

39th Season

Peninsula Cantare

Janice Gunderson, Music Director



On a Lighter Note

Alexander Bootzin, Piano
Nucleus Jazz Quartet

Cañada College Theatre
Saturday, March 13, 2010, 7:30 pm



Program

Bourrée (from the English Suite, No. 2) J. S. Bach
Arr. Ward Swingle

Music to Hear George Shearing; Lyrics, William Shakespeare

- I. Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?
- II. Sigh No More, Ladies, Sigh No More
- III. Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

Gershwin in Love George Gershwin; Lyrics, Ira Gershwin

- I. Love is Sweeping the Country
- II. Love Walked In
- III. Love is Here to Stay
- IV. The Man I Love
- V. I've Got a Crush on You

Fascinating Rhythm George Gershwin; Lyrics, Ira Gershwin
Jenny Rebecca Carol Hall

Nucleus Jazz Quartet

Cole Porter in Love Cole Porter

- I. Easy to Love
- II. What Is This Thing Called Love
- III. So In Love
- IV. I Love You

Piano Masters Shearing and Brubeck

- I. Lullaby of Birdland George Shearing
- II. In Your Own Sweet Way Dave Brubeck
- III. Take Five Paul Desmond

Yesterday John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Gershwin Swing Set George Gershwin; Lyrics, Ira Gershwin

- I. They Can't Take That Away From Me
- II. Nice Work If You Can Get It
- III. 'S Wonderful
- IV. Let's Call the Whole Thing Off
- V. They All Laughed

When I'm Sixty-four John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Program Notes

Tonight we will chase away the winter doldrums with the toe-tapping music of George Gershwin and the clever lyrics of his brother Ira. You'll enjoy the distinctive voice of George Shearing as he sets Shakespeare's words in his jazzy style. For more spice we will throw in the Beatles and some swinging J.S. Bach. Our versatile pianist, Alex Bootzin, and the Nucleus Jazz Quartet provide the instrumental accompaniment for this concert of familiar favorites.

J. S. Bach and Ward Swingle



We start off by truly straddling the line between classical and jazz music by singing a “bourrée” by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) with jazz arrangement by Ward Swingle (b. 1927). The bourrée is a quick double time dance of French origin common in the 17th century.

Swingle was born in Mobile, Alabama. He studied music, particularly jazz, from a very young age. He was playing in Mobile-area Big Bands before finishing high school. In the 1960s he took the idea of scat singing and applied it to the works of Bach. This concept would be the foundation for The Swingle Singers, a group Swingle founded and whose early recordings won five Grammys.

In his own words he has said: “The performance of the instrumental works of Bach in a jazz vocal style started out as an exercise in vocal agility. I formed the Swingle Singers with the immediate aim of seeing if it were possible for human voices to master the technical problems of singing these preludes and fugues. The idea of ‘swinging’ them came later, when the singers noticed that each was beginning to interpret his part in this way. I then decided to add string bass and drums to underline the swinging element...”

George Shearing



George Shearing (b. 1919) is an Anglo-American jazz pianist who has led several popular jazz groups. He has composed over 300 titles and produced multiple albums, many making it to the Billboard charts during the 1950s through the 1990s.

He became known for a piano technique known as Shearing's voicing, a type of double melody block chord, with an additional fifth part that doubles the melody an octave lower.

Shearing's interest in classical music resulted in some performances with concert orchestras in the 1950s and 1960s, and his solos frequently draw upon the music of Debussy and, particularly, Erik Satie for inspiration.

In 1947, Shearing emigrated to the United States, where his harmonically complex style mixed swing, bop and modern classical influences. In 1949, he formed the first "George Shearing Quintet" with which he recorded the immensely popular single, "September in the Rain." One of his other major hits was "Lullaby of Birdland."

Tonight, Cantare is singing selections from "Music to Hear," a choral suite with music by George and words by William Shakespeare. Shearing said about this suite: "The idea for this work came to me as a result of a commission I received from the Dale Warland Singers in 1985... It occurred to me that, obviously, I would need a first-rate lyricist... one who wouldn't be too busy to help. Fortunately, almost immediately William Shakespeare appeared and offered his literary services. But then I had another question: Could the musical conception of this work stretch from ol' William's period to the present time? Hearing no Shakespearean objection, I went to work." We hope you enjoy the result.

**Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?
(Sonnet 18)**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate;
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

**Sigh No More, Ladies (From
"Much Ado about Nothing")**

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh nor more;
Men were deceivers ever;
One foot in sea and one on shore,
To one thing constant never;
Then sigh not so,
But let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny;
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into hey nonny, nonny.

Sing no more ditties, sing no more,
Of dumps so dull and heavy;
The fraud of men was ever so,
Since summer first was leavy.
Then sigh not so,
But let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into hey, nonny, nonny.

**Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind
(From "As You Like It")**

Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho!
unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning,
most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.

George and Ira Gershwin



The songs of George and Ira Gershwin are true American musical treasures. Their music is best known for its versatility. They not only wrote popular songs, but wrote for the Broadway stage, the concert stage, the jazz musician and even an opera (“Porgy and Bess”).

Tragically, George (1898–1937) passed away at the young age of 38. He composed for Broadway and for the classical concert hall and many of his compositions have become jazz standards recorded in numerous variations.

George frequently spoke of the “artistic mission of popular music.” He said, “Music must reflect the thoughts and aspirations of the people and the time. My people are American. My time is today.” For a large part of his work, that prophetic statement still rings true.

Ira (1896–1983) was George’s older brother. He, of course, was the lyricist in the family, but after George's death he also collaborated with other great composers including Jerome Kern and Kurt Weill.

Tonight we’re singing three sets of George and Ira’s music: love songs, the great Fascinating Rhythm and a medley of swing numbers. We’ve been having great fun putting this music together... It’s American music at its best!

Singing with Peninsula Cantare

Are you interested in singing with *Peninsula Cantare*? Contact Janice Gunderson at peninsulacacantare@yahoo.com and for further information visit our website at www.peninsulacantare.org.

Janice Gunderson, Music Director



Janice has enjoyed a richly varied musical life in the San Francisco Bay Area working as a professional accompanist, choral director and teacher. Named Director of *Peninsula Cantare* in 1997, the choir has since become known for its innovative repertoire and exciting singing. “Gunderson is an example of how outstanding conductors are able to infuse their musical spirits into receptive performers.”
–San Mateo County Times.

As an accompanist, Janice has performed with singers, instrumentalists, and in theatrical productions, and has been on the staff of College of San Mateo, Cañada College, and Notre Dame de Namur University. Before becoming Director of *Peninsula Cantare* she was the Assistant Conductor of Masterworks Chorale (College of San Mateo). Janice also directs the Peninsula Choraliers, a women’s ensemble, and is the Organist and Choir Director at the Palo Alto First Baptist Church.

Originally from Oregon, Janice studied at Lewis and Clark College in Portland and holds a Music degree from the University of Oregon in Eugene, with continuing studies at Cal State Hayward and San Jose State University.

Alexander Bootzin, Accompanist

Alexander Bootzin holds a B.A. degree in piano performance and an M.A. degree in Musicology from U. C. Santa Barbara. He performs as solo pianist and in chamber music concerts throughout the Bay Area and is active as a teacher, accompanist, and musical director. He is currently Director of Music Ministries at Hope Lutheran Church in San Mateo and runs the Spindrift School of Performing Arts in Pacifica.

Nucleus Jazz Quartet

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alex Bootzin | – Piano |
| Ruben Salcido | – Soprano, Alto, Tenor Saxes & Flute |
| Carl Herder | – String Bass |
| Kevin McAuliffe | – Drums |

Peninsula Cantare

Janice Gunderson, Music Director

Alexander Bootzin, Accompanist

Soprano

Susan Breuer*
Rebecca Dashiell*
Pamela Eaken*
Shirley Fitzgerald
Toby Goldberg
Debby Hamburger
Vicki Hanson
Linda Litz
Sharon Rice
Laurel Shimer
Ruth Sitton
Joanne Sun

Alto

Jean Cole
Ellen Hill*
Vicki Jayswal*
Kay Johnson*
Miriam Kaplan
Marilyn Michaelson
Kathy Nebel
Paula Ondricek
Laura Pearce
Robyn Peters
Diane Reeve
Pamela Schwarz
Patricia Steuer*
Carol Vollen

Tenor

Larry Baer
Max Capestany
Jamie Gaskin*
Emery Gordon
Joseph Kresse
Paul Reeve
Nuwan Senaratna

Bass

John Friesen
Peter Gunderson*
Ron Hodges
Gene Hogenauer
Robert Janssen
Dave Peters
Robert Peterson
Paul Wendt
Charlie Zimmerman

*Soloist in the Gershwin

Cantare Board of Directors

Janice Gunderson
Shirley Fitzgerald
Ellen Hill
Gene Hogenauer
Joseph Kresse
Robert Peterson

Acknowledgements

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Our 2010 Concerts

May 22 and 23: *Fanfare*. Joint concert with Masterworks Chorale. Rutter's *Gloria*, music of Gabrieli for double choir and others

Check out our website at www.peninsulacantare.org