MUSIC OF HUGO KAUDER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 | 7:00PM ET

Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert Series

Co-sponsored by Hugo Kauder Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and American Society for Jewish Music

The Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert Series is made possible by a generous gift from the Estate of Sidney Krum.
This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.
ABOUT HUGO KAUDER

Courtesy of the Hugo Kauder Society

Hugo Kauder devoted his life (1888-1972) to composing, teaching, playing, and writing about music. The following biography is an introduction to his life and work.

For more in-depth information about Kauder, you may visit The Hugo Kauder Papers at the University of Chicago Library. All of Kauder’s original writings and manuscripts have also recently been accepted by the New York Public Library’s Music Division. Also, additional documents may be found at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, and at the Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek).

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Kauder was born June 9, 1888 in Tobitschau, Moravia, now Tovacov, Czech Republic. His father Ignaz Kauder was Oberlehrer (principal) of the local German language elementary school. As a boy, Hugo Kauder had violin lessons with the local teacher, who eventually dismissed him when he had taught him everything he knew. These lessons were his only formal training in music.

In 1905, Kauder moved to Vienna to study engineering but often skipped school with classmate Egon Lustgarten to study scores in the Imperial Court Library. Of particular interest to him were several volumes of Denkmäler der Tonkunst in Österreich (Monuments of Music in Austria), mainly works of Flemish composers of the 15th and 16th centuries.

DEVELOPING A MUSICAL CAREER

From 1911 to 1917, Kauder played violin in the Wiener Tonkuenstler Orchester under such conductors as Ferdinand Loewe, Franz Schalk, Arthur Nikisch, and Richard Strauss. There he began a lifelong friendship with Dutch horn player Willem Valkenier (1887-1986), inspiring his numerous horn compositions.

From 1917 to 1922, Kauder was the violist of the Gottesmann Quartet.

In 1919, he met poet and philosopher Rudolf Pannwitz (1886-1969). Though he could not play an instrument, Pannwitz composed settings of classic poems, following his idea “quite unconventional at the time” that composers should find and reveal the music latent in texts, rather than creating the musical setting at will. Kauder adopted and elaborated this approach to vocal music and regarded Pannwitz as a life-long mentor.
In 1923 Kauder married the linguist, archeologist, and bible scholar Helene Guttman (1898-1949), a cousin of his study companion Egon Lustgarten.

For the rest of his life, in Vienna and later in New York, Kauder was self-employed as a composer and teacher of violin, music theory, and composition. As part of his efforts to bring his music to life, he conducted a chorus and a chamber ensemble of students and friends (including his son Otto) who studied and performed the classics as well as his own compositions.

Notable musicians who appreciated and performed Kauder’s music in Vienna before 1938 and to some extent after 1945 included the Gottesmann, Sedlak-Winkler, Rose, and Kolbe string quartets; the conductors Josef Mertin (1904-1998), Viktor Bermeiser, Siegmund Levarie, Karl Ristenpart, and Alexander Zemlinsky; pianist Adolf Baller, hornist Ernst Paul, and oboist Alexander Wunderer.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

VIRA SLYWOTZKY has performed principal roles with Seattle Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Chelsea Opera, Center for Contemporary Opera, Light Opera of New York, Sarasota Opera and Boston Midsummer Opera, and has appeared in concert with the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, Rockland Camerata and New Haven Chamber Orchestra. She has sung recitals and concerts in New York at Merkin Hall, the Metropolitan Room, Opera America, Sheen Center, SubCulture, Symphony Space, Ukrainian Institute, Ukrainian Museum and Weill Hall. Internationally Slywotzky has performed at the Hudson Music Festival in Hudson, CA, Festival D’Avignon in Avignon, FR, at Le Musée des Arts Décoratifs and the American Church in Paris, FR, at the Armel Opera Festival in Szeged, HU, at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in St. Petersburg, RU and at the Gustov Adolf Church in Sundsvall, SE. Slywotzky received an MM from Mannes and a BA from Yale. She was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

MAYA BENNARDO (she/her) is an active performer, improviser, and composer living between Brooklyn, NY and Stockholm, Sweden. Maya is interested in opening the dialogue and blurring the boundaries between composers and performers and is devoted to performing music of the present. She is a founding member of the violin/viola duo andPlay, described by I Care If You Listen as “enthusiastic champions for new music and collaboration.” She is a core member of Mivos Quartet and also performs new and traditional repertoire for violin and piano with pianist Karl Larson. Maya enjoys a rich teaching life and teaches students in her private studio. She graduated from NYU with a Master of Music and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music studying with Gregory Fulkerson at both institutions.

Cellist VALERIYA SHOLOKHova is an active soloist and chamber musician based in New York City. Valeriya has appeared on concert stages at notable venues such as Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Alice Tully Hall, and Saturday Night Live. She has toured internationally across Europe, performing in Denmark, Austria, Croatia, Poland, the Baltic States, Sweden, Germany, and Ukraine. Recently, Valeriya performed as cello chair in the highly-acclaimed production of Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Valeriya is a graduate of The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, where she was a full scholarship student of Bonnie Hampton and David Geber.

American pianist MILES FELLENBERG is regularly invited as a pianist, conductor, and educator throughout the United States and abroad. Known for his extensive repertoire and affinity for chamber music, Fellenberg leads a multifaceted career and is highly sought after by singers, instrumentalists, and fellow pianists. He has concertized throughout North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. He is currently based in Boston, where he plays with numerous instrumentalists, vocalists, new music ensembles, and orchestras. He coaches singers and teaches ear training and group piano classes at New England Conservatory. He holds a BM from Oberlin Conservatory, a MM from The Juilliard School, and is a doctoral candidate at New England Conservatory.
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