



# Celebrity Series of Boston

Thursday | March 30 | 8pm  
Longy's Pickman Hall

FULL PROGRAM BOOK  
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**Fatma Said** soprano  
**Rafael Aguirre** guitar

**Manuel de Falla**                      Seven Spanish Popular Songs  
   El Pano Moruno  
   Seguidilla Murciana  
   Asturiana  
   Jota  
   Nana (Berceuse)  
   Cancion  
   Polo

**Joaquín Rodrigo**                      “Adela” from *Tres canciones españolas*

**Lorenzo Palomo**                      Madrigal and Five Sephardic Songs  
   Pain of Love – Madrigal  
   My Heart’s Beauty  
   Lullaby  
   Little Sephardic Serenade  
   Sephardic Romance  
   Sephardic Lullaby

**Sherif Mohie el Din**                      “Could the River Flow Forever?”  
   from *Three Poems by Amal Donqul*

**José Serrano**                              “La Canción Del Olvidó”  
   from *Canción de Marinela*

INTERMISSION

**Francisco Tárrega**                      Gran Jota, for solo guitar

**Federico García Lorca**                      Selections from *Canciones españolas antiguas*  
   Anda, jaleo  
   Nana de Sevilla  
   Los cuatro muleros  
   Sevillanas del siglo XVIII

**Falla**    Tus ojillos negros (Canción andaluza)

(Continued)

<b>Fernando Obradors</b>	“Del cabello más sutil” from <i>Canciones clásicas españolas</i>
<b>Ziad Rahbani</b>	Aatini al nay wa ghanni
<b>Gamal Abdel-Rahim</b>	Daughter of the Sultan

Today’s program will run approximately 90 minutes,  
including a 15-minute intermission

2022/23 Debut Series Sponsors  
**Harriet & David Griesinger** and the  
**Longy School of Music of Bard College**

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Celebrity Series of Boston is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Fatma Said soprano

At the age of 14 Fatma Said embarked on a musical journey that would take her from her home in Cairo to the Academy of Milan’s Teatro alla Scala, the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists, and ultimately to the world’s most prestigious concert and opera stages. As an exclusive Warner recording artist she released her debut album *El Nour* in 2020 to much critical acclaim, winning numerous awards including the Gramophone Classical Music Award for ‘Best Song Album,’ the *BBC Music* magazine’s Vocal Award as well as Germany’s Opus Klassik.

Fatma took her first singing lessons in Cairo with soprano Neveen Allouba and later studied Opera Singing at Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler with Professor Renate Faltin. Fatma subsequently was awarded a scholarship to study at the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala in Milan, becoming the first Egyptian soprano to perform on this iconic stage. In Milan she sang—among numerous other roles—Pamina in a new Peter Stein production of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, after which *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* heralded, “The flawless, radiant Fatma Said as Pamina is a discovery.”

Fatma is in the midst of an exciting 22/23 season: As Artist in Residence at the Konzerthaus Berlin she presented a range of colorful programs including the release concert of her second album *Kaleidoscope* in September 2022. A passionate Lied singer Fatma returns to give a recital at the Schubertiade in Hohenems, and makes her debuts at Carnegie Hall, in addition to today’s Celebrity Series debut. She appears in concerts with the Munich Symphony Orchestra, Concerto de’ Cavalieri, the Bayer Philharmonic and a gala at the venerable Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Fatma also returned to the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg for a series of Christmas concerts with Daniel Hope.

Recent highlights include her debut at the Royal Albert Hall with Mozart’s Requiem at the BBC Proms with Nathalie Stutzmann, performing Mahler’s 4th Symphony with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with Kazuki Yamada, Ravel’s *Shéhérazade* with Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester and Cristian Măcelaru at the Berliner Philharmonie as well as the Cleveland Orchestra with Stéphane Denève. Further highlights include recitals at concert halls and festivals, and a gala concert with Rolando Villazón at the Zorlu Center in Istanbul as well as his televised 50th birthday gala.

Fatma Said is a strong advocate for causes that are close to her heart: In September 2021, Fatma performed at Global Citizen Live—a worldwide 24-hour livestreamed charity event which sees artists from around the world (including Elton John and Ed Sheeran, among others) campaign to end the hunger crisis, protect the planet, and plan its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. She represented Egypt on Human Right’s Day in 2014, 2017, and 2018 at the United Nations in Geneva as well as at the Luxor Temple, where she sang for children’s right to education and dignity through music.

In 2016, she received an honorary award from Egypt’s National Council for Women. In the same year she became the first Egyptian opera singer ever to be awarded the state’s Creativity Award, one of Egypt’s highest accolades, for her outstanding artistic achievement on an international level. Fatma continues working with Professor Renate Faltin and has had distinguished professors and coaches, such as Julia Varady, Claar Ter Horst, Anita Keller, Wolfram Rieger and Tom Krause, who have strongly influenced her musical development and helped her hone her musical interpretation.

Fatma won several major singing competitions including the 8th Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition (Dublin, 2016), the 7th Leyla Gencer International Opera Competition (Istanbul, 2012), 2nd prize at the 16th International Robert Schumann Lied Competition (Zwickau, 2012) and the Grand Prix at the 1st Giulio Perotti International Opera Competition (Germany, 2011). Fatma is also an ambassador for Opera for Peace and is supported by the stART academy of Bayer Kultur.

## Rafael Aguirre guitar

Rafael Aguirre is one of the most sought-after guitarists at an international level, having received 13 top First Prizes for his instrument, including the Tárrega Competition; he has performed in 40 countries.

In the 2022/23 season, he tours the United States, where he performs in Miami, Tucson, and at Carnegie Hall in New York following his Celebrity Series recital with soprano Fatma Said. He also makes debuts with Prague Philharmonia, Symphony of the Americas, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, and Philharmonic Orchestra of North Macedonia, among others. He returns to the Orquesta Nacional de España, Orquesta de la Comunidad de Madrid, and he premieres the guitar concerto by Joan Valent with the Orquesta de les Illes Balears.

With a solid classical training, the result of the inheritance of the tradition of Andrés Segovia and Narciso Yepes, Rafael Aguirre has multiple musical interests beyond recitals and performances with orchestra, performing with an ensemble of musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic, sopranos Hera Hyesang Park in addition to Fatma Said, regularly with the cellist Nadège Rochat, and many others. He is also committed to expanding the repertoire of his instrument, working with multiple living composers and also including in his performances flamenco, Latin American and Spanish popular music and even reaching pop and film music. He has also performed worldwide with orchestras, including Europe, Asia, and South America.

He has released solo recordings on RTVE Música, Naxos, KSGExaudio. He also released a recording with cellist Nadège Rochat, entitled *La Vida Breve* (Ars Produktion). Among other projects, he recently recorded with soprano Fatma Said for Warner Classics. His recordings have received critical acclaim from *Gramophone*, *The Strad*, and *Crescendo* magazines and airplay worldwide.

At age 16 he made his orchestral debut with the Málaga Youth Orchestra on a tour in Spain and Morocco. He received a scholarship from the Junta de Andalucía and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Bonn to study in Germany with Professor Joaquín Clerch at the Hochschule Robert Schumann in Düsseldorf, where he graduated with honors. He later studied with Professor Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He currently resides in Madrid.

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