

Nasher Sculpture Center

Press Release



Nasher Sculpture Center Announces Final *Soundings* Concert of the Season: *Music on the Brink of War*

Performance includes seminal 1912 work, *Pierrot Lunaire*, by Arnold Schoenberg and Kurt Weill cabaret, with text by playwright Bertolt Brecht, in partnership with SOLUNA International Music and Arts Festival

DALLAS, Texas (May 5, 2015) – The Nasher Sculpture Center closes out its fifth anniversary season of the critically acclaimed *Soundings* music series with the performance *Music on the Brink of War* on **Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 pm**, with soprano Lucy Shelton performing *Pierrot Lunaire* by Arnold Schoenberg followed by a Kurt Weill cabaret, with text by Bertolt Brecht, performed by actors Walter Van Dyk and Liza Sadovy. The performance will take place in the upstairs gallery.

“For the inaugural year of SOLUNA International Music and Arts Festival, we are delighted to present a dynamic performance at the Nasher Sculpture Center,” says Nasher Director Jeremy Strick. “The lively blend of music, dance and poetry that these talented musicians and actors have developed, under the direction of Seth Knopp, will close out the fifth anniversary season of *Soundings* with a tremendous energy, artistic complexity, and invention, qualities that make this series so compelling and important for Dallas.”

The first part of the concert will feature Arnold Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire*, a melodrama comprised of the German translation of 21 poems by the French poet Albert Giraud. Since its premiere in 1912, *Pierrot Lunaire* has been regarded by generations of musicians and audiences as an icon of artistic originality. “Igor Stravinsky, who knew something of originality, referred to *Pierrot* as the ‘solar plexus of twentieth century music,’” says *Soundings* Artistic Director Seth Knopp. Both Schoenberg and Kurt Weill (with dramatist Bertolt Brecht), whose *Threepenny Opera*, *Mahogany* and *Happy Days* appeared alongside the first stirrings of the Second World War, found the cabaret to be an environment conducive to blurring lines separating art and popular music, and the socialist and capitalist worlds to which their music reacted.

For the Kurt Weill songs, the group will be performing with a band of musicians that resembles the small ensemble for whom the Weill songs were originally orchestrated. Michael Haslam, the pianist that accompanies Walter Van Dyk and Liza Sadovy and is their collaborator, has made arrangements of all the songs specifically for this ensemble of musicians.

Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, and \$10 for students and educators. To Purchase tickets go to: <http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/engage/event?id=150>

Presented in partnership with the Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Family SOLUNA International Music & Arts Festival.

About the Nasher Sculpture Center:

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world, featuring more than 300 masterpieces by Calder, de Kooning, di Suvero, Giacometti, Gormley, Hepworth, Kelly, Matisse, Miró, Moore, Picasso, Rodin, Serra, and Shapiro, among others.

The longtime dream of the late Nashers, the museum occupies a 2.4-acre site and is comprised of a 55,000 square-foot building designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, and a 1.4 acre garden designed in collaboration with landscape architect Peter Walker. The museum seamlessly integrates the indoor galleries with the outdoor garden spaces, creating a museum experience unlike any other in the world. On view in the light-filled galleries and amid the garden grounds are a rotating selection of works from the Collection, as well as important exhibitions of modern and contemporary sculpture, including *Sightings*, a series of small-scale exhibitions and site-specific installations that explore new work by established and emerging artists. In addition to the indoor and outdoor gallery spaces, the Center contains an auditorium, education and research facilities, a cafe, and a store.

Conceived for the exhibition, study, and conservation of modern and contemporary sculpture, the Nasher Sculpture Center also presents a diverse array of educational and cultural programs in dialogue with the Collection and special exhibitions, such as *360: Artists, Critics, Curators*, a lecture series featuring art-world visionaries in conversations focused on sculptural themes.

The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm, and from 10 am to 5 pm on the first Saturday of each month. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for children 12 and under and members, and includes access to special exhibitions. For more information, visit www.NasherSculptureCenter.org.

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