



For Immediate Release

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Composer Lori Laitman's Art Songs Showcased at *SongFest*

"It is difficult to think of anyone before the public today who equals her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music."

Gregory Berg, *The Journal of Singing*, 2007

Acclaimed American composer **Lori Laitman** joins the **SongFest** faculty at Pepperdine University, CA for the first time this summer. Founded by Rosemary Hyler, **SongFest** is an intensive annual summer training program designed to provide gifted young vocalists and pianists a unique opportunity to interact directly with some of the vocal world's most distinguished professionals and to facilitate enrichment of their musical skills. This year, Laitman's esteemed composer colleagues are Tom Cipullo, John Harbison, Jake Heggie, Ben Moore and John Musto.

Thanks to a generous grant from the NY-based **Sorel Organization**, Laitman will work in tandem with Arlene Shrut and Debra Wiley from **New Triad for Collaborative Arts**, an organization dedicated to providing emerging classical musicians with innovative performance and presentation skills. Together, they will conduct a series of workshops and master classes devoted to Laitman's music, culminating in a retrospective concert

on June 19th. This concert will feature the world premiere of *The Act* – Laitman’s setting of American poet H.L. Hix’s poem about a circus knife-thrower and his wife, scored for soprano, tenor and piano; several West Coast premieres of Laitman’s music and selections from her recently premiered Holocaust oratorio, *Vedem*.

Lori Laitman will be in residence at SongFest from **June 15th to the 20th**, but exploration of her musical output continues throughout the program’s three-week duration. Selected arias from Laitman’s opera *The Scarlet Letter* will be presented in the workshop “*Auditioning for Success: Opera Arias*,” conducted by Joshua Winograde of the LA Opera on **June 12th**, and on **June 13th** in the master class “*New American Arias*,” conducted by NY City Opera director Beth Greenberg. In addition, the composer will conduct two master classes on her music on **June 20th**. The concert “*American Song is Alive and Well*” (**June 24th**), created by American tenor Paul Sperry, will feature the music of all resident SongFest composers.

To find out more about composer Lori Laitman, please visit www.artsongs.com

SongFest 2010 runs from June 5th to the 27th. For all information please visit www.songfest.us

Source:

Jona Rapoport
Jona Rapoport Artist Management/PR
jona@jonarapoport.com
www.jonarapoport.com