

## CONCERT BACKGROUNDER

It is where Bizet found his Carmen and where Mozart and Rossini both found their famous Barber. A place where Arabian, African and European cultures have mixed and flourished for more than two millennia, producing what some scholars today call the world's richest song tradition. A place where the distinction between high art and folk art has always been wonderfully muddy, each infusing the other with exuberance, individuality and passion. From the beginnings of Western civilization, if you wanted an experience of the exotic, you headed to Spain.

A nation with an unusual diversity of individual cultures and languages, Spain has produced a constant stream of music, with song enjoying particular prominence, from the earliest moments of recorded Western music history. Ironically, it is this diversity that in many ways has prevented Spain's rich musical heritage from competing with that of its more familiar neighbors. As philosopher and essayist José Ortega y Gasset (1883-1956) once wrote, Spain is less a nation than a series of watertight compartments.

This plethora of cultures and styles, combined with Spain's history of continually waxing and waning world influence, has meant that her musical impact has generally been experienced more through the works of foreigners such as Scarlatti, Boccherini, Glinka, Liszt, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Lalo, Chabrier, Debussy, and Ravel than through her own native masters. As a result, we are far more familiar with the music she has inspired than we are with the work Spain has produced directly.

In this special musical event, Puerto Rican baritone **Matthew Melendez** will be joined by musical host **George Shangrow**, soprano **Tessia Altiveros**, pianist **Jerrod Wendland** and classical guitarist **Robert Blatt** in an evening of rarely-heard romantic Spanish art song. The program will feature works by Federico Mompou (1893-1987), Xavier Montsalvatge (1912- ), and Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000); guitar virtuosos Fernando Sor (1778-1839) and Emilio Pujol (1886-1980); and the vocal maestri Manuel Garcia (1775-1832) and his daughter, Pauline Garcia-Viardot (1821-1910).

The evening's proceeds will benefit Harmony Hill Retreat Center and its acclaimed Cancer Programs. Harmony Hill is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

For additional information, press only, contact:

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# *Cantar del Alma*

*The singing  
of the  
soul*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005 \* 7:30 PM

TOWN HALL SEATTLE

TICKETS STARTING AT \$25

[www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)

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**PERFORMERS & PRESENTERS**

*Musical Host*



**GEORGE SHANGROW**

Conductor and Music Director George Shangrow founded the Seattle Chamber Singers in 1969 and Orchestra Seattle (formerly the Broadway Symphony) in 1979. A musician with a broad range of skills, Mr. Shangrow received his musical training at the University of Washington, where he studied conducting, baroque performance practice, harpsichord, and composition. He

began his professional conducting career at the youthful age of 18 and has concentrated his musical efforts with Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers. He has appeared as guest conductor with the Seattle Symphony, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Tacoma Opera, Rudolf Nureyev and Friends, East Texas University Opera, Oregon Symphony and the Sapporo (Japan) Symphony. He was Music Director and Conductor of Pacific Chamber Opera from 1976 to 1978 and has conducted world premieres of six operas and numerous other orchestral and choral works.

Mr. Shangrow has taught at Seattle University and Seattle Community College and is a frequent lecturer throughout the Northwest. He is currently on the faculty of the Seattle Conservatory of Music, where he teaches Music History, Conducting, and Literature.

He concertizes frequently as part of the Cohan-Shangrow Duo with flutist Jeffrey Cohan. Having toured Europe several times as keyboardist and conductor, he is a sought-after accompanist and has appeared in concert on the piano and harpsichord with many noted soloists and ensembles such as El Trio Grande, the Kronos Quartet, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, and the Seattle Symphony. He has recorded with London Records, Voyager Records, edel America, and Sonic Window Records. George Shangrow currently serves the University Christian Church as Director of Music. Seattle music lovers also know him as a regular announcer on Classical KING-FM and host of the Live By George show, a nightly radio program featuring live, in-studio classical music performances.

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## PERFORMERS & PRESENTERS

# Vocalists



### MATTHEW MELENDEZ - baritone

Matthew Melendez used to earn his living singing the praises of others: first as an advertising creative, then as a public relations executive for technology behemoths. After nearly two decades as a semi-professional vocalist however, he was given the opportunity to study with brilliant tenor Vinson Cole within the Master of Music program at the University of Washington, and he hasn't looked back since. Matthew has performed with the New Jersey State Opera, Opera Orchestra of Los Angeles, both the Los Angeles and William Hall Master Chorales, the Seattle Tudor Choir and many more fine ensembles. During his term of study at the UW, he's been heard as a soloist in Bach's B-minor Mass, as L'horloge in Ravel's opera *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*, and as Guglielmo in scenes from Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Matthew has a passion for early music, and received praise from nationally renowned early music soprano Ellen Hargis in master class for his coloratura skills. He will graduate magna cum laude from the University of Washington this December, and in 2006 will assume the position of General Director of the Annas Bay Music Festival in Union, Washington.



### TESSIA ALTIVEROS - soprano

Tess Altiveros is currently a member of the artistic staff of Cascadian Chorale with whom her voice has been featured in works by Benjamin Britten, Stephen Paulus, and Massenet, as well as in the world premier of Seattle pianist & composer Bern Herbolzheimer's "Letters of Love". Tess has also sung frequently with the University of Washington School of Music, being featured as a soloist in the university's presentation of Bach's B-Minor Mass. She has also had the opportunity to combine her vocal abilities with her extensive dramatic training in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, as well as in scenes from *Così fan Tutte* (Dorabella, Despina) and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Susanna, Cherubino). Currently she is studying vocal performance at the University of Washington under the tutelage of world-renowned tenor, Vinson Cole.

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## PERFORMERS & PRESENTERS

# *Instrumentalists*



### JERROD WENDLAND - pianist

Jerrod Wendland's unusually varied interests have imbued his pianism with a musicality, the breadth and depth of which belie his twenty-eight years. He began his musical studies in Milwaukee with Stephanie Jacobs, and continued pre-college training with Carole Tafoya, Jane Allen, and Dr. John Schuster-Craig at Webster University. His acceptance to the

prestigious Oberlin Conservatory allowed him to accelerate his musical studies, while also exposing him to an even broader diversity of insights and interests. Besides piano performance, he has studied history, theory, conducting and contemporary music; outside the conservatory, he studied philosophy, Latin, and ancient rhetoric, with an emphasis on memory techniques. While at Oberlin he assembled several chamber ensembles and accompanied a wide variety of instrumental and choral repertoire. Since relocating to Seattle in 2001, he has studied theory and composition with Johnathan Bernard, John Rahn and Joël Durand, and was awarded a University of Washington assistantship which allowed him to teach theory and ear-training in a classroom setting, an experience which proved one of the abiding joys of his life. He has performed twice for the Seattle Composers Salon, and has accompanied many local musicians, and a bevy of students at the University (including winners of the Concerto Competition for two years running). His most recent performance was a recital last May at the Seattle Art Museum with mezzo-soprano Emily Greanleaf, singing and playing music by Alban Berg, Thomas Baker, Claude Debussy and Dominick Argento. Jerrod looks forward to pushing the boundaries of what musicians can and should do to bring their art to a wide and appreciative audience.



### ROBERT BLATT - guitar

Robert Blatt first picked up the guitar at the age of 14 when he realized that was the only way he could get a girl to notice him. One year later he began to learn classical guitar. His first teacher on the instrument was Michael McCabe, after two years, he began to take more comprehensive classical guitar instruction from James Manuele. Under his guidance,

Robert became a regional winner at the WMEA Solo/Ensemble competition and was awarded the opportunity to compete at state. In the Fall of 2002, he was accepted into the classical guitar program at the University of Washington where he currently is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Music in Guitar Performance. For the last two school years, Robert has received music scholarships for his performance degree and has studied with noted guitarist Steven Novacek for the duration of his college education. As well as enjoying many solo and ensemble performance opportunities at the University, Robert has performed at a master class with Anna Vidovic and performed with the Seattle Peace Chorus in 2005.

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