

August 11, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Mike Bailey 623-972-0635 ext. 25

## Michael Fennelly

Piano

and

## Megan Weston

Soprano

**Two extraordinary and versatile talents  
Both have appeared in Carnegie Hall and played to audiences throughout the world.**



**Enjoy this evening of lush romantic music**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7 pm**

Tickets:

Adults \$15 - Museum Members \$13 - Teens \$7 - Kids \$5

Tickets can be purchased at the Museum store

by phone 623-972-0635 with a credit card

or at the door



**Michael Fennelly**

Following his sold-out recital debut in Carnegie's Weill Hall, pianist Michael Fennelly has toured the world with an array of dynamic programs. Last year, he released his debut solo recording, *The Legend of Faust*, on One Soul Records and is currently preparing the follow up CD, *The Legend of Faust, Part Two*, with legendary producer Max Wilcox of RCA.

The native Californian made his first concerto appearance at age ten, and subsequently performed with many orchestras throughout California, including the Orange County Philharmonic, Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra, Santa Clara Symphony and the South Coast Symphony Orchestra. While still in high school, he was flown to New York as a last-minute replacement for a soloist with the New York Virtuosi Orchestra, and later performed Brahms' First Piano Concerto in Germany.

More recently, he recorded new concerti with the Manhattan Symphony, and performed the Bach concerti with the Barge Festival. His recitals have been broadcast on WQXR (New York City), NDR Radio (Germany), and KSTA (Palo Alto). On film, he appeared as the young Harry Truman (who initially trained to become a concert pianist!) for PBS' **American Experience**. Michael Fennelly is a Distinguished Guest Artist for Olympia Cruises, a member of the German ensemble Hudson Shad, and a performer for the Aristotle Onassis Foundation, the Metropolitan Opera, and Allied Tours.

He was the United States winner of the Horowitz Competition, and a prize-winner of the Young Artist Peninsula Music Festival, the Young Keyboard Artist Association, and the Artist International Competition. He has performed in Moscow Conservatory's International Chopin Symposium, New York's Schoenberg Music Festival, and Italy's Wilhelm Kempff Beethoven Seminar, and in master classes under John O'Connor, Richard Goode, and Abbey Simon.

Michael Fennelly was taught from age five by his mother, a successful piano teacher, and his father, an avid amateur musician; he continued his studies with Trula Whelan and Earl Voorhies in California. He was a pupil of Dr. Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, where he was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate, and was then accepted into the studio of Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, where he received the school's special prize for chamber music and completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree with a dissertation on Metric Structure.

In New York City, Dr. Fennelly's current position as a staff pianist for The Juilliard School has led to innumerable recitals with every instrument and voice type. This year, he embarks upon two tours of the Midwest from Minnesota to Montana, performs across Germany and Belgium, and appears in recital in New York, Georgia, California, and Maine.



**Megan Weston**

**Megan Weston** received superlative reviews for her portrayal of Lisa in **La sonnambula** with the Orchestra of St. Luke's conducted by Will Crutchfield at the Caramoor International Music Festival. This past season, Ms. Weston triumphed as Norina in **Don Pasquale** with Lyric Opera San Diego, and sang Barber's **Knoxville: Summer of 1915** and Copland's **Poems of Emily Dickinson** with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra conducted by Jung-Ho Pak. She recently debuted with the Cape Cod Symphony, and sang **Messiah** solos with the Choir of Hendon St. Mary, London, England under the baton of Richard Morrison. Her upcoming engagements include Jenny Lind in the US premiere of **Chopin and the Nightingale** with the Sembrich Festival in Lake George, NY, and concerts with the Bar Harbor Festival, ME, Cape Cod Symphony, MA, Motyl Chamber Ensemble, and New Music New York.

Hailed as "excellent" (Opera News) and "magnificent" (KPBS), Megan Weston first gained national attention in her San Diego Opera debut as the underprivileged mill-girl, Lightfoot McClendon, in the world premiere co-production of Carlisle Floyd's **Cold Sassy Tree**. Her performances have included Amore in **L'incoronazione di Poppea** and Despina in **Così fan tutte** with Utah Opera, Olympia in **Les contes d'Hoffmann** and Lapak in **The Cunning Little Vixen** with Tulsa Opera, **Carmina Burana** with the San Diego Symphony, Viennese operetta arias with New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's **Coronation Mass** at Carnegie Hall, and many leading roles with Lyric Opera San Diego, including Blondchen in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail**, Lucy Lockit in Britten's **The Beggar's Opera**, and Cunegonde in **Candide**.

Megan Weston won both the Lee Schaenen Foundation Awards and Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation Competition in 2006, and has received top awards from the Gerda Lissner Foundation Awards, Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions, and the Loren L. Zachary Competition among others. She has collaborated with many important American composers include Carlisle Floyd, Myron Fink, Henry Mollicone, and Richard Wargo, and regularly gives lectures and readings of new works for the Juilliard School.

## Reviews

### **In concert with Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra**

"But the jewel in the crown was Megan Weston, whose vivid presence and radiant, seemingly effortlessly produced coloratura voice lent wings to the artfully designed and skillfully executed production... Glamorously gowned in bright red satin, the attractive young soprano was as charming to behold as to listen to and is my choice for the best ever Christmas pops soloist."

**Anna Crebo, Cape Cod Times - December, 2007**

**As Lisa in *La sonnambula* - Caramoor International Music Festival**

"... a delightful surprise, making the scorned innkeeper Lisa a touching, tenderly comic figure, and displaying a gorgeous, light lyric soprano."

***Eric Myers, Opera - January, 2006***

"(Sumi Jo) was joined by a strong cast.. .Megan Weston was persuasive as the innkeeper, Lisa."

***Jeremy Eichler, The New York Times - July, 2005***

"Megan Weston displayed remarkable virtuosity and charm as Lisa." - ***Martin Bernheimer, Financial Times - July, 2005***

**As Norina in *Don Pasquale* - Lyric Opera San Diego**

"...it is her acrobatic coloratura and impeccable technique stealing the show; her piercing sound and wicked characterization bring her triumphantly through each aspect of her role."

***Grace Leslie, San Diego Union- Tribune - November, 2006***

**As Olympia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* - Tulsa Opera**

".. .handled the coloratura fireworks of "Les oiseaux dans la charmille" with thrilling ease, giving a performance that was the perfect mix of vocal control, physicality and humor. It came close to stopping the show Saturday evening."

***James Watts, Tulsa World - April, 2004***

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