

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
Presents

Making Beautiful Music Together
An Afternoon of Romance in Opera and Song



Maria D'Amato - Soprano, Dimitre Lazich - Baritone
with
Daniel Ragone - Pianist
Saturday, September 12, 2015
3:00 p.m.

We are thrilled to present another concert at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. We were so beautifully received here last year and when Pastor Tom asked us to sing another recital, we jumped at the opportunity! We were married in June and wanted to present a concert of love songs from our different heritages. Maria grew up on Long Island with an Italian-American background, and Dimitrie in Pittsburgh as a Serbian-American. When we were united in marriage we warmly embraced each other's culture and family, (Italian and Slavic). We also had a firm grasp and love of music from America, being that we were born here. Hence we are presenting in the second half of our program our American favorites in folk song, sacred, and musical theater pieces. We hope you enjoy our tapestry of heritages and you feel at home listening to these different songs, duets, and arias which we love to sing and which brings us together.

Maria and Dimitrie

Program

**O del mio amato ben
A vuchella
Vaga luna che inargenti
L'ultima canzone
Crudel! perchè finora**
- *Le Nozze di Figaro*

S. Donaudy
P. Tosti
V. Bellini
P. Tosti
W.A. Mozart

Song to the Moon
- *Rusalka*

A. Dvorak

**In the Midst of the Ball
When the Silent Night doth hold me
Spring Waters**

P.I. Tchaikowsky
S. Rachmaninov
S. Rachmaninov

Pur ti miro
- *L'incoronazione di Poppea*

C. Monteverdi

INTERMISSION

Simple Song
- *MASS*

L. Bernstein

Shenandoah

Sea Chantey
(Arr. C. Dougherty)

I'll see you again
- *Bitter Sweet*

N. Coward

Art is calling for me
- *The Enchantress*

V. Herbert

Where is the life that late I led
- *Kiss Me Kate*

C. Porter

Summertime
- *Porgy and Bess*

G. Gershwin

Without a Song
- *Great Day*

V. Youmans

If I loved you
- *Carousel*

Rodgers and Hammerstein

Performers



Soprano Maria D'Amato's voice was described by Opera News as “beautifully floated” and “a gem” as Desdemona in *Otello* with the Sarasota Opera. The Shirley, NY native performed the role of Mimi in *La Bohème* with Ash Lawn Opera and Sarasota Opera after her successful debut in the role with Dicapo Opera Theatre in New York City. She made her solo role debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 2013 in the world premiere of *Two Boys* as “American Suburban Mom” and later that same season sang the “First Noble Orphan” in *Der Rosenkavalier* and performed the spoken role of “Natalie” in *Die Fledermaus*. Other roles with Sarasota Opera

include *Pamina* in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Thibault* in *Don Carlos* and *Berta* in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Maria performed *Despina* in *Così fan tutte*, and *Susanna* in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program; *Nannetta* in *Falstaff*, and *Poppea* and *Drusilla* in *Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea*, all with Opera North, NH. Ms. D'Amato holds a B.M. from Boston University and an M.M. from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music.

Equally at home on the concert stage, she debuted with the Seattle Symphony under Maestro Gerard Schwarz as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. She was a soloist in Bach's B-minor mass and Mozart's C-Minor mass in Cincinnati, and was a soloist in *Carmina Burana* with both the North Arkansas Symphony and the Eugene Ballet. She was the soprano soloist with the Artist Series of Sarasota in their Golden Age of Operetta concerts and sang the soprano I solos in Mendelssohn's *Lobegsang* with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Awards include Opera Index, Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation grants and appearances in concert at Alice Tully and Rose Halls, Giulio Gari Foundation grants, and the Lendon Todd Munday Encouragement Award from the Jensen Foundation.

Maria recently began her fourth season in the full-time chorus of the Metropolitan Opera. This season at the Met she will perform her first solo in an HD broadcast as “Madrigal Singer #1” in a new production of *Manon Lescaut*.

www.mariadamato.org



Over the course of his still burgeoning career **baritone Dimitrie Lazich** has amassed significant credits both internationally and in the US, performing a number of leading roles. He debuted with the Pittsburgh Opera singing the role of *Schaunard* in *LA BOHEME* and most recently he returned to sing *El Dancairo* in *CARMEN*. He was praised for his “solid technique and sensitivity to the words, (along with) his excellent vocalism enhanced by a handsome presence and easy stage demeanor” as *Danillo* in *THE MERRY WIDOW* with the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Lazich made his professional European debut with the Staatsoper Stuttgart in their production of *DOCTOR FAUSTUS* and has performed with De Nederlandse Reisopera in *LA TRAVIATA*. In the UK, Lazich debuted with the Dorset Opera singing *Zurga* in *LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES* and with the Longborough

Festival Opera as Escamillo in CARMEN. In the US he has performed the roles of Maximilion CANDIDE, Louis in Bolcolm's A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, Marco GIANNI SCHICCHI, Papageno THE MAGIC FLUTE, Three Villains THE TALES OF HOFFMAN, all with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, the roles of Marullo RIGOLETTO, Wagner FAUST and Lakai ARIADNE AUF NAXOS with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Erster Soldat SALOME with Cleveland Opera, Dandini LA CENERENTOLA with Skylight Opera Theater, and Laurent in Tobias Picker's THERESE RAQUIN. With the Sarasota Opera, he performed Thomas Putnam THE CRUCIBLE, The Imperial Commissioner MADAMA BUTTERFLY, and Moralès CARMEN.

Mr. Lazich is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and The Curtis Institute of Music. Other professional training programs include the Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis and performing the roles Beaupertuis IL CAPPELLO DI PAGLIA DI FIRENZE, Guglielmo COSÌ FAN TUTTE, Sid ALBERT HERRING, Don Alvaro IL VIAGGIO A REIMS, Don Magnifico LA CENERENTOLA with Music Academy of the West, and Falke DIE FLEDERMAUS and Junius RAPE OF LUCRETIA with Opera Studio Nederland.

On the concert stage Mr. Lazich has performed solos in Faure Requiem, Durufé Requiem, Haydn The Creation, Orff Carmina Burana, Mendelssohn Elijah, Handel Messiah, and Bach St. Matthew's Passion. He was the featured soloist in pop's concerts in The Netherlands where he performed works of Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Escamillo in CARMEN THE MUSICAL and role of Escamillo in the opera CARMEN all in the Royal Concertgebouw.



Daniel Ragone, vocal coach and pianist, is a native of Philadelphia where he began his piano studies at the age of 7. He received his formal education at Penn State University and the University of Illinois, where he was teaching assistant to the famed accompanist, John Wustman. For years a mainstay of the New York City vocal scene and one of it's most highly regarded coaches, Daniel collaborated with many artists from the Met and New York City Opera. He recently relocated to Long Island where he opened a thriving vocal studio in Port

Jefferson. His reputation as a first rate pianist make him a sought after recital collaborator and recording artist. Mr. Ragone has performed, along with countless vocal recitals, many chamber music concerts including the Brahms "Liebeslieder Waltzes" and other major chamber works of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann and Poulenc. Among his past affiliations are the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition for Singers, the Rome Opera Festival and The Center for Contemporary Opera. He was responsible for the musical preparation of the world premiere of Stephen Paulus' "Hester Prynne at Death" at the 92nd St. Y.

His addition to the Long Island music scene fulfills an important need. He has given performances and guest master classes at Hofstra University, SUNY Stony Brook, Suffolk County Community College and St. Joseph's College. Daniel Ragone is the founder and music director of the ensemble, Divalicious! He is thrilled to be partnering with Pastor Tom Philipp in creating a music series at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church. In addition, Mr. Ragone is artistic director and accompanist for the ongoing music series, "Music on the Sound" in Port Jefferson.