

## EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T: JOHN CARDEN SINGS BROADWAY

Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

WATSON HALL

John Carden
COUNTERTENOR

WITH GUESTS

**Nancy Johnston** 

PIANO

Marilyn Taylor, Evan Smith, Wyatt Johnston, Olivia Grocott and Tommy Johnston VOCALS

PRESENTED BY UNCSA

**Brian Cole** 

CHANCELLOR

**Saxton Rose** 

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, DEAN

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| "Johnny One Note" from "Babes In Arms"  |
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| "A Cockeyed Optimist" from "South Pacific"  |
| "Any Place I Hang My Hat is Home"   |
| "It's a Whirling Twirling Day"  |
| "Come Fly With Me"  |
| "Witchcraft" (attributed to the Musical Revue, "Take Five")Music by Cy Coleman  Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh |
| "I Get A Kick Out of You" from "Anything Goes"Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter                           |
| "I've Grown Accustomed to His Face"   |
| "I Want to Break Free" from "Sarah Crewe"Music and Lyrics by John Carden<br>Performed by Olivia Grocott |

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| "Everybody Says Don't" from "Anyone Can Whistle" Music and Lyrics<br>by Stephen Sondheim  |
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| "Take Me to the World" from "Evening Primrose" Music and Lyrics                           |
| by Stephen Sondheim   |
| "Standing Alone" from "Woody: A New Fairytale" Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim       |
| Performed by Tommy Johnston   |
| "Come Down from the Tree"   |
| "I Miss the Mountains" from "Next to Normal"  |
| "A Light In the Dark" from "Next to Normal"   |
| "Wondering" from "The Bridges of Madison County"Music and Lyrics by<br>Jason Robert Brown |
| "I Love Betsy" from "Honeymoon in Vegas"Music and Lyrics by<br>Jason Robert Brown         |

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### JOHN CARDEN

John Carden is the youngest countertenor ever to have been awarded a contract at the Metropolitan Opera. Long recognized for his artistry as an international performer of musical theatre, opera, oratorio, jazz and cabaret, he is currently an assistant professor of musical theatre in the department of Theatre and Film at The University of Mississippi, focusing on musical theatre voice.

Carden received his vocal training from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In his senior year, he entered The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Met's competition for promising young singers.

In the 108-year history of the Metropolitan Opera, a countertenor had never appeared on its stage, but Carden changed that. He entered the competition and was one of three winners in the Southeast Regional division, the first countertenor in the history of the competition to do so. As good fortune would have it, Metropolitan Opera executive Lawrence Stayer was also in the audience that day. He invited Carden to a house audition before Maestro James Levine, who in turn hired Carden as a principal artist, adding him to the cast of the critically acclaimed John Copley production of Handel's "Giulio Cesare," which had been mounted for opera star Kathleen Battle.

Carden made history that year as one of the first, and youngest countertenors, to be employed by the Metropolitan Opera. The following year, Carden made his Carnegie Hall debut as the countertenor soloist in Handel's "Messiah."

Critic Martin Picker, in his review of Carden's solo concert, "The Castrato Diaries," wrote that "Singer John Carden's strength, especially in the high register, is extraordinary. Carden's performance was stunning. The large and enthusiastic audience received an encore, a repeat of the last Handel aria, a joyous work with a spectacular cadenza covering a three-octave range going from a potentially glass breaking high soprano down to a rich baritone."

Two years later, Carden relocated to Amsterdam and immediately landed work as the countertenor soloist and narrator in the Netherlands's premiere of avant-garde composer Klaus Huber's "La Terre des Hommes" with The Radio Filharmonisch Orkest. This experience would be the beginning of Carden's association with composers of new works for countertenor.

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Carden starred in Daniel Kuttner and Beatrix Ost's original screenplay "Heart's Lonely Hunters" which was featured in both the Cannes Film Festival and Munich Film Festival.

In 2011, Carden attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts' Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. He earned his MFA in 2013, and in 2016, he won the MainStreet Musicals Award for new musicals. That musical, "Woody: A New Fairytale," was chosen as an Official Selection of the 2017 New York Musical Festival and performed at Playwrights Horizons.

A passionate, dedicated voice teacher, Carden has taught throughout America, Europe and the Highlands of Guatemala. He served on the faculty of the Harlem School of the Arts from 2017-2019, as well as the faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts from 2018-2022. He joined the faculty of The University of Mississippi's department of Theatre and Film in 2022.

#### **UNCSA MANIFESTO**

#### We Believe

**ARTISTS** enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **ART EDUCATION** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **ARTISTIC TRAINING** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

**ART ORGANIZATIONS** improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

**UNC SCHOOL OF THE ARTS** nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

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The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

#### **DEAN'S CIRCLES**

The Dean's Circles support each of the five arts schools at UNCSA — Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music. Dean's Circle members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more in support of discretionary funds, scholarships, or other fundraising priorities. Members enjoy special events and opportunities to interact with the school's dean, faculty and students. If you are interested in joining one or more UNCSA Dean's Circles, please contact Shannon Wright, Director of Development for Leadership Annual & Family Giving, at wrights@uncsa.edu or 336-770-1427.

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#### **UNCSA Jazz Ensemble**

Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

FREEDMAN THEATRE

The award-winning Jazz Ensemble performs a program of big-band styles, including traditional swing, Latin, fusion and contemporary. The concert will feature the group's most talented soloists and will highlight different sections of the band. Jazz Ensemble Director Ronald Rudkin, who is celebrating his 38-year career and upcoming retirement, will conduct.

## A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute: Orlando Paladino

Feb. 3 & 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

STEVENS CENTER

An opera in three acts, "Orlando Paladino" was Joseph Haydn's most successful opera. A heroic comedy based on Ariosto's epic poem, "Orlando Furioso," "Orlando Paladino" sees Angelica, queen of Cathay, and her lover, Medoro, flee to a remote castle to get away from Orlando, paladin of France, who is madly in love with Angelica. Angelica asks a sorceress, Alcina, for help. Add to that a shepherdess, a squire and Rodomonte, the king of Barbery, and anything is likely to happen.