

HAMPSONG

FOUNDATION

Song of America: Beyond the Song Part of the *Song of America* Curriculum Initiative

Presented by the Hampsong Foundation

In collaboration with the San Francisco Symphony,
the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the
Adler Fellowship Program at San Francisco Opera



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 | 7-9pm

Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St.
San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Symphony Promo code: HAMPSONG
25% off Stravinsky and MTT Concerts

Discount applies to 6/16, 6/17, 6/18, 6/19 concerts only. Offer excludes Loge, Side Box, Rear Box, and Center Terrace. Discount cannot be combined with any other offers. Only valid on adult ticket prices. Not valid on previously purchased tickets. Other restrictions may apply. Subject to availability.

This event will be live-streamed for free online (and later archived) via the Hampsong Foundation & San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall LiveStream Channels. You can find the event here:
<http://livestream.com/hampsong/song-of-america-beyond-the-song>

Program

Introduction

David H. Stull, President, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Conversation between Thomas Hampson and Dana Gioia

American Song Performances:

“The World feels Dusty”

from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* (1950)

Composer: Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Poet: Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

“The Song”

from *Becoming a Redwood* (2003)

Composer: Lori Laitman (b. 1955)

Poet: Dana Gioia (b. 1950)

“O You Whom I Often and Silently Come”

from *Five Songs to Poems - Texts by Walt Whitman* (1961)

Composer: Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

Poet: Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Renée Rapier, mezzo-soprano
Peter Grunberg, piano

“Look Down, Fair Moon”

from *Five Poems of Walt Whitman* (1970)

Composer: Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

Poet: Walt Whitman

“Prayer” (2012)

Composer: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Poet: Dana Gioia

Brad Walker, bass-baritone
Peter Grunberg, piano

The World feels Dusty

by Emily Dickinson

The World feels Dusty
When We stop to Die
We want the Dew then
Honors taste dry

Flags vex a Dying face
But the least Fan
Stirred by a friend's Hand
Cools like the Rain

Mine be the Ministry
When they Thirst comes
Dews of ThyselF to fetch
And Holy Balms

The Song

by Dana Gioia (after Rilke)

How shall I hold my soul that it
does not touch yours? How shall I lift
it over you to other things?
If it would only sink below
into the dark like some lost thing
or slumber in some quiet place
which did not echo your soft heart's beat.
But all that ever touched us--you and me--
touched us together
 like a bow...
that from two strings could draw one voice.
On what instrument were we strung?
And to what player did we sing
our interrupted song?

O you whom I often and silently come

by Walt Whitman

O you whom I often and silently come

where you are that I may be with you,
As I walk by your side or sit near,
or remain in the same room with you,
Little you know the subtle electric fire
that for your sake is playing within me.

Look down, fair moon

by Walt Whitman

Look down, fair moon and bathe this scene,
Pour softly down night's nimbus floods,
on faces ghastly, swollen, purple;
On the dead, on their backs, with their arms toss'd wide,
Pour down your unstinted nimbus, sacred moon.

Prayer

by Dana Gioia

Echo of the clocktower, footstep
in the alleyway, sweep
of the wind sifting the leaves.

Jeweler of the spiderweb, connoisseur
of autumn's opulence, blade of lightning
harvesting the sky.

Keeper of the small gate, choreographer
of entrances and exits, midnight
whisper travelling the wires.

Seducer, healer, deity, or thief,
I will see you soon enough--
in the shadow of the rainfall,

in the brief violet darkening a sunset --
but until then I pray watch over him
as a mountain guards its covert ore

and the harsh falcon its flightless young.

“Song is a metaphor of the imagination; it is poetic thought encapsulated in music. Poetry is driven by the basic instinct to tell the story of existence and American poetry explores the cultural roots of our nation.”

—Thomas Hampson

Dana Gioia is Poet Laureate of California. An internationally recognized poet and critic, he is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Interrogations at Noon* (2001), which won the American Book Award, and *99 Poems: New & Selected* (2016). His critical collections include *Can Poetry Matter?* (1992), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Award. He has written three opera libretti and edited twenty literary anthologies. He served as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 to 2009. He has been awarded 11 honorary doctorates. He is the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California where he teaches each fall semester. He divides his time between Los Angeles and Sonoma County, California.

Australian-born pianist **Peter Grunberg** served as Head of Music Staff at San Francisco Opera in the 1990s. Renowned as a mentor and coach of young singers, he regularly teaches in the Opera’s Merola and Adler programs and in his current position as Musical Assistant to Michael Tilson Thomas at the San Francisco Symphony, he has appeared as solo pianist, conductor, and lecturer. As an accompanist, he has

performed at various international festival, with performers such as Thomas Hampson, and has conducted internationally.

Thomas Hampson enjoys a singular international career as an opera singer, recording artist, and “ambassador of song,” maintaining an active interest in research, education, musical outreach, and technology. The American baritone has performed in the world’s most important concert halls and opera houses with many renowned singers, pianists, conductors, and orchestras. He is the founder and president of the Hampsong Foundation. <http://thomashampson.com>

Praised for her “dark, velvety mezzo” (*Opera News*) and “exceptional strength and solidity” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), mezzo-soprano **Renée Rapier** trained both in the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist program at LA Opera and the Adler Fellowship program at the San Francisco Opera. In addition to those two California houses, she has made debuts at Wolf Trap Opera, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Ravinia Festival, Opera San Antonio, Dallas Opera and Seattle Opera.

Brad Walker, bass-baritone, is a first-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and has participated in the Merola Opera Program. He has appeared in the title role *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Magnifico (La Cenerentola)*, and *Colline (La Bohème)* with Yale Opera where he earned an Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music. He also holds degrees from the University of Kansas and Michigan State University and made his Lincoln Center debut in Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater*. A Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions award winner, he has apprenticed with Des Moines Metro Opera, Chautauqua Opera Company and Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

About the *Song of America* Curriculum Initiative

Song of America is the Hampsong Foundation's multi-faceted project exploring the history of American culture through classic song—poetry set to music. *Song of America* offers high-quality online resources, including a 13-part radio series and the *Song of America* database, a catalogue of information and supplementary materials on American composers, poets, and songs, all free of cost: <http://songofamerica.net>

We invite educators at all levels to listen to these programs online and to explore how one or all of them could enhance teaching and learning in their classrooms or voice studios. We look forward to working with teachers, administrators, and curriculum and resource specialists to develop strategies to integrate these materials into language arts, history, civics, and other humanities classes, using classic song as the gateway for a richer knowledge of the cultures, languages, peoples, and events that have shaped American life.

About the Hampsong Foundation

Song of America is a project of the Hampsong Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2003 by American baritone Thomas Hampson with the mission of creating high-quality and accessible materials that explore the world of classic song as a prism for understanding culture and history.

H A M P S O N G
FOUNDATION

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