

A Memorial for Marlena Malas

Performances by **Susan Graham** (MM '87, HonDMA '08), mezzo-soprano,
and **Kanae Matsumoto Giampietro** (PS '14), piano

Video excerpts courtesy of Chautauqua Institution, from a video produced by Dave Munch.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 | 2 PM
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

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and **Kanae Matsumoto Giampietro** (PS '14), piano

PROGRAM

JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1833–1897)

*Wohl schön bewandt war es from
Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52, no. 7
(Audio recording)*

Benita Valente, soprano
Marlena Kleinman Malas, alto
Wayne Conner, tenor
Martial Singher, bass
Rudolf Serkin and Leon Fleisher, pianos

Reflection

**Video celebrating and featuring Marlena
(courtesy of Chautauqua Institution)**

Welcome and Remarks

James Gandre
*Former student of Marlena and
President, Manhattan School of Music*

GUSTAV MAHLER
(1860–1911)

Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen from Rückert-Lieder
Susan Graham (MM '87, HonDMA '08),
mezzo-soprano
Kanae Matsumoto Giampietro (PS '14), piano

Remarks

Susan Graham (MM '87, HonDMA '08)
Student and friend of Marlena

Reflection

PAOLO TOSTI
(1846–1916)

Slideshow featuring photos of Marlena

A vucchella
(*Audio recording*)

Luciano Pavarotti, tenor
Leone Magiera, piano

Remarks

Lex Malas
Son of Marlena

P. D. Q. BACH
(NÉE PETER SCHICKELE)
(1935–2024)

The Seasonings, S. 1/2 tsp.
II. Recitative: “And there were in the same country”
III. Duet: “Bide thy thyme”
(*Audio Recording*)

Lorna Haywood, soprano
Marlena Kleinman Malas, alto
John Ferrante, tenor
William Woolf, bass

Remarks

Claudia Catania (’70, MSM Faculty)
Close friend, student, and colleague of Marlena

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Vögelein durchbrauscht die Luft and
Wie des Abends schöne Röte from
Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52, no. 13 and no. 4
(*Audio Recording*)

Benita Valente, soprano
Marlena Kleinman Malas, alto
Rudolf Serkin and **Leon Fleisher**, pianos

Closing Remarks

James Gandre

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen from *Rückert-Lieder* Gustav Mahler

Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen,
Mit der ich sonst viele Zeit verdorben,
Sie hat so lange nichts von mir
vernommen,
Sie mag wohl glauben, ich sei gestorben!
Es ist mir auch gar nichts daran gelegen,
Ob sie mich für gestorben hält,
Ich kann auch gar nichts sagen dagegen,
Denn wirklich bin ich gestorben der Welt.
Ich bin gestorben dem Weltgetümmel,
Und ruh' in einem stillen Gebiet!
Ich leb' allein in meinem Himmel,
In meinem Lieben, in meinem Lied!

– Text by Friedrich Rückert

I am lost to the world
With which I used to waste much time;
It has for so long known nothing
of me,
It may well believe that I am dead.
Nor am I at all concerned
If it should think that I am dead.
Nor can I deny it,
For truly I am dead to the world.
I am dead to the world's tumult
And rest in a quiet realm!
I live alone in my heaven,
In my love, in my song!

– Translation by Richard Stokes

REMEMBERING MARLENA MALAS (1936–2023)

Marlena Malas was a revered member of the MSM Community. A recipient of the MSM President's Medal for Distinguished Service in 2021, her supreme warmth and pedagogical skills contributed mightily to the School and its Vocal Arts Division. The Fall 2023 semester marked the beginning of her 41st year on MSM's faculty.

Marlena, an accomplished mezzo-soprano with her own record of superb performances and recordings, had the joy of seeing many of her students go on to careers on the world's most prestigious stages and in classrooms at esteemed conservatories and universities throughout the world.

In addition to her role on the MSM faculty, Marlena taught at the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School. Notably for all of us, her students over the years included MSM alumna Susan Graham (MM '87, HonDMA '08), Precollege alumna and current MSM Board Chair Lorraine Gallard, and MSM President James Gandre.

Marlena was Chair of the Voice Department at Chautauqua Institution and a vocal consultant and teacher for the Canadian Opera Company, the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Program, the English National Opera, the Santa Fe Opera, the Castleton Festival, and the Chicago Lyric Opera Young Artist Program.

She taught master classes at MSM, the Blossom Music Festival, the San Francisco Opera Center, the Santa Fe Opera, the European Center for Opera and Vocal Studies in Brussels, the Israel Vocal Studies Center, the English National Opera, the Metropolitan Opera National Council, Westminster Choir College, and Rutgers University.



In 1993, she taught master classes in collaboration with her mentors Joan Sutherland, Richard Bonyngé, and Luigi Alva in association with the Sydney Opera House, at their first Opera Symposium.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School, Marlena sang with opera companies including Santa Fe, Boston, Miami, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, San Diego, and Milwaukee, and made appearances with the Marlboro and Casals Festivals as well as concert appearances with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. She is featured on a definitive recording of Brahms's *Liebeslieder Waltzes* under the direction of Rudolf Serkin and Leon Fleisher, and few knew she was a soloist on several of P. D. Q. Bach's original recordings.

Alongside her vibrant career at MSM, Marlena was married to the late bass-baritone (and fellow MSM faculty member) Spiro Malas. She was a beloved mother to her sons Lex and Nicol, a cherished grandmother, and a treasured friend. We will miss her dearly and move forward with gratitude in our hearts for her magnificent legacy, which can be felt throughout the world of classical singing and will resonate in MSM's hallowed halls for years to come.

M Manhattan
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