Western Music
Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
THE VOCAL MUSIC OF MANUEL DE FALLA: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF LEGACY
Friday, November 13, 2026
12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and via livestream
Margie Bernal, *soprano*
Simone Luti, *piano*

Cinco obras para canto y piano — Manuel de Falla (1876 – 1946)

Preludios
Olas gigantes
¡Dios mío, qué solos se quedan los muertos!
Oración de las madres que tienen a sus hijos en brazos
Canción Andaluza: El pan de Ronda

Siete canciones populares españolas

El paño moruno
Seguidilla murciana
Asturiana
Jota
Nana
Canción
Polo

From *La vida breve*

¡Vivan los que ríen!
¡Allí está! ¡Riyendo, junto a esa mujé!

THE ARTISTS

Colombian soprano Margie Bernal completed her Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A) at Western University. She holds a Master of Music from this same institution and a bachelor's degree in Voice Performance from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. A versatile performer, Margie enjoys singing in both operatic and recital stages.

Margie has been a soloist for the National Symphonic Orchestra, National University Orchestra, Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra and Caldas Symphonic Orchestra in Colombia; Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra London Canada, Western University Orchestra and Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Canada; and The Boise Philharmonic in the USA. She has collaborated with the Caldas University Opera Workshop (Colombia), the Canadian Operatic arts Academy, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, Queen of Pudding's Music Theatre, Toronto Operetta Theatre (Canada) and the Accademia Europea Dell' Opera (Italy).

Some of Margie's operatic credits include Ännchen (Weber's *Der Freischütz*), Salud (Falla's *La Vida Breve*), Mimì and Musetta (Puccini's *La Bohéme*), Micaëla (Bizet's *Carmen*), Donna Anna (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), Magda Sorel (Menotti's *The Consul)* and the title roles in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Madama Buttefly.* Orchestra and Oratorio works include Wagner's *Wesendonk Lieder,* Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder,* Ravel's *Scheherazade,* Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem,* Bach's *Johannes-Passion,* Mozart's *Requiem in D minor, Regina Coeli, Vesperae Solennes de Confessore,* and Handels's *Messiah*.

Margie made her Canadian Opera Company debut singing as a featured artist for the launching of their *Showcase Series* in which she performed a full recital of Latin American Art Song, in collaboration with Maestro Simone Luti. Her passion for Spanish music and commitment to her Hispanic heritage has led her to delve into the world of Spanish art song, and Spanish opera, being the latter the inspiration for her doctoral research *"Introduction to a Spanish Opera Aria Anthology for Soprano"*.

Alongside her career as a performer, Margie's love for teaching has inspired her to work with different group ages from children to adults. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Voice at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University where she has taught Voice and Vocal Repertoire with Piano. She resides in London, ON, with her husband Emer, and two daughters Anna María and Gabriella.

A native of Lucca, Tuscany, orchestral conductor and pianist Simone Luti has gained recognition and acclaim for his musical instincts and sensitivity both on the podium and at the keyboard.

As part of his musical training, M° Luti studied piano with Gloria Belli, Konstantin Bogino and Fabrizio Papi while his formal studies in composition were overseen by Pietro Rigacci. During his compositional studies, his passion for opera blossomed and he went on to earn academic scholarships to study opera, firstly at the Teatro Verdi in Pisa, and afterwards in Milan at the Academy for performing Arts associated with the Teatro della Scala. He studied conducting with Vittorio Parisi at the Academy of Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, and at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Gianluigi Gelmetti.

In 2002, M° Luti began working as coach at the Teatro della Scala and main Italian Theatres, collaborating with the most significant directors, singers, and film directors in the operatic world. In parallel, he also collaborated with Mirella Freni, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra in opera training academies, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra, devoting himself to the musical training of young opera singers.

At the keyboard, M° Luti has performed as a solo and collaborative pianist in recitals, opera galas, and chamber groups for theatres and musical institutes throughout Italy, Canada, United States of America, France, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. These collaborations led to recitals with international opera stars such as Irina Lungu with whom he collaborated at the Lucerne Festival.

M° Luti also now shares his work with the next generation and as such become musical director of the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, hosted at the University of Western Ontario and its Faculty of Music, and its sister program Accademia Europea Dell'Opera, in Milan, Amsterdam and Lucca where he conducted *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, *The turn of the screw*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Butterfly*, *La Cenerentola* and *Die Zauberflote*, and *La Finta Giardiniera* amongst many others. He has been also musical director of the Summer Opera Workshop of Indiana University. He also currently serves as Music Director and Conductor of both Western University's Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra as well as holding the positions of Musical Director & Head Coach of the Opera Program, and Lecturer for the Art of Vocal Coaching.

Most recently, M° Luti had the immense pleasure to join the Canadian Opera Company as Assistant Conductor for their production of *La Bohème* (2019), Head Coach and Assistant Conductor of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (2020), *Aida* (2020 and cancelled due to COVID), *Gianni Schicchi* (2021), *Traviata* (2022), and will be returning as Head Coach and Assistant Conductor for the upcoming COC production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2023) as well as *Macbeth* (2023) and *Tosca* (2023). Also at the COC, he has worked with the ensemble for the past 4 years, honoured to be part of such a prestigious operatic training program.

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