

Kevin McMillan, baritone Robert Kortgaard, piano

Ariettes oubliées

C'est l'extase

Il pleure dans mon coeur

L'ombre des arbres

Chevaux de bois

Green

Spleen

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

a piano selection from *Träume am Kamin* op.143

Max Reger
(1873-1916)

Lieder aus 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn'

Um schlimme Kinder artig zu machen

Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen

Wer hat dies Liedlein erdacht

Gustav Mahler
(1860-1911)

Intermission

Moore's Irish Melodies

The Minstrel Boy

At the mid hour of night

Dear Harp of my Country

The last rose of summer

O the sight entrancing

arr. Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Improvisation No. 15 for piano in C minor
("Hommage à Édith Piaf"), FP 176

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Selected operatic arias

Kevin McMillan is one of Canada's most respected singers. His career has spanned 15 years with almost 700 concerts, some 15 professional recordings, a Grammy award, a Gramophone award, and numerous Juno award nominations. Critics have praised his "elegant voice" and "singularly remarkable interpretive skills" in appearances with virtually every major North American orchestra. He has also established a presence in Europe, with appearances in the major concert halls of London, Berlin, Barcelona, Hamburg, and Prague. He has worked with such conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, Pierre Boulez, Sergiu Commissiona, Raphael Frühbeck de Burgos, Andrew Davis, Charles Dutoit, Neeme Järvi, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Kurt Masur, Sir Roger Norrington, Hellmuth Rilling and the late Robert Shaw. Recently, Mr. McMillan's career has taken quite a remarkable and exciting turn. After intense study and consultation with some of the world's foremost vocal pedagogues, he has made the shift into the lyric tenor repertoire. The critics have been unanimous, heralding him as a "formidable tenor" and a "marvelous artist".

After preliminary schooling at the Universities of Guelph and Western Ontario in Canada, Mr. McMillan studied at the Britten-Pears School in England, and attained a Master's degree at the Juilliard School in New York. His primary focus has always been the oratorio and orchestral repertoire, and his vocal flexibility and scholarly musicianship have afforded him a broad range of styles and periods - from Monteverdi and Bach to Britten and Penderecki. Despite an unfortunate farming accident 20 years ago that left him a partial paraplegic, he has also had the opportunity to perform operatic roles in concert performances.

Mr. McMillan is one of Canada's pre-eminent recitalists. He has been described as an "outstanding Schubertian" whose "voice of glowing freshness and beauty is at the service of an intelligent, lively and distinctive personality." He is heard regularly in recital on CBC/SRC broadcasts, and he has been a frequent guest at summer festivals such as the Minnesota Orchestra's Viennese Sommerfest, Ravinia, Tanglewood, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and the Festival of the Sound.

He has taken an active role in the creative process, having had several contemporary works written expressly for him, such as the title rôle in Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' oratorio, **Job**, which he premiered in Canada, Britain and Israel. He also sang the Canadian premiere of the **Songs of Milarepa** by Phillip Glass during Mr. Glass' residency at the 1999 Scotia Festival of Music.

Mr. McMillan lives in Chatham, Ontario, where he is the founder and president of the Capitol Theatre Association, a group responsible for the restoration and renovation of this historic theatre into a 1200 seat performing arts centre. This project has now evolved into an \$9 million effort and is on target to open in 2003. He is an instructor of voice in the Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario, where he also teaches diction, vocal pedagogy and coaches the school's Bach Aria Group. He has been heard recently on radio in quite a different capacity - as guest host for Canada-wide broadcasts of **In Performance** on CBC's Radio Two, filling in for Eric Friesen.

Pianist **Robert Kortgaard** was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and grew up in Calgary, Alberta. He completed his Bachelor and Master's degrees at the Juilliard School in New York City. As a recipient of arts awards from the Canada Council, he furthered his musical studies in Italy and England.

Mr. Kortgaard has performed as a soloist with major Canadian orchestras and has given recitals throughout Canada and the United States, as well as in England, Finland, Portugal, Italy, Indonesia, the Czech Republic and China. He is a favorite collaborator of many of Canada's finest instrumental soloists, vocalists and chamber groups. His performances are frequently heard on CBC Radio, and he has recorded for Centrediscs, Marquis Classics/EMI, CBC Records and Teldec.

Mr. Kortgaard is Artistic Director of the Indian River Festival on Prince Edward Island (recently nominated "Event of the Year" by the East Coast Music Awards). He was musician-in-residence at the University of New Brunswick from 1993-1998, and has given piano masterclasses at Universities and Festivals in Canada, Indonesia and China.

Mr. Kortgaard has performed with violinist Joshua Bell, toured with soprano Measha Brueggergosman, collaborated with Peter Tiefenbach and prima ballerina Veronica Tennant on a new production entitled "Invitation to the Dance", and recorded a German Cabaret programme with mezzo-soprano Jean Stilwell for CBC Records. His CD with soprano Wendy Nielsen was nominated for both Juno and East Coast Music Awards. Upcoming engagements include a tour in the Atlantic provinces with mezzo-soprano Susan Platts, a residency and recital at Memorial University with tenor Kevin McMillan, and several performances of duo piano repertoire with Peter Tiefenbach.