

Zanmi Nou Yo Presents: Jean Bernard Cerin & Friends

A Program of Art Music & Stories by Haitian Composers

Sunday April, 11

4:00pm Eastern Time

Program

Psaume

Music by Michel Déjean (1932-2008)

Text from Psalm 1 & 8

Jean Bernard Cerin, baritone

Pax Ressler, piano

Message

Music by Robert Durand (1917-1995)

Text by Victor Wilder

Renée Richardson, soprano

Martin Néron, piano

Tu es très loin

Music by Werner Jaegerhuber (1900-1953)

Text by Jean F. Brierre

Drucilla Lindsay, soprano

Veena Kulkarni-Rankin, piano

Clair de lune

Music by Werner Jaegerhuber (1900-1953)

Text by Louis Barno (Francesco Luigi)

Jamie Cartright mezzo soprano

Martin Néron, piano

J'étais venu

Music by Werner Jaegerhuber (1900-1953)

Text by Jean Brierre

Anne-Carine Exumé

Martin Néron, piano

Puisque le ciel t'envoie

Music by Werner Jaegerhuber (1900-1953)

Text by Virginie Sampeur

Renée Richardson, soprano

Martin Néron, piano

Ave Maria

Music by Louis Barno (Francesco Luigi) 1865-1942

Text from Roman Catholic prayer

Jean Bernard Cerin, baritone

Pax Ressler, piano

Sobo by Ludovic Lamothe (1882-1953)

Veena Kulkarni-Rankin, piano

Zélim to quitté la plaine
Music arranged by Clara Gottschalk Peterson (1837-1910)
Text by Duvivier de la Mahautière
Jean Bernad Cerin, baritone
Martin Néron, piano

Sylvie & The Water Tree
Music & Story by Jean Bernard Cerin & Veena Kulkarni-Rankin
Jean Bernard Cerin, narrator
Veena Kulkarni- Rankin, piano

Composers

Michel Déjean (1932-2008) was a Haitian composer and choir conductor, known for the Choeur Michel Déjean. Déjean composed and arranged a number of religious and Haitian folk songs for choir. One of eight siblings in a musical family, Déjean was a self taught pianist and arranger, and founded the Michel Déjean Choir as an adolescent. His choir's work gained popularity and the admiration of many around Haiti in the 1940's, including Haitian President, Paul Eugène Magloire. Michel Déjean's glee club represented Haitian culture around the world through their performances and records, including one in collaboration with legendary Haitian singer, Émérante de Pradine.

Robert Durand (1917-1995) is credited as "the initiator of chamber music in Haiti" by *Le Nouvelliste*, Haiti's longest standing newspaper. Born in the south of Haiti to a family of amateur violinists, Durand played the cello while his younger brother played the viola. Together with their father, they formed the Durand String Trio. In 1953, in collaboration with Werner Jaegerhuber, Durand created the Pro-Arte Orchestra, which set itself apart by performing the works of Haitian composers and arrangers, and paved the way for a number of now well known Haitian classical musicians. Durand's body of composition work includes pieces for string trio and quartet, and five songs for voice and piano.

Werner Anton Jaegerhuber (1900 - 1953) was a Haitian composer, ethnographer and pedagogue known for his folk song arrangements, string quartets, and choral works. He also has art songs and an opera that are seldom performed. Werner Jaegerhuber was the son of Anton Jaegerhuber, a naturalized American citizen of German origin and Anna Maria Tippenhauer, a member of a mulatto Haitian family. Jaegerhuber moved to Germany in 1915, remaining there until 1937 as World War II began to brew. Upon his return to Haiti, he became a well respected teacher in addition to his work as a composer and arranger. Jaegerhuber stands out for having led the classical music community of Haiti to embrace the folk traditions of its people.

Eustache Antoine Francois Joseph Louis Borno (1865 – 1942) was a Haitian composer and poet who used the pseudonym "Francesco Luigi." His primary career was in law and politics. Borno served as President of Haiti from 1922 to 1930 during the period of the American occupation of Haiti (1915–34).

Ludovic Lamothe (1882 - 1953) was a Haitian composer and virtuoso pianist. He is considered one of Haiti's most important classical composers. As a composer, Lamothe became known especially for his songs and short piano pieces. Lamothe's repertoire included a range of méringues. He was influenced by traditional European classical music and Haitian folk music.

Clara Gottschalk Peterson (1837-1910) was an American composer, arranger, editor and curator. Born in New Orleans to a Jewish father and Creole mother, Clara grew up listening to both classical music and

folk music from Louisiana and her maternal grandmother's native St. Domingue (colonial Haiti). In 1905 Peterson published what she claimed was the first collection of Creole folk songs in Negro dialect.

Duo 1717

Duo 1717 fuses classical and folk music with traditional storytelling into exciting programs that illuminate a shared humanity and experience across the globe. Baritone Jean Bernard Cerin and pianist Veena Kulkarni-Rankin share their music and folk tales throughout the United States each year at venues including the Detroit Institute of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Temple Beth Shalom in Philadelphia among many others. This season, they debuted a program of art songs and spirituals by African American composers and poets coupled with a new original story "Sylvie and the Water Tree." Last season, they premiered their new work, "The Eye of the Poppy" for 2 voices and piano with a text by Ben Israeli Jewish poet Zilka Joseph in Pennsylvania, Minneapolis, and Connecticut. The previous season, they unveiled an adaptation of the Filipino folk tale, Allah's Favorite Butterfly for piano and narrator. Stories aside, Duo 1717 presents lively programs of beautiful songs and piano tunes. For more information, visit www.duo1717.com

Performers

Jean Bernard Cerin, baritone & curator

Praised for his "burnished tones and focused phrasing," baritone Jean Bernard Cerin has charmed audiences throughout the USA, France, Austria, and his native Haiti. An avid recitalist, concert artist and opera singer, his engagements have taken him to venues such as the Kimmel Center and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, The Kennedy Center and Library of Congress in Washington D.C., Beethovenhaus in Baden bei Wien, Boston's Jordan Hall and Carnegie Hall in NYC among many others. His video performance of the abolitionist "Oh Say Do You Hear?" for the Star Spangled Music Foundation was featured in the New York Times amid heated national debates about the history of the anthem's use in political discourse. Jean Bernard is an assistant professor Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He completed his DMA in Voice at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, a Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory in Boston and a B.A. in Economics at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Anne-Carine Exumé, mezzo soprano

Born and raised in Haiti, Anne-Carine Exumé is a mezzo soprano who specializes in music of her motherland. Exumé fell in love with classical music while being part of her school choir from middle school all the way to her last day in Haiti. She completed her undergraduate studies at Reinhardt University where she received her Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Performance. Exumé has been a member of MDC Opera, RU Opera, RU Chamber Singers and APSU Opera. Her favorite roles include Bizet's Carmen and Purcell's Dido from scenes programs. She has toured internationally to Italy in 2018 with the RU Chamber Singers where she had the honor to sing at Basilica San Pietro. Exumé is currently in her final semester at Austin Peay State University where she will earn her Master's of Music. She also serves as Graduate Teaching Assistant and teaches private lessons at Madison Street Music and Arts Academy. When she is not working on her musical career, Exumé enjoys Latin Ballroom dancing and being with friends and family.

Jamie Cartright, mezzo soprano

Jamie Cartright is a Haitian American mezzo-soprano based in Savannah Georgia. A passionate recitalist and concert singer, Jamie was featured on the cover of Haiti's Ticket magazine for her concert at the Institut Francais in Port-au-Prince honoring women in classical music. Other notable projects include the Matinee de Compositeurs Haitiens with a host of esteemed musicians throughout the diaspora, and a recital accompanied by Micheline Dalencour and Lauren Eldridge reviewed by Le Nouvelliste. Jamie served as a clinician for L'Ecole de Musique Saint-Trinite in Port-au-Prince and L'Ecole de Musique

Dessaix-Baptiste in Jacmel, Haiti. Born in New York, Jamie Cartright grew up in Haiti and returned to the U.S. to receive her Bachelor of Music at Stetson University in Florida. She remains a strong advocate of both Haitian art song and songs by African American composers.

Renée Richardson, soprano

Renée Richardson, soprano, is from Springfield, Pennsylvania. The Haitian- American singer completed her undergraduate studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio and is now a third-year Resident Artist at the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia where she studies with Bill Schuman. Operatic roles include Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Béatrice in Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Cherubini's *Medea*, all with the Cleveland Institute of Music. Ms. Richardson has been seen in several Pensacola Opera productions including *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. At AVA, she has sung Foreign Princess in Dvořák's *Rusalka*, the title role and *Suor Dolcina* in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and *Inès* in Donizetti's *La Favorite*. Ms. Richardson has appeared as the soprano soloist in Beethoven's Ninth with the Kennett Symphony.

Drucilla Lindsay, soprano

Drucilla Lindsay is a gifted soprano from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Lindsay is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Vocal Performance with a certificate in Pre-Law at Lincoln University where she studies with Dr. Jean Bernard Cerin. When she graduates she aspires to pursue music and become a lawyer. Her mantra is that she'll be a singing lawyer.

Martin Néron, piano

Canadian pianist Martin Néron is on the faculty at Westminster Choir College and Taos Opera Institute. He has held residencies at Tennessee TU and Fundación Armonía (Ecuador), and presented masterclasses at Butler University, Washington and Ohio State University, TCNJ, Hunter College, NATS, and Arte Lirico. He is founder and artistic director of the Vocalis Consort, the Cantolatio International Competition, and Art Song On the Move. Praised as "an attentive partner" (*Opera News*), Martin has recorded albums of French, Greek, British, and American songs. His scholarly work is frequently featured in the *Journal of Singing*. His book, *Francis Poulenc: Selected Song Texts*, was published by Leyerle in 2010.

Veena Kulkarni Rankin, piano

Lead Instructor at the Faber Piano Institute in Ann Arbor, VEENA K. KULKARNI delights in teaching students of all ages from the earliest years of study through advanced concert repertoire. In the 2011 Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition, Veena won Best Liszt Interpretation, and gave the East Coast Premieres both of Frank Felice's *Echolocator* and Jennifer Blaire Furr's *Of Iron and Silicon*. Veena has led contemporary worship at the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church for over 12 years, giving her the fluency in style and versatility that are central to Duo 1717. Veena was also the pianist for Eero Trio, whose CD *Wolf Glen* was released in 2010 and features the premiere recording of Christopher Dietz's *Fumeux fume*, for clarinet, cello & piano. Veena completed her doctorate in Piano Performance and Pedagogy under Logan Skelton and John Ellis at the University of Michigan and has also taught at Madonna University and the University of Windsor.

Pax Ressler, piano

Pax Ressler (they/them) is a non-binary performer, music director, and composer working at the intersections of theatre and music as well as arts and advocacy. They are a passionate advocate and organizer of the non-binary and trans community in Philly and a co-gardener of the Genderfunk Philly instagram (@genderfunkphilly), featuring Philly's trans and non-binary theatre talent. Pax recently wrote an album of non-binary love songs entitled "Change" (<https://paxressler.bandcamp.com/>) and has written choral music for ensembles across the country. For the past five years, they have served as the Minister of Music at Tabernacle United Church in West Philadelphia. Paxressler.com

Note of thank you from the curator.

I would like to say thank you to all my friends who have donated their time, talent and intellectual property for this project. Many people volunteered their time to make all this happen. Men anpil, shay pa lou! (Where hands are many, burdens are not heavy). A very special thanks is in order for **Mr. Jordan Barrett** who graciously volunteered to edit five videos for this afternoon's program. Thank you to **Nathalie Cerin** for drafting the composer biographies. Many thanks to **Karine Margron** first for her advocacy and initiative in publishing all of this wonderful music and for her support in producing this afternoon's program. And finally, gratitude to **Janet Anthony and Rachael Cohen at Blume Haiti** for your work with both Haitian and American musicians. Organisations like you make the world a better place.

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Pour la sauvegarde et la diffusion du répertoire des chansons haïtiennes

Publications réalisées par
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