

A SENIOR VOICE RECITAL

Thursday, 15 May 2025, 7 PM | Distler Performance Hall

KENAN OKTAY, *tenor*
THOMAS STUMPF, *pianist*

PROGRAM

Già il sole dal Gange (Already the Sun over the Ganges) **Alessandro Scarlatti** (1660 - 1725)
Saldino's aria from *L'honestà negli amori* (Honesty in Love Affairs)

Saldino, a pageboy, stands alone on stage admiring the sunrise. The scene is Algeria in North Africa.
Dal Gange (the river Ganges) is merely a figure of speech meaning the east.

Deposuit potentes (He hath put down the mighty) **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685 - 1750)
Aria from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

Ave Maria (Hail Mary) **Franz Schubert** (1797 - 1828)
D. 839, Op. 52, No. 6 **Walter Scott** (1771 - 1832)

An die Musik (To Music) **Franz Schubert**
D. 547, Op. 88, No. 4 **Franz von Schober** (1796 - 1882)

Automne (Autumn) **Gabriel Fauré** (1845 - 1924)
Op. 18, No. 3 **Armand Silvestre** (1837 - 1901)

The Daisies **Samuel Barber** (1910 - 1981)
Op. 2, No. 1 **James Stephens** (1880 - 1950)

Kuda, kuda vy udalilis (Where, where have you gone) **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (1840 - 1893)
Lenski's aria from *Eugene Onegin* **Alexandr Pushkin** (1799 - 1837)

At a party, Onegin flirts with his friend Lenski's fiancée, Olga. Lenski's jealousy is aroused to such a height that he challenges Onegin to a duel. As Lenski waits for Onegin to arrive at the appointed hour, he reflects on his youth, his beloved Olga, and wonders what fate now holds in store.

Intermission

Mamma (Mom)

Cesare Andrea Bixio (1896 - 1978)
Bixio Cherubini (1899 - 1987)

La Vie en rose (Life in Pink)

Louis Guglielmi (1916 - 1991)
Édith Piaf (1915 - 1963)

Beautiful Dreamer

Stephen Foster (1826 - 1864)

Singin' in the Rain

Nacio Herb Brown (1896 - 1964)
Arthur Freed (1894 - 1973)

If I Loved You

Billy Bigelow's song from *Carousel*

Richard Rodgers (1902 - 1979)
Oscar Hammerstein (1895 - 1960)

Tacitly, Julie and Billy understand they do not belong together, but a simple, hypothetical, conditional conversation opens them up to the realization that a genuine bond exists between them.

Younger than Springtime

Lieutenant Cable's song from *South Pacific*

Richard Rodgers
Oscar Hammerstein

When Cable meets Bloody Mary's daughter Liat on the island of Bali H'ai, he is immediately taken by her beauty. He then quickly confesses his surprising love for her.

Perhaps Love

John Denver (1943 - 1997)

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## PERFORMERS

**Kenan Oktay** is an emerging classical crossover singer. He will be graduating from Tufts University with a major in International Relations, and a minor in French. He began his singing journey in 2022 when he joined the Tufts Amalgamates a cappella group. He began studying voice as a novice with Bülent Güneralp in 2023. He joined the Tufts Opera Ensemble in the fall, and sang in the scenes program as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart, Donkey in *Shrek the Musical* by Jeanine Tesori, Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* by Rossini, and in the ensemble of *Sunday in the Park with George* by Sondheim. He also sang as the title character in a Tufts Wind Ensemble concert of *Candide* by Bernstein. During his studies abroad, he sang in Paris at Sorbonne Nouvelle University's cabaret show, Sorbouche Nouvelle. He also auditioned for the 2024 Lanzarote Opera Festival and Academy. At the festival he sang opera, oratorio, art song and musical theater repertoire by Handel, Mozart, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Fauré, and Bernstein. After returning to the US, upon the encouragement of Bülent Güneralp, he began developing his own voice studio. In the fall of 2024 he sang in the Tufts Opera Ensemble scenes program as Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore* by Donizetti, and as Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*. He also sang in the ensembles of *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* by Menken. In his last semester at Tufts, he sang as the tenor choral scholar and section leader in the Tufts University Chaplaincy Choir. Most recently, he enacted the triple roles of King of the East, Moon, and Chorus 5 in the Opera Ensemble's production of *The Enchanted Pig* by Jonathan Dove. Kenan Oktay recently auditioned for, and enrolled in Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is looking forward to studying in the Graduate Performance Diploma in Voice program this fall. Further information can be found at [www.kenanoktay.com](http://www.kenanoktay.com).

**Thomas Stumpf** received his degrees in piano performance from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. His career has taken him to four continents, and his repertoire extends from the complete piano works of Mozart (which he performed in nine recitals at Boston University) to the premieres of many compositions by contemporary American composers. Stumpf is also a well-known collaborative pianist, and in that role, he has performed with Rita Streich, Edith Mathis, D'Anna Fortunato, Richard Stoltzman, Jack Brymer, Walter Trampler and Leslie Parnas, among many others. He has taught piano at the New England Conservatory, UMassLowell, and Boston University and is presently on the faculty of Tufts University. He has given masterclasses as solo and collaborative pianist at universities throughout the U.S., in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and in Germany and Switzerland.

He was Director of Music at Follen Church (Unitarian-Universalist) in Lexington MA, where he conducted choral repertoire ranging from Bach's Magnificat to the Mozart and Fauré Requiems to the Sacred Concerts of Duke Ellington. His experience at Follen led to his first book: a collection of essays entitled "A Sounding Mirror: Courage and Music in Our Time," published by Higganum Hill Books in 2005. He was also the co-founder and Artistic Director of Prism Opera, and conducted and directed Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito" (in his own translation), as well as operas by Britten, Vaughan-Williams and Holst.

Stumpf's compositions have appeared on programs throughout the U.S. as well as in Russia and Germany. He won the Kahn Award for his music theater project "Dark Lady," one section of which was recorded by Joan Heller for the Albany label. Choral works of his have been performed in New York City by the Pharos Music Project by C4, and by the park Slope Singers; in Boston by the Master Singers, by Triad: Boston's Choral Collective, and by the Tufts University choirs; and by the Oberlin Womens' Chorale. Instrumentalists and singers who have performed his works include pianist John McDonald, cellist Emmanuel Feldman, violist Scott Woolweaver, saxophonist Philipp Stäudlin, and singers Pamela Murray and Lucy Dhegrae. His piano composition "The Spirit and the Dust" appears on his 2-CD solo album entitled "Reflections on Time and Mortality," which was issued on the Albany label in February 2017. This album also includes premiere recordings of works by Hayes Biggs, Gregory Brown, John McDonald, and Yehudi Wyner.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

First and foremost I thank my parents Maja and Kutluk, and my sisters Isabelle and Lara. I would not be where I am today without their unconditional support. I love you all so much!

I would like to thank Thomas Stumpf for collaborating with me in this recital. It's an honor to share the same stage with such an amazing musician.

I thank all of my former and current mates from the Tufts Amalgamates; Carol Mastrodomenico, the music director of the Tufts Opera Ensemble; and Suzanna Cartreine, the music director of the Tufts Chaplaincy Choir. It's been an amazing learning experience.

I offer my gratitude to Dave McNamara, Tessa Lang, Johannes Schwaiger, Julien Fanthou, Peter Freisinger, Anastasia Inniss, Brian Moll, and Anne Azéma for contributing to my artistic journey; Jeff Rawitsch, Manager of Granoff Music Center, for making this senior recital possible; all my friends and teachers at Tufts for all the beautiful moments we have shared - making music, learning, or simply spending time together.

I thank my voice teacher and mentor, Bülent Güneralp, for this incredible journey that completely transformed my life in just two years. I am immensely grateful for all the time and effort you have dedicated to my vocal, artistic and personal growth in, and more so, outside of our lessons. This recital is such a meaningful milestone for me. I look forward to our continued work!

There are too many names to include here, but I cannot express how much everyone's love and support in these past four years have made my life at Tufts so special. THANK YOU!

And Lara (aka Lawyer, Layra, Laura, Laurelle, Larungus, Bingus, et cetera)! It was so wonderful to share my last year with you at Tufts. I wish you the best in your Medford/Somerville adventure!

- Kenan, 15 May 2025