Wednesday, July 31, 8pm
Florence Gould Auditorium, Seiji Ozawa Hall

THOMAS HAMPSON, baritone
LARA DOWNES, piano
THE BEYOND LIBERTY PLAYERS
   STEPHEN BUCK, synthesizer, cajón
   YVES DHARAMRAJ, cello
   JUDY KANG, violin
   VASKO DUKOSVKI, clarinet
RICK SIEGEL, lighting designer
CHACE DESCHENE, sound designer

“SONG OF AMERICA: BEYOND LIBERTY”

John Stafford SMITH (arr. Stephen Buck)
   The Star-Spangled Banner
   My Days Have Been so Wondrous Free
   Beautiful Dreamer
   Shenandoah
   Song of the Deathless Voice
   Erie Canal
   General Booth Enters into Heaven
   The Star-Spangled Banner
   Ethiopia Saluting the Colors
   All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight,
   Letter to Mrs. Bixby
   { Intermission }
   The Candidate’s A Dodger
   Memories
   River Chanty
   The Negro Speaks of Rivers
   Charlie Rutledge
   One Sweet Morning
   Lady of the Harbor
   God Be In My Heart
   To What You Said

“Song of America: Beyond Liberty” first premiered in a production by Francesca Zambello at the Glimmerglass Festival 2018. The libretto is based on a text by Royce Vavrek.
Piano by Steinway & Sons – the Artistic Choice of Tanglewood
Special thanks to Commonwealth Worldwide Executive Transportation.

In consideration of the artists and those around you, please turn off all electronic equipment during the performance, including tablets, cellular phones, pagers, watch alarms, messaging devices of any kind, anything that emits an audible signal, and anything that glows. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please note that the use of audio or video recording devices, or taking pictures of the artists—whether photographs or videos—is prohibited during concerts.

A Note to the Audience

During this performance, Thomas Hampson will narrate, recite, and “play” various characters. The Beyond Liberty Players will be playing familiar American musical excerpts as incidental music throughout the show, orienting you, the audience, to the time and place of depicted events. The melody of The Star-Spangled Banner melody dates from the 1790s, and was connected with well over 220 text sources of various social and political issues before becoming, in the 1930s, the United States national anthem, based on the Francis Scott Key poem of 1814. To highlight the history of contentions and contractions in American culture, tonight’s program includes versions of The Star-Spangled Banner using unfamiliar, even unknown, lyrics used in the past.

A Message from Thomas Hampson

No art form is more deeply intertwined with the American spirit than American Song. Poetry and music, and people joining in the democratic action of singing together, have given us strength in battles at home and abroad, united us in times of social and political turmoil, and kindled our sense of community and empathy for others.

The stories told through “Beyond Liberty” are, in a sense, a diary of the American experience—inspiring through the beautiful profundity of word and music and illuminating the truths of a nation born of an ideology that celebrates and uplifts the individual. In our songs, the language of heart and mind, freedom and purpose, resonates from the culture that created it. The “Song of America Project” which I have curated in several forms—first with the Library of Congress and now as an independent staged concert—highlights the many different developments and changes in American culture and is a celebration of our unity as seen through the eyes of our poets and the ears of our composers. At its core, “Beyond Liberty” is a night of stories—stories about the songs, songs that are about the stories, and never straying far from the experience of the people who wrote them. When we know our stories, we know who we are as Americans.

So, sit back, hum along (quietly), tap your foot, enjoy your memories, and if you find yourself smiling or sniffling, just know it’s all part of our Songs of America.
Warmly,
Thomas Hampson

Guest Artists

Thomas Hampson

Thomas Hampson, America’s foremost baritone, has received international honors and awards for his captivating artistry and cultural leadership. Lauded as a Metropolitan Opera Guild “Met Mastersinger” and inducted into both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Gramophone’s Hall of Fame, Mr. Hampson is one of the most respected and innovative musicians of our time. His operatic repertoire encompasses more than eighty roles sung in all the major theaters of the world. His discography comprises more than 170 albums, including multiple nominations and winners of the Grammy Award, Edison Award, and Grand Prix du Disque. Mr. Hampson received the 2009 Distinguished Artistic Leadership Award from the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C., and was appointed the New York Philharmonic’s first-ever artist-in-residence. In 2010 he was honored with a Living Legend Award by the Library of Congress, where he has served as Special Advisor to the Study and Performance of Music in America. He has also received the famed Concertgebouw Prize. Mr. Hampson is an honorary professor on the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Heidelberg. He holds honorary doctorates from the Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, Whitworth College, and San Francisco Conservatory, and is an honorary member of London’s Royal Academy of Music. He carries the titles of Kammersänger of the Wiener Staatsoper and Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the Republic of France, and was awarded the Austrian Medal of Honor in Arts and Sciences. In 2017, together with his longtime musical collaborator, pianist Wolfram Rieger, he received the Hugo Wolf Medal from the International Hugo Wolf Academy; the award recognizes their outstanding achievements in the art of song interpretation. Thomas Hampson enjoys a singular international career as an opera singer, recording artist, and “ambassador of song,” maintaining an active interest in research, education, musical outreach, and technology, continually expanding his pedagogical activities. He is the artistic director of the Heidelberg Lied Academy and collaborates each year with the Barenboim-Said Academy Schubert Week in Berlin. His recurring international master class schedule is a continuing online resource of the Manhattan School of Music, Medici.tv, and The Hampson Foundation livestream channel. Thomas Hampson made his Tanglewood and Boston Symphony debuts in July 1991, in concerts with both the BSO and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra given in memory of Leonard Bernstein. He has since appeared with the BSO numerous times in Boston and at Tanglewood, also appearing at Tanglewood on several occasions in recital. His most recent appearances here were last August, in the Bernstein Centennial Celebration gala concert and in the BSO’s season-ending performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9.
Lara Downes

Lara Downes is one of the foremost American pianists of her generation, a chart-topping recording artist, and a powerfully charismatic performer. Dedicated to expanding the resonance and relevance of live music for diverse audiences, she draws inspiration from the legacies of history, family, and collective memory. Ms. Downes’s forays into the broad landscape of American music have yielded a series of acclaimed recordings, including “America Again,” selected by NPR as one of “10 Albums That Saved 2016,” and her recent Sony Classical debut release, “For Lenny,” which debuted in the Billboard Top 20 and was awarded the 2017 Classical Recording Foundation Award. On “Holes in the Sky,” released on Sony Masterworks in March of this year, she collaborates with several of today’s leading female artists to celebrate the contributions of women to the past, present, and future of American music. Ms. Downes enjoys creative collaborations with a range of top artists, including folk icon Judy Collins, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, baritone Thomas Hampson, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove. She maintains close partnerships with prominent composers spanning genres and generations, with premieres and commissions coming from Jennifer Higdon, John Corigliano, Stephen Schwartz, Paola Prestini, Sarah Kirkland Snider, and many others. Lara Downes’s fierce commitment to arts advocacy, mentorship, and education sees her working in support of non-profit organizations including the Time In Children’s Arts Initiative, PLAN International, the Sphinx Organization, Women’s Empowerment, Washington Performing Arts, and NPR’s “From The Top,” on which she appeared as a featured guest host in April. Ms. Downes is represented worldwide by Cadenza Artists and is a member of the Yamaha Artist Roster. Tonight’s performance marks Lara Downes’ Tanglewood debut; she performed with the Boston Pops in May of this year.