

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

***Savage Winter* reimagines Müller's *Winterreise*, Nov 7—10 at BAM**

A music-theater work by Douglas J. Cuomo, directed by Jonathan Moore

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Savage Winter

American Opera Projects and Pittsburgh Opera
Music by Douglas J. Cuomo
Directed by Jonathan Moore

Set design by Brandon McNeel
Video design by Joseph Seamans
Lighting design by Cindy Limauro
Sound design by David Bullard

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space) 321 Ashland Pl
Nov 7—10 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$25

Oct 3, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—Holed-up in a cheap desert motel room, amid empty pizza boxes and beer cans, a man comes spectacularly unglued. In this fiercely contemporary reimagining of Wilhelm Müller's poetry cycle *Winterreise*—most famously set by Schubert—composer Douglas J. Cuomo and director Jonathan Moore transform Müller's lovelorn winter wanderer into a demon-haunted Everyman. The "radiant, communicative tenor" (Opera News) Tony Boutté gives a searing, intense performance as a man desperate for atonement. This 21st-century art song features Alan Johnson on piano, Frank London (of Klezomatics) on trumpet, and Cuomo himself on guitar. The work is a mix of fully notated music (for the singer and piano) and partially notated and improvised music (for the guitar and trumpet). The result is a spare and haunting landscape, shot through with colors from jazz and rock, along with Cuomo's atmospheric electronics.

Douglas J. Cuomo has composed highly acclaimed and original music for concert and theatrical stages, television, and film. His compositions range from well-known television themes—for *Sex and the City* and *Now with Bill Moyers*, among others—to evening-length works for theater, including the operas *Doubt* and *Arjuna's Dilemma* (2008 NWF), which went on to become the first opera ever performed in Nepal, with 12 performances in Kathmandu in 2016. His many orchestral, choral, vocal, and chamber works include pieces for Christine

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Brewer, The Romero Guitar Quartet, Maya Beiser, Seraphic Fire, Chanticleer, and the American Composers Orchestra. He has written music for numerous Broadway shows including the Tony Award-winning *Anna Christie* at the Roundabout Theatre. His credits also include scores for many series, movies, and documentaries for CBS, NBC, ABC, HBO, and VH1, as well as for over 30 independent films.

Cuomo has received numerous grants and awards including: OPERA America Opera Fund Grant; two National Endowment of the Arts awards for Artistic Excellence in the Creation and Development of New Work; two NYSCA commissioning grants; American Music Center's Composer Assistance grant; NYSCA recording grant; Argosy Foundation Grant; Mary Flagler Carey Charitable Trust for development, and others. Residencies include the MacDowell Colony, the Hermitage Foundation, and Blue Mountain Artist Colony. He has received three BMI Television Music Awards and his theme for *Sex and The City* was chosen by *TV Guide* as one of the top 50 television themes of all time.

<http://www.douglasjcuomo.com/>

A London based, award-winning British/Irish actor, playwright, librettist, and director, **Jonathan Moore** has worked in Britain and internationally (Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera, National Theatre, West End, Shakespeare's Globe at the invitation of Mark Rylance, Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera, BBC TV and Radio, Almeida, Donmar, Arcola, The Gate, Chicago Opera Theater, Long Beach Opera, Munich Biennale, and many more.) He directed (and co-adapted the libretto for) the world premiere opera *Greek* by Mark Anthony Turnage (Munich Biennale and ENO) which received an Olivier Award nomination, and co-directed the BBC Film version (Royal Philharmonic Society Award and a Midem Award at Cannes). This year he directed his own new revival of *Greek* for a 30th anniversary production for the Arcola Grimeborn Festival in London, which received universal acclaim.

Moore co-starred in his own play, *Treatment*, in the BBC TV film version opposite Gabriel Byrne. Last year he co-wrote/directed *Invention of Morel* (music by Stewart Copeland) at Chicago Opera Theater and revived it this year at Long Beach Opera. He directed the world premiere of *Savage Winter* at Pittsburgh Opera. Moore has directed premiere operas by Henze, Schnittke, Turnage, Müller-Wieland, MacMillan, Nyman, and Berkeley, among others. He has worked with artists as diverse as Ludovico Einaudi, Joe Strummer of The Clash, punk band Killing Joke, violinist Daniel Hope, jazz artist Uri Caine, bassist Jah Wobble, reggae star Eddie Grant, and industrial band Test Dept. Awards include two Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Awards; Best Director and Best Libretto awards (Munich Biennale); and an Olivier Award nomination. He has been a guest speaker on the arts at Oxford University and London School of Economics, and a panelist at Opera America in New York.

www.jonathanmooreuk.com

Tony Boutté, tenor, was described in a recent issue of *Opera News* as "possessed of a radiant, communicative tenor." A native of Louisiana, Boutté made his operatic debut as Orfeo in Stephen Wadsworth's groundbreaking Monteverdi Cycle with Skylight Opera. He has sung extensively, here and abroad, including in New York, London, Paris and Los Angeles, with his Carnegie Hall debut in 2006 singing Handel's *Messiah*. Tony has performed and recorded numerous premiers, including John Eaton's *Benjamin Button*, Cuomo's *Arjuna's Dilemma*, Michael Gordon's *Chaos*, Bang on a Can's *Carbon Copy Building* and In *The Penal Colony* by Philip Glass. Festival appearances include Salzburg, Aspen, Bard, Schleswig-Holstien, Settembre, Aldeburgh and Versailles. Tony's extensive recording catalog includes works by Lully, Handel and Bach, as well as multiple world premier recordings. Recent releases include Fauré songs (Edition Peters Sounds) and music of Boismortier (Centaur) with Arcanum Ensemble. Tony recently joined the faculty of Sam Houston State University (Texas) and is artistic director of New American Voices, an initiative created to champion new American works for voice through the collaboration of singer and composer. For more info, visit

www.tonyboutte.com

Currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, Brooklyn's **American Opera Projects** (AOP) is at the forefront of the contemporary opera movement through its commissioning, developing, and producing of opera and music theater projects, training programs for student and emerging composers and librettists, and community engagement. *Savage Winter* is AOP's third co-production with Pittsburgh Opera, where the opera had its world premiere in February, and the fourth AOP production to appear at BAM following *Hagoromo* starring Wendy Whelan (2015) and *As One* (2014), which has since become the most produced American opera written in the 21st century with over 25 new productions since its premiere. www.aopopera.org

For press information contact Sandy Sawotka, ssawotka@BAM.org or 718.636.4190

Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory

programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.