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James Weaver, baritone, Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano, Ulysses Kirksey, viola da gamba and cello, Joanne Kong, harpsichord and piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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James Weaver, baritone  
Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano  
Ulysses Kirksey, viola da gamba and cello  
Joanne Kong, harpsichord and piano



SEPTEMBER 15, 2006, 7:30 PM  
CAMP CONCERT HALL, BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

## PROGRAM

My Dearest, My Fairest

Music for a While

Sound a Parley

Lord, What is Man

A Dialogue between Damilcar and Nakar

Henry Purcell  
(1659-1695)

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano

James Weaver, baritone

Ulysses Kirksey, cello

Joanne Kong, harpsichord

Sonata in G Major, BWV 1027

I. Adagio

II. Allegro ma non tanto

III. Andante

IV. Allegro moderato

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Ulysses Kirksey, viola da gamba

Joanne Kong, harpsichord

Quando in calma ride il mare

George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano

James Weaver, baritone

Ulysses Kirksey, cello

Joanne Kong, harpsichord

## INTERMISSION

In der Nacht, Op. 74 No. 4  
Wenn ich ein Vöglein wär, Op. 43 No. 1  
Herbstlied, Op. 43 No. 2  
Schön Blümelein, Op. 43 No. 3

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano  
James Weaver, baritone  
Joanne Kong, piano

Extase  
Soupir

Henri Duparc  
(1848-1933)

Don Quichotte à Dulcinée  
II. Chanson épique  
III. Chanson à boire

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

Les Danses de Lormont

César Franck  
(1822-1880)

Ride On Jesus

arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston  
(b. 1938)

Lisa Edwards-Burrs, soprano  
James Weaver, baritone  
Joanne Kong, piano

Since finishing his studies with Max van Egmond at Amsterdam's Sweelinck Conservatory, Baritone *James Weaver* has been a frequent performer with many of the finest orchestras and chamber ensembles in North America and Europe. He has sung with such diverse groups as Collegium Vocale Ghent, The Academy of the Begynhof, the Dutch experimental theater group GRIF, Ensemble Courant, the Orpheus Band, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Dryden Ensemble, Santa Fe Pro Musica, the Seattle and Portland Baroque Orchestras, the Baltimore Consort, Newberry Consort, Columbus Consort, and the Ricercar Consort. An acclaimed Bach specialist, he has worked with Joshua Rifkin and The Bach Ensemble, Jeffrey Thomas and the American Bach Soloists, Kenneth Slowik and the Smithsonian Chamber Players, the San Francisco Bach Choir, Bethlehem Bach Choir, and the Washington Bach Consort. Recent engagements include performances of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Santa Fe Pro Musica, Bach Masses with the Washington Bach Consort and the *St. John Passion* with American Bach Soloists. A sought-after interpreter of Lieder, Mr. Weaver has collaborated with such celebrated accompanists as Dalton Baldwin, Kenneth Slowik and Joanne Kong. Mr. Weaver is on the faculty of a number of music workshops, including the San Francisco Early Music Baroque Workshop, Longy International Baroque Institute, and Rutgers University Antheneum. He has made numerous recordings with the American Bach Soloists on Koch International and can also be heard on the Dorian, Smithsonian, Channel Classics, Ricercar, and Newport Classics labels. Mr. Weaver's most recent recordings include, the world premiere of *Night Music* by Peter Hallock, written especially for Mr. Weaver and performed with the Augustan Singers at the Cathedral of St. Mark in Seattle, (released during the 2001-2002 season) and Volume One of the Complete Bach Masses on the Loft Label with the Washington Bach Consort (released in October 2004). A native of Detroit, Mr. Weaver is currently a member of the vocal faculty at The University of Richmond and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and resides in Williamsburg, where he is Music Director at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

**Lisa Edwards-Burrs** received her B.Mus. and M.Mus. degrees in Vocal Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. An accomplished lyric-coloratura soprano, her performances in recital, oratorio and chamber music are extensive. Her operatic roles include Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Monica in *The Medium*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Treemonisha in *Treemonisha*, Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Poppea in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

She has performed on many occasions with several regional orchestras in Virginia and the District of Columbia and has received numerous awards, such as that of second-place prizewinner at the national level of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award Competition and winner of the *Carson Silver Medal* and monetary prize at the American Traditions Competition of Savannah! Onstage. She has also been a semi-finalist in several international vocal competitions, such as the Young Concert Artists International Competition, the Center for Contemporary Opera's International Voice Competition and the Washington International Competition for Voice.

Ms. Edwards-Burrs received Outstanding Vocalist of the Year recognition for the Arts Awards 2001-2002 of Richmond Magazine and in addition, has performed for Virginia's Governor, Mark Warner on several occasions, as well as other dignitaries such as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Senator John Glenn, baseball great Cal Ripkin and international economist, Dr. Fareed Zakaria, all guests of the Richmond Forum.

As one of only twelve singers chosen by the United States Information Agency to serve as an Artistic Ambassador, she toured several countries in South America where she gave 16 concerts, conducted master classes and made television appearances. As a recitalist, she has performed on the concert series of numerous universities, as well as at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral and at the International Conference for Moral-Rearmament in Caux, Switzerland. Her concert and recital performances of the works of

African-American composers and other contemporary works have also received critical acclaim.

Recent projects have included the lead role of the goddess Athena in the world premiere of the opera, *The Furies* at The Catholic University of America. She has also been featured in several concert performances of the African-American opera, *Vanqui* by composer Leslie Savoy Burrs and conducted by Dr. Kay George Roberts in several locations, including New York City's Schomburg Center and at the Clarice Smith Center for Performing Arts at the University of Maryland at College Park, as a part of the university's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In addition, she appeared as Ola/Harriet Tubman in the staged production at the Prince Theater in Philadelphia for Opera North. Ms. Edwards-Burrs also appeared as soloist for two consecutive years in *The Korean War Memorial Project* and *Copland*, as part of the prestigious President's Concerts at The Catholic University of America. As a part of the Amalfi Music and Arts Festival based in Vietri sul mare, Italy, Ms. Edwards-Burrs performed on numerous recital and aria concerts in several cities, including Cava, Salerno and Amalfi and as *Sister Genovieffa* in Suor Angelica.

Ms. Edwards-Burrs is the founder/artistic director of two ensembles: *BELLISSIMA!*, an operatic quintet and *Black, Brown and Beige*, a chamber ensemble featuring Leslie Savoy Burrs, flute, Diane Monroe, violin and Russell Wilson, piano, which debuted at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2003. She recorded a compact disc entitled "*What Songs Were Sung*" with Lynne Abbey-Lee, former harpist with the Colorado Symphony and is featured on two recordings on the Pro Organo label: "*With Thanks and Praise*" and "*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether.*" She serves on the faculty of Virginia State University and is working on her doctorate in Vocal Performance at The Catholic University of America.

A native of Richmond, *Ulysses Kirksey* began study of the cello with Virginia Wendt and Betty Allen, both former members of the Richmond Symphony. He went on to study cello and conducting at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

Soon after completion of his studies, he developed an interest in Early Music performance. Kirksey began study of the viola da gamba with Grace Feldman at the National Conclave of the Viola da Gamba Society of America, of which he is a member. This conclave was held during the summer of 1990 on the University of Richmond campus. He continued gamba studies with Martha Bishop and Margaret Panofsky at Pinewoods near Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Kirksey was engaged for fifteen years as baroque cellist and gambist for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, giving concerts in the Governor's Palace. He was involved in a recording of music from Thomas Jefferson's library, which was recorded in the ballroom of the Governor's Palace. This recording was aired on National Public Radio. Kirksey performs with period instrument ensembles in Richmond (Centenary Classics) and Washington, D.C. (Stylus Luxurians). He is in his seventeenth year as conductor of the Petersburg Symphony.

Pianist and harpsichordist **Joanne Kong** captures the attention of audiences in compelling performances that celebrate the vibrancy and eloquence of musical expression. Embracing a broad range of repertoire from Baroque to contemporary music, her performances have been praised for "great finesse and flexibility" (*The Washington Post*), "utmost keyboard sensitivity and variety of tone" (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*), "remarkable technical ability" (*The Oregonian*), and "superb artistry" (*San Antonio Express-News*). Her critically-acclaimed harpsichord-piano recording of the *Goldberg* and *Diabelli Variations* are available on the *BRIOSO* label, as is a CD of English music with violinist Karen Johnson, and she has also recorded Baroque and contemporary chamber works on the Centaur and Crystal labels.

She has performed to critical acclaim at numerous venues including the Los Angeles and Oregon Bach Festivals, Abbey Bach Festival, Texas Bach Collegium, Houston Harpsichord Recital Series, Memphis Chamber Music Society, Stotsenberg Concert Series, San Antonio Festival, Los Angeles Monday Evening Concert Series, Virginia Waterfront International Festival of the Arts, the Royal



Netherlands Embassy, Columbia University, Harvard University, and orchestral performances under William McGlaughlin, Myung-Whun Chung, Alberto Bolet, Samuel Baron, George Manahan, Alexander Kordzaia, Eckart Preu and Mark Russell Smith. A gifted collaborator, she has performed with some of the world's finest musicians including the Shanghai String Quartet, Eugenia Zukerman, soprano Ying Huang, baritones James Weaver and Zheng Zhou, and has been master class pianist for James Buswell, Timothy Eddy, Robert Bloom, David Shifrin, Harvey Pittel, Gwendolyn Koldofsky, Arleen Augér, Phyllis Bryn-Julson, Roberta Alexander, Roberta Peters, Lucy Shelton, Dawn Upshaw and Gian Carlo Menotti.

A native of Southern California, Ms. Kong is the recipient of national and international honors including performance fellowships from the American Academy of the Arts in Europe and the Bach Aria Festival, designation as a Laureate in the 1983 National Beethoven Foundation Fellowship Auditions, three Ruth Lorraine Close Fellowships, and the Irl Allison Grand Prize in the 1985 International Piano Recording Competition. In addition to concertizing, her performances have been broadcast over numerous radio stations including National Public Radio, WQXR in New York and WFMT in Chicago. She is in frequent demand as a piano, harpsichord, vocal and chamber coach, and has been recognized for her exceptional work with gifted young musicians. Dr. Kong is currently the director of the accompanying and chamber music programs at the University of Richmond. A graduate of the University of Southern California and University of Oregon, she has studied with Joanna Hodges, Malcolm Hamilton and Victor Steinhardt, and performed in the master classes of Leon Fleisher and Lorin Hollander.