



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Angela Meade performs as Leonora in Verdi's "Il Trovatore" at the Metropolitan Opera of New York. She has just completed five performances of the same character at the Berlin Opera. Meade will perform the role again for Astoria audiences Sunday at the Liberty Theater. notforsale



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DeAndre Simmons, a bass, will perform as Officer Ferrando in "Il Trovatore" Sunday.



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Mezzo soprano MaryAnn McCormick will sing Gustav Mahler's "Three songs" during Saturday's Symphonic Showcase and appear Sunday afternoon singing the role of the gypsy Azucena in Verdi's "Il Trovatore."



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Award-winning Russian pianist Ilya Kazantsev will perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 during Saturday evening's Symphonic Showcase at 7:30 p.m. at the Liberty Theater.

'I HAVE BROUGHT A CAST OF MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO ARE ALL MET SINGERS WITH ME TO PERFORM "IL TROVATORE," WHICH IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE OPERAS.'

— Angela Meade, soprano

the Teatro de la Maestranza in Donizetti's 'Anna Bolena.'"

Joining Meade from the Met are festival stalwart Richard Zeller, a baritone, plus mezzo soprano MaryAnn McCormick, and tenor Cameron Schultz. Clark is enthused about McCormick's powerful singing as the gypsy Azucena. "She's going to tear the paint off the place," he said.

McCormick, who has an offstage festival role training

young singers, will appear on consecutive nights. Saturday, June 25 she will sing Mahler's "Three songs to texts by Friedrich Ruckert" as part of a Symphonic Showcase also featuring Russian pianist Ilya Kazantsev performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Astoria Music Festival Orchestra. Clark, who will conduct, is happy to see Kazantsev returning to Astoria. He has won the Gold Medal in the International Chopin

Festival, plus other awards.

"Chopin's Second Piano Concerto is one of the most popular pieces of classical music," said Clark. "He is going to show why he got the prizes."

The program features violinist Jeffrey Thayer, concertmaster of the San Diego Symphony, and James Van Valkenburg, associate principal viola with the Detroit Symphony, performing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin, viola and

orchestra.

Saturday's musical programs begin with cellist Antonov leading an informal "happy hour" event at 4 p.m.

The weekend begins with chamber music 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 24. Pianist Cary Lewis, who directs the festival's chamber music programs, will be joined by Thayer and Van Valkenburg, plus clarinetist David Hattner from Portland and horn player Susan Welty of Atlanta, Georgia.



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Angela Meade will appear at the Astoria Music Festival for the fifth time in six years.