



**Masters in VOICE II –  
“In Honor of the Work”  
Composer Michael Ching & Friends  
Sponsored by Jan and Sam Durham  
and Toby Hollenberg**

Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern  
Replay on Thursday, August 20 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern

**The Toaster Song** from ***Speed Dating Tonight!*** by Michael Ching  
Commissioned by Kathie and Les Anderson  
Zachary Sebek, tenor  
Michael Ching, piano

**Michael Ching Tribute** by Maria Zouves  
**Keep Savannah, Savannah** from ***Anna Hunter*** by Michael Ching  
Maria Zouves, soprano  
Live Performance at the Davenport House Museum in 2017

**A Zoom Chat with composer, Libby Larson**  
**No. 1 – Katherine of Aragon**  
from ***Try Me, Good King: Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII***  
A Song Cycle by Libby Larsen  
Ripley Lucas-Tagliani, soprano  
Peiwen Chen, piano

**The Lord's Prayer** from *Alice Ryley, a Savannah Ghost Story*

by Michael Ching

Commissioned by the Savannah VOICE Festival

Liz Lang, soprano

Michael Ching, piano

Video edited by Liz Lang and Michael A. Ferrara

**A Zoom Chat with composer, Patrick Vu**

**In Between**

Music by Patrick Vu

Text by Audrey Burchfield

Audrey Burchfield, mezzo-soprano

Patrick Vu, piano

**Art Matters**

“The Squares of Savannah”

**Letter to Oglethorpe** from *Alice Ryley, a Savannah Ghost Story*

by Michael Ching

Jessica Ann Best, mezzo-soprano

Live world premiere performance in 2015

**Postcards and images provided by:**

V&J Duncan Antique Maps & Prints

City of Savannah Municipal Archives

**A Zoom Chat with composer, Scott Joiner**

Excerpt from **Abendempfindung** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Scott Joiner, tenor

Timothy L. Hall, piano

**Mother to Son** by Scott Joiner

Poem by Langston Hughes

Conceived and sung by Mathew Gamble

Jason Thomas, piano

Chanel Howard, dancer and choreographer

Jessica Fishenfeld, direction and editor

**Postcards from Savannah**

**Davenport House Museum** and *Anna Hunter*

Jamie Credle, director

Excerpt from **City Market Callers** from *Anna Hunter*

by Michael Ching

Featuring the Savannah Arts Academy Chorus

Russell Watkins, director

Video edited by Theophilos Z. Milnes

**Fugue** from *Anna Hunter* by Michael Ching

Sean Christensen, Cloe SanAntonio, Chad Sonka, Tiana Sorenson,

Maria Zouves

Michael Ching, piano

Video edited by Theophilos Z. Milnes

**The Bow Tie Duet from *Speed Dating Tonight!*** by Michael Ching

Commissioned by Julia and Wes Krulic

Jessica Fishenfeld, soprano

Scott Joiner, tenor

Michael Ching, piano

### **Inside the VOICE Studio**

Joseph Calzada, baritone | Milnes VOICE Studio Artist

**If Not Now, When?** from *Speed Dating Tonight!* by Michael Ching

2018 Florida VOICE Project Artists/2020 Milnes VOICE Studio

Artists

Unless otherwise noted, tonight's performance is edited by Maria Zouves.

Don't Miss ... **Virtual Broadway: An Online Parody**

Friday, August 21 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern

What happens when you combine talented opera singers, musical theatre favorites and a sprinkle of "the world is upside down" to a live stream? The result is a night of parody – where quarantine meets a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the Great White Way. It's definitely a review of a virtual kind!

## Disclaimer

The Savannah VOICE Festival has engaged artists from all over the country, and around the world. While we all stay safe from a distance, we know not all of our artists are equipped the same. Each recording you experience has been recorded on individual devices owned by the artists. While our team of editors have done their best to create consistent and cohesive shows, there may be moments of inconsistencies. All shows are streamed via a streaming service to our YouTube Channel and Facebook Page. While SVF does monitor the stability of each stream, audio and visual delays may result in part due to differing devices as well as internet connection. Savannah VOICE Festival appreciates your understanding in this as we strive for access for all to the art form during this time.

The Masters in VOICE program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency – the National Endowment for the Arts.



## Biographies

**Michael Ching** is a composer, songwriter, conductor, and former arts administrator. His recent opera, *Speed Dating Tonight!* was commissioned and premiered by the Janiec Opera Company of the Brevard Music Center. Since its premiere in July 2013, *Speed Dating Tonight!* has been produced fifteen times, including professional productions at Tri-Cities Opera, Amarillo Opera, and Microscopic Opera (Pittsburgh), and universities such as UT-Austin, the University of Memphis, Ithaca College, and the University of Central Florida. His 1996 opera *Buoso's Ghost* is a sequel to *Gianni Schicchi*. It has proved lasting, with recent performances at Texas State University and the UNC-Chapel Hill. It will be performed at University of Central Florida next season. His 2010 opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, opera a cappella was premiered by Opera Memphis, Playhouse on the Square, and DeltaCappella. A CD featuring the original cast was released on Albany Records in 2014. Other works include *Corps of Discovery*, commissioned by the University of Missouri to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition and several one act operas. From 1993-2010, Michael was Artistic Director of Opera Memphis, where he was also General Director for much of the period. While at Opera Memphis, he participated in the seven million dollar campaign to build the Clark Opera Memphis Center, a headquarters and rehearsal studio for the company. He is currently Music Director of Nickel City Opera in Western New York, where he recently conducted their production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. This fall he will conduct his new orchestral reduction of Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* at Amarillo

Opera. Other guest conducting engagements have included companies in Honolulu, Nashville, Fargo, and New Jersey. Michael has served on the artistic staffs of the opera companies of Miami, Virginia, and Chautauqua, and was trained at the Houston Opera Studio, where he studied opera composition with Carlisle Floyd. Michael attended Duke University where his composition teacher was Robert Ward. Michael lives with family in Ames, Iowa.

Tenor **Scott Joiner**, “unleashed a lovely lyric sound” (*Opera News*) for his 2016 Carnegie Hall debut in Richard Strauss’s *Friedenstag* with the American Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, he returned to the venue for the US Premiere of Patrick Hawes’s *The Great War Symphony* conducted by the composer for the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice. Joiner made his San Francisco Opera debut as Dickon in the premiere of Gasser’s opera *The Secret Garden*. 2019 appearances included Ernesto in Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* at North Shore Music Festival as well as appearances with On Site Opera and City Lyric Opera at Steinway Hall. A past winner of the Heafner/Williams Vocal Competition and Metropolitan Opera Regional Finalist, some of Joiner’s other performances include Opera Colorado, Central City Opera, Knoxville Opera, St Petersburg Opera, Teatro Magnani, Asheville Symphony and the Colorado Music Festival. He was a Festival Artist for the 2018 Savannah VOICE Festival. In 2020 Joiner premiered the role of Yassine in *A Sweet Silence in Cremona* by Roberto Scarcella Perrino and Mark Campbell; and joined New York’s Modern Opera Company reprising the role of Graham in his own composition *The*

*Tinder Opera*, for which he was previously featured on NPR's All Things Considered.

**Libby Larsen** (b. 24 December 1950, Wilmington, Delaware) is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over 15 operas. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. Constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, Libby Larsen has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory.

**Patrick Vu** is a senior from Allen, Texas and is currently pursuing a double major in Vocal Music Education and Music Composition at TCU in Fort Worth, Texas. While Patrick enjoys composing music for instrumental chamber ensembles, he especially loves writing choral music and art song and has been commissioned by students, professors, and professionals across the DFW Metroplex. This past spring, Vu was named the winner of the student category for the 2020 TCU School of Music Call for Scores Competition with his Trumpet Fanfare; this piece will be premiered during the grand opening of the new TCU Music Center this coming fall. His music mostly remains self-published, but his choral compositions can be found in the Alliance Music Publications catalog.

## Song Texts

### **In Between**

by Audrey Burchfield

Sleep, this doesn't feel like  
sleep

When dreams keep rest and  
peace just out of reach.

Home just doesn't feel like  
home

When you hear the  
floorboards creak from only  
just two feet.

And love just doesn't feel like  
love

With this much distance in  
between.

And rich? This doesn't feel like  
rich.

I'm pocket poor, but I still  
have a lot to give.

And work, this doesn't feel like  
work.

As I sing, I live a life I know I  
don't deserve.

But as for love, this song's as  
close as I get

With this much distance in  
between.

It's sad I'd rather stay home  
and drink until it's unclear,  
To forget you're just fine  
without me near.

'Cause what's the point of a  
party without you here?  
Will I miss every party waiting  
on you, dear?

Because Love, I thought you'd  
chase after me,  
Not make more distance in  
between.

So if you want to go home  
now,  
I'll take you home.

## **Mother to Son**

by Langston Hughes

(Mother, mother...)

Well, son, I'll tell you:

Life for me ain't been no  
crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on  
the floor—

Bare.

But all the time

I've been a-climbin' on,

And reachin' landin's,

And turnin' corners,

And sometimes goin' in the  
dark

Where there ain't been no  
light.

So boy, don't you turn (your)  
back.

Don't you set down on the  
steps

'Cause you (feel) it's kinder  
hard.

Don't you fall now—

For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',

And life for me ain't been no  
crystal stair.

Music © 2020 by Scott Joiner

Text © by the Estate of

Langston Hughes used by  
permission of Harold Ober  
Associates Inc.