Opera Singer’s Unlikely Story Featured at ERJCC
April 23

HGO guest artist Ryan Speedo Green and author Daniel Bergner to discuss Bergner’s book Sing for Your Life, A Story of Race, Music, and Family


The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (the J) in collaboration with Houston Grand Opera will present Bergner and Green in conversation with HGO Assistant Artistic Director Paul Hopper Sunday, April 23, at 4 p.m., at the J’s Kaplan Theatre, 5601 S. Braeswood. The program is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested by April 18 to mhassid@erjchouston.org or 713-595-8162.

Born to poor parents and suffering a violent childhood, Green was placed in juvenile detention at the age of 12 as a last resort. Bergner takes readers on his path toward redemption, introducing us to an important and colorful cast of characters—including two teachers from his childhood who redirected his rage into music and his long-lost father—while shedding light on the enduring realities of race in America. Publisher’s Weekly’s starred review termed the book “gripping and inspiring” while Renée Fleming called it “absolutely riveting.”
HGO Assistant Artistic Director Paul Hopper manages special artistic projects, assists in planning, and guides a variety of audiences in learning more about HGO and opera. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Houston, he previously held positions at the Santa Fe Opera and the Metropolitan Opera.

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About Houston Grand Opera
Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 63 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to create, participate in, and observe art. The NEXUS Initiative is HGO’s multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy world-class opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007 NEXUS has enabled more than 225,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

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