

**Celebrity Opera:
Joseph Calleja**

Joseph Calleja

Tenor

Kamal Khan

Piano

**Saturday
Nov 11
7:30 p.m.
Main Stage**



Photo Credit: Andrew Berg Carboitt

*Celebrity Opera Recitals at
BroadStage are generously
supported by the Lloyd E. Rigler
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Joseph Calleja

About the Artists

Joseph Calleja

“Only one lyric tenor on the scene today has the honeyed tone and ingratiating style to make comparisons to Pavarotti and Gigli seem serious, and it is Calleja, the man from Malta.” (New Yorker)

Blessed with a golden-age voice that routinely inspires comparisons to “legendary singers from earlier eras: Jussi Björling, Beniamino Gigli, even Enrico Caruso” (AP), Joseph Calleja is well-established as one of the most acclaimed and sought-after tenors today. His expansive discography and frequent appearances on the world’s leading opera and concert stages prompted NPR to hail him as “arguably today’s finest lyric tenor”.

The 2023/24 season brings a return to the US to sing an acclaimed signature role, Rodolfo in **La bohème**, at the Metropolitan Opera under the baton of Marco Armiliato. He reprises this role at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, where he further sings Pollione in **Norma** under Gianluca Capuano. He is Cavaradossi in **Tosca** for the Dallas Opera, and in Berlin the tenor stars as Enzo Grimaldi in **La Gioconda** at the Deutsche Oper and reprises Cavaradossi at the Staatsoper. On the concert stage, the 2023/24, Calleja’s exciting projects include a concert at the Luis A. Ferré Performing Arts Center in San Juan alongside Ana María Martínez and Paulo Szot accompanied by the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra. He gives a piano recital at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, California and performs in concert under the auspices of the Dallas Opera.

Last season, Joseph Calleja saw performances as Cavaradossi in **Tosca** and Don José in **Carmen** at the Opéra National de Paris. He also enjoyed major touring success: he was heard in concert throughout Australia and New Zealand and toured Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. He performed with the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra at the Smetana Hall in Prague, with the Szczecin Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in Poland, with the Würth Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany, and with l’Orchestra della Magna Grecia under Gianluca Marciànò in Italy.

Highlights from recent operatic seasons include the Duke in **Rigoletto** at the Paris Opera and at the Bavarian State Opera, Foresto in concert performances of **Attila** at the Royal Opera House London, Loris Ipanov in concert performances of **Fedora** at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the title characters in new productions

of **Faust** and **Les contes d’Hoffmann** at the Metropolitan Opera; Alfredo in **La traviata** opposite Renée Fleming and Adorno in **Simon Boccanegra** alongside Plácido Domingo; new productions of **La bohème**, opposite Anna Netrebko; **La traviata** at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and **Maria Stuarda** alongside Joyce DiDonato in concerts with the Deutsche Oper Berlin. He made his role debut as Riccardo in Verdi’s **Un ballo in maschera** at the Royal Opera House in London and portrayed Ruggero in Rolando Villazón’s staging of Puccini’s **La rondine** at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Calleja appears extensively in concert throughout the world. He was the featured soloist at the 2011 Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm, was selected by the Maltese president to perform a private concert for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, and toured Germany with soprano Anna Netrebko. After co-headlining 2012’s Last Night of the BBC Proms, Calleja returned to the London festival in 2013 for a gala performance at the Royal Albert Hall and an open-air concert marking the Last Night of the Proms in Hyde Park. He starred in the renowned Open-Air Gala in front of the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and sang at Moscow’s Zaryadye Concert Hall. Together with Diana Damrau, he performed a live concert at the Royal Palace of Caserta, Italy, as part of the Met Stars Live in Concert series. In 2022, invited as a special guest, the tenor performed alongside Anna Netrebko at the 175th Anniversary concert at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona.

As an exclusive Decca Classics recording artist since 2003, the tenor boasts an extensive discography that includes complete operas and concert repertoire, as well as eight solo albums. His most recent, and first-ever sacred album, entitled “Ave Maria”, was released in 2023. His videography enjoys similar success, and it was his portrayal of Alfredo in the Royal Opera House’s DVD/Blu-ray release of **La traviata**, alongside Renée Fleming and Thomas Hampson, which earned Calleja his first Grammy nomination. His rendition of the Verdi aria “La donna è mobile” is featured on the soundtrack of **No Reservations**, a 2007 motion picture starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart. He made his Hollywood debut in 2014’s **The Immigrant**, in which he portrays the legendary tenor Enrico Caruso in a cast with Marion Cotillard, Joaquin Phoenix, and Jeremy Renner.

Born in Malta in 1978, Joseph Calleja began singing

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at the age of 16, first in his church choir and then in formal training with Maltese tenor Paul Asciak. Calleja was only 19 when he made his operatic debut as Macduff in Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Astra Theatre in Malta, shortly before winning an award in the Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition that launched his international career. He went on to win the 1998 Caruso Competition in Milan and was a prize winner in Plácido Domingo's Operalia in 1999, the year of his U.S. debut at the Spoleto Festival. Since then, Calleja has gone on to appear with the world's great opera companies.

One of his native land's biggest celebrities, Calleja was selected to serve as Malta's first cultural ambassador in 2012, and he was named a brand ambassador for Air Malta. In 2013 he teamed up with Malta's Bank of Valletta to form the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, which serves children and families in need.

Kamal Khan

Indian-American conductor and pianist Kamal Khan combines an active performing career with a passionate commitment to the globalization of operatic training. He has performed with many opera companies around the world including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Dallas Opera, Baltimore Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil, Teatro de las Bellas Artes in Mexico City, Oper der Stadt Bonn and the Staatstheater Schwerin, Germany, Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall, Osaka festival Hall and Aichi Prefectural Arts Theater, Nagoya, Japan; Cape Town Opera, Opera South Africa, Opera de Puerto Rico, Seoul Arts Center and Asian Cultural Center, Korea; Beijing Hall; Jiangsu Center for the Performing Arts, Nanjing and Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, China and the International Festivals of Cervantino in Mexico and Santander, Mérida, La Coruña, Tenerife and Málaga in Spain. Additionally he has conducted the Jerusalem Symphony, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony, Shanghai Symphony, São Paulo Philharmonic, Balearic Islands Philharmonic, Oviedo Philharmonic, the Spanish Radio and Television Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic, Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic and the Orchestra of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

As a recitalist and accompanist Kamal Khan has appeared in venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall and Weill Hall in New York, The Kennedy Center in

Washington DC, Gran Teatro Liceu and the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, Palais Garnier in Paris, Suntory Hall and Casals Hall in Tokyo, the Palau de Congressos in Andorra and the Baxter Concert Hall and Montecasino in South Africa with singers such as Marcelo Alvarez, Nadine Benjamin, Harolyn Blackwell, Nico Castel, Justino Diaz, Plácido Domingo, Michael Fabiano, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Larisa Martinez, Angela Meade, Matthew Polenzani, Juan Pons, Herman Prey, Nadine Sierra, Sir Bryn Terfel, Veronica Villarroel, Pretty Yende and violinist Joshua Bell.

Prof. Khan is Visiting Extraordinary Professor at North West University in South Africa, he is a founding member of Opera for Peace, Artistic Director of Classical Vocal Arts International and Director of the Taller para Cantantes in Santo Domingo DR. He is Affiliate Faculty at the Royal Opera Covent Garden Jette Parker Young Artists Program, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, the Metropolitan Opera Lindeman Young Artists Program and the Voices of South Africa Festival and Competition. He was the Director of the Opera School at the University of Cape Town and Resident Conductor and Chorus Master of the Palm Beach Opera where he founded the Resident Artist Program. He was also Resident Conductor of the Opera Festival in Tenerife, Head of Faculty of the International School of Vocal Study of the Balearic Islands and Artistic Director of the Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival. Additionally, he has worked with the Juilliard School, Mannes College of Music, Manhattan School of Music in New York, the International Vocal Arts Institute, European Center for Vocal Arts, Chautauqua School of Music, Opera Theatre of St Louis, Ravinia Festival and Glimmerglass Opera. He has given masterclasses at the Opera Hogskolan, the University of the Arts in Stockholm, the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, the University of Michigan, and Georgia State University in Atlanta.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music Kamal Khan was the youngest Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and during his ten year position he collaborated with such conductors as James Levine, Nello Santi, James Conlon, Julius Rudel, Christian Thielemann, Carlo Rizzi and Marco Armiliato and singers Teresa Stratas, Plácido Domingo, Renata Scotto, Sherrill Milnes, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Mirella Freni, Luciano Pavarotti, Marilyn Horne, Renée Fleming, Carlo Bergonzi, Mariella Devia, Tatiana Troyanos, Ghena

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Dimitrova, Aprile Millo, Nicolai Ghiaurov, and Bonaldo Giaiotti to name a few. While at the MET he was responsible for the musical preparation of many new productions including the telecasts of Schenk / Schneider-Siemssen's complete *Ring des Nibelungen*, del Monaco's *La Fanciulla del West*, *Stiffelio*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Simon Boccanegra* and *Madama Butterfly*, Zeffielli's *Don Giovanni*, *La Traviata* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Joel's *Andrea Chenier*, the company premiere of *I Lombardi* and the world premieres of Glass' *The Voyage* and Corgliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*.

Some of the works he has conducted include *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Norma*, *I Puritani*, *La Sonnambula*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Favorita*, *L'Elisir d'amore*, *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, *La Bohème*, *Il Trittico*, *Turandot*, *La Traviata*, *Nabucco*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Carmen*, *Don Carlo*, *Werther*, *Mefistofele*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, *Die Fliegende Holländer*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Rake's Progress*, *The Merry Widow* and the African premieres of *Il Viaggio a Reims* and *Dead Man Walking* and the world premieres of *Five:20 Operas Made in South Africa* and *Four:30 Operas Made in South Africa*.

A native of Washington DC, Kamal Khan was the recipient from the first National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts prize. He has also received prizes and grants from the National Association of Music Teachers and the National Symphony Orchestra. The PBS- Channel 13 documentary "I Live to Sing" based on his work in South Africa won the 2014 EMMY for best cultural program: www.thirteen.org/program-content/i-live-to-sing-full-program/

Joseph Calleja
tenor

Kamal Khan
piano

Program

Le Cid

“Ah! tout est bien fini”

Jules Massenet

(1842-1912)

Rusalka

“Vidino divná přesladká” (*Prince Aria*)

Antonín Dvořák

(1841-1904)

Finale de Don Carlos de Verdi

“Coro di festa e marcia funebre, S435”

Franz Liszt

(1811-1886)

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813-1901)

Xerxes

“Ombra mai fu”

George Frideric Handel

(1685-1759)

“Vaghissima Sembianza”

Stefano Donaudy

(1879-1925)

Tosca

“E lucevan le stelle”

Giacomo Puccini

(1858-1924)

“Mattinata”

Ruggero Leoncavallo

(1857-1919)

INTERMISSION

Program (continued)

“Niet tolka tot kto znall”
(None But The Lonely Heart)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

“Ideale”

Francesco Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)

“A vucchella”

Francesco Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)

Six Pieces for Piano, Op.118
Selections No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

“Moon River”

Henry Mancini
(1924-1994)
Johnny Mercer
(1909-1976)

The Godfather
“Parla Più Piano”

Nino Rota
(1911-1979)
Gianni Boncompagni
(1932-2017)

“Amazing Grace”

John Newton
(1725-1807)

The Sound of Music
“Edelweiss”

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

West Side Story
“Maria”

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)
Stephen Sondheim
(1930-2021)

West Side Story
“Tonight”

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)
Stephen Sondheim
(1930-2021)