



ANGEL BLUE
with the
PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Friday, June 7, 2024 - 8pm

OPENING NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL

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The Princeton Festival - OPENING NIGHT
Performance Pavilion
Morven Museum & Garden

ANGEL BLUE
with the
PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Angel Blue, soprano
Princeton Symphony Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, conductor

Antonín Dvořák
(1841 – 1904)

Festival March, Op.54a, B.88

Giacomo Puccini
(1858 – 1924)

"Chi il bel sogno di Doretta?" from *La Rondine*

Giacomo Puccini
(1858 – 1924)

"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca*

Giacomo Puccini
(1858 – 1924)

Preludio sinfonico

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813 – 1901)

"Tacea la notte placida" - "Di tale amor" from *Il Trovatore*

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813 – 1901)

Overture from *La forza del destino*

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813 – 1901)

"Pace, pace mio Dio!" from *La forza del destino*

INTERMISSION

Ruperto Chapí
(1851 – 1909)

Prelude to *La Revoltosa*

Pablo Luna
(1879 – 1942)

“De España vengo” from *El niño judío*

Ruperto Chapí
(1851 – 1909)

“Carceleras” from *Las hijas del Zebedeo*

Frederick Delius
(1862 – 1934)

Summer Evening

George Gershwin
(1898 – 1937)

“Summertime” from *Porgy and Bess*

Harold Arlen
(1905 – 1986)

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

This performance is made possible through the generosity of:

**Micaela de Lignerolles
Jay Vawter**

Len and Laura Berlik

Kerry Perretta
Stephanie and Robert Wedeking



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Rossen Milanov, conductor
Edward T. Cone Music Director

Internationally renowned conductor and Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO) Edward T. Cone Music Director **Rossen Milanov** looks forward to collaborating in 2023-24 with established and emerging artists of the orchestral world and helming the PSO's popular June performing arts celebration – The Princeton Festival.

Respected and admired by audiences and musicians alike, he has established himself as a conductor with considerable national and international presence. In addition to leading the PSO, Mr. Milanov is the music director of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and chief conductor of the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra in Ljubljana. During his eleven-year tenure with The Philadelphia Orchestra, he conducted more than 200 performances. In 2015, he completed a 15-year tenure as music director of the nationally recognized training orchestra Symphony in C in New Jersey and in 2013 a 17-year tenure with the New Symphony Orchestra in his native city of Sofia, Bulgaria.

Mr. Milanov's programming at the PSO embraces the standard repertoire, rarities, and premieres, performed by superb soloists and featuring celebrated American composers. His exuberant and acclaimed performances are characterized by sharp musical intellect, poetic eloquence, and artistic ingenuity.

Noted for his versatility, Mr. Milanov is also a welcomed presence in the worlds of opera and ballet. He has collaborated with Komische Oper Berlin (Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*), Opera Oviedo with the Spanish premiere of Tchaikovsky's *Mazepa* and Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* (awarded best Spanish production for 2015), and Opera Columbus (Verdi's *La Traviata*). He has been seen at New York City Ballet and collaborated with some of the best-known choreographers of our time such as Mats Ek, Benjamin Millepied, and most recently Alexei Ratmansky in the critically acclaimed revival of *Swan Lake* in Zurich with Zurich Ballet and in Paris with La Scala Ballet.

Mr. Milanov is deeply committed to music education, presenting Link Up education projects with Carnegie Hall and the Orchestra of St. Luke's and leading the PSO's annual BRAVO! concerts for thousands of school children. He was named Bulgaria's

Musician of the Year in 2005; he won a 2011 ASCAP award for adventurous programming of contemporary music at the PSO; and he was selected as one of the top 100 most influential people in New Jersey in 2014. In 2017, he was recipient of a Columbus Performing Arts Prize awarded by The Columbus Foundation. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School.

Photo by Stephen Pariser



Angel Blue, soprano

Angel Blue has emerged in recent seasons as one of the most influential sopranos before the public today. The two-time Grammy Award winner, 2020 Beverly Sills Award recipient, and the 2022 Richard Tucker Award winner is celebrated worldwide for her honeyed soprano and affecting deliveries of many of the most beloved roles in the operatic repertory, such as Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Bess in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème*, and Destiny/Loneliness/Greta in Terrence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*.

The 2023 spring and summer season began with Ms. Blue as Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera with Maestro Nicola Luisotti, and her debut in the titular role in *Aida* at the Royal Opera House with Sir Mark Elder. She performed in concert with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Oskana Lyniv, and in recital with distinguished Canadian pianist Dr. Bryan Wagorn at Arizona Opera. She appeared in Europe on tour with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, under the direction of world-renowned conductor Yannick Nézet-Seguin.

The 2023-2024 season introduced audiences to Angel Blue as Leonora in Verdi's *Il trovatore* at the San Francisco Opera, followed by a highly anticipated return to the Vienna State Opera. She continued her season with performances as Micaëla in *Carmen* and a role debut as Magda in *La Rondine* at the Metropolitan Opera. On September 23, 2019 she opened the Metropolitan Opera's 2019/2020 season as Bess in a new production of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. These performances followed her internationally praised French Opera debut and role debut as Floria Tosca

at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in July of 2019. She has also been recognized for performances in countless other theaters, such as the Vienna State Opera, Semperoper Dresden, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Theater an der Wien, Teatro alla Scala, Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, Paris Opera, English National Opera, and San Diego Opera.

Puccini's *La Bohème* has played an especially prominent role in the development of Angel Blue's career. She made her United States operatic debut as Musetta at the Los Angeles Opera in 2007 while a member of the company's Young Artist Program and subsequently made her debut at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan in the same role in 2015. As Mimí, she has earned exceptional international acclaim. Ms. Blue first sang the role at the English National Opera in London in 2014 and has since performed Mimí for her house debuts at the Palau de Les Arts in Valencia, the Vienna State Opera, and the Canadian Opera Company, the Semperoper Dresden, Hamburg State Opera, and of course, the Metropolitan Opera.

Equally active on the concert platform, Ms. Blue has appeared in recital and in concert in over forty countries including Hungary, Kazakhstan, India, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, South Korea, China, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Brazil, and Mexico. In 2011 Ms. Blue opened the Royal Opera House, in Muscat, Oman. Orchestral engagements have included concert versions of *Porgy and Bess* at the Berliner Philharmoniker under Sir Simon Rattle and with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Marin Alsop, Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Münchener Philharmoniker under the baton of Zubin Mehta, and Verdi's *Requiem* in Sydney, Australia with Oleg Caetani. She has also sung Strauss's *Vier Letzte Lieder* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Peri in Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri* with the Accademia Santa Cecilia in Rome, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Cincinnati Symphony under Music Director Louis Langree.

During the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, Ms. Blue dedicated her time to encourage younger singers to stay motivated to finish their studies and continue in opera, through an online talk show called *Faithful Friday* where she interviewed people who she found to be inspiring. The online talk show received much acclaim from its viewers, many called the show, "*Uplifting, and exactly what is needed right now.*" Ms. Blue has since shifted her focus back to her family life and her singing engagements. However, she still maintains that encouraging and uplifting younger singers in the opera world is at the forefront of her platform. Angel Blue was raised in California and completed her musical studies at UCLA. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and son.

Angel Blue's photos by Dario Acosta

SUNG TEXTS with translations

“Chi il bel sogno di Doretta?” from *La Rondine*

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami

Translation from *The Complete Puccini Libretti, Volume II* by Nico Castel

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**Chi il bel sogno di Doretta
potè indovinar?
Il suo mister
come mai fini?**

Who could guess the beautiful dream of
Doretta?
Why did its mystery end?

**Ahimè! Un giorno uno student
in bocca la baciò,
e fu quel bacio rivelazione:
fu la passione!**

Alas! One day a student
kissed her on the mouth,
and that kiss
was a revelation:
It was passion!

**Folle amore,
folle ebbrezza!
Chi la sottil carezza
d'un bacio così ardente
mai ridir potrà?**

Mad love,
Mad intoxication!
Who will ever be able to describe the
subtle caress of such an ardent kiss?

**Ah, mio sogno!
Ah, mia vita!
Che importa la ricchezza
se alfin è rifiorita
la felicità!
O sogno d'or,
poter amar così!**

Ah, my dream!
Ah, my life!
What do riches matter
when at last happiness has blossomed?
O dream of gold,
to be able to love like that!

"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca*
Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
Translation from *The Complete Puccini Libretti, Volume II* by Nico Castel
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**Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore,
non feci mai male ad anima viva.**

I lived on art, I lived on love,
I never harmed a living soul.

**Con man furtiva,
quante miserie conobbi, aiutai.**

With a furtive hand I helped all such
poor people that I knew of.

**Sempre con fè sincera
la mia preghiera
ai santi tabernacoli sali.**

My prayers were always lifted up to the
holy tabernacles with sincere faith.

**Sempre con fè sincera
diedi fiori agl'altar.**

Always with sincere faith I gave flowers
to the altars.

**Nell'ora del dolore,
perchè signore
me ne rimunerì così?**

In the hour of grief
why, Lord,
do you repay me thus?

**Diedi gioielli della Madonna al manto,
e diedi il canto agli astri, al ciel,
che ne ridean più belli.**

I gave jewels for the Madonna's mantle,
and I offered my song to the stars and
heaven, who became more beautiful
because of it.

**Nell'ora del dolor
perchè, Signor,
perchè me ne rimunerì così?**

In the hour of grief
why, Lord,
why do you repay me thus?

"Tacea la notte placida" - "Di tale amor" from *Il Trovatore*
Music by Giuseppe Verdi
Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano
Translation from *The Complete Verdi Libretti, Volume IV* by Nico Castel
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Ascolta!

**Tacea la notte placida
e bella in ciel sereno;**

Listen! The serene night was silent and
lovely in the calm sky;

**La luna il viso argenteo
mostrava lieto e pieno...**

The moon, its face silvery, revealed
happy and full...

**Quando suonar per l' aere,
infino allor sì muto,
dolci s' udiro e flebili
gli accordi d'un liuto,
e versi melanconici
un trovator cantò.**

When resounding through the air,
until then so quiet,
sweet and sad were heard the sounds
of a lute,
and a troubadour sang melancholy
verses.

**Versi di prece ed umile
qual d'uomo che prega Iddio:
In quella ripeteasi
un nome, il nome mio!...**

Beseeching and humble verses, as if
from a man praying to God:
And in those verses a name was
repeated ... my name!

**Corsi al veron sollecita...
egli era, egli era desso!...
Gioia provai che agl'angeli
solo è provar concesso!...
Al core, al guardo estatico
la terra un ciel sembrò!**

I ran to the balcony eagerly...
it was he, it was he!...
I felt a joy that only angels
are allowed to feel!...
the earth seemed like heaven.
to my heart and my gaze!

**Di tale amor che dirsi
mal può dalla parola,
d'amor che intendo io sola
il cor s'inebriò.**

With such a love that words can
scarcely tell,
of a love that I alone understand,
my heart is intoxicated.

**Il mio destino compiersi
non può che a lui dappresso...
S'io non vivrò per esso,
per esso morirò, ah sì.**

My destiny cannot be fulfilled unless I
am near him ...
If I can't live for him,
for him I will die, ah yes.

"Pace, pace mio Dio!" from *La Forza del Destino*
Music by Giuseppe Verdi
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
Translation from *The Complete Verdi Libretti, Volume II* by Nico Castel
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Pace, pace, mio Dio!

**Cruda sventura
m'astringe, ahimè, a languir;
Come il dì primo
da tant'anni dura
profondo il mio soffrir.**

**Pace, mio Dio!
L'amai, gli è ver!
ma di beltà e valore
cotanto Iddio l'ornò,
che l'amo ancor,
nè togliermi dal core
l'immagin sua saprò.**

**Fatalità!
un delitto disgiunti n'ha quaggiù!**

**Alvaro, io t'amo.
E su nel cielo è scritto:
Non ti vedrò mai più!
Oh Dio, Dio, fa ch'io muoia;
Che la calma può darmi morte sol.**

**Invan la pace qui sperò quest'alma
in preda
in mezzo a tanto duol!**

**Misero pane... a prolungarmi vieni
la sconsolata vita . . .
Ma chi giunge?
Chi profanare ardisce il sacro loco?
Maledizione!!**

Peace, peace, my God!

Cruel misfortune
compels me, alas, to languish;
My suffering has lasted for so many
years, as deep as on the first day.

Peace, my God!
I loved him, it is true! But God blessed
him
with so much beauty and valor
that I love him still, and I will not know
how
to erase his image from my heart.

Oh fatal destiny! A crime
separated us down here!

Alvaro, I love you and up there in
heaven it is written:
I won't ever see you again.
Oh God make me die;
for death alone can bring me peace.

My soul, a prey in the middle of such
grief,
searched for peace here in vain!

Wretched bread, you come to prolong
my disconsolate life.
But who is coming?
Who dares to profane the sacred place?
A curse!!

"De España vengo" from *El niño judío*
Music by Pablo Luna
Text by Antonio Paso y Cano
and by Enrique García Álvarez

**De España vengo, soy española,
en mis ojos me traigo luz de su cielo
y en mi cuerpo la gracia de la
manola!**

I come from Spain, I am Spanish,
in my eyes I carry the light of its sky
and in my body the grace of a woman of
Madrid!

**De España vengo, de España soy
y mi cara serrana lo va diciendo.
He nacido en España por donde voy.**

I come from Spain, I am Spanish,
and my rustic face shows it.
I was born in Spain wherever I go.

**A mi lo madrileño, me vuelve loca
y cuando yo me arranco con una
copla
el acento gitano de mi canción
toman vida las flores de mi mantón.**

The boy from Madrid makes me crazy
and when I break into a song
the Gitano accent of my song
brings the flowers in my shawl to life.

**De España vengo, de España soy
y mi cara serrana lo va diciendo.
Yo he nacido en España por donde
voy.**

I come from Spain, I am Spanish,
and my rustic face says it.
I was born in Spain wherever I go.

**Campana de la Torre de Maravillas
si es que tocas a fuego toca de prisa:
mira que ardo por culpa de unos ojos
que estoy mirando.**

Bell of the Tower of Wonders
if you ring for a fire ring with haste:
look how I burn because of some eyes
that I look at.

**Madre, me muero,
por culpa de unos ojos negros, muy
negros,
que los tengo metíos dentro del alma
y que son los ojazos de mi gitano.**

Mother, I'm dying,
because of some dark eyes, very dark,
which I keep in my soul
and they are the big eyes of my Gitano
man.

Program continued...

**Muriendo estoy, mi vida, por tu
desvío;
te quiero y no me quieres, gitano
mío.
Mira que pena verse así, despreciada,
siendo morena!**

I am dying, my love, because of your
aversion;
I love you and you don't love me, my
Gitano.
Look what heartache it is to see oneself
like this, rejected,
for being a brunette!

**De España vengo, de España soy
y mi cara serrana lo va diciendo.
Yo he nacido en España, por donde
voy!**

I come from Spain, I am Spanish,
And my rustic face shows it.
I was born in Spain, wherever I go!

“Carceleras” from *Las hijas del Zebedeo*

Music by Ruperto Chapí

Text by José Estremera

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**Al pensar en el dueño
de mis amores,
siento yo unos mareos
encantadores.
Bendito sea
aquel picaronazo
que me marea.**

When I think of the lord
of my love
I feel a charming
dizziness.
Blessed be
that rascal
who makes me feel so dizzy.

**A mi novio yo le quiero
porque roba corazones
con su gracia y su salero.
El me tiene muy ufana
porque hay muchas que le quieren
y se quedan con las ganas.**

I love my beloved
because he steals hearts,
with his grace and his charm.
He makes me feel proud
because a lot of girls love him
but they are left with their desire.

**Caprichosa yo nací,
y le quiero solamente,
solamente para mí.
Que quitarme a mí su amor
es lo mismo que quitarle
las hojitas a una flor.**

Capricious I was born,
and I want him all for myself
Only for myself.
To take away from me his love
is the same as ripping off
the leaves of a flower.

**Yo me muero de gozo
cuando me mira,
y me vuelvo jalea
cuando suspira.
Si me echa flores
siento el corazoncito
morir de amores.**

I die of pleasure
when he looks at me,
and I lose my head
when he sighs.
When he throws flowers at me
I feel my little heart
die of love.

**Porque tiene unos ojillos
que me miran entornados,
muy gachones y muy pillos,
y me dicen ¡ay! lucero,
que por esa personita
me derrito yo y me muero.**

For he has sweet eyes
which look at me half-open
very tenderly and very naughtily,
telling me "Oh my darling,
for this little one
I will lose my soul and die."

"Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*
Music by George Gershwin
Lyrics by DuBose Heyward and Ira Gershwin

Summertime, and the living is easy
Fish are jumping and the cotton is high

Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good-looking
So hush little baby, don't you cry

One of these mornings, you're going to rise up singing
And you'll spread your wings and you'll take the sky

But 'til that morning, there's a-nothing can harm you
With daddy and mamma standing by.

"Over the Rainbow"
Music by Harold Arlen
Lyrics by Yip Harburg

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?

MUSICIAN ROSTER

Princeton Symphony Orchestra

Rossen Milanov, Edward T. Cone Music Director, ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

Kenneth Bean, Georg and Joyce Albers-Schonberg Assistant Conductor, ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

June 7, 2024

VIOLIN I

Basia Danilow*

Concertmaster

The George W. Pitcher Chair,

ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

Matthew Hakkarainen

The Yvonne Marcuse Chair,

in memory of Mark M. Rutzky

Yuyu Ikeda

Emma Richman

Cheng-Chih Kevin Tsai

Margaret Banks

Sammy Andonian

Linda Howard

VIOLIN II

Qianru Elaine He**

The B. Sue Howard Chair

Michelle Brazier

Iris Chen

Justus Ross

Cheng-Hsun David Tsai

Elena Chernova-Davis

VIOLA

Michael Davis**

The Harriet & Jay Vawter Chair

Aurelien Pederzoli

Beth Meyers

Marcus Stevenson

CELLO

Madeline Fayette**

The Julian Grant & Peter Lighte

Family Chair

Elizabeth Loughran

Iona Batchelder

Talia Schiff

BASS

John Grillo*

The Stephanie & Robert Wedeking Chair

Dan Hudson

Stephen Groat

FLUTE

Scott Kemsley**

The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair

Hilary Jones

OBOE

Jillian Honn**

The Cynthia & Rob Hillas Chair

Oliver Talukder

CLARINET

Yoonah Kim**

The Richard J. & Neil Ann S. Levine Chair

Gi Lee

BASSOON

Eleni Katz**

The Cynthia & Rob Hillas Chair

Hanul Park

HORN

Steven Harmon*

The Dr. Michael L. Barnett Chair

Jonathan Clark

Colby Kleven

Emily Buehler

TRUMPET

Jerry Bryant*

The Donna & Donald Deieso Chair

Thomas Cook

TROMBONE

Nikki Abissi**

The David A. Tierno Chair

Lars Wendt

The Lor & Michael Gehret Chair

James Rogers

TUBA

Jonathan Fowler*

TIMPANI

Jeremy Levine*

*The Anne VanLent Chair***PERCUSSION**

Phyllis Bitow**

The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair

Greg Giannascoli

HARP

Violetta Maria Norrie**

*Anonymous Chair, given by
a PSO friend in honor
of all parents***PIANO / CELESTE**

Cyrus Von Hochstetter**

The Princeton Symphony Orchestra is a member of the League of American Orchestras. Named musician chairs are made possible through meaningful gifts to the Orchestra's endowment and innovation funds.

* Principal player

** Guest principal player