

Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera's Harolyn Blackwell and Pulitzer Prize Winner, David Del Tredici in Riverside Opera Ensemble 20th Anniversary, An Evening of World Premieres, at Merkin Concert Hall on 29 May 2004

HAROLYN BLACKWELL, who appeared as Cunegonde in the Hal Prince revival of *CANDIDE* and who began her career on B'way in the revival of *West Side Story*, will sing the world premiere performance of *A WOMAN'S PLIGHT*, a new performance piece by Nathan R. Matthews with texts by Edgar Allan Poe, as part of the 20th Anniversary Concert of the Riverside Opera Ensemble.

AN EVENING OF WORLD PREMIERES, a concert celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of The Riverside Opera Ensemble, will take place on 29 May 2004 at 8:30pm at the Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023. Tickets are \$25, Students \$15 on the day of performance. For tickets call: (212) 501 3330 or purchase from the link on line at www.riversideopera.org.

David Del Tredici, the Pulitzer prize winning composer whose work has been performed by the world's leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, has been commissioned by the company to write a new song cycle for this evening American music for singers. The program will also include world premieres of music by Stephen Dembski and Patrick Byers.

Hila Plitmann, an internationally acclaimed singer who is known for her collaborations with Del Tredici's will premiere the new Del Tredici cycle, *On Wing of Song*. The Byers's cycle, *Music for Friends*, include cello and clarinet in their instrumentation.

The Riverside Opera Ensemble, founded in 1984, is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to serving, developing and nurturing artists and audiences through a diverse program of music theatre production, creation, experimentation and education. The company's artistic directors, Nathan Matthews, who is music director in the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University at Buffalo – The State University of New York, and Stephen Pickover who is a stage director at the Metropolitan Opera, have notable national and international careers in music, music theatre performance and education. Riverside Opera Ensemble has attracted the notice of renowned artists such as Leonard Bernstein and Rosemary Harris who served as honorary chairs for the company's past premiere productions. Alumni of the company have moved on to perform with the leading companies of the world.



RIVERSIDE OPERA ENSEMBLE

Nathan R. Matthews and Stephen Pickover, Artistic Directors

20th Anniversary Concert

AN EVENING OF WORLD PREMIERES

Composers

DAVID DEL TREDICI

STEPHEN DEMBSKI

NATHAN R. MATTHEWS

PATRICK BYERS SCOTT GENDEL

Performances by

HAROLYN BLACKWELL

DAVID DEL TREDICI HILA PLITMANN

JOHN KOCH SHERRY ZANNOTH JUDITH SKINNER

JENNIFER BYERS MARISSA BYERS

PATRICK BYERS NATHAN R. MATTHEWS

Saturday, 29 May 2004 at 8:30 P M

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, Goodman House

129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023

Tickets \$25 Students \$15 call (212) 501 3340 or visit

www.riversideopera.org