



Celebrity Series of Boston

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For Immediate Release

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Presents

Eric Owens, bass-baritone

Lawrence Brownlee, tenor

Saturday, April 7, 2018, 8pm — NEC's Jordan Hall

[Eric Owens high-res photo](#) | [Lawrence Brownlee high-res photo](#)
[Lawrence Brownlee video preview](#) | [Celebrity Series Press Room](#)

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present [bass-baritone Eric Owens and tenor Lawrence Brownlee](#) on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at 8pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA. An Aaron Richmond Recital endowed by Nancy Richmond Winsten and the late Dr. Joseph Winsten, this performance is also generously sponsored in part by the D.L. Saunders Real Estate Corp. Media Partner is 99.5 WCRB.

Tickets start at \$35, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., or at NEC's Jordan Hall Box Office, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA.

This concert marks the Celebrity Series debut performances for both vocalists.

Bass-baritone **Eric Owens** has a unique reputation as an esteemed interpreter of classic works and a champion of new music. Equally at home in orchestral, recital, and operatic repertoire, Owens brings his powerful poise, expansive voice, and instinctive acting faculties to stages around the world.

Owens has been recognized with multiple honors, including the Musical America's 2017 "Vocalist of the Year" award, 2003 Marian Anderson Award, a 1999 ARIA award, second prize in the Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition.

In the 2017-18 season, Owens will return to the Lyric Opera of Chicago to make his role debut as Wotan in David Pountney's new production of Wagner's *Die Walküre*. He will also sing Filippo II in Verdi's *Don Carlo* at Washington National Opera, Don Basilio in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Houston Grand Opera, Enrico in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* at Canadian Opera Company, and the Forester in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Glimmerglass Festival, where he will serve as Artist in Residence and Artistic Advisor. Concert appearances include Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Riccardo Muti, Verdi's *Requiem* with both the National Symphony Orchestra led by Gianandrea Noseda and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Music of the Baroque. He will also give a recital at the Shriver Center in

(more)

Baltimore, as well as duo recitals with Susanna Phillips at the Schubert Club in St. Paul and Lawrence Brownlee at the Celebrity Series of Boston.

A native of Philadelphia, Owens began his musical training as a pianist at the age of six, followed by formal oboe study at age eleven under Lloyd Shorter of the Delaware Symphony and Louis Rosenblatt of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He studied voice while an undergraduate at Temple University, and then as a graduate student at the Curtis Institute of Music. He currently studies with Armen Boyajian. He serves on the Board of Trustees of both the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and Astral Artistic Services.

Named 2017 “Male Singer of the Year” by both the International Opera Awards and Bachtrack, American-born **Lawrence Brownlee** has been hailed by the *Associated Press* as one of “the world’s leading bel canto tenors.” Brownlee captivates audiences and critics around the world, and his voice has been praised by *NPR* as “an instrument of great beauty and expression...perfectly suited to the early nineteenth century operas of Rossini and Donizetti,” ushering in “a new golden age in high male voices” (*The New York Times*). Brownlee also serves as Artistic Advisor at Opera Philadelphia, helping the company to expand their repertoire, diversity efforts and community initiatives.

One of the most in-demand singers around the world, Brownlee has performed with nearly every leading international opera house and festival, as well as major orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Academia di Santa Cecilia, Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and the Bayerische Rundfunk Orchestra.

In addition, Brownlee has appeared on the stages of the top opera companies around the globe, including the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, the Bavarian State Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden, The Vienna State Opera, Opera National de Paris, Opernhaus Zürich, the Berlin State Opera, the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Teatro Real Madrid, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, and the festivals of Salzburg and Baden Baden. Broadcasts of his operas and concerts – including his 2014 Bastille Day performance in Paris, attended by the French President and Prime Minister - have been enjoyed by millions.

The 2017-18 season starts with a run of Rossini operas, beginning with his house debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona with *Il Viaggio A Reims*, followed by *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia* at Opernhaus Zürich and *Semiramide* at the Royal Opera House in London, before returning to Zürich for *Le Comte Ory*. Then Lawrence will sing Bellini’s *I Puritani* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Bayerische Staatsoper (including a concert performance at Carnegie Hall), and then Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* at Opéra National de Paris.

Brownlee is the fourth of six children and first discovered music when he learned to play bass, drums, and piano at his family’s church in Youngstown, Ohio. He was awarded a Masters of Music from Indiana University and went on to win a Grand Prize in the 2001 Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Alongside his singing career, Brownlee is an avid salsa dancer and an accomplished photographer, specializing in artist portraits of his on-stage colleagues. A die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers and Ohio State football fan, Brownlee has sung the National Anthem at numerous NFL games. He is a champion for autism awareness through the organization Autism Speaks, and he is a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity Inc., a historically black fraternity committed to social action and empowerment.

PROGRAM:

Gaetano Donizetti: "Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!" from *La fille du regiment* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Giuseppe Verdi: Infelice! E tuo credevi from *Ernani* (Eric Owens)

Gaetano Donizetti: Voglio dire, lo stupendo elisir from *L'elisir d'amore* (Brownlee, Owens)

Gaetano Donizetti: "Una furtiva lagrima" from *L'elisir d'amore* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Charles Gounod: "Le veau d'or" from *Faust* (Eric Owens)

Georges Bizet: "Je crois entendre encore" from *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Georges Bizet: "Au fond du temple saint" from *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Brownlee, Owens)

INTERMISSION

Traditional Spirituals

Arr. Damien Sneed: *All Night, All Day* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Arr. Hall Johnson: *Deep River* (Eric Owens)

Arr. Damien Sneed: *Come By Here* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Traditional: *Give Me Jesus* (Eric Owens)

Arr. Margaret Bonds/Craig Terry: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* (Brownlee, Owens)

American Popular Songs

Harold Vicars and Clarence Lucas, Arr. Craig Terry: *Song of Songs* (Brownlee, Owens)

Harry Warren and Al Dubin, Arr. Craig Terry: *Lulu's Back in Town* (Lawrence Brownlee)

Frank Loesser and Louis Alter, Arr. Craig Terry: *Dolores* (Brownlee, Owens)

Tony Velona: *Lollipops and Roses* (Eric Owens)

Vincent Youmans: *Through the Years* (Brownlee, Owens)

Gospel Favorites

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired (Lawrence Brownlee)

Peace Be Still (Eric Owens)

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (Brownlee, Owens)

About Celebrity Series of Boston

Celebrity Series of Boston was founded in 1938 by pianist and impresario Aaron Richmond. Over the course of its 79-year history, Celebrity Series has presented an array of the world's greatest performing artists, including Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arturo Toscanini, Ignace Paderewski, Artur Rubenstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Glenn Gould, Fritz Kreisler, Jascha Heifetz, Isaac Stern, Andrés Segovia, Kirsten Flagstad, Marian Anderson, Luciano Pavarotti, Béla Bartók, Igor Stravinsky, Martha Graham, Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mstislav Rostropovich, and the New York City Opera Company.

From orchestras and chamber ensembles, vocal and piano music, to dance companies, jazz, spoken word, and more, Celebrity Series has been bringing great artists to Boston's major concert halls for nearly eight decades. The Celebrity Series of Boston believes in the power of excellence and innovation in the performing arts to enrich life experiences, transform lives and build better communities. Through its *Arts for All!* community programs, the Celebrity Series seeks to build a community of Greater Boston where the performing arts are a valued, lifelong, shared experience—on stages, in schools, at home— everywhere.

The Celebrity Series of Boston, Inc. receives generous support from Leslie & Howard Appleby, Amy & Joshua Boger, the Barr Foundation, the Boston Cultural Council, The Boston Foundation, the Stephanie L. Brown Foundation, The Catered Affair, Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation, Deloitte LLP, Donna & Mike Egan, Foley & Lardner LLP, the French-US Exchange in Dance, Gabor Garai & Susan Pravda, David & Harriet Griesinger, Zachary Haroutunian and the Garbis & Arminé Barsoumian Charitable Foundation, Paul L. King, the Liberty Mutual Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Eleanor & Frank Pao, The Peabody Foundation, Melinda & James Rabb, the Cynthia and John S. Reed Foundation, the Royal Little Family Foundation, the Stifler Family Foundation, Mrs. Belinda Herrera Termeer, Michael and Susan Thonis, Tufts Health Plan, Nancy Richmond Winsten, Anonymous, and many others.

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