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VALENTINE'S DAY

Vargas to sing of love, loss of love

A night of romantic passion will capture your heart when mezzo-soprano Milagro Vargas and pianist Victor Steinhardt perform a Valentine's Day concert at 8 p.m. in Beall Hall.

"Each and every piece is beautiful and has an individual message that speaks of love, loss of love or adventure," Vargas said.

The pieces will take listeners full circle, from Bizet's playful "Habanera" from *Carmen*, to the dramatic presence of Tchaikovsky's "None but the Lonely Heart," and back to the free spirit of Dvorak's "Gypsy Songs." The evening will also include pieces by Strauss, Chausson, Faure, Brahms and Rachmaninoff.

Vargas, who joined the University music faculty in 1992, was a soloist with Stuttgart Opera from 1983 to 1988. Vargas has sung a variety of roles, from Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* to Nefertiti in the 1985 world premiere of Philip Glass' *Akhmat*, which was later recorded in the critically acclaimed CBS release.

Vargas has also toured Russia, appearing at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre and Leningrad's Kirov. In 1993, Vargas gave a recital at New York's Kathryn Bache Miller Theater. In 1994, she sang Charlotte in *Die Soldaten* at the Opera de Paris Bastille.

Vargas has also been a guest at many major music festivals in Europe and the United States.



Mezzo-soprano Milagro Vargas will perform a Valentine's Day concert with pianist Victor Steinhardt.

COURTESY PHOTO

Vargas will perform the concert with pianist Steinhardt, who is on staff at the music school.

"The pieces are fun for the pianist as well," Vargas said. "And Victor plays with gorgeous colors."

Steinhardt is the chairman of the piano department at the University and has been a featured artist at the Bloch Music Festival, Oregon Bach Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, the Mohawk

Trail Concerts in Massachusetts and the Bargemusic Series in New York.

"Each piece is a wonderful, sentimental expression of love," Vargas said. "It's the perfect thing to do on Valentine's Day."

Tickets for the concert are available at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 for general admission, and \$3 for students and seniors.

— Kristina Kuckartz

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