

For immediate release

“NEW VISTAS” – A BENEFIT CONCERT

**NEW VOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC IN A NEW VENUE
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005, 1 P.M., AT DIZZY’S CLUB COCA-COLA**

**JANICE MAYER & ASSOCIATES LLC CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH
A CONCERT TO BENEFIT CLASSICAL ACTION**

**FEATURING THREE WORLD PREMIERES AND SEVEN NEW YORK PREMIERES:
TEN NEW VOCAL CHAMBER WORKS BY TEN COMPOSERS**

There is much to celebrate! On Sunday, May 22, Janice Mayer & Associates, LLC, the well-known and highly respected artists’ representatives, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a concert for the benefit of Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS. The event will take place at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola in the Time Warner Building (Broadway and 60th Street; fourth floor). Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served at 1 p.m., with the performances beginning at 1:45 p.m., followed by dessert.

In the relaxed ambience and intimacy of a space usually reserved for jazz (140 seats in a cabaret setting), the audience will enjoy an hour of music-making. More than twenty artists will perform ten vocal chamber works – including no fewer than three world premieres and seven New York premieres -- by some of today’s foremost composers, including William Bolcom, Michael Ching, Carlisle Floyd, Ricky Ian Gordon, Jake Heggie, Earl Kim, Jorge Martín, Yoko Nakatani, John Tavener and Tom Vignieri.

Performers include vocalists Hanan Alattar, soprano; Joyce Castle, mezzo-soprano; Philip Cutlip, baritone; Carl Halvorson, tenor; Elizabeth Keusch, soprano; Indira Mahajan, soprano; John McVeigh, tenor; Mary Phillips, mezzo-soprano; William Stone, baritone; and Daniel Weeks, tenor. Collaborating instrumentalists include: Soo Mi Bae, viola; Janinna Barefield, violin; Joseph Colaneri, piano; Anthony Fogg, piano; Ricky Ian Gordon, piano; Jake Heggie, piano; Ho-Jeong Jeong, piano; Craig Ketter, piano; Donna Loewy, piano; Laura Metcalf, cello; Thomas Muraco, piano; Stephen Taylor, oboe; Ted Taylor, piano; and Svetlana Tsoneva, violin. (The complete program follows.) Tickets, which include the concert, drinks, hors d’oeuvres and dessert, are \$100 or \$250 (for preferred seating). For information, call Classical Action, 212/997-7717 or email classicalaction@bcefa.org.

Janice Mayer, Founding President of Janice Mayer & Associates, LLC, chose this type of celebration over a private and more conventional one, she says, as “It meets all of our goals in one event: we – our artists, the musical community and the public -- will come together with energy and spirit, to celebrate ten years of success in the world of music, as well as to raise awareness of the work yet to be done for the AIDS epidemic. With ten premieres, it is a local celebration with global ramifications, through the work of Classical Action and by shining a spotlight on the diverse group of composers writing for voice today.”

Janice Mayer started her company, she says, “to help individual singers define their goals and help them reach their personal best.” These goals have broadened to include expanding the repertoire of vocal chamber music and opera through a series of commissions. Artists on her roster are in demand for premiere productions; during the past ten years, some 18 JM&A artists have performed more than two dozen premieres. It is important and gratifying, Ms. Mayer feels, to have this music share the stages of the world with the standard repertoire treasured by performers and audiences alike. “This replenishing of the repertory will continue to nourish musicians and audiences in years to come.”

Janice Mayer chose Classical Action as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the May 22 concert because of the scope of the work it does, and because of the long-standing collaboration her company has had with Charles Hamlen, a former artists’ manager who founded Classical Action twelve years ago. Part of her motivation is to honor the memory of friends and colleagues lost to AIDS over the years.

According to Music Consultant Mary Lou Humphrey, “The concert program deals with the cycles of life, but in a celebratory, not somber, manner. There is autumnal imagery -- such as falling leaves and reflections upon life – which offers metaphors appropriate to the AIDS crisis, but more importantly, there are life-affirming songs whose texts deal with the continuity and renewal of life. The power and beauty of music reflects this vitality. New life continually grows out of old life.”

The concert will begin with a brief, mystical work by John Tavener, and end with a monodrama by Jake Heggie on texts by Gene Scheer. The program will showcase the diversity of artists on Janice Mayer & Associates’ roster; the wide range of styles used by composers today; and the multi-faceted talents of this country’s administrators of concert series, orchestras, and opera companies: they too are performers and composers, in addition to the creativity they bring to their work programming music and engaging soloists for their organizations.

JM&A have commissioned and participated in the creation of a number of new chamber works, song cycles, and operas. Two works on this program are the result of JM&A’s commitment to commissioning new music. With publisher Boosey & Hawkes, JM&A arranged for Carlisle Floyd to adapt his cycle "Soul of Heaven" into a new version for tenor John McVeigh. JM&A also facilitated the commissioning of a new work for Joyce Castle: "Statuesque" by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer (underwritten by the University of Kansas at Lawrence, where Ms. Castle is on the faculty). The first piece of chamber music coordinated by JM&A, in 1996, was William Bolcom’s “Briefly It Enters,” a song cycle set to the poetry of Jane Kenyon and written for Benita Valente. It is fitting that his music is included on the May 22 concert as well.

In 2002, Janice Mayer founded Backshore Artists Project, Inc., a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to assist and support the creation of new chamber works, with an emphasis on vocal chamber music. It also works to develop an audience for these new works, and for chamber music in general, through educational programming and performance opportunities for contemporary pieces.

Through Classical Action, funds raised by the May 22 concert will be distributed through the national grants program of its parent organization, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (which makes grants to more than 500 AIDS service organizations nationwide), and by supporting entertainment industry professionals through six programs of the Actors' Fund of America, including their AIDS Initiative and the Al Hirshfeld Clinic. Since Classical Action was founded in 1993, more than \$5 million has been raised and distributed to AIDS services.

A company with a strong sense of civic service, Janice Mayer & Associates arranges residencies for their artists with the dual purpose of building audiences for vocal music and of mentoring young artists. There is a powerful sense of community among its artists, who, as a group, support local and world-wide charities and humanitarian causes, including Classical Action, The Momentum Project, Inc., American Cancer Society, and, after the attack on the World Trade Center, the Uniformed Firefighters Association Widows' and Children's Fund.

Janice Mayer was the first Artist Manager invited to join the Board of Directors of OperaAmerica where she is currently serving her second term. She has served on the Board of NAPAMA (North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents), and has participated on panels for The American Symphony Orchestra League, Western Arts Alliances, and Arts Midwest. She was a member of the 2005 Chamber Music America Conference Committee. Janice is an Adjunct Faculty member at New York University, where she teaches a course on Artist Management – thereby giving back to today's students what she learned there pursuing her own Master's Degree, in Public Administration, twenty years ago.

Sponsors

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