



**Valerie Bernhardt :: Soprano**

**Carl Patrick Bolleia :: Pianist**

**Merynda Adams :: Harpist**

**FREE CONCERT**

**FRI. NOV. 21**

**7:00 PM**

**ST. JOSEPH**

**CHURCH**

**MAPLEWOOD**



*A Night of Classical Music*



# BIOS ON THE PERFORMERS

## VALERIE BERNHARDT

Valerie reprised the role of Abigaille in Verdi's NABUCCO with ArtsNaples World Festival/Opera Naples, sang the title role in Carlisle Floyd's SUSANNAH with Coro Lirico in Morristown, NJ, and was the soprano soloist in Bruckner's TE DEUM with the New Jersey Symphony at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark NJ. Valerie debuted with Anchorage Opera in the World Premiere of Victoria Bond's opera, MRS. PRESIDENT. Ms. Bernhardt also sang the role of Brünnhilde in DIE WALKÜRE in concert with New York Lyric Opera Theater. Career highlights include a German operatic debut as Abigaille in NABUCCO with Theater Pforzheim; New York City Opera debut as Rooster in Janáček's THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN; First Lady in DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE with New York City Opera and Pittsburgh Opera; cover artist in Janáček's FROM THE HOUSE OF THE DEAD with the Metropolitan Opera; the title role in AIDA, the title role in TURANDOT, Abigaille in NABUCCO, and Electra in IDOMENEO with New Jersey's Coro Lirico; Mimi in LA BOHÈME with Pittsburgh Opera and Bohème Opera New Jersey; the title role in TOSCA and Nella in GIANNI SCHICCHI with Bohème Opera New Jersey; Valentine in Meyerbeer's LES HUGUENOTS and Lida in LA BATTAGLIA DI LEGNANO with the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México. Concert highlights include Brünnhilde in SIEGFRIED with New Jersey Concert Opera; Odetta in Donizetti's ADELIA (Carnegie Hall debut), Hélène in Verdi's JERUSALEM with Opera Orchestra of New York; VERDI REQUIEM, MOZART REQUIEM, Vaughan Williams' A SEA SYMPHONY, Beethoven's NINTH SYMPHONY with the Saint Cecilia Chorus and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall; Valerie has two graduate degrees in voice from the Juilliard School.

## MERYNDA ADAMS

Merynda Adams, harpist is in demand as a soloist and chamber musician, performing throughout the United States, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Puerto Rico. She has performed with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, New York Grand Opera, New Philharmonic, Lyrica Chamber Music, Northeastern Philharmonic, Colonial Symphony, Westfield Symphony, Lake Placid Symphonietta and off Broadway in "The Fantasticks". Described by the Newark Star Ledger as having "played the harp with color and great facility", Ms. Adams is a 1994 winner of the Artists International Competition and the Goldblatt Award. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, her teachers have included Kathleen Bride, Erika Waardenburg and Gloria Agostini. She is often heard as guest soloist in area churches, including the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## CARL PATRICK BOLLEIA

Carl Patrick Bolleia has been hailed as a "strong pianist" by New Music Connoisseur and recognized by The And of One for being of an "...extremely high quality..." He has collaborated with members of the The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble. Recent performances as pianist include his Austrian debut as soloist in the Haydn D Major Keyboard Concerto with the Vienna International Orchestra in Austria, the world premiere of Jay Villnai's Bukowski Song Cycle at South Oxford Space Brooklyn, presenting the music of John Link and Frederic Rzewski at the Northwestern University New Music Conference in Evanston, Illinois, the Wuorinen Trombone Trio at Manhattan School of Music, performing solo and chamber music at the Vianden International Music Festival in Luxembourg, and numerous engagements on the New Music Series at William Paterson University. As a conductor, Mr. Bolleia recently conducted Beethoven's Second Symphony at the Vienna ConcertoFest/Altenburger Musik Akademie in Austria, and has served as Assistant Conductor for The Colonial Symphony Orchestra of New Jersey, ConTempo New Music Ensemble in Brooklyn, and the William Paterson University Concert Choir. Carl is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate for Classical Piano Performance at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he studies with Min Kwon. Previous piano studies have been with Ursula Oppens and Gary Kirkpatrick. He has participated in masterclasses with Alan Feinberg, Nic Hodges and Fred Hersch. Committed to music education, Carl has lectured at Caldwell College and William Paterson University, where he has also served as Director of Music Admissions. Additional pursuits include the study of sacred music at The Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University, organ at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, and harpsichord at Rutgers University. He has served in music ministry from monasteries in rural Illinois to cathedrals and churches from Florence to Barbados. Mr. Bolleia is currently the Director of Sacred Music at the Church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Wyckoff, NJ.