



GABRIEL VAMVULESCU (*Bass/Recitation*)

Romanian bass Gabriel Vamvulescu began his musical training while studying Theology and Byzantine Music at Saint Nicholas Theological Seminary in Romania. Upon graduation, he enrolled in the George Enescu National Music Conservatory in Bucharest where he studied voice with Julian Baiasu, subsequently winning First Place in the “Ionel Perlea International Lied Competition” and being accepted into the Romanian National Opera Apprentice Program with the role of Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*. In 1999, Vamvulescu was the recipient of a full scholarship from the University of Maryland where he continued his vocal studies under the guidance of renowned bass singer Francois Loup. On the operatic stage Gabriel Vamvulescu has performed with opera companies in Europe and in the United States in roles such as Rocco in Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, Kecal in Smetana’s *The Bartered Bride*, Sparafucile in Verdi’s *Rigoletto*, Trulove in Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress* Mephistopheles in Gounod’s *Faust*, Bud in Britten’s *Albert Herring*, and as Gremin in Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*. Recent performances include his 2010 Los Angeles Opera debut in *Die Geseichneten* by Franz Shrecker under the baton of Maestro James Conlon, the role of Colline in *La Boheme* with Opera Santa Barbara, Don Bartolo and Antonio in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Castiglione del Lago, Italy, as well as the role of the Loudspeaker in Viktor Ullmann’s opera *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* produced in collaboration

with Los Angeles Opera at Colburn School of Music under the direction of James Conlon. Other appearances include the role of Orville Mason in T Picker’s *An American Tragedy* at The Broad Stage, as well as the role of the Imperial Commissioner in *Madam Butterfly* and Dalland in *Die Fliegende Hollander* by Wagner – both with Los Angeles Opera. In addition to his operatic career, Vamvulescu has appeared as a soloist with different philharmonics orchestras, singing in Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis*, Mozart’s *Missa Brevis* Handel’s *Messiah* as well as in *Carmina Burana*. As a recitalist, Vamvulescu has given numerous lied recitals in France, Germany, Hungary, Austria, Romania, and the U.S. In 2000, he represented the young Romanian artists at the “Crans Montana Forum” (Switzerland) where he was invited to perform with an international orchestra the following year. In 2010 he was a guest artist at “Musicfest Perugia” in Italy, returning there again in 2011 as a member of the faculty. Since becoming a resident of Los Angeles Vamvulescu has collaborated with USC, Santa Monica College, and UCLA in various opera projects and in 2011 was a guest artist in the UCLA Opera Gala at Royce Hall Maestro Vladimir Chernov. Vamvulescu’s future engagements include, among others, the role of Falstaff in *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* by O. Nicolai in Munich under the baton of Andreas Heinzmann, the role of Sarastro in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, which will take place in Bucharest, as well as the role of the Captain in the upcoming production of D. Catan’s *Florenca en el Amazonas* in Los Angeles. In 2017, Gabriel Vamvulescu appeared in the Los Angeles Opera production of Verdi’s *Nabucco* and in spring 2018 he will be featured in their production of *Rigoletto*.



STEVEN VANHAUWAERT (*Piano*)

Hailed by the Los Angeles Times for his ‘impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique’, Steven Vanhauwaert has garnered a wide array of accolades, amongst which the Maurice Lefranc award, the Rotary Prize, the Galiot Prize, the USC Concerto Competition, and the Grand Prize at the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. Mr. Vanhauwaert has appeared in the world’s leading venues such as the Concertgebouw in Brugge, Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa, Bovard Auditorium in Los Angeles, the Singel in Antwerp, the Great Hall of the Brussels Conservatory, the Great Hall of the Budapest Liszt Conservatory, as well as numerous other prestigious venues in Bulgaria, Hungary, the US, the Netherlands, France, Canada, Israel, the UK, Austria, and Spain. He frequently tours China with solo appearances at the renowned National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing and the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center. He has appeared with orchestras such as the Pacific Symphony, the Flemish Symphony, the Oak Ridge Symphony, the USC Symphony, the Bryan Symphony, Collegium Instrumentale, the Concord Jazz Ensemble, the Auburn Symphony, the Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony, and Prima la Musica, amongst others. An avid champion of lesser known repertoire, Mr. Vanhauwaert has given the West Coast premiere of Messiaen’s *Fantaisie for violin and piano* at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and the US

premiere of Eric Tanguy’s *Piano Trio*, as well as works by Scharwenka and Walter Arlen. This season he will make his solo debut for the prestigious *Piano Spheres* at Walt Disney Hall’s REDCAT with a program focused on piano etudes by a selection of today’s leading

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composers, including special commissions by Eric Tanguy and Veronika Krausas. He will also return to the Concertgebouw in Brugge as part of the “Rumoer” happening which focuses on fascination and fear of noise. The recital features works by Busoni, Casella, Pratella, Ornstein, and Lourié. His debut album with works by Schumann, Schubert, Liszt, Chopin, and Debussy was well received in the press. Additional recordings include Paris 1913 and Petrushka, with his piano duo 4handsLA, featuring works by Stravinsky, Casella, Satie, Poulenc, and Ravel. More recently a disc with works by Lior Rosner was released on Bridge Records. Upcoming releases include a solo Busoni album and a project with violinist Guillaume Sutre for the French Hortus label’s “Les Musiciens et la Grande Guerre” collection, showcasing violin sonatas by Hans Pfitzner, F.S. Kelly, and Georges Antoine. Many of Mr. Vanhauwaert’s performances have been broadcast live on networks such as K-MZT, K-CSN, K-USC, K-PFK, K-UAT, W-FMT, RTBF, WTV, PBS, and KLARA. He is frequently invited to give guest lecture recitals and master classes in universities throughout the world. Mr. Vanhauwaert is a Steinway Artist.



GWYNETH BRAVO, Ph.D. (Producer & Director)

Dr. Bravo is Assistant Professor of Music at NYU Abu Dhabi and active as a musicologist, music educator, and cellist. Her research explores intersections between music, war, and politics in 20th century contexts with a focus on German and Czech music, opera, nationalism, exile, aesthetics, hermeneutics, media studies, and transdisciplinary approaches to music pedagogy and education. A Fulbright Scholar to Germany, Dr. Bravo worked with the University of Hamburg research group *Exilmusik*, publishing an article in their volume *Lebenswege von Musikerrinnen im Dritten Reich und im Exil*. Her current book projects include a monograph on operatic works by Erwin Schulhoff and Viktor Ullmann, as well as the edited volume *Music and War: Global Perspectives*, which examines music and conflict within emerging transnational configurations of power after 1945.

As the Research Assistant to Music Director James Conlon for LA Opera’s Recovered Voices program, Dr. Bravo facilitated historical research on operas by Braunfels, Krenek, Korngold, Schrecker, Schulhoff, Ullmann, and Zemlinsky as a basis for the development of the production’s Los Angeles premiere in 2007. As a development of her research on Viktor Ullmann, Dr. Bravo produced and directed *Music Memory Metamorphoses* a multi-media production featuring a live performance of the composer’s 1944 melodrama about the love and death of young soldier during the 17th century Ottoman-Habsburg wars. Based on Rilke’s book *Die Weise von Liebe und Tod des Cornet Christoph Rilke*, the production received support from Emmy Award winning designer Paul Sidlo and features operatic bass Gabriel Vamvulescu and pianist Steven Vanhauwaert. Premiered in the US in 2012 and in the United Arab Emirates at NYU Abu Dhabi in 2015, the production will be presented at festivals in Europe in 2018.

Dr. Bravo’s research and work has served as the basis for cultural exchanges, outreach concerts, workshops, radio broadcasts, guest lectures, and partnership projects and productions with numerous cultural institutions in the United Arab Emirates, Germany, and the United States. These include Abu Dhabi Classic FM Radio, the Abu Dhabi Educational Council (ADEC), the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, the UAE Young Artists Concerto Competition (YACOCO), the Al Ain Youth Festival-Competition “Gardens of the Sheikh Zayed,” TCA’s Abu Dhabi Classics, the German Fulbright Commission, the German Federal Foreign Office’s Villa Aurora (Los Angeles), REZN8, the *Turath* Ensemble, the Orel Foundation, the UCLA Opera Program, the Los Angeles Opera’s Education Program as well as the Los Angeles Opera.

As Assistant Professor of Music at NYU Abu Dhabi, Dr. Bravo focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to her research and teaching. Her courses and humanities seminars are offered in Abu Dhabi, Berlin, and Prague under the auspice of diverse programs that include Music, Peace Studies, Writing, Film and New Media, and the Humanities Core. At NYU Abu Dhabi she directs the NYUAD Cello Ensemble, which features an annual concert with a guest cellist as part of a week-long residency at NYUAD. Past cellists have included Jamison Platte (2014), Tchaikovsky Gold Medal Winner Narek Haknazaryan (2015) and French cellist Yan Levisonnois (2016). Dr. Bravo’s principle cello teachers were Yehuda Hanani at Peabody Conservatory, as well as Janet Horvath and Tanya Remenikova, and her students have been winners and finalists at numerous competitions, including the Kiwanis, the Los Angeles Cello Society Competition, Los Angeles Philharmonic Young Artist Competition, and the Junior Division of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

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Dr. Bravo has a broad background in the field of education and was the founder and president of several US-based non-profit arts organizations. She holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of California, Los Angeles (2011) and is a recent graduate of the International Summer School in Forced Migration from the Refugee Studies Center at Oxford University (2016).



PAUL SIDLO (*Technical Design*)

Paul Sidlo is widely recognized as a pioneer in the field of user interface, 3D computer animation and has won over two hundred awards for his work, including nine Emmy Awards. As an innovator and entrepreneur, Sidlo has twelve US patents and is the founder of several internationally recognized firms, including REZN8, EMN8 (Tillster), Instant Effects, SeeSpace, Sunrgi, and Litricity. These companies use emerging technologies for productivity solutions across a wide range of industries from transactional retail management and services to the development of solar energy systems. Sidlo has been a consultant and strategist for corporations such as Citibank, Intel, and Microsoft Corporation and has been a regular keynote speaker for numerous international conferences on technology and design. As the founder, CEO, and President of the award-winning, Hollywood-based firm REZN8, Sidlo was the executive producer, executive creative director, and designer for over twenty-six years. Founded in 1987, REZN8 is a recognized world-leader in conceptualizing, designing, and producing high-end graphics, multi-media branding, and graphic image systems that are used to build and promote a brand by creating lasting relationships between the message and the viewer. Under Sidlo's direction, REZN8 has been instrumental in developing the media

vision for a broad spectrum of domestic and international clients across a wide range of platforms that include broadcast, film, internet, wireless, and games. Sidlo is acknowledged as a leader in broadcast graphics and animation and as a pioneer in the design and development of graphical user interfaces (GUI), company branding, and real-time viewer experiences. REZN8 has been one of Microsoft's primary outside design sources for graphical user interface (GUI), including the GUI design and development for XBOX, MSN 9 & 10, Home Media Center, Windows XP, Surface Computing, Bill Gates keynotes presentations for CES and Microsoft's Home of the Future. Sidlo created, produced, directed, and designed a wide range of film and television products from Music Videos, Special Effects, and 3D IMAX films to identity packages for Entertainment Tonight, Michael Jackson's World History, CBS Entertainment, CBS Sports, NBC News, ABC Sports, Fox Entertainment, Fox Sports, HBO, JPL/NASA, Netflix, NFL, NBA, NHL, NASCAR, MLB, TED, UFC, Sci-Fi Channel, and Showtime. He has developed image systems for five Olympics Games (Seoul, Sidney, Nagano, Albertville, and Lillehammer), thirteen Super Bowls, as well as numerous other television award shows, including the Oscars, and has worked with ILM Lucas Films. In 2013, Sidlo's firm EMN8 (Tillster) was named by Forbes Magazine as one of "America's Most Promising Companies."

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