



VOX 3

a vocal music collective

P.O. Box 408435, Chicago, IL 60640 • 773-784-0425 • www.vox3.org

## VOX 3 PRESENTS A CONCERT OF "TRICKS" AND "TREATS"

\*\*\*NIGHT CLUB CONCERT FEATURING CLASSICAL AND POPULAR SONGS\*\*\*

Contact: Angela Zawada  
773.968.7143 (for press only)  
azawada@vox3.org

(Chicago, IL) **VOX 3** members and guests sing songs both silly and spooky, drawn from the classical repertoire, musical theatre, and the popular realm in their October offering, *VOX Nocturna*. Surprises abound as the performers let their hair down, put their masks up, and let the drinks flow at the hottest "Spot" in town. Classical singers will appear as ghosts, vampires, and other frightening creatures as they perform works by Mussorgsky, Saint-Saëns, Poulenc, Hoiby, Schubert, and many others in cabaret style, just in time for Halloween.

Sopranos **Ashlee Hardgrave**, **Alexia Kruger**, and **Angela Zawada**, with tenor **Brian Hoffman**, baritones **Brian von Rueden** and **Brad Jungwirth** (and other special guests) invite audience members to don a costume and join them for this unique blend of the haunting and the hilarious. There is a \$5 cover for admission to *VOX Nocturna*. The program will be performed on Wednesday, October 29, 7:30 pm, at The Spot Restaurant and Bar (4437 N Broadway St, Chicago, near the Wilson Red Line station).

"The idea for this concert came largely from our desire to perform as a group in a less formal environment," says **VOX 3** Artistic Director, Brian von Rueden. "Many people associate classical music with tuxes or furs; we think it's an art form just as easily enjoyed with beer. We presented a concert of cabaret selections at The Spot last year and enjoyed the opportunity to perform 'high art' in a casual setting. The timing of this year's concert gives us the perfect opportunity to incorporate a Halloween theme: half of the concert will feature selections from classical art song repertoire well-suited to a dark and stormy night, while the other portion is composed of more popular tunes and should be full of surprises."

Admission to *VOX Nocturna* is \$5. The concert begins at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 29th at The Spot, 4437 N. Broadway Street, near the Wilson Red Line station. Additional information may be found at [www.vox3.org](http://www.vox3.org) or by calling 773-784-0425.

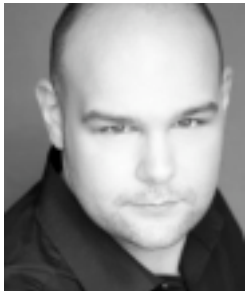
---more---



Critics describe soprano **Ashlee Hardgrave's** performances as "passionate, with eclectic vocal acrobatics" and a "delicate mix of singing and expression." Her recent performances as Despina in *Così fan tutte* with American Opera Group were, according to the Wednesday Journal, "ham enough for a holiday dinner." Other recent roles include Baby Doe, Musetta, Gilda, Britten's Miss Wordsworth, Pamina, and Bellini's Elvira. An active performer in Chicago's concert scene, Ms. Hardgrave's recent engagements include concerts with Bailiwick Repertory, premieres of new compositions and multi-genre collaborations with groups such as ECN Danceworks, The Space/Movement Project, MacMurray College, Beloit College and Dream Engine Theatre Company.



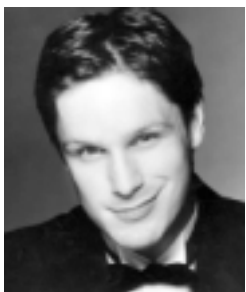
Tenor **Brian Hoffman** is from Carpentersville, Illinois. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, where he studied with Myron Myers and Michael Best. Mr. Hoffman has appeared on the operatic stage as the Male Chorus in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* and as Count Perruchetto in Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele* with the Millennium Chamber Players. Other operatic roles include The Snowman in *A Childhood Miracle*, Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Federico in *L'amico Fritz*. Most recently, Mr. Hoffman played the title role in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and Henry in *The Fantasticks* with the Three-Sided Players. He has also sung for several seasons in the Grant Park Chorus Apprentice Chorale.



**Brad Jungwirth**, baritone, a native of Rochester, MN, earned his Master's degree from Roosevelt University. Previous operatic roles include Pish-Tush in *The Mikado* with Noble Fool Theatricals and Roosevelt University; Dr. Engel in *The Student Prince* with Music by the Lake; the title role in Walton's *The Bear*, Vuzzacchio in the U.S. premiere of Cimarosa's rarity *L'infedeltà fedele*, and Marcello in *La Bohème*, with Millennium Chamber Players; Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with L'opera Piccola; and the title role of Mozart's *The Impresario* and the husband in Menotti's *Amelia Goes to the Ball* at Roosevelt University. Mr. Jungwirth was highly praised for his performances of Peter Maxwell Davies' *8 Songs for a Mad King* with Millennium Chamber Players.



**Alexia Kruger** has performed a wide variety of music from opera to oratorio, art song, and music theatre. Past roles include Susanna and Contessa d'Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Giulietta in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Lola in *Gallantry*, Marianne in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Desiree Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Ms. Kruger has also been a soloist with the Bach Institute, the Illinois Chamber Orchestra, the Polish American Symphony, Grace Community Orchestra, the Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra, the University of Illinois Percussion Ensemble, the Whirlwind Project, and the Irish-American Center in Chicago. The Chicago Musicians Club of Women awarded her the Virginia Cooper Maier scholarship in their annual competition in 2007.



**Brian von Rueden** originally hails from Wausau, Wisconsin. He earned his Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University. Mr. von Rueden has appeared in various opera roles, including Count Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Louis in Holst's *The Wandering Scholar*, Melibeeo in the U.S. premiere of Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele*, and Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, all with Chicago's Millennium Chamber Players. Mr. von Rueden's concert appearances include singing the bass solos in Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio and several cantatas and masses of J.S. Bach, most notably with the early music group Ars Musica Chicago. Most recently, he appeared in the title role of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Chicago Bar Association Symphony and Chorus.



Soprano **Angela Zawada** is a Chicagoland native, having grown up in the near-West suburb of Elmhurst. She received her Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University, and holds her Bachelor degree from the University of Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, she sang the title role in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and played the Third Lady in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Recent roles include Miss Pinkerton in Menotti's *The Old Maid and The Thief* at Roosevelt University, Amaranta in the U.S. premiere of Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele* and Marcellina in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*.