



**Conductor Judith Clurman
conducts a reading of Rappaccini's Daughter:
A Music Theater Piece
As part of The Composer Speaks Series**

Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 7:00 PM.

At Pearl Studios

Judith Clurman conducts a reading of **Rappaccini's Daughter: A Music Theater Piece** by **Michael Cohen** (music) & **Linsey Abrams** (book & lyrics), based on a short story by **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, at the **Pearl Studios**, 519 8th Avenue (Studio C-12th floor), NYC, in New York City on **Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 7:00 PM**. Seating is limited.

This event is being performed under the auspices of **The Composer Speaks** series, which is sponsored by Clurman's **Essential Voices USA**. At each **Composer Speaks** event, choral and vocal musical selections are presented, followed by a discussion with each composer/librettist about musical choices and compositional techniques with conductor Judith Clurman. Audience

members are encouraged to be a part of the conversation and ask questions. EVUSA has presented workshops with numerous composers, including Larry Hochman, Bruce Ruben, Joshua Schmidt, Shulamit Ran, and Paul Schoenfield. EVUSA will present Composer Speaks events during the 2013–2014 concert season.

The cast of **Rappaccini's Daughter** includes **Amy Justman** (Beatrice Rappaccini), **Silvie Jensen** (Lizbetta), **Michael Slattery** (Giovanni Guasconi), **Lee Poulis** (Professor Baglioni), **Dominic Inferrera** (Dr. Rappaccini) and **Marc Palmieri** (Narrator). **Billy Test** is the pianist.

Rappaccini's Daughter, by **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, is one of the most heart-breaking love stories in all literature. Two young lovers, with dreams of a shared future, become victims of a brilliant scientist intent on changing the very laws of nature. No one can stop him except, perhaps, an unheralded doctor committed to healing and humanity. The power of science to cause harm, the hubris of genius that so often leads to tragedy, passion's tendency to mingle fantasy and reality, the cruel loss of innocence—all underpin this haunting tale.

Opera America, the service organization for opera companies, opened **the National Opera Center** in the fall of 2012. The center offers a small recital hall, a recording studio, and rehearsal spaces. The center is located in midtown Manhattan, at 330 Seventh Avenue (between 28th and 29th Streets), in New York City.

CONDUCTOR, JUDITH CLURMAN

Emmy and Grammy-nominated conductor, vocal educator, and choral specialist Judith Clurman has conducted and collaborated with the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Boston Symphony, New York City Ballet, Mostly Mozart Festival, Lincoln Center's Great Performers series, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the American Songbook Series, TodiMusicFest, and the New York Pops (Carnegie Hall). She served as Julliard's Director of Choral Activities, Co-Director for Harvard's Leonard Bernstein: Boston to Broadway Festival, faculty

member/vocal specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts/Columbia University Institute of Classical Music, and as Visiting Artist/Conductor at Cambridge University, the Zimriya (Israel), and the Janacek Academy (Czech Republic). She created the Lincoln Center Tree Lighting, serving as musical director/conductor for nine years, and has commissioned and premiered over 50 works by America's most revered composers. As Associate Music Director of Sesame Street (Season 39), her work with The Muppets earned her a 2009 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction and Composition. Judith served as founding conductor of New York Concert Singers and Project Youth Chorus and music director of Prism Concerts and the 92nd Street Y's Music of the Spirit. The recording of Clurman's Son Sonora Voices for Tania Leon's ballet Inura, was nominated for a 2013 Grammy Award (Contemporary Classical Composition). Judith currently conducts Essential Voices USA (EVUSA), is Visiting Artist at the Curtis Institute, and collaborates with the Omaha Symphony as chorus master and guest conductor. She conducted The Music in My Mind for Marvin Hamlisch's children's book. Her critically acclaimed CD, Celebrating the American Spirit, (EVUSA, Kelli O'Hara, Ron Raines), was featured on National Public Radio on Inauguration Day, 2013. Judith's publications/arrangements are published by G. Schirmer, Schott, Subito, and Boosey & Hawkes. She's recorded for New World, Sono Luminus, and Delos. She is currently a member of ASCAP, ASCAP's Special Classification Committee, and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. www.judithclurman.com

LYRICIST

Linsey Abrams (book/lyrics) is the author of the nationally reviewed novels Charting by the Stars, Double Vision, and Our History in New York. Her stories and essays have been published in nationally distributed monthlies as well as in a variety of literary journals, and have been

anthologized in such collections as Bantam's Best Short Fiction and Avon's Tasting Life Twice. Linsey is director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at CUNY.

COMPOSER

Michael Cohen's (composer) credits include Assistant Musical Director on Broadway; Musical Director at Theatre Atlanta and Clinton Playhouse, Connecticut; Music Director of the national company of "The Fantasticks"; and Music Director at Upstairs at the Downstairs. Cohen is a member of ASCAP and has served on the board of Concert Artists' Guild, The American Society for Jewish Music, and The Center for Contemporary Opera. A graduate of Brandeis University, Cohen studied composition with Harold Shapero and Irving Fine.

PERFORMERS

Silvie Jensen's has appeared at Lyric Opera of Chicago with One World Symphony, and premiered new operas with Riverside Opera, Stonington Opera House, and at the Carolina Chamber Music Festival. Next season she will appear as Carmen with American Chamber Opera in Chicago. www.silviejensen.com

Amy Justman made her Broadway debut as Susan in *Company*, performing on the Original Revival cast recording and the PBS "Great Performances" DVD, and recently played Clara in the first New York revival of Sondheim's *Passion* at Classic Stage Company. She returned to Broadway in *White Christmas*, understudying the role of Betty Haynes. Other concert work includes the Ravinia Festival, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, NYC Ballet, American Symphony Orchestra, and the Kurt Weill Fest. She is currently a voice teacher at Yale University. www.amyjustman.com

Marc Palmieri has worked Off-Broadway with Classic Stage Company, Axis Company, The Culture Project, The Directors' Company, Emerging Artists, La MaMa ETC, The Cliplight Theatre, and many others. He currently teaches playwriting and screenwriting in the MFA

Creative Writing program at The City College of New York in Manhattan.

www.marcpalmieri.com

Lee Poulis recently sang the role of Robert Oppenheimer in Doctor Atomic in Saarbrücken, and has appeared with the Minnesota Opera, Sarasota Opera, Toledo Opera, Dayton Opera, Lyric Opera Baltimore, and Theater Bonn. He was first-prize winner in the in the 2007 Chester Ludgin International Verdi Baritone Competition and the 2008 Liederkrantz Foundation Vocal Competition. He is an alumnus of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, and Music Academy of the West.

www.leepoulis.com

Michael Slattery, since graduating from Juilliard, has worked with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, French National Orchestra in Paris, Akademie für Alte Musik in Berlin, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. His solo discs include the newly released Dowland in Dublin.

www.michaelslattery.com

Dominic Inferrera has performed with the Opera Festival of New Jersey, the Center for Contemporary Opera, the Cornell University Theatre, the Toledo Opera, the Utah Festival Opera, the the Annapolis Opera, Opera Memphis, the Capital City Opera, the Union Avenue Opera, and the Encompass Opera Theater. He sang Pontus Pilate in Brooklyn Academy of Music's critically acclaimed St. Matthew Passion. Dominic has performed with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony, Colorado Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic, and the Meredith Monk Ensemble.

Billy Test is a freelance pianist based in New York City. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in April of 2013 at the New York Pops birthday celebration for Stephen Schwartz, accompanying the New York premier of "Testimony." He has performed at leading jazz and classical music venues, including Carnegie Hall (NYC), Merkin Concert Hall (NYC), The DiMenna Center for

the Arts (NYC), and the Pittsfield Jazz Festival (Pittsfield, MA). In the fall of 2013, he will begin graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music on a full scholarship as a member of the prestigious Jazz Institute at MSM.

Jorell Williams's 2013 season has included the role of the Nurse/Lawyer in the world premiere of Anthony Davis's opera *Lear*, *Candide* with Amarillo Opera, *The Impresario* with Wendy Taucher Dance Opera Theater, Wynton Marsalis's U.S. tour of "Abyssinian Mass" with Chorale LeChateau, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. He has performed with the American Opera Projects and the Ravinia Festival. *www.myspace.com/jorellwilliams*

Essential Voices USA (EVUSA) is one of New York's preeminent choral ensembles, bringing together a roster of seasoned professionals and auditioned volunteers. In this unique choral model, created by Clurman, the size of the ensemble changes in response to the specific musical needs of each project, including operatic readings and performances. *The Composer Speaks* is a series of concerts and theater pieces in workshop format presented by EVUSA.

WEBSITES

www.judithclurman.com

www.essentialvoicesusa.com

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