An evening with

JONAS KAUFMANN

Louise G. Chapman
Presenting Underwriter

OCTOBER 6, 2021
Wortham Theater Center
How good it is to be back at the Wortham with you tonight. And what an incredible event to launch HGO's triumphant return to live performance in our home theater!

Welcome to An Evening with Jonas Kaufmann, a special concert starring the internationally adored tenor, who performs tonight on the Brown Theater stage alongside the HGO Orchestra, which I am thrilled to be conducting. This historic occasion marks Kaufmann's very first visit to Houston, and his only North American appearance this season with a full orchestra. Opera lovers the world over are surely envying all of us here tonight.

We at HGO have been wanting to bring Kaufmann here for quite a long time, to give our audience the chance to experience the powerhouse tenor's voice, famous for traveling from subtle to smoldering and back, all in an instant. He originally was scheduled to be here a year ago, and we were heartbroken when that engagement had to be canceled along with the rest of our season.

Earlier this year, Kaufmann discussed what you—yes, you—mean to him during a press conference at the Teatro Real in Madrid. He said artists need audiences more than ever, that their instincts are off without them, that the lack of contact during COVID has been “a difference unimaginable.” “It brings you almost to tears,” he said, “when you finally see an audience.”

And so, we must extend our profound thanks both to the wonderful HGO Board Member Louise G. Chapman for making tonight’s concert possible, and to each of you here at the Wortham, for loving this art form and for supporting HGO through thick and thin. If you find yourself in tears, know that you are not alone.

Please, enjoy the concert.

Patrick Summers
Artistic and Music Director
Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair
AN EVENING WITH JONAS KAUFMANN
and the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra
Patrick Summers, Conductor
Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair

PROGRAM

Part I

Overture from La forza del destino
“Cielo e mar!” from La Gioconda
“La vita è inferno… Oh! Tu che in seno agli angeli” from La forza del destino
Intermezzo from Manon Lescaut
“Un di all’azzurro spazio” from Andrea Chénier
Intermezzo from Cavalleria rusticana
“Mamma, quel vino è generoso” from Cavalleria rusticana

Giuseppe Verdi
Amilcare Ponchielli
Giuseppe Verdi
Giacomo Puccini
Umberto Giordano
Pietro Mascagni
Pietro Mascagni

Intermission

Part II

“Ein Schwert verhieß mir der Vater” from Die Walküre
Prelude, Act III from Lohengrin
“Amfortas! Die Wunde!” from Parsifal
Prelude, Act I from Lohengrin
“In fernem Land” from Lohengrin

Richard Wagner
Richard Wagner
Richard Wagner
Richard Wagner
Richard Wagner

PRODUCTION

Lighting Designer    Michael James Clark
Stage Manager        Meg Edwards
Supertitles by      Jeremy Johnson

Jonas Kaufmann appears by arrangement with Zemsky/Green Artists Management, Inc.; records exclusively for SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT.
www.jonaskaufmann.com
BIOS

JONAS KAUFMANN
Tenor

Hailed as “the world’s greatest tenor” by The Telegraph, Jonas Kaufmann has performed over 70 roles in the world’s leading opera houses. The New York Times has described him as having “clarion top notes, the blend of virility and tenderness in his singing,” and praised his “refined musicianship.” Not only a great vocal technician, he also has been praised for the dramatic impact of his performances: “He embodies each role with such an investment that he makes the viewer think that this is the last time he will perform this work.” (Telerama) One of today’s greatest interpreters of Lieder repertoire, Kaufmann is also in very high demand in concert. He has received multiple honors and awards including eight ECHO/OPUS Klassik awards, as well as “Singer of the Year” from multiple classical music magazines including Opernwelt, Diapason, and Musical America. Possessed of a voice which excels in a large variety of repertoire, Kaufmann has received recognition for his performance of French, German, and Italian roles, as well as his performance in recital and in concert. Standout roles include Don José, Werther, Don Carlo, Otello, Andrea Chénier, Maurizio, Lohengrin, Parsifal, and Florestan, which he has performed at houses such as Teatro alla Scala, Covent Garden, the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra national de Paris, and the Wiener Staatsoper, among others. He has released multiple recordings, also encompassing a diverse repertoire, including operatic repertoire, Lieder, Operetta, and more. A native of Munich, Kaufmann completed his vocal studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.

PATRICK SUMMERS
Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair
Conductor

Patrick Summers was named artistic and music director of HGO in 2011 after having served as the company’s music director since 1998. Some highlights of his work at HGO include conducting the company’s first-ever complete cycle of Wagner’s Ring and its first performances of the Verdi Requiem; collaborating on the world premieres of Tarik O’Regan’s The Phoenix, André Previn’s Brief Encounter, Christopher Theofanidis’s The Refuge, Jake Heggie’s It’s a Wonderful Life, The End of the Affair, and Three Decembers, Carlisle Floyd’s Cold Sassy Tree and Prince of Players, and Tod Machover’s Resurrection; leading the American premiere of Weinberg’s Holocaust opera The Passenger, both at HGO and on tour to the Lincoln Center Festival; and nurturing the careers of such artists as Christine Goerke, Ailyn Perez, Joyce DiDonato, Ana Maria Martínez, Ryan McKinny, Tamara Wilson, Albina Shagimuratova, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Norman Reinhardt, Jamie Barton, and Dimitri Pittas. Maestro Summers has enjoyed a long association with San Francisco Opera (SFO) and was honored in 2015 with the San Francisco Opera Medal. His work with SFO includes conducting Jake Heggie’s Moby-Dick, which was recorded and telecast on PBS’s Great Performances. In 2017, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree by Indiana University. He was recently named Co-Artistic Director of the Aspen Music Festival’s opera program alongside Renée Fleming. During the 2019-20 season at HGO, he conducted Saul and Aida. Other recent engagements included Dead Man Walking at the Israeli Opera.
Denise Tarrant
Sarah and Ernest Butler Concertmaster Chair
Concertmaster

Texas native Denise Tarrant began her professional violin career at the age of 16 with the Midland-Odessa (Texas) Symphony. Afterward she studied at the University of Houston, Rice University, Trinity University (London), and the Royal College of Music (London). She became HGO's concertmaster under the baton of Patrick Summers in 1999. Highlights of her work at HGO include the world premieres of Ricky Ian Gordon’s The House without a Christmas Tree (2017), Jake Heggie’s It’s a Wonderful Life (2016), Carlisle Floyd’s Cold Sassy Tree (2000), and Tod Machover’s Resurrection (1999), as well as Floyd’s Of Mice and Men (2002) and Catán’s Florencia en el Amazonas (2001), all of which have been released on CD. She further performed in the world premieres of Tarik O'Regan's The Phoenix (2019); Carlisle Floyd’s Prince of Players (2016); André Previn's Brief Encounter (2009); Heggie's Three Decembers (2008) and The End of the Affair (2004); Mark Adamo’s Lysistrata (2005); Catán’s Salsipuedes (2004); and Rachel Portman’s The Little Prince (2003). She has been concertmaster of the Houston Ballet Orchestra since 1988 and has been featured as a violin soloist in numerous Houston Ballet productions including Stanton Welch's Maninyas (Ross Edward’s Violin Concerto), Clear (Bach’s Concerto for Violin and Oboe), The Four Seasons (Vivaldi), and Natalie Weir’s Steppenwolf (Bruch Violin Concerto).

The entire staff of HGO contributed to the success of this production. For a full listing of the company’s staff, please visit HGO.org/People.

Performing artists, stage directors, and choreographers are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, the union for opera professionals in the United States. Stage crew personnel provided by IATSE, Local #51. / Wardrobe personnel provided by Theatrical Wardrobe Union, Local #896. / Orchestral musicians are represented by the Houston Professional Musicians Association, Local #65-699, American Federation of Musicians.
ORCHESTRA

Patrick Summers, Artistic and Music Director
Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair

VIOLIN
Denise Tarrant*, Concertmaster
Sarah and Ernest Butler Concertmaster Chair
Chloe Kim*, Assistant Concertmaster
Natalie Gaynor*, Principal, Second Violin
Carrie Kauk†, Assistant Principal, Second Violin
Hae-a Lee-Barnes*, Acting Assistant Principal, Second Violin
Miriam Belyatsky*
Anabel Detrick*
Erica Robinson*
Linda Sanders*
Oleg Sulyga*
Sylvia VerMeulen*
Melissa Williams*
Zubaida Azezi
Andres Eduardo Gonzalez
Jennise Hwang
Kana Kimura
Maria Lin
Emily Madonia
Mila Neal
Sylvia Ouelette
Rachel Shepard
Trung Trinh

Meredith Harris
Yvonne Smith

CELLO
Barrett Sills*, Principal
Erika Johnson*, Assistant Principal
Ariana Nelson†
Wendy Smith-Butler†
Steven Wiggs*
Steve Estes
Shino Hayashi
Hyeok Kwon

DOUBLE BASS
Dennis Whittaker*, Principal
Erik Gronfor*, Assistant Principal
Carla Clark*
Pual Ellison

FLUTE
Henry Williford*, Acting Principal Flute
Amanda Galick
Izumi Miyahara

Harp
Joan Eidman*, Principal
Karen Slotter

ORGAN
Thomas Marvil

FRENCH HORN
Sarah Cranston*, Principal
Kimberly Penrod Minson*
Spencer Park†
Kevin McIntyre
James Wilson
Jamie Leff

TRUMPET
Tetsuya Lawson*, Principal
Randal Adams*
Gerardo Mata

TRUMPET
Thomas Hulten†, Principal
Mark Holley†
Bradley White, Acting Principal
Ryan Rongone
Ben Osborne

TROMBONE
Thomas Hulten†, Principal
Mark Holley†

TUBA
Mark Barton*, Principal

HARP
Joan Eidman*, Principal

TIPANIA
Alison Chang*, Principal

PERCUSSION
Richard Brown*, Principal
Christina Carroll
Karen Slotter

ORGAN
Thomas Marvil

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL MANAGER
Richard Brown*

*HGO Orchestra core member
†HGO Orchestra core musician on leave this production
EVENT SUPPORTERS

Louise G. Chapman  
Presenting Underwriter

Margaret Alkek Williams  
Lynne Bentsen and Beth Madison  
Sara and Bill Morgan

Terrylin G. Neale

Molly and Jim Crownover  
Jennifer and Benjamin Fink  
Nancy Ferguson Haywood  
Teresa and José Ivo  
Stephanie D. Larsen /  
Richard Leibman  
Janet Gurwitch and Ron Franklin /  
Rebecca Rabinow and Matt Ringel  
Glen A. Rosenbaum  
Judy Sauer

Marsha Montemayor

Connie Dyer  
Dr. Elizabeth Travis

Michelle Beale and  
Richard H. Anderson  
David Tobey MD and  
Michelle Berger MD  
Beverly Boas  
Phoebe and Fred Boelter  
Adrienne Bond  
Meg Boulware  
Buddy Bray  
Dr. Stephen Brint and Mark Brown  
Dianne and Fred C. Burns  
Hon. Teresa Chang and  
Dr. Peter Chang  
Mathilda Cochran  
Andrew Davis  
Susan and Hiram Davis  
Dr. Elaine Decanio  
Valerie and Tracy Dieterich  
Jeanette and John DiFilippo, Jr  
Drs. Rachel and  
Warren A. Ellsworth IV  
Gerri Gill  
Helen B. Wils and  
Leonard A. Goldstein  
Michaela and Nicholas Greenan  
Joyce Greenberg  
Boriana Grueva  
Maureen and Melvyn Hetzel  
William Heuseler  
Dr. Janice Hewitt  
Robert Dantzer and  
Dr. Marie Claude Hofmann  
Lee Huber  
Elizabeth and Richard Husseini  
Claire Liu and Joe Greenberg  
Lisa Kamins  
Dick Kantenerberger  
Linda Katz  
Nancy Kerby  
Elizabeth and Bill Kroger  
Linda W. Kwok  
Alison Malkhassian  
Gail Merel  
Carol Nie  
Christopher Bacon and Craig Miller  
Drs. Karen and John Oldham  
Patricia B. Freeman and  
Bruce Patterson  
Susie and Jim Pokorski  
Dr. Felisa V. Reynolds and  
Jay Reynolds  
Dr. Ellen R. Gritz and  
Milton D. Rosenau, Jr  
Trudi Schneider  
Tracy Maddox and John Serpe  
Elizabeth Phillips and John Shannon  
Jo Anne and Jeff Smith  
Robin Angly and Miles Smith  
Pavlina Suchanova MD  
Darci C. Swanson  
Marguerite Swartz  
Stephen C. Tarry  
Christi and Bryan Tidwell  
Ann Tornyos  
Rons Voogt  
Anita Weissberg  
Irena Witt  
Michele and Robert Yekovich

Matthew Healey  
Joe la Torre  
Emily Bivona and Ryan Manser  
Christian Miranda  
Krisa Meyer  
Trevor Myers  
Daniel Tapia  
Ilana Walder-Biesanz  
Victoria L. Weatherford

HGO also thanks those that pledged their support to this Special Event after September 16, 2021
Khori Dastoor  
General Director and CEO  
Margaret Alkek Williams Chair

Patrick Summers  
Artistic and Music Director  
Sarah and Ernest Butler Chair