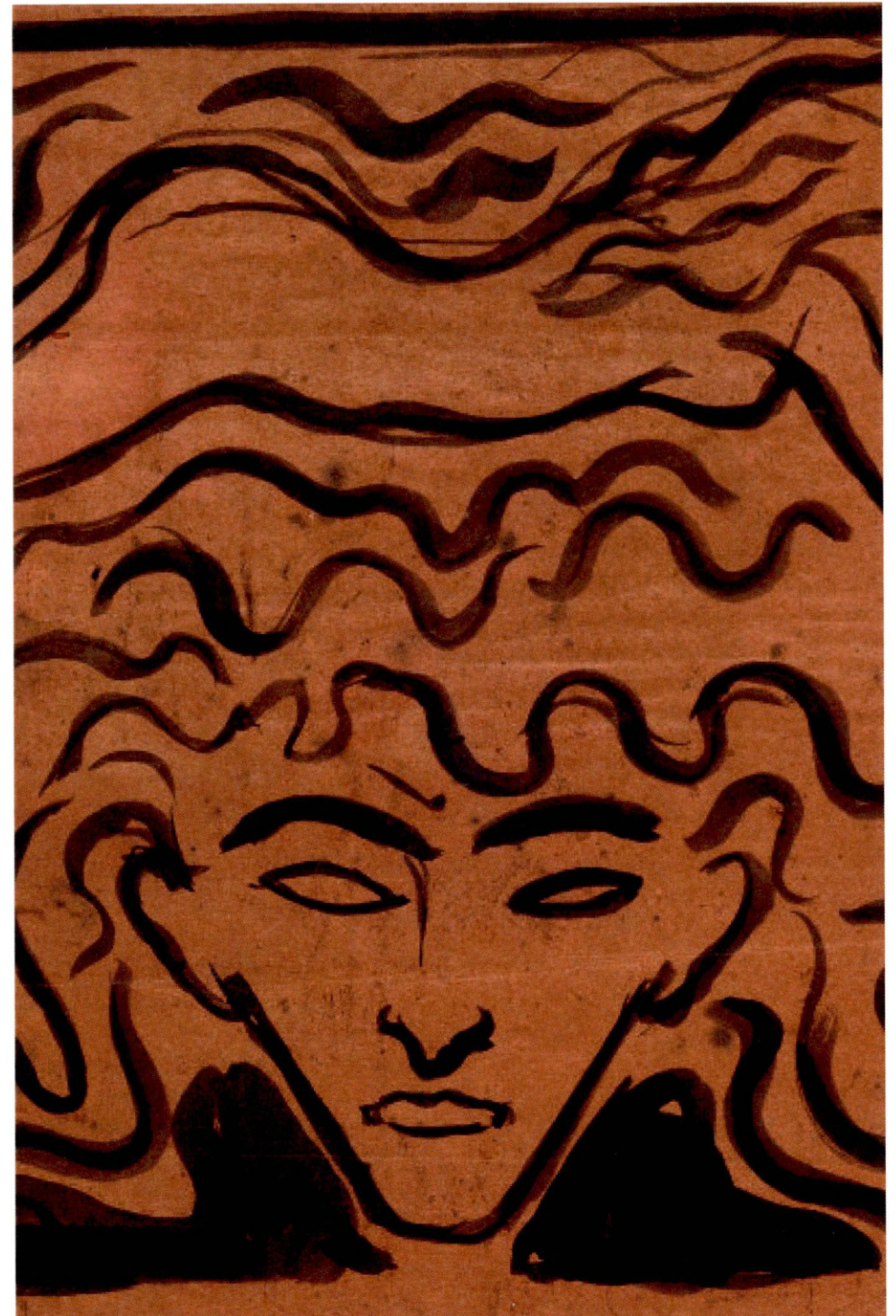
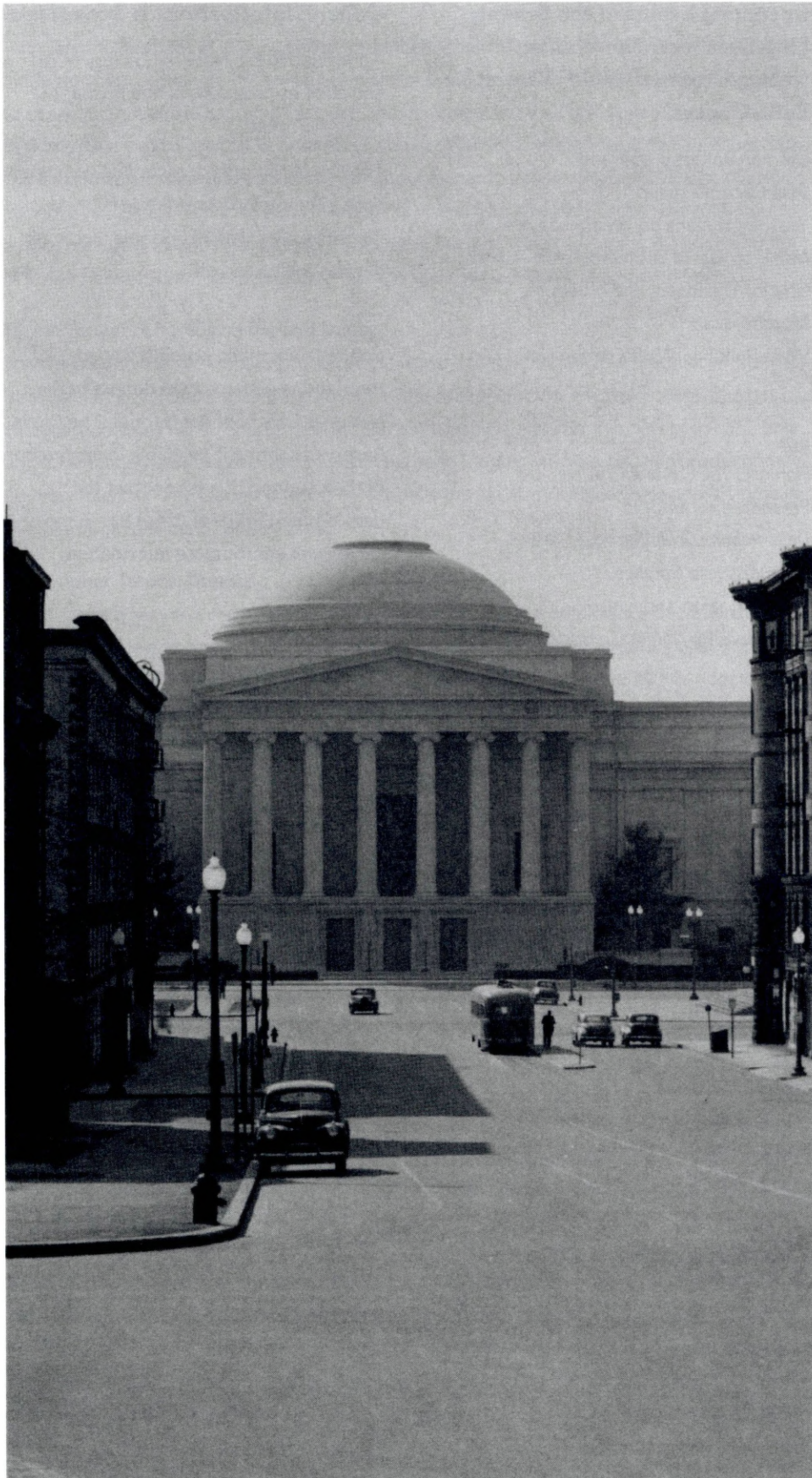


75TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2017 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



PROGRAM



Edvard Munch, *In Man's Brain (Head)*, c. 1897. National Gallery of Art, Washington, Epstein Family Fund and the Director's Discretionary Fund

3:30 • West Building, West Garden Court

New York Opera Society

American Inspiration, Norwegian Innovation Concert

Program in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy

Spiritual

Arr. K. Scott Warren

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me,"
mezzo-soprano

Gisle Kverndokk (b. 1967)

Songs from *Ruth Maier*

"All the days get brighter," soprano
"Beauty all around," soprano,
mezzo-soprano, ensemble
"The words," mezzo-soprano

Joe Garland (1903 - 1977)

"In the Mood," dance

George Gershwin (1898 - 1937)

"Fascinating Rhythm," soprano

Gisle Kverndokk

Songs from *Around the world in 80 days*

"Liebe und Luft," mezzo soprano, tenor,
and baritone

"Nur die Drache ist Frei," soprano

"Zu Spät," baritone

Duke Ellington (1899 - 1974)

"It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got
No Swing," dance

Eubie Blake (1887 - 1983)

"Charleston Rag," piano solo

Jerome Kern (1885 - 1945)

"Ol' Man River," baritone

Gisle Kverndokk

Opera excerpts from *Upon this handful
of earth*, medley, four voices

George Gershwin

"I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'," baritone
"Bess, You Is My Woman Now,"
soprano and baritone

The Musicians

New York Opera Society

The New York Opera Society (NYOS) develops new audiences for opera by commissioning, creating, and funding distinctive and high-quality productions. To that end, NYOS serves as a conduit to the public by disseminating important messages, musical inspiration, and seminal artistic performances through partnerships with major performance venues, corporations, nonprofits, and governments to present the work of our artists in the United States and abroad. NYOS annually tours new productions to international festivals and presents a contemporary opera or new commission in the United States. It also hosts a salon series and oversees an international artist-in-residence program and substantive outreach programs. Recent highlights include productions of *Falstaff* and *Madame Butterfly* for its annual festival in Southern France; the Lincoln Center and Teatro São Pedro, São Paulo, Brazil, premieres of its contemporary Spanish opera, *Las Horas Vacías*, by Guggenheim fellow and Juilliard faculty member Ricardo Llorca; three tours and a world premiere of the NYOS's commission of *Max and Moritz: A Cartoon Opera in Seven Pranks*, by Gisle Kverndokk. Other notable NYOS evenings have taken place at the Chicago Cultural Center, the Embassy of Italy, New York's World Financial Center, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and the United Nations. Audiences have included Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, the Royal Couple of Norway, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Queen Sofia of Spain, Stanley Tucci and Martin Scorsese (at a gala in their honor), and nearly every European and South American embassy and consulate. During this current season, NYOS has been favorably reviewed on PBS and in *Time Magazine*, *GQ Magazine*, *Opera News*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. The New York Opera Society is led by a dedicated board of directors and philanthropist, Lesley Silvester.

Gisle Kverndokk, Composer

Gisle Kverndokk is one of Norway's foremost composers of musical theater. His works have been performed throughout Norway, Germany, Canada, and the United States. His opera *Around the world in 80 days* was commissioned for the opening of the new opera house in Oslo, and premiered there in 2010. Kverndokk has written two children's operas for the New York Opera Society: *Max and Moritz* (2010) and *Supersize Girl* (2013). He also has an extensive repertoire of symphonic works, chamber music, church music, and film music, and has collaborated with all the major orchestras in Norway. He studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo, and the Juilliard School, New York.

Sara Murphy, Mezzo-Soprano

Sara Murphy, "a gorgeous, deep, dark mezzo-soprano" (*New York Times*), is a vocal artist who has been called "absolutely unforgettable for her versatility and ability to conquer any sensitive soul" (*El Nacional*, Dominican Republic). The fall of 2016 marks her European debut at Opera Theater of Rome as Ulrica in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* under the baton of Jesús López-Cobos. The current season continues with the role of the Wife in the world premiere of Gisle Kverndokk's sacred opera *Upon this handful of earth* and concludes at Carnegie Hall as Mary Magdalene in Elgar's *The Apostles* with the American Symphony Orchestra. *Opera News* named the recent release of Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner*, in which Murphy portrays Mother Bayard and Ermengarde, one of the "Top Ten Opera Recordings of 2015."

Past season highlights include Ligeti's *Requiem*, Schnittke's *Nagasaki*, Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner* with the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leon Botstein, and Verdi's *Otello*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mahler's Symphony no. 8, Beethoven's Symphony no. 9, and Tchaikovsky's *Ode to Joy* at the Cincinnati May Festival conducted by James Conlon. Her portrayal of Britten's *Phaedra*, Barber's *Dover Beach*, and the High Priestess in Verdi's *Aida* at Ravinia with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by James Conlon won acclaim from the *Chicago Tribune*: "a rich, voluminous mezzo voice, excellent diction and an acute feeling for words and music." Murphy enjoys frequent performances of Verdi's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mahler's Symphony no. 8, Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*, and Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. Murphy holds degrees from Oberlin College and Catholic University. She is a first-prize winner of the Oratorio Society of New York Solo Vocal Competition and a grant recipient of Inter-Cities Performing Arts and the Wagner Society of New York.

Aksel-Otto Bull, Librettist

Aksel-Otto Bull is a Norwegian stage director and playwright. He has directed over sixty theater productions throughout Norway. He has been artistic director of the National Theatre in Bergen and has for many years worked in theater education at the Nordic Institute for Stage and Studio and the Bårdar Academy in Oslo. He studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and the Drama Studio, London. Bull and Kverndokk's first opera collaboration was *Easter*, commissioned by the Bergen National Opera. It premiered in 2014 at Kilden, Kristiansand, directed by Bull. Their next collaboration was the musical *Ruth Maier*, commissioned by the Music Theatre Forum in Oslo. It was presented at the New York Theatre Barn's New Work Series, 2015.

Kenneth Overton, Baritone

As a leading baritone, Kenneth Overton has sung with the San Francisco Opera, Opera Memphis, Nashville Opera, Connecticut Opera, Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Boheme Opera NJ, Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Opera Delaware, Sacramento Opera, and Opera Carolina. His roles with these companies include Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Sharpless (*Madame Butterfly*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Ping (*Turandot*), Angelotti (*Tosca*), and Bello and Sid (*La Fanciulla del West*). Overton's interpretation of the title role in *Porgy and Bess* has been acclaimed as "breathtaking." This season Overton returns to David Geffen Hall in Mozart's *Requiem* with the National Chorale and debuts with the Hungarian State Opera as Porgy.

Andrew Rosenblum, Collaborative Pianist and Music Director

Andrew Rosenblum, Chicago-based pianist and harpsichordist, has worked as a staff or faculty keyboardist at Northwestern University, DePaul University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, and the Heifetz International Music Institute. Highlights of his 2015-2016 season included coaching and performing in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of *Second Nature*, a children's opera by Matthew Aucoin, and soloing with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 5. Rosenblum has performed in many prominent venues in the United States, including the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, and Severance Hall, and he has concertized internationally in Guadalajara, Mexico, Gros Islet, St. Lucia, and Banff, Canada.

John Tiranno, Tenor

John Tiranno has had his singing called “ardent and mellifluous” by the *New York Times*. Notable performances include the world premiere of Gisle Kverndokk’s *Upon this handful of earth* (a coproduction of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space and the New York Opera Society), Berlioz’s *Requiem* (La Jolla Symphony and Chorus), Mahler’s Symphony no. 8, Paul Moravec’s *The Blizzard Voices* (Oratorio Society of New York), Richard Strauss’s *Deutsche Motette* (Musica Sacra), Saint-Saëns *Requiem* (*Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra*), the role Trouble in Kverndokk’s *Max and Moritz* (New York Opera Society), Bach’s Mass in B Minor, and the U.S. premiere of Juraj Filas’s *Requiem — Oratio Spei* (Sacred Music in a Sacred Space).

Nicole Tongue, Choreographer and Dancer

Born in London, Nicole Tongue trained at the Royal Ballet School, was a member of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and is a graduate of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She has choreographed for ballet, opera, theater, television, fashion, and commercials both nationally and internationally with casts of 2 to 200. This year Tongue will be a creative producer on the new musical “The Heroin Diaries,” which tells the life story of Nikki Sixx and his time in the infamous rock band Mötley Crüe.

Christopher Treece, Dancer

Christopher Treece is a New York City-based actor. His theater credits include national tours of *A Chorus Line* and *Hairspray*, as well as productions of *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Old Globe, *Mame* at the Goodspeed Opera House, *West Side Story* at Gateway Playhouse, *Oliver!* at the John W. Engeman Theater, *A Christmas Carol* at the Hartford Stage Company, and *My Fair Lady* at the Monomoy Theatre. He recently covered for Derek Hough in Radio City Music Hall’s *New York Spring Spectacular* starring the Rockettes. As choreographer, he toured Europe and the United States with drag icon Sharon Needles’s *PG-13* world tour.

Mary Elizabeth Williams, Soprano

Mary Elizabeth Williams is a native of Philadelphia and currently lives in Milan, Italy. The bulk of her repertoire is Italian romantic or verismo opera, and she is especially lauded for her portrayals of dramatic coloratura heroines, like Norma (*Norma*), Abigaille (*Nabucco*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), and Odabella (*Attila*). Williams recently made her debut at La Scala as Serena in *Porgy and Bess* and will debut the role of Roselinde in *Die Fledermaus* with the Welsh National Opera this spring.

Elizabeth Young, Violin

Elizabeth Young is the concertmaster and guest conductor of the New York Opera Society. She has performed frequently at notable New York City venues including Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Radio City Music Hall, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Trinity Church at Wall Street, and the United Nations. She has appeared on the BBC, CBS, and CNN, and as an orchestral and chamber musician, she has performed numerous concerts with orchestras throughout North America and Europe. Young is a member of the New Mexico Philharmonic and is a regular performer with the Santa Fe Symphony and the Santa Fe Opera.

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Fifth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Carmen Balthrop, soprano
José Cáceres, piano
“Washingtonians on Wednesdays”
Music by David DiChiera, Leslie Adams,
Charles Davidson, and others
March 1, 12:10
West Building, West Garden Court

Eya
Florence: The Cultural Crucible
Presented in honor of
Della Robbia: Sculpting with Color
in Renaissance Florence
March 4, 12:00 and 2:00
West Building, West Garden Court

Ji, piano
March 5, 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court

Alexander Wu, piano, and the Serendip Trio
“Washingtonians on Wednesdays”
Return to Camelot: Music from the Kennedy
White House Concerts, 1961 – 1963
March 8, 12:10
West Building, East Garden Court

Cappella Pratensis
Commemorating the 500th anniversary of
Hieronymus Bosch’s death
March 12, 3:30
West Building, East Garden Court

Inscape
“Washingtonians on Wednesdays”
March 15, 12:10
West Building Lecture Hall

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Back cover *West Building, Constitution Avenue entrance, viewed from Sixth Street NW, 1941, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gallery Archives*