

On Stage



PAUL SMITH *Director*

Paul Smith, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, received his education at the Royal College of Music in London and the Vienna Hochschule für Musik.

A winner of national and international piano competitions, and a participant in the U.S. State Department's Artistic Ambassador program, he also served as music director for famed Russian choreographer Leonid Massine. Since 1976 he has devoted himself to the cultural life of Marin County, California through solo piano, concerto and chamber music performances, directing several new music ensembles, and is artistic director of Contemporary Opera Marin, which has received international acclaim for its production of contemporary works and rediscovered gems of past centuries. He is the director of classical music for radio station KWMR Point Reyes Station, and the founder and artistic director of the Music from Marin Chamber Players bringing world class musical performances to communities throughout Marin County. Paul was recently awarded the Sali Lieberman Award for contributions to the cultural life of Marin County. He now divides his artistic life time between Marin County, California and Gulfport, Florida.



SIBEL DEMIRMEN *Soprano*

Hailed by the San Francisco Chronicle as a "superb singer with a crystalline voice", Sibel Demirmen is a versatile soprano frequently performing in the Bay Area. She has sung with many Bay Area companies including Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Townsend Opera Players, Berkeley Opera, West Marin Players, Ross Valley Players, Marin Musical Theatre Company, Marin Baroque, Thick Description, City Opera SF, and was a member of Goat Hall Production's *The Kurt Weill Project*. Leading roles include Kate in *Kiss me Kate*, Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella*, Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Galatea in *Acis and Galatea*, Lisa in *La Sonnambula*, Gretel in *Hansel und Gretel*, Yum Yum in *The Mikado*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Adina in *Elixir of Love*, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*. An avid performer of new works, Ms. Demirmen debuted and recorded the role of Maria in David Conte's opera *America Tropical*. She frequently performs contemporary works with Contemporary Opera Marin under the direction of Paul Smith, most recently Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*. As a concert soloist she has sung with the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, New York Choral Society, New York City Chorale, and has performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. In 2022 she joined Marin Oratorio as the soprano soloist in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Saint-Seans *Oratorio de Noel*.



PAUL THOMPSON *Bass*

Bass Paul Thompson studied voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Environmental Science at U.C. Berkeley. Performance highlights include the title role in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Osmin in *Die Entführung*, the title role in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Budd in Britten's *Albert Herring*, The Sergeant of Police in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, Pooh-bah in *The Mikado* and Ariodate in Handel's *Xerxes*. Among the companies he has performed with are San Francisco Opera, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Opera San Jose, Eugene Opera, Nevada Opera Theater, West Bay Opera, Donald Pippen's Pocket Opera, Bayshore Lyric Opera, Opera Piccola of Bremen, Lamplighters, Santa Cruz Bay City Opera, and Livermore Valley Opera. Concert repertoire includes solos in Mozart's *Requiem* and *C minor mass*, Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Brahms' *Requiem* and Purcell's *Ode to Queen Mary*, to name a few. He has participated in the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI), in the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS.) in Graz, Austria and has studied German in Hamburg and Italian in Perugia. His most recent performances include the bass solos in Bach's *Cantata 80* and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

Program

Calm Seas and Prosperous Voyage, opus 112

Cantata on poems of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Beethoven's two-movement choral piece (1815) sets a pair of poems by the German Romantic poet Johann von Goethe first published in 1796. Like Mendelssohn's overture of 1828 with the same title, the music vividly depicts the contrast between the two vignettes that the title in English, "Calm Seas and Prosperous Voyage," does not convey: A lone sailor is trapped in a sinister dead calm in the first poem but luckily escapes in the second, as brisk, tumultuous winds come up and blow him to within sight of land.

His luck is the opposite of what befalls Homer's seafaring hero Odysseus. Near the beginning of his 10-year journey home from the sack of Troy Odysseus receives from Aeolus, the king of the winds, a bag in which all winds but the moderate westerly have been tied up to ensure that he will have smooth sailing and a speedy homecoming, a prosperous voyage. However, once on board ship his crew, suspecting that Odysseus has stowed treasure he's not sharing in the bag, cut it open and release a fearful storm, the first of many setbacks on the route. Goethe's sailor, on the other hand, is sped on his homeward voyage by the untying of the fearful binding on Aeolus's bag.

MEERESSTILLE UND GLÜCKLICHE FAHRT

Tiefe Stille herrscht im Wasser,
Ohne Regung ruht das Meer,
Und bekümmert sieht der Schiffer
Glatte Fläche rings umher.
Keine Luft von keiner Seite!
Todesstille fürchterlich!
In der ungeheuern Weite
Reget keine Welle sich.

Die Nebel zerreißen,
Der Himmel ist helle,
Und Äolus löset
Das ängstliche Band.
Es säuseln die Winde,
Es rührt sich der Schiffer.
Geschwinde! Geschwinde!
Es teilt sich die Welle,
Es naht sich die Ferne,
Schon seh' ich das Land!

Becalmed
Deep silence reigns on the water,
The sea rests motionless,
And the anxious sailor sees
A waveless surface all around.
Not a breath of air on any side!
Fearful, deadly silence!
In the enormous expanse
Not a ripple stirs.

Land ho!
The fog breaks up,
The sky is clear
And Aeolus loosens
The fearful knot.
The winds whisper,
The sailor bestirs himself.
Quick! quick!
The waves are parting,
The distant draws near,
I already see land!

The Ruins of Athens, opus 113

Music drama to a text by August von Kotzebue

- Overture
- 1. Chorus
- 2. Duett
- 3. Chorus
- 4. Marcia alla turca
- 5. Musik hinter der Scene
- 6. Marsch und Chorus
Recitativo
- 7. Chorus
- Arie und Chorus
- 8. Chorus

In 1811 Beethoven was commissioned to write the music for *The Ruins of Athens* and another singspiel ("musical comedy") for the grand opening of a new "German" theatre, in Pest, a city later merged into Budapest, the capital of Hungary. The texts celebrating the Kingdom of Hungary and its ruler, the Hapsburg Emperor of Austria, were written by the German dramatist (also foreign agent) August Kotzebue. Forming the eastern part of the greater Austrian empire, Hungary had a proud tradition of resistance to the Ottoman Turks, who since the 14th century had been pressing through the Balkans into central Europe. While the Turks had been decisively turned back from Vienna in 1683 and retreated from the empire (leaving behind coffee and Turkish military band instruments, among other gifts to Europe), Greece was still under Ottoman rule in Beethoven's lifetime.

THE PLOT OF THE RUINS OF ATHENS

Summoned by the chorus (No.1), Athena, the daughter of Zeus, awakes from a thousand-year sleep to hear two present day Athenians lamenting their oppressed condition (no.2). The goddess finds her city, the cultural center of the ancient world, in ruins under the rule of the Ottoman Turks, represented by a chorus of dervishes (no.3) and an instrumental "Turkish March" (no.4). With the god of war Ares, Athena journeys to a new home of the arts in Pest. There during a ceremony in honor of the Muses of comedy and tragedy, Thalia and Melpomene, a portrait of the Austrian emperor/king of Hungary miraculously appears between the Muses' altars (nos.6 and 7).

The final chorus (no.8) pledges Hungary's loyalty to the king "to the death."



CHORUS

SOPRANO

Dianna Baetz
Sharon Burch
Lisa Conlon
Carol Donohoe
Alice Hofer
Pris Imlay
Nancy F. Larsen
Abigail Millikan-States
Kai Okada
Hannah Miner Panger
Gail Rolka
Susan Russell
Beverly Schmidt
Sarah Shockley
Beki Simon
Martha Wickliffe
Gerrie Young
Audrey Zavell

ALTO

Judy Alstrom
Annette Arena
Carolyn Ashby
Chris Baer
Jan Booth
Mary Lee Bronzo
Leslie K. Brown
Ruth Brown
Posie Carroll
Jane Chaudhuri
Polly Coote
Svetlana Darche
Donna Dutton
Emily Dvorin
Judy Gottesman
Susan Janson
Bethe Jensen
Gretchen Kucserka
Leslie Kwartin
Paula Martin
Linda McCann
Maggie McDowell
Barbara Merino
Shanna Moler
Marie Narlock
Ruth Nash
Robin Nosti
Mary Osterloh
Myrna Pepper
Jill Ross-Kuntz
Marti Roush
Cynthia Sawtell
Patty Sempell
Jo Sherlin
Judy Simmons
Julie Todd
Katrina Urbach
Elaine Weston
Kathy Wilcox
Shelley Winn
Spirit Wiseman

TENOR

Linda Davis
Jon Goerke
John Hart
Don Hodge
Dewey Livingston
Moshe Oron
Steve Orsary
Jeffrey Paul
Mickey Reighley
Fred Ross-Perry
Scott Sinott
Babs von Dallwitz
Kory Zipperstein

BASS

Gary Appell
Michael Burch
Michael Carroll
Dan Drake
Michael Irvine
Thilo Koehler
Neil Kraus
Mark Kyle
Doug Moler
John Schrupf
Rishi Schweig
Judd Simmons
Martin Stevenson

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VIOLIN

Mark Jordan
Concertmaster
Renee Froman

VIOLA

Joanna Pinckney

VIOLONCELLO

Joel Cohen

CONTRABASS

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FLUTE/PICCOLO

Jessie Nucho

CLARINET

Andrew Friedman

TRUMPET

Cortez Montalbo

HORN

Katie Dennis

PIANO

Jeffrey Frederic Paul

Marin Oratorio would like to recognize, with love and appreciation, our long-standing member Lise Adams, who passed away January 30, 2023. Her beautiful singing voice and her ready smile and hearty laugh are sorely missed.

**Members of
Marin Oratorio
Spring, 2023**

SOPRANO

Lisa Conlon
Carol Donohoe
Alice Hofer
Pris Imlay
Nancy F. Larsen
Abigail
 Millikan-States
Kai Okada
Analea Ostergard
Hannah Miner
 Panger
Susam Russell
Beverly Schmidt
Elena Schoen
 Northen
Sarah Shockley
Beki Simon
Martha Wickliffe
Gerrie Young
Audrey Zavell

ALTO

Judy Alstrom
Annette Arena
Carolyn Ashby
Chris Baer
Jan Booth
Mary Lee
 Bronzo
Leslie Brown
Ruth Brown
Kristine Browne
Jane Chaudhuri
Freddy Cobey
Polly Coote
Svetlana Darche
Donna Dutton

Emily Dvorin
Jane Harrington
Susan Janson
Leslie Kwartin
Paula Martin
Linda McCann
Shanna Moler
Marie Narlock
Ruth Nash
Robin Nosti
Mary Osterloh
Jill Ross-Kuntz
Marti Roush
Cynthia Sawtell
Jo Sherlin
Judy Simmons
Julie Todd
Katrina Urbach
Elaine Weston
Kathy Wilcox
Shelley Winn
Spirit Wiseman

BASS

Peter Black
Michael Carroll
Dan Drake
Michael Irvine
Neil Kraus
David Long
Justin Marx
Doug Moler
John Schrupf
Rishi Schweig
Judd Simmons

TENOR

Linda Davis
Gary Harbison
John Hart
Moshe Oron
Steve Orsary
Mickey Reighley
Fred Ross-Perry
Scott Sinnott
Babs
 von Dallwitz
Kory Zipperstein

Members

SOPRANO

Lisa Conlon
Carol Donohoe
Alice Hofer
Pris Imlay
Nancy F. Larsen
Abigail
 Millikan-States
Kai Okada
Hannah Miner
 Panger
Susam Russell
Beverly Schmidt
Elena Schoen
 Northen
Sarah Shockley
Martha Wickliffe
Gerrie Young
Audrey Zavell

ALTO

Chris Baer
Kristine Browne
Jane Chaudhuri
Polly Cote
Svetlana Darche

Marin Oratorio

ALTO continued

Emily Dvorin
Susan Janson
Leslie Kwartin
Linda McCann
Shanna Moler
Ruth Nash
Robin Nosti
Mary Osterloh
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