

*Recreating
Pavarotti at
Carnegie Hall*

Thank you to the First Congregational
Church of Old Lyme for their
unconditional support of this
Livestream Concert Event!

A

 **livestream**

Concert Event

COVESIDE
MEDIA

Brian Cheney, tenor

Simon Holt, piano

~ Intermission ~

Program

I.

Le Violette
Pieta, Signore
Che fiero costume

Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)
Alessandro Stradella (1639-1682)
Giovanni Legrenzi (1625-1690)

II.

Ave Maria
Ave Verum Corpus
O Jesu mi dulcissime

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Luigi Guida (1842-1903)

III.

*"Ella mi fu rapita...
Parmi, veder le lagrime"*
from *Rigoletto*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

IV.

Tre Sonetti di Petrarca

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
Pace non trovo
Benedetto sia l'giorno
I' vidi in terra

V.

"Angelo casto e bel"
from *Il Duca d'Alba*

Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

VI.

'A vucchella

Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)

"M'appari tutt'amor"
from *Martha*

Friedrich Von Flotow (1812-1883)

Please join us for a reception
following the program

Translations

Angelo casto e bel

Here, unobserved in this chapel, this place of lonely devotion,
a haven of weeping, filled with echoes of suffering,
where every evening she comes to pray for her father:
here I shall wait, wait for my love!

Angel of love divine! No, never let the pain
of fear's remorseless call disturb the sweetness of her soul.
May heaven hear my prayer our fortunes on earth to share:
let joy be hers and sorrow mine!

But, if I should be banished and far from you should perish,
I beg that you, my Amelia, may never curse my name:
as I lie dying my thoughts will fly to you again...

'A vucchella

Yes, like a little flower,
You have got a sweet mouth a little bit withered.
Please give it to me, it's like a little rose
Give me a little kiss, give, Cannelletta!
Give one and take one, a kiss as little as your mouth
which looks like a little rose a little bit withered.

M'appari tutt'amor

She appeared to me, purest of love.
I discovered with my eyes this vision of delight.
Lovely was she, that my hungry heart, in a snap, to her did fly;
I was hurt, I was charmed by that beauty from above.
Love is etched in my heart, and cannot now be erased.
The mere thought that our hearts with sweet love might beat as one is
enough to forget all the sorrow that fills my heart.
Marta, Marta, you have left me,
And my heart along with yours has vanished away!
You've taken away my peace, I will surely die of pain.

Le Violette

Dewy scented pretty violets,
You are standing shy, half hidden among the leaves,
And you scold my desires, that are too ambitious.

Pieta, Signore

Have mercy, Lord, on me in my remorse!
If my prayer rises to you; do not chastise me in your severity,
less harshly, always mercifully, look down on me.
Never let me be condemned to hell in the eternal fire
by your severity.

Che fiero costume

How cruel are the ways of that pitiless god,
to make us worship him by making us suffer!
The treacherous deity compels me in my passion
to idolize a pleasing appearance.
O evil fate, that a sightless infant,
his mouth still full of milk, can command my respect.
Yet this false and barbarous tyrant
has entered through my eyes to bring me grief.

Ave Maria

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and in the hour of our death.

Ave Verum Corpus

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

O Jesu mi dulcissime

O Jesus, most sweet to me, hope of the yearning soul;
The tears of the pious seek you;
the innermost soul cries out to you!
Stay with us, Lord, and shine your light upon us.
Drive darkness away, and fill the world with your sweetness.

Ella mi fu rapita... Parmi, veder le lagrime

She has been taken away from me!
When? O heavens, just before a dark omen
sent me rushing onto the trodden path!
The door was ajar! The house deserted!
Where will that dear angel be now?
She was the only one capable to kindle in this heart
the flame of constant love! Where will she be?
She so pure, that at her modest glance
I sometimes believe to have become virtuous!
She was taken away from me!
Who dared it? I will take revenge, her tears ask for it.
I can almost see her tears flow from her brow,
when torn between sorrow and anxiety of the sudden danger
recalling our love she called out for her Gualtier.
Nor could he rescue you, dear beloved...
Longing with his entire soul to make you blissful on this earth,
he doesn't envy the angels in heaven when you are near.

Pace non trovo

I find no peace, but for war am not inclined;
I fear, yet hope; I burn, yet am turned to ice;
I soar in the heavens, but lie upon the ground;
I hold nothing, though I embrace the whole world.
Love has me in a prison which he neither opens nor shuts fast;
he neither claims me for his own nor loosens my halter;
he neither slays nor unshackles me; he would not have me live, yet
leaves me with my torment. Eyeless I gaze, and tongueless I cry out; I
long to perish, yet plead for succour; I hate myself, but love another. I
feed on grief, yet weeping, laugh;
death and life alike repel me; and to this state I am come,
my lady, because of you.

Benedetto sia 'l giorno

Blessed be the day, the month, the year,
the season, the hour, the moment, the lovely scene,
the spot when I was put in thrall by two lovely eyes which bind me
fast. And blessed be the first sweet pang I suffered when love
overwhelmed me, the bows and arrows which stung me,
and the wounds which pierce to my heart. Blessed be the many voices
which have echoed when I have called Laura's name,
the sighs and tears, the longing; and blessed be all those writings in
which I have spread her fame, and my thoughts,
which stem from her and centre on her alone.

I' vidi in terra

I beheld on earth angelic grace, and heavenly beauty unmatched in
this world, such as to rejoice and pain my memory,
which is so clouded with dreams, shadows, mists.
And I beheld tears spring from those two bright eyes, which many a
time have put the sun to shame, and heard words unered with such
sighs as to move the mountains and stay the rivers. Love, wisdom,
excellence, pity and grief made in that plaint a sweeter concert than
any other to be heard on earth. And heaven on that harmony was so
intent that not a leaf upon the bough was seen to stir,
such sweetness had filled the air and winds.

Simon Holt, pianist and organist, received undergraduate and graduate degrees from The Royal College of Music, London and a postgraduate teaching certificate from Goldsmiths' College, London University. In addition he was a prizewinner at the Royal College of Organists in London.

While in the United Kingdom Simon gave organ recitals in Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, numerous Cathedrals and the Royal Albert Hall in London. His discography includes a cassette of solo organ music and three CDs, two as an accompanist and the third conducting the Bristol Cathedral School orchestra. He has also performed several times on national UK radio and television, including a live performance in the Royal Albert Hall while still at The Royal College of Music. He has also toured Europe widely and his performances have included those in Notre-Dame and Sacré Coeur as well as St. Mark's Venice. He has performed in Holland, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belgium and Switzerland.

In May 1999 Simon and his family moved to Stonington, CT when he became Director of Music at Calvary Church. In September 2000 he became Director of Music at Pine Point School in Stonington, and collaborated with Calvary Church in founding Calvary Music School for whom he was Executive Director until 2010. Also in 2000 he founded Salt Marsh Opera for whom he has been Artistic Director for many years. In September 2007 Simon was appointed Director of Music in School at St. Thomas Choir School in New York City.

In 2012, after two years as Chair of the Fine Arts Department and Head of Music at Saint James School in Hagerstown, MD (the oldest Episcopal boarding school in North America) Simon returned to Connecticut and is currently Executive Director of The United Theatre in Westerly, RI and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme.

Brian Cheney is one of today's most versatile, and exciting tenors. The protégé of legendary tenor, Jerry Hadley, Mr. Cheney is quickly gaining international acclaim for his portrayal of characters such as Don José in *Carmen*, Mario Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, the Duke in *Rigoletto*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Candide in *Candide*. "It is tenor Brian Cheney as the brave painter Cavaradossi who really blew me away. Cheney has that terrific tenor sound: the power, richness, and vocal color of a high baritone combined with ringing, awe-inspiring high notes." Stage and Cinema

Following Mr. Cheney's debut at Carnegie Hall in 2007, he has been performing concert works and oratorio throughout the country. The Daily Gazette in Albany, NY had this to say about his recent performance of the Messiah, "Tenor Brian Cheney was a revelation. Cheney's voice was like spun gold. He seemed to dwell on his notes, basking in their loveliness. Each phrase was sculpted, each word was cleanly enunciated. Not just a gorgeous voice, Cheney showed imagination as he altered his colors or use of vibrato." Mr. Cheney has performed numerous times as a soloist at Carnegie Hall with his most recent performance in 2013 performing a world premiere and US premiere of Hungarian music with the American Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Leon Botstein. In 2011, Mr. Cheney also made his Lincoln Center debut as tenor soloist for the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 at Avery Fisher Hall appearing with acclaimed soprano, Jessye Norman. He recently made his return to Lincoln Center performing in the popular televised New Year's Concert, *Salute to Vienna*.

Engagements in 2015 include Mario Cavaradossi in *Tosca* in Los Angeles and Illinois, Don José in *Carmen* with Knoxville Opera, Tenor Soloist in *Salute to Vienna* and Verdi's *Requiem* at Dartmouth College.

Mr. Cheney's self-titled debut solo album was released to critical acclaim worldwide on October 8. To watch his 6 part documentary and to purchase his album please visit www.BrianCheneyTenor.com for more details. "Cheney exhibits a robust, ringing tenor with a sure sense of style, firm tone and excellent diction." OPERA NEWS