

3 FACES  
OF STEVE



**September 6 - 29, 2024**

**Odyssey Theatre Ensemble** presents

# 3 FACES OF STEVE SONDHEIM IN CONCERT

Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Directed by **Angelina Réaux**

Starring

**Angelina Réaux**

**Michael Sokol**

**Bernardo Bermudez**

Pianist & Musical Director **William Ah Sing**

Lighting Designer **Leigh Allen**

Stage Manager **Katie Chabot**

Scenic Artist **Chris Bell**

Produced for the Odyssey Theatre by **Beth Hogan**

**Ron Sossi**, Artistic Director



The Odyssey is supported in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, LA County's Creative Recovery LA initiative, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and The Shubert Foundation Inc.

## CAST

SOPRANO .....	Angelina Réaux
BARITONE .....	Michael Sokol
BARI-TENOR .....	Bernardo Bermudez
PIANIST & MUSICAL DIRECTOR .....	William Ah Sing

*Running time: 1 hour 50 minutes*

*There will be one 15-minute Intermission*

## PROGRAM NOTE

Way before our beloved master of musical theatre, Stephen Sondheim, passed, I was missing him. I was missing performing his musical and literary language. As an opera singer, I am not often challenged enough with lyrics or librettos - - oh, there are fabulous characters and amazing stories to tell in opera, but each one of Sondheim's songs has an amazing and fabulous scene to play. I think of "Buddy's Eyes," "I'm Still Here" and "Could I Leave You" from *Follies* - - "Being Alive" from *Company* and "Send In The Clowns" from *A Little Night Music* -- and how they stand alone as one-act plays. I began to list his songs that were important to me in my musical life, and realizing that I couldn't sing them all, I thought to myself, well, a tenor and baritone would be nice! I'd been lucky enough to have a professional relationship when I worked with him as the Beggarwoman in *Sweeney Todd*, but I wanted to include singing actors who were either fans or obsessive historians - - thus, the name *3 Faces of Steve*. It was important to me to know how Sondheim affected their own particular lives.

This concert is a labor of love, a paen to one of America's most prolific, successful and performed composers. Besides the nineteen musicals he wrote for Broadway, he has written songs for film, and seven of his musicals have been made into films - - and his works are performed throughout the world. When the Odyssey Theatre approached me asking if I had a project, I was ecstatic to be able to have this tribute to offer. I am eternally grateful for having this opportunity to share my love and experience with this musical genius with you.

—ANGELINA RÉAUX

## THREE FACES OF STEVE SONG ORDER

### Act One

1. HEY UP THERE *Follies* / THE INVOCATION *The Frogs* (All)
2. OLD FRIEND *Merrily We Roll Along* (All)
3. TOGETHER WHEREVER WE GO *Gypsy* (All)
4. HELLO LITTLE GIRL *Into the Woods* (Angelina & Michael)
5. SOMETHING'S COMING *West Side Story* (Bernardo)
6. SO MANY PEOPLE *Saturday Night* (Angelina)
7. PRETTY WOMEN *Sweeney Todd* (Michael & Bernardo)
8. ME AND MY TOWN *Anyone Can Whistle* (All)
9. CAN THAT BOY FOXTROT (originally written for *Follies*) (Michael & Bernardo)
10. IN BUDDY'S EYES *Follies* (Angelina)
11. TOO MANY MORNINGS *Follies* (Angelina & Michael)
12. BEING ALIVE *Company* (Bernardo)
13. YOU COULD DRIVE A PERSON CRAZY *Company* (All)

### Act Two

1. A LITTLE PRIEST *Sweeney Todd* (Angelina & Michael)
2. IN PRAISE OF WOMEN *A Little Night Music* (Bernardo)
3. THE BOY FROM *The Mad Show* (Angelina)
4. FINISHING THE HAT *Sunday in the Park with George* (Michael)
5. PRETTY LADY *Pacific Overtures* (All)
6. AH, PAREE! *Follies* (Michael)
7. BARCELONA *Company* (Bernardo & Angelina)
8. NOT GETTING MARRIED TODAY *Company* (All)
9. I'M STILL HERE *Follies* (Angelina)
10. COULD I LEAVE YOU *Follies* (Michael)
11. NOT A DAY GOES BY *Merrily We Roll Along* (Bernardo)
12. SEND IN THE CLOWNS *A Little Night Music* (Angelina)
13. SUNDAY *Sunday in the Park with George* (All)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



### ANGELINA RÉAUX

#### *Soprano*

Angelina Réaux, trained in both theatre and classical music, has performed on and off-Broadway, in repertory and in the world's leading concert and opera houses. She appeared as The Beggarwoman in *Sweeney Todd*, directed by Harold Prince, and performed *Side By Side By Sondheim* throughout the USA. Her first performance of Mimi in *La Bohème* was conducted by Leonard Bernstein and recorded for Deutsche Grammophone, televised on Italy's RAI TV, and was nominated for a Grammy, as well as singing the role of Francesca on Bernstein's DG recording of *West Side Story*. She has been featured in tributes to Sondheim, Weill, and Bernstein worldwide. Besides creating and directing her own one-woman shows, including *Stranger Here Myself*, the music of Kurt Weill for New York's Public Theatre and recorded for Koch Classics, Ms. Réaux has both directed and appeared in opera and theatre for Chicago Opera Theatre, Opera Omaha, The Studio Theatre in Washington D. C., the Ojai, Cabrillo, Ravinia, Caramoor, and Chautauqua Festivals, singing leading roles at Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera and Houston Grand Opera to name a few. At Berkeley Rep Ms. Réaux appeared in *The Oresteia Trilogy*, *Brundibar* - - adapted by Tony Kushner and designed by Maurice Sendak, *Comedy On The Bridge*, and premiered Kushner's new one act *But the Giraffe* at the New Victory Theatre in NYC. Her discography includes recordings on Deutsche Grammophon (*La Bohème*, *West Side Story*, *Mad About Puccini*), Teldec (Berg's *Lulu Suite* and Weill's *Die Sieben Todsünden*), Decca/London (Weill's *Street Scene* and Blitzstein's *Regina*), Koch Classics (*Stranger Here Myself*), CRI's (*Frida Kahlo Suite*) and Naxos (*Bernstein's Jewish Legacy*). She recently directed and designed Opera a la Carte San Diego's inaugural production of *LA BOHÈME*, and will direct and design Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* for them in 2025. She now resides in San Diego with her husband, baritone Michael Sokol, and their beloved two dogs and two cats.



### MICHAEL SOKOL

#### *Baritone*

Michael Sokol has had great success in opera and music theatre here in the United States and in Europe, in venues from the Metropolitan Opera, to the Philadelphia Orchestra, to Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. As a performer in theatre and opera, he has performed roles as Mozart's Count in *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Puccini's Marcello in *La Bohème*, Shaw's Henry Higgins in Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady* and Emile de Becque in *South Pacific*. Very active in the creation of new music theatre, he created the role of Frank Lloyd Wright in the world premiere



of Darren Hagen and Paul Muldoon's opera *Shining Brow*, directed by Stephen Wadsworth and the role of the Magician in the American premiere of Stephen Oliver's *Mario and the Magician*, directed by Francesca Zambello. A devoted admirer of the work of Stephen Sondheim, Mr Sokol has participated in many revues of his music and was music director for *Marry Me a Little* at Centerstage Santa Barbara. An expert in the comic masterpieces of Gilbert and Sullivan and Offenbach, he has appeared in and directed over 17 of their respective works. Among Mr. Sokol's collaborators and mentors are Martial Singher, Italo Tajo, John Reed and Charles Anthony, conductors Charles Dutoit, James Levine, Julius Rudel, Marko Letonja, and directors Fabrizio Melano, Keith Warner, Christopher Alden, Ken Cazan and Angelina Réaux.. He is frequently seen at San Diego Opera, most recently as the Sacristan in *Tosca*, and this season will be seen as Benoit/Alcindoro in *La Boheme*, as well as in *Salome* and *La Traviata*.



## **BERNARDO BERMUDEZ**

### *BariTenor*

Bernardo Bermudez has been praised for his portrayals of leading characters in contemporary operas throughout the USA; roles include the West Coast premiere of *Zorro* by Hector Armienta at Opera Santa Barbara, Pleasure in the world premiere of *The Romance of The Rose* by Kate Soper for Long Beach Opera, as well as both the roles of Laurentino and Mark in *Cruzar la Cara De La Luna* and Diego Rivera in *Frida* at Long Beach and Orlando Operas, among others. His career also spans appearances with Los Angeles, San Diego, Anchorage, Portland, El Paso Operas, Pacific Opera Project, Opera North, Union Avenue Opera, The San Diego Symphony, The Nashville Symphony and La Jolla Symphony. Bermudez's notable roles also include Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Danilo in *The Merry Widow*, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Vidal in *Luisa Fernanda*. Summer festivals include Opera Neo, Opera North and The Music Academy of the West, for which he was awarded the Enterprise Award in 2019 and 2020. He also appears regularly with Opera a la Carte San Diego in their tributes to opera and musical theatre. Bermudez is a co-founder of Opera4Kids, a non-profit organization that aims to inspire young minds through live vocal and classical music performances, as well as digital programming. This organization seeks to make classical music and opera accessible to all, regardless of their socio-economic background. For further information, please visit [www.Opera4Kids.com](http://www.Opera4Kids.com) and [www.BernardoBermudez.com](http://www.BernardoBermudez.com)

## **WILLIAM AH SING**

### *Music Director*

Music director/Conductor: *Angelina Réaux Sings Weill on Broadway* (North Coast Repertory); *Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Ocean Beach Playhouse); *The Last Five Years* (Lamplighters Theatre); *Songs for a New World* (Oceanside Theatre Company); Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Seussical* (San Diego Junior Theatre); *Trouble in Tahiti* (Point Loma Opera Theater). Keyboard and synthesizer: *Follies: In Concert, A Little Night Music* (Coronado Playhouse); *Mamma Mia!* (Welk Resort Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar, The Who's Tommy* (Ocean Beach Playhouse). Principal accompanist: San Diego Gay Men's Chorus.

## **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

### *Composer and Lyricist*

Stephen Sondheim, (born March 22, 1930, New York, N.Y., U.S.—died Nov. 26, 2021, Roxbury, Conn.), U.S. composer and lyricist. He studied piano and organ and at age 15 wrote his first musical, under the tutelage of the musical comedy author Oscar Hammerstein II, a family friend. After studies with composer Milton Babbitt, he made his first mark on Broadway as lyricist for *West Side Story* (1957). He then wrote lyrics for *Gypsy* (1959) and both music and lyrics for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), which won the Tony Award for best musical. Sondheim later earned Tonys for his work on *Company* (1971), *Follies* (1972), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Into the Woods* (1987), and *Passion* (1994). Other notable musicals included *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984, Pulitzer Prize). His stage works are known for their intellectuality, musical complexity, and frequently dark tone. Sondheim's other honors included a special Tony Award for lifetime achievement (2008) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2015).

## **LEIGH ALLEN**

### *Lighting Designer*

Leigh most recently worked on *Seminar* as light designer. Her freelance work in LA and Orange County includes: *Rocket to the Moon, The Grapes of Wrath, The Prince of LA, Chekhov x 4* and *Les Misérables, Killer Joe* (in which she was nominated for the 2005 LA Ovation Award); as well as lighting for dance and special events. She received the 2003 LADCC and LA Weekly Awards for the lighting design of *Johnny Got His Gun*. She has also been involved with the children's theatre program at South Coast Repertory, California Youth Theatre and Musical Theatre West.

## **KATIE CHABOT**

### *Stage Manager*

Katie is honored to continue her work at the Odyssey with *3 Faces of Steve*. Katie is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she received degrees in education and theatre. Most recently, she worked with Odyssey as the stage manager for *Fear of Heights*. Other stage management credits include: Odyssey Theatre Ensemble (*Elephant Shavings*), and Florida Studio Theatre (*The Last Acorn, Babel, What the Constitution Means to Me*). Special thanks to the *3 Faces of Steve* team for being so welcoming, her family's endless and unwavering support, and all at the Odyssey.

## **BETH HOGAN**

### *Producer*

Beth is the associate artistic director of the Odyssey, staff producer and has acted in over 30 Odyssey productions.

## **RON SOSSI**

### *Artistic Director*

Ron received the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award in 2013. He has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theatre" and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Recent OTE directing projects include *Faith Healer*, *The Dance of Death*, *Beckett5*, *My Sister*, *Oedipus Machina*, *Theatre in the Dark* (LA Weekly nomination Best Production of the Year), *Way to Heaven* (LA Weekly and LADCC nomination for Best Production of the Year), *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Arsonists* (LA Weekly nomination for Best Direction) *Sliding Into Hades* (Best Production of the Year, LA Weekly), *Kafka Thing!*, *Far Away* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Ron has led the Odyssey throughout its 54-year history.

# 3 FACES OF STEVE SONDHEIM IN CONCERT

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Carpenters **Danny Felix, Lenny Felix**

Master Electrician **Kevin Orellana**

Publicist **Lucy Pollak**

Graphic Artist **Peter Simpson Cook**

Photography **Cooper Bates**

## **VERY SPECIAL THANKS**

Pete Hickok, Carly Fox, Rob Fox

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Denise Blasor, Marjie Mautner, Dan Fishbach

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**September 6 - September 29, 2024**

Thursday, September 12, 19, 26 at 8pm

Friday, September 6, 13, 20, 27 at 8pm

Saturday, September 7, 14, 21, 28 at 8pm

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22 at 2pm & September 29 at 5pm