.

She has given master classes at universities and young artists’ programs all over the United States and Canada and has served as a coach or conductor at many distinguished opera houses. She has conducted several chamber operas and musical theatre works for Lyric Theatre and is the author of many arrangements of songs for chamber groups and orchestras.

She is an advocate for initiatives benefiting the arts and children’s lives. She served as the Interim Director of the Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists’ Program in 2022. She was appointed Rector of the Arts and Performing Arts of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois by Governor JB Pritzker. She served as the President of the Countryside School Board of Directors and is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children.

She attended Dartmouth College, majoring in Economics, and received her masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, where she has been awarded the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award. She lives in Champaign, Illinois with her husband Nathan, where they raised their five children

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Many of our venues are equipped with induction loop systems for the hearing impaired. Please ask one of our ushers if you need assistance connecting to the system. Support for recent upgrades to these systems provided by Michigan Arts and Culture Council; the NEA; Rotary Charities of Traverse City; the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Inc.; the Oleson Foundation; and Robert W. Anderson.

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Thank you for your cooperation.

www.interlochen.org