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Martin Katz, Jesse Blumberg Undertake Schubert's Song Cycles

March 22, 2010 — Ann Arbor, Mich. — Celebrated area pianist Martin Katz joins baritone Jesse Blumberg for a weekend devoted to the music of Franz Schubert. They will perform concerts consisting of Schubert's masterful song cycles: "Die Schoene Müllerin" and "Die Winterreise" — works that are rarely performed in sequence due to their difficulty. Between the two concerts, the duo will lead a masterclass with University of Michigan vocal students focusing on the music of Schubert. All events take place at the **Kerrytown Concert House at 415 North Fourth Ave. in Ann Arbor:**

Friday, April 16 at 8 p.m. - "Die Schoene Müllerin"

Saturday, April 17 at 2 p.m. - Schubert Masterclass

Sunday, April 18 at 4 p.m. - "Die Winterreise"

"Die Schoene Müllerin" and "Die Winterreise" dominate the song cycle genre, and are both significant accomplishments in Schubert's composition career. The song cycles, which are set to poems by Wilhelm Müller, each tell the story of a young man's requited love. A man strolling through the countryside stops by a brook and encounters "Die Schoene Müllerin," meaning "beautiful mill girl," and instantly falls in love. She doesn't show much interest, and the man ultimately drowns himself in the brook. In "Die Winterreise," a young man steals away from his lover's home, knowing that she is interested in someone else, and trudges through the snow on a journey of the soul.

Jesse Blumberg, baritone

Baritone Jesse Blumberg is an artist equally at home on opera, concert, and recital stages. He recently created the role of Connie Rivers in the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's opera "The Grapes of Wrath" at the Minnesota Opera, and then made his Utah and Pittsburgh Opera debuts in the same production. Other recent appearances include the title role in Monteverdi's "The Return of Ulysses to his Homeland" with Opera Vivente, for which the Baltimore Sun raved, "Jesse Blumberg commanded the stage, physically and vocally...lighting up the hall with his every appearance." He has also premiered two important chamber works: Ricky Ian Gordon's "Green Sneakers" and Lisa Bielawa's "The Lay of the Love and Death." In 2008, Jesse received Third Prize at the International Robert Schumann Competition in Zwickau, becoming the competition's first American prizewinner in over thirty years. Jesse holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of Michigan.

Martin Katz, piano

The New York Times calls Martin Katz "the gold standard of accompanists." His 40-year career has taken him to five continents, collaborating with the world's most celebrated singers in recital and recording. Marilyn Horne, Frederica von Stade, Kathleen Battle, David Daniels, Karita Mattila and Jose Carreras are among his regular partners, and he has recorded for RCA, CBS, BMG, EMI and Decca labels. Mr. Katz is also active as a conductor and editor. He has led opera productions for San Francisco's Merola program, the BBC, Tokyo's NHK, as well as innumerable performances in Ann Arbor. His editions of baroque and belcanto operas have been performed in Houston, Ottawa, and at the Metropolitan Opera. A University of Michigan faculty member for over 2 decades, he has chaired the program in collaborative piano and coached vocal repertoire for singers and pianists alike. Now an author as well, Mr. Katz's first opus, "The Complete Collaborator," has been published by Oxford University Press.

About Kerrytown Concert House

The Kerrytown Concert House is an arts organization focused on community engagement and bringing fine artists and their audiences together. An intimate 110-seat venue, the Concert House is home to diverse offerings in a wide range of musical styles, while rotating art exhibits are displayed on the walls of the house. Located in the Kerrytown district of Ann Arbor, Mich., KCH is available to the community, including educators, students and organizations for recitals, meetings and events. In addition, it is home to the internationally acclaimed festival Edgefest, and is a presenter of artists of the highest artistic excellence. Kerrytown Concert House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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