



# *Share the Joy, Angst, and Tears of Love through Song*

A Debut Recital Concert  
Featuring

*Barbara Benjamin, Lyric Soprano*

with Guest Artists

**Anita Ramirez, Mezzo-Soprano  
Joe Kinyon, Baritone**

and  
**Russell Norman, Pianist**

Sunday, September 10, 2000, 4:00 PM  
*Palo Alto Art Center  
Palo Alto, California*

## Act I

**Ah, guarda sorella, Così Fan Tutte**  
**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Barbara Benjamin and Anita Ramirez

*Fiordiligi and Dorabella look adoringly at portraits of their lovers, exclaiming their faithfulness to them.*

**La ci darem, Don Giovanni,**  
**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Barbara Benjamin and Joe Kinyon

*Exerting his charms on Zerlina, Giovanni entices her to run off with him.*

**Quando m'en vo soletta, La Bohème**

**Giacomo Puccini**

Barbara Benjamin

*The vivacious Musetta tries to attract the attention of her former lover, Marcello.*

**Nemico della patria, Andrea Chenier**

**Umberto Giordano**

Joe Kinyon

*Gérard, in love with Maddalean, is now filled with remorse at the bloodshed he has caused in his rise to power.*

**Belle nuit, o nuit d'amour (Barcarolle), The Tales of Hoffmann**  
**Jacques Offenbach**

Barbara Benjamin and Anita Ramirez

*Nicklausse and Giulietta extol the beauty of the night and the power of love.*

**Steal Me, Sweet Thief, The Old Maid and the Thief**  
**Gian-Carlo Menotti**

Barbara Benjamin

*Laetitia laments the miseries of unmarried women growing old alone.*

**Seguidilla, Carmen**  
**Georges Bizet**

Anita Ramirez

*Teasing Don Jose, Carmen convinces him to untie the ropes on her wrists.*

**Trees on the Mountain, Susannah**  
**Carlisle Floyd**

Barbara Benjamin

*To lessen her sense of aloneness, Susannah sings a folk song to herself.*

**Violetta and Germont duet, La Traviata**  
**Giuseppe Verdi**

Barbara Benjamin and Joe Kinyon

*Germont demands that, for the sake of his family's reputation, Violetta must leave his son, Alfredo. Initially refusing and tearfully explaining that she is alone in the world and afflicted with a deadly disease, she eventually relents and agrees to never see Alfredo again.*

## Act II

**Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti (The Cat Duet)**  
**Gioacchino Rossini**

Barbara Benjamin and Anita Ramirez

*Two feline "divas" attempt to prove their vocal superiority over their equally confident rival.*

**Old Maid, 110 in the Shade**  
**Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt**

Barbara Benjamin

*As love seems to continually pass her by, Lizzie tries reconciling herself to being an "old maid."*

**Not a Day Goes By, Merrily We Roll Along**  
**Stephen Sondheim**

Barbara Benjamin

*Unable to cope with Frank's philandering, Beth ends their marriage but admits he will always somehow be part of her life.*

**One Alone, The Desert Song**  
**Oscar Hammerstein and Sigmund Romberg**

Joe Kinyon

**Much More, The Fantasticks**  
**Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt**

Barbara Benjamin

*Luisa expresses her most ardent daydreams and desires.*

**Soon It's Gonna Rain, The Fantasticks**  
**Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt**

Barbara Benjamin and Joe Kinyon

*The new lovers, Luisa and Matt, enjoy a rendezvous as a storm approaches, foreshadowing the future of their relationship.*

**I Have to Tell You, Fanny**  
**Harold Rome**

Barbara Benjamin

*Before he leaves, Fanny gathers the courage to tell the boy she loves how she feels.*

**I Have Dreamed, The King and I**  
**Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein**

Anita Ramirez and Joe Kinyon

**Children of the Wind, Rags**  
**Stephen Schwartz and Charles Strouse**

Barbara Benjamin

*Rebecca, a Jewish immigrant in the early 1900s, tells of the horrors and difficulties of escaping to America from Russia.*

~ Intermission ~

## Artist's Biographies

**Barbara Benjamin, Lyric Soprano**, presents her first recital concert today. In the early 1990s, Barbara studied voice for two years with Catherine Petrek in Los Gatos and Edna Garabedian in San Jose. However, while attending San Jose State University to obtain degrees in English, creative writing, and technical writing, she was forced to suspend her musical endeavors for nearly five years. After graduating in 1997, she performed in several productions for West Bay Opera in Palo Alto and Lyric Theatre in San Jose. In the spring of 1999, Barbara resumed her vocal training and began studying with voice teacher Iris Fraser and vocal coach Russell Norman. She wants to express her sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped make this event possible, especially to Iris and Russell, whose expert capabilities, musical and dramatic sensitivity, and constant encouragement have helped her realize a dream she had almost given up.

**Anita Ramirez, Mezzo-Soprano**, has studied voice for several years, as well as studied in the Catholic Church workshop in Burlingame. She has performed as a soloist in numerous churches, including such works as Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Mozart's "Requiem Mass." Anita has also sung with the Don Heneke Chorale of Los Gatos, the Sierra Nevada Chorale, the San Jose State Choir, and the San Jose Symphony. Recently, she recorded her first classical CD. She currently studies with Russell Norman of Palo Alto.

**Joe Kinyon, Baritone**, currently resides in Walnut Creek, California. He studies voice with Carl Franzen in San Francisco and with vocal coach Russell Norman in Palo Alto. Joe has performed in various musical and operatic productions in the San Francisco Bay Area. Presently, he serves as the baritone for Opera Bravura, a Palo Alto opera group started by Carl Franzen. Joe has also been singing as a part-time soloist with First Church of Christ Scientist, in Danville, and has sung for several other churches in the SF Bay Area.

**Russell Norman, Pianist**, is an internationally known and respected pianist, director, and operatic vocal coach, performing in concert with classical and musical theater artists worldwide. He spent several seasons as a coach at the American Institute for Musical Studies in Graz and the Wiener KammerOper in Vienna. In addition to being the assistant music director and vocal coach at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Opera Department, Russell has an active vocal studio in Palo Alto.













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