



Park Avenue Armory Announces Return of Recital Series and Artists Studio for In-Person Performances in Fall 2021

Recitals Spotlight Tenor Paul Appleby, Baritone Will Liverman, and Mezzo-Soprano Jamie Barton in Intimate Salon Setting

Artists Studio Debuts Dynamic Collaboration Between Trumpeter jaimie branch and Sculptor Carol Szymanski

New York, NY – August 11, 2021 – Park Avenue Armory announced today that its celebrated Recital Series and Artists Studio programs will return this fall with a slate of virtuosic performances by world-class artists and musicians. Presented within two of the Armory’s historic period rooms, these performances offer audiences the opportunity to experience the work of exceptional artists at a level of intimacy that is unprecedented in conventional concert halls and performance spaces today. The Fall 2021 Recital Series and Artists Studio season launches on September 20 with the Armory debuts of tenor **Paul Appleby** and pianist **Conor Hanick**, and will also feature programs by mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** with pianist **Warren Jones** and baritone **Will Liverman** with pianist **Myra Huang**, as well as a cross-disciplinary collaboration between trumpeter **jaimie branch** and sculptor **Carol Szymanski**.

“We are thrilled to welcome artists and audiences back to our Recital Series and Artists Studio performances this fall. These two longstanding, vital dimensions of the Armory’s program offer a more intimate complement to the large-scale productions presented in the Drill Hall, allowing artists and audiences to commune through performance in a salon-like setting.” said **Rebecca Robertson, Founding President and Executive Producer at Park Avenue Armory**.

“With a sweeping range of programs that delve into German Lieder, spotlight on Black and female composers, and meditate on the shape of sound, this season’s Recital Series and Artists Studio performances showcases a depth of talent across artistic genres,” added **Pierre Audi, the Armory’s Marina Kellen French Artistic Director**. “After a challenging year and a half, it will be a special moment to once again fill the Armory’s resplendent period rooms with music, art, and life.”

Presented in the glorious architecture of the Board of Officers Room, the acclaimed Recital Series has showcased musicians performing a range of classical and contemporary works since its launch in 2013. The Fall 2021 Recital Series continues this lineage with intimate performances by tenor **Paul Appleby** with pianist **Conor Hanick** (September 20 and 22), baritone **Will Liverman** with pianist **Myra Huang** (October 10 and 11), and mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** with pianist **Warren Jones** (November 19 and 21).

The Artists Studio, curated by MacArthur “Genius” **Jason Moran**, launched in March 2016 alongside the inauguration of the revitalized Veterans Room, a collaboration amongst some of the most talented emerging designers of the time—including Louis C. Tiffany, Stanford White, and others. The series takes inspiration from the exuberant design of the room, featuring a range of experimental, cross-

genre performances by artists who blur the lines of artistic categorization. On October 13, the Armory presents the world premiere of *The Phonemophonic Alphabet Brass Band*, a collaboration between sculptor **Carol Szymanski** and avant-garde trumpeter **jaimie branch** that features an aural animation of 26 brass horn sculptures whose shapes are based on the alphabet.

More information on the Fall 2021 Recital Series and Artists Studio programs, including ticketing information, follows below.

FALL 2021 RECITAL SERIES

Board of Officers Room

Paul Appleby, tenor
Conor Hanick, pianist
September 20 & 22

“Essentially lyric” (*Opera News*) tenor **Paul Appleby** and “brilliant” (*The New York Times*) pianist **Conor Hanick** make their Armory debuts in the opening of Armory’s 2021 Recital Series with a program of German Lieder in the intimate Board of Officers Room. Admired for his interpretive depth, vocal strength, and range of expressivity, Appleby showcases his strong commitment to the repertoire with songs by Schubert, Schumann, Beethoven, and Berg.

Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$75

Will Liverman, baritone
Myra Huang, piano
October 10 & 11

Baritone **Will Liverman** brings his “velvet voice” (*NPR*) and “nuanced, heartfelt storytelling” (*The Guardian*) to the Armory’s Board of Officers Room alongside pianist **Myra Huang** for a program highlighting Black composers and writers as well as works from the traditional classical music canon. Liverman will perform songs by Black composers Brian McKnight, Damien Sneed, and Alma Androzzo. The program also includes works by Ravel, Rachmaninoff, and Strauss.

Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3:00pm
Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$75

Jamie Barton, mezzo-soprano
Warren Jones, piano
November 19 & 21

Charismatic American mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** partners with the incomparable **Warren Jones** on a program of Brahms, Schubert, and Heggie, with special attention to female composers. Recipient of the Beverly Sills Artist Award, Richard Tucker Award, and BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition (both Main and Song Prizes), and a Grammy nomination, Barton is navigating a huge career on the opera and recital stage. “Leader of a new generation of opera stars” (*The New York Times*), Barton brings this leadership to what promises to be stirring and engaging performances. Barton will showcase the sheer beauty of her voice in the intimate Board of Officers Room.

Friday, November 19, 2021 at 8:00pm
Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 3:00pm
Tickets: \$75

FALL 2021 ARTISTS STUDIO

Veterans Room

Carol Szymanski & jaimie branch

October 13

One of today's outstanding avant-garde trumpeters, **jaimie branch**, and Rome Prize Winner sculptor **Carol Szymanski** team up for the first time to present the *Phonemophonic Alphabet Brass Band*. **Szymanski** and her obsession with the shape of sound will fill the intricate architecture of the Veterans Room with a collection of instrument sculptures consisting of 26 brass horns whose shapes are based on the alphabet. The aural animation of this installation will be led by Branch and joined with a large ensemble of fellow brass musicians.

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Tickets: \$45

TICKETING

Tickets are available for purchase online at armoryonpark.org or by phone through the Park Avenue Armory Box Office at (212) 933-5812, Monday–Friday from 10am to 6pm.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Ticketholders must be fully vaccinated. At check-in, ticketholders will be required to show proof of full vaccination.

As concert dates approach, further information about specific health and safety protocols will be posted on armoryonpark.org and communicated to ticketholders.

SPONSORSHIP

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Armory's 2021 season sponsor.

Support for Park Avenue Armory's artistic season has been generously provided by the Charina Endowment Fund, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation, the Marc Haas Foundation, the Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, the Richenthal Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation. The artistic season is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support has been provided by the Armory's Artistic Council.

The Recital Series is supported in part by The Reed Foundation and the Howard & Sarah D. Solomon Foundation.

RECITAL SERIES BIOGRAPHIES

ABOUT PAUL APPLEBY, TENOR

Admired for his interpretive depth, vocal strength, and range of expressivity, tenor **Paul Appleby** is one of the most sought-after voices of his generation. *Opera News* claims, “Paul Appleby has all the components of an accomplished recitalist. His tenor is limpid and focused, but with a range of color unusual in an instrument so essentially lyric: it’s a sound that can give pleasure over a recital’s two-hour span... Appleby is a singer with a full-throttle commitment to the song repertoire.”

Performances of the current season are scheduled to include Metropolitan Opera productions of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Rodelinda*, the title role of *Béatrice et Bénédicte* in a new production at Oper Köln, a North American recital tour, and presentations with the American Modern Opera Company throughout the country.

Appleby’s operatic performances span both world premieres and beloved classics and he has bowed on many of the world’s greatest opera stages including at Dutch National Opera, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Glyndebourne, Metropolitan Opera, Oper Frankfurt, San Francisco Opera, and Washington National Opera. No less impressive is his symphonic career, which includes performances under the batons of John Butt, Gustavo Dudamel, Manfred Honeck, Philippe Jordan, and David Zinman amongst many others.

His discography includes Nico Muhly’s *Two Boys*, released by Nonesuch, recorded live by the Metropolitan Opera; DVDs of Glyndebourne’s acclaimed presentation of Handel’s *Saul* and Berlioz’s *Béatrice et Bénédicte* released commercially by Opus Arte; *Dear Theo*, the first album dedicated solely to works by composer Ben Moore released by Delos; and *Songs and Structures*, a portrait album of recent vocal and chamber works by composer Harold Meltzer released on Bridge Records.

ABOUT CONOR HANICK, PIANIST

Pianist **Conor Hanick** “defies human description” for some (*Concerto Net*) and recalls “a young Peter Serkin” for others (*The New York Times*). He has performed to acclaim throughout the world with some of music’s leading ensembles, instrumentalists, and conductors, including Pierre Boulez, Alan Gilbert, Ludovic Morlot, and David Robertson. A fierce advocate for the music of today, and the “soloist of choice for such thorny works” (*NYT*) Hanick has premiered over 200 works to date and worked with musical icons like Steve Reich, Kaija Saariaho, and Charles Wuorinen, while also championing important voices of his own generation including Caroline Shaw, Eric Wubbels, Nina Young, and Marcos Balter. Hanick has recently appeared with The Seattle Symphony, The Juilliard Orchestra, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the Lucerne Academy Orchestra for the New York Philharmonic Biennial, and been presented at Carnegie Hall, the Mondavi Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Metropolitan Museum. He collaborates regularly with Jay Campbell, Joshua Roman, Miranda Cuckson, and Augustin Hadelich and is a founding member of the American Modern Opera Company, with which he will be a co-director of the Ojai Festival in 2022. Hanick is the director of Solo Piano at the Music Academy of the West and a graduate of Northwestern University and The Juilliard School, where he serves on the chamber music and keyboard faculty.

ABOUT WILL LIVERMAN, BARITONE

Called “a voice for this historic moment” (*The Washington Post*), baritone Will Liverman will star in the Met Opera’s reopening production of *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* in fall 2021. Liverman is the recipient of the 2020 Marian Anderson Vocal Award, 2019 Richard Tucker Career Grant, and Sphinx Medal of Excellence.

Following a summer at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Aspen Music Festival, highlights of Will Liverman’s 2021-2022 season include *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, *Spanish Inspirations* with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Florence Price’s *Song to the Dark Virgin* with Chicago Sinfonietta, Jonathan Dove’s *Flight* with Dallas Opera, Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass* at The Kennedy Center, and *Akhmaten*

(Horemhab) and *The Magic Flute* (Papageno) at the Met. His new opera *The Factotum*, written together with DJ/recording artist K. Rico, is in process with Lyric Opera of Chicago.

In February 2021, Cedille released Liverman's *Dreams of a New Day: Songs by Black Composers*. The album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical chart. *Whither Must I Wander* (Odradek), with pianist Jonathan King, was named one of the *Chicago Tribune's* "best classical recordings of 2020."

Performance highlights include starring as the first ever Black Papageno in The Metropolitan Opera's holiday production of *The Magic Flute*, in addition to its premiere of *Akhnaten* (Horemhab); *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Figaro) with Seattle Opera, Virginia Opera, and Madison Opera; *The Love of Three Oranges* (Pantalone) with Opera Philadelphia; Charlie Parker's *Yardbird* (Dizzy Gillespie) with Opera Philadelphia and English National Opera; and *La bohème* (Schaunard) with Opera Philadelphia, Santa Fe Opera, and Dallas Opera.

ABOUT MYRA HUANG, PIANO

Acclaimed by *Opera News* as being "among the top accompanists of her generation," and "...a colouristic tour de force" by *The New York Times*, Grammy Award-nominated pianist Myra Huang is highly sought after for her interpretation of Lieder and art song as well as her depth of musicianship and impeccable technique. Huang performs in recitals throughout the U.S., including Carnegie Hall, The Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, The Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, The Kennedy Center, Symphony Center, and The 92 St Y. Huang was chosen as the recipient of The Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award for 2019 by The Classical Recording Foundation for her consummate artistry. Regular collaborations include recitals with Lawrence Brownlee, Sasha Cooke, Joshua Hopkins, Anthony McGill, Will Liverman, Eric Owens, Nicholas Phan, and Susanna Phillips.

Huang is an avid recitalist and recording artist. Her album *Gods and Monsters* with tenor Nicholas Phan was nominated for "Best Classical Vocal Solo Album" at the 2018 Grammy Awards. Her most recent album with Phan, *Clairières*, was nominated in the same category for the 63rd Grammy Awards in 2021. She becomes the Head of Music for the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at The Metropolitan Opera this season, mentoring and sculpting the highest talent in the upcoming generations. Huang is also on staff at The Aspen Music Festival, as well as faculty of the Collaborative Piano department at The Manhattan School of Music. Huang is a Steinway Artist.

ABOUT JAMIE BARTON, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Critically acclaimed by virtually every major outlet covering classical music, American mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton is increasingly recognized for how she uses her powerful instrument offstage – lifting up women, queer people, and other marginalized communities. Her lively social media presence on Instagram and Twitter (@jbartonmezzo) serves as a hub for conversations about body positivity, diet culture, social justice issues, and LGBTQ+ rights. She is proud to volunteer with Turn The Spotlight, an organization working to identify, nurture, and empower leaders among women and people of color – and in turn, to illuminate the path to a more equitable future in the arts.

In recognition of her iconic performance at the Last Night of the Proms, Barton was named 2020 Personality of the Year at the BBC Music Magazine Awards. She is also the winner of the International Opera Awards Readers' Award, Beverly Sills Artist Award, Richard Tucker Award, and both Main and Song Prizes at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Barton's 2007 win at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions launched a major international career that includes leading roles at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Bayerische Staatsoper, San Francisco Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Houston Grand Opera, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, and the Met.

Praised by *Gramophone* as having "the sort of instrument you could listen to all day, in any sort of repertoire," Barton has appeared with Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax at Tanglewood, and in recital across the U.S. and U.K., including engagements at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, and the Kennedy Center. Her solo albums include *All*

Who Wander, which received the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Vocal Award, and *Unexpected Shadows*, recorded with composer Jake Heggie.

ABOUT WARREN JONES, PIANIST

WARREN JONES. pianist. born washington dc. raised high point NC. lives new york city. faculty, manhattan school of music. former faculty, rutgers university, music academy of the west. guest artist in residence new england conservatory, UNC school of the arts. jury member first china international piano competition 2019, montreal international vocal competition 2018, van cliburn piano competition, naumberg awards, metropolitan opera auditions. former principal pianist camerata pacifica. recital partner for blythe griffey owens battle ramey tekanawa brewer bonney morris talvela hampson horne vaness o'neill harrell. musical america collaborative pianist of the year. white house. supreme court. thirty-one recordings. conductor of mozart rossini donizetti mascagni bernstein menotti. interests include history politics cooking music....

ARTISTS STUDIO BIOGRAPHIES

ABOUT CAROL SZYMANSKI

Carol Szymanski pursues an idea of the artist as a kind of translator, recoding and transmitting messages received from other sources and transforming them in the process. Her work has never been limited to a single medium, but has encompassed drawing, painting, photography, performance, video, writing, and sculpture—and within the realm of sculpture, everything from inflatable Mylar balloons to brass horns, neon signs to miniature clothing. As one critic put it, her work, “based in language, bound up in the syntax of human communication, without being reduced to it...makes lateral moves and jumps across various types of description.” She has become particularly known for a series of sculptures in the form of invented musical instruments, and particularly brass horns shaped from the alphabet, that she has been making since 1993. Szymanski has collaborated with numerous composers and musicians including Ekmeles Ensemble, Ben Neill, Dewey Redman, and Wadada Leo Smith. Most recently these horns were exhibited and performed at the Winter Garden, New York, NY, 2017, as part of the WNYC New Sounds Live Series curated by John Schaefer. Recent solo and collaborative exhibitions have taken place at Signs and Symbols, New York, 2019; Totah Gallery, New York, 2018; Tanja Grunert Gallery, New York, 2017 and 2015; and Elga Wimmer PCC, New York, NY 2016. She has been a recipient of numerous awards including the Rome Prize and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. Szymanski lives and works in New York.

ABOUT JAIMIE BRANCH

jaimie branch is a Colombian-American Brooklyn-based musician and artist working in the areas of improvisation and composition. Through her musical practice, her main interests lie in extending and expanding the technical limitations of the trumpet and the musical language of free jazz and improvised music. branch has a Bachelor of Music in jazz trumpet performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. Before moving to Brooklyn in 2015, she was an active member of Chicago and Baltimore creative music scenes as a performer, presenter, and recording engineer. She has collaborated with many musicians across the globe including: William Parker, Matana Roberts, Moor Mother, Rob Mazurek, Chad Taylor, Nicole Mitchell, and Tomeka Reid. Her own projects FLY or DIE and Anteloper have been met with critical acclaim by *The New York Times*, *The Wire*, NPR, *Sterogum*, *The Guardian*, and many others. jaimie branch has performed all over North America, Europe, and the United Kingdom at many festivals and venues such as The Chicago Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, Vancouver International Jazz Festival, BOZAR Center for Fine Arts, The Kennedy Center, Bimhuis, Lollapalooza, and more. In 2020, branch became a Jerome Foundation at Roulette resident and recently won the inaugural 2021 Deutscher Jazzpreis for Wind Instruments International Award. branch is a storyteller whose artistic output has continuously dealt with themes of social justice, gender and racial equality, and getting folks to wake the fuck up.

ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York, supporting unconventional works in the performing and visual arts that cannot be fully realized in a traditional proscenium theater, concert hall, or white wall gallery. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall and an array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory enables a diverse range of artists to create, students to explore, and audiences to experience epic, adventurous, relevant work that cannot be done elsewhere in New York.

Programmatic highlights from the Wade Thompson Drill Hall include Ernesto Neto's *anthropodino*, a magical labyrinth extended across the Drill Hall; Bernd Alois Zimmermann's harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved "through the music"; *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton; the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company on three separate stages; an immersive *Macbeth* set in a Scottish heath with Kenneth Branagh; *WS* by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess, and dystopia; a radically inclusive staging of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* staged by Peter Sellars and performed by Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker; eight-time Drama Desk-nominated play *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Bobby Cannavale; *Hansel & Gretel*, a new commission by Ai Weiwei, Jacques Herzog, and Pierre de Meuron that explored publicly shared space in the era of surveillance; *FLEXN* and *FLEXN Evolution*, two Armory-commissioned presentations of the Brooklyn-born dance activists group the D.R.E.A.M. Ring, created by Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and Director Peter Sellars; Simon Stone's heralded production of *Yerma* starring Billie Piper in her North American debut; *The Let Go*, a site-specific immersive dance celebration by Nick Cave; Satoshi Miyagi's stunning production of *Antigone* set in a lake; Sam Mendes' critically acclaimed production of *The Lehman Trilogy*; and the *Black Artists Retreat* hosted by Theaster Gates, which included public talks and performances, private sessions for the 300 attending artists, and a roller skating rink.

In its historic period rooms, the Armory presents more intimate performances and programs, including its acclaimed *Recital Series*, which showcases musical talent from across the globe within the intimate salon setting of the Board of Officers Room; the *Artists Studio* series curated by MacArthur "Genius" and jazz phenom Jason Moran in the newly restored Veterans Room, which features a diverse array of innovative artists and artistic pairings that reflect the imaginative improvisation of the young designers and artists who originally conceived the space; and *Interrogations of Form*, a public talks program that brings diverse artists and thought-leaders together for discussion and performance around the important issues of our time.

Among the performers who have appeared in the *Recitals Series* and the *Artists Studio* in the Armory's restored Veterans Room or the Board of Officers Rooms are: Christian Gerhaher; Ian Bostridge; Jason Moran; Lawrence Brownlee; Barbara Hannigan; Lisette Oropesa; Roscoe Mitchell; Conrad Tao and Tyshawn Sorey; Rashaad Newsome; and Krecy Garcia ("El Prodigio").

Highlights from the public programs include: symposiums such as Carrie Mae Weems' day-long event called *The Shape of Things*, whose participants included Elizabeth Alexander, Theaster Gates, Elizabeth Diller, and Nona Hendryx; a day-long Lenape Pow Wow and Standing Ground Symposium held in the Wade Thompson Drill Hall, the first congregation of Lenape Leaders on Manhattan Island since the 1700s; salons such as the Literature Salon hosted by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, whose participants included Lynn Nottage, Suzan Lori-Parks, and Jeremy O. Harris, and a Spoken Word Salon co-hosted with the Nuyorican Poets Cafe; and most recently, *100 Years | 100 Women*, a multi-organization commissioning project that invited 100 women artists and cultural creators to respond to women's suffrage.

Current Artists-in-Residence at the Armory include two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage; Obie winner and Pulitzer short-listed playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and Carmelita Tropicana; Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and the D.R.E.A.M. Ring; singer and composer Sara Serpa; Tony Award-winning set designer and director Christine Jones and choreographer Steven Hoggett; and Mimi Lien, the first set designer to receive a MacArthur Fellowship. The Armory also supports artists through an active commissioning program including

such artists as Bill T. Jones, Lynn Nottage, Carrie Mae Weems, Michael van der Aa, Tyshawn Sorey, Raashad Newsome, Julian Rosefeldt, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and others.

The Armory also offers creativity-based arts education programs at no cost to thousands of underserved New York City public school students, engaging them with the institution’s artistic programming and outside-the-box creative processes.

The Armory has undertaken an ongoing \$215-million renovation and restoration of its historic building designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron, with Platt Byard Dovell White as Executive Architects.

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Media Contacts

For more information, please contact:

Lesley Alpert-Schuldenfrei, lalpert@armoryonpark.org or (212) 933-5801

Allison Abbott, aabbott@armoryonpark.org or (212) 933-5834