

**SANDY SPRINGS**

# Stephanie Blythe in concert May 18 at City Springs

Stephanie Blythe, a world-renowned mezzo-soprano and champion of the Great American Songbook, will showcase her powerful, malleable voice in a recital full of the pop and jazz standards that defined American theater and movies in the early 20th century, with a little opera thrown in for good measure.

The Atlanta Opera presents Stephanie Blythe & Friends May 18 at Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center at City Springs. Tickets start at \$28 and can be purchased at [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org) or by calling 404-881-8885.

The Great American Songbook includes some of the most popular and influential songs from the 1920s through the 1950s. Created for Broadway theater and Hollywood movies, the American Songbook includes works composed by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers and Georgia's own Johnny Mercer.

Blythe will be joined on stage by the artists-in-residence from The Atlanta Opera Studio, including baritone Jonathan Bryan, soprano Anna Kozlakiewicz, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Sarian, and tenor Justin Stolz.

A renowned opera singer and recitalist,

mezzo-soprano Blythe is considered one of the most highly respected and critically acclaimed artists of her generation. Her repertoire ranges from Handel to Wagner, German lieder to contemporary and classic American song. She has performed on many of the world's great stages, such as Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Paris National Opera and San Francisco, Chicago Lyric and Seattle Operas.

She was named Musical America's Vocalist of the Year in 2009, received an Opera News Award in 2007 and won the Tucker Award in 1999.

The Atlanta Opera audiences last saw Ms. Blythe in 2018 as the Marquise de Berkenfeld in Donizetti's "The Daughter of The Regiment."

In addition to the two scheduled concerts, Blythe will spend several days working with the members of The Atlanta Opera's Studio program – an artists-in-residence program that provides talented emerging artists with valuable performance experience as well as the chance to participate in masterclasses working alongside internationally acclaimed operatic professionals.



Stephanie Blythe sang the part of Marquise de Berkenfeld in The Atlanta Opera's 2018 production of Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment." PHOTO BY JEFF ROFFMAN

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of beauty and color in the valleys, hillsides, woods and lawns that comprise the 326-acre property.

Stop by the Japanese Gardens to see Japanese maples showing off new red foliage. Stroll through the woodland gardens among native and exotic azaleas, rhododendron and hydrangea. Sit on one of the wooden benches along the Fern Dell to be inspired by the tranquility of this natural setting. Don't miss hundreds of roses, masses of annuals and perennials and the exotic waterlilies coming into full bloom by mid to late May.

For more information go to the Gibbs Gardens website: [www.gibbsgardens.com](http://www.gibbsgardens.com) or call 770-893-1881 for information. Send email inquiries to [info@gibbsgardens.com](mailto:info@gibbsgardens.com).

Gibbs Gardens is conveniently located less than one hour north of Atlanta in the triangle between Interstate I-575 and SR 400. Enter Gibbs Gardens off Yellow Creek Road in Cherokee County, from Highway 53 on the north or SR 369 on the south. Gibbs Gardens is located at 1987 Gibbs Drive, Ball Ground, Ga., 30107.

Mary Booth Cabot of Roswell, Ga. uses watercolors to create the photorealistic and traditional translucent effect of watercolors to present nature's pure beauty.



Allan Quandt, the artist behind AQ Creations, Jasper, Ga., incorporated various techniques in his wood, creating a piece from a log, piercing intricate patterns even dying and coloring and inlaying with minerals.



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