USC THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC
VOCAL ARTS MASTER CLASS

BRIAN ASAWA

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February 6, 2015, 12:00 PM
Alfred Newman Recital Hall
University of Southern California
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL  
(1685-1759)  
“Come nube Che fugge dal vento” - Agrippina  
Katie Beck  
Hye Jung Chin, pianist

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART  
(1756-1791)  
“Il mio tesoro” - Don Giovanni  
Hui Jin  
Aram Arakelyan - pianist

CARLISLE FLOYD  
(1926-)  
“Ain’t it a Pretty Night” - Susannah  
Savannah Greene  
Aram Arakelyan - pianist

HANDEL  
“O Sacrum Convivium” - Agrippina  
Katie Beck  
Hye Jung Chin, pianist

The use of flash cameras, video cameras, and other recording devices is not permitted. Please turn off all cell phones.

Due to safety considerations, members of the audience are not allowed backstage prior to or following performances.
Brian Asawa's groundbreaking career has established himself as one of the foremost countertenors of our time. He was the first countertenor to win the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions at the national level, the first countertenor Merolino and Adler Fellow at San Francisco Opera, and the first countertenor honored with Seattle Opera's Artist of the Year Award. In addition, he was named the first countertenor ever to win the top prize of Placido Domingo’s Operalia International Vocal Competition.

Over a career spanning 23 years, he has sung in most major opera houses worldwide, including San Francisco Opera, The Metrop, De Nederlandse Opera, Opera National de Paris (Garnier), Teatro Real (Madrid), Teatre del Liceu (Barcelona), Staatsoper Unter den Linden (Berlin), Münchner Bayerische Staatsoper, Opera de Lyon, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera di Roma, Teatro di San Carlo (Napoli), Teatro Colón (Buenos Aires), Los Angeles Opera, Cologne Opera, and Opera de Geneve. On the concert platform he has performed with Seattle Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Boston’s Haydn and Handel Festival, London Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Lincoln Center (NYC), Vienna Musikverein, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Recently, he made his critically acclaimed LA Phil debut in Peter Oëtvos’ Angels in America, performed in Carmina Burana with Marin Symphony, and made his LiederAlive debut in San Francisco featuring Schubert and Strauss. He also performed in Guadalajara’s Festival de Mayo with mezzo- Diana Tash, harpsichordist Arthur Omura and Baroque cellist Frederic Rosselet. In October Asawa and Tash released Spirits of the Air, a recording of Baroque arias and duets, on LML records.

Asawa has recorded five solo discs of repertoire ranging from Elizabethan lute songs to contemporary American music and various opera recordings, including Farnace in Mitridate, re di Ponto (Decca), Arsamene in Serse (Conifer Classics), and Oberon in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Philips). He is featured on video as Baba the Turk in Stravinsky’s The Rake’s Progress (Swedish Television One), Fyodor in Mussorgsky’s Boris Gudonov (Willy Decker production), l’Umana Fragilita and Anfinomo in Monteverdi’s Il Ritorno d’Ulisse in Patria both with de Nederlandse Opera, and most recently Prince Go-Go in Ligeti’s Le Grand Macabre with Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona.
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For more performances from the USC Thornton School of Music, tune in on Sundays at 9:00 p.m. to Thornton Center Stage on Classical KUSC 91.5 FM.

Before or after the concert, save on dinner at two USC on-campus restaurants. Enjoy the stylish atmosphere and appetizing cuisine at Moreton Fig, watch a big game and share a platter of appetizers with your friends at Traditions Bar & Grill, or enjoy food, drinks, and the evolution of good times at The Lab. Indulge yourself with dinner followed by a USC Thornton School of Music Spring series concert.

Metro Discount: Show your valid TAP card, Metro Employee ID, or LA County Employee ID to your server at Moreton Fig, Traditions Bar & Grill, or The Lab and save 10 percent on your bill. Discount does not apply to alcohol.