

# Joyce DiDONATO – EDEN

2024.6.6 Thu. 19:30 Weiwuying Opera House

Duration is 90 minutes without intermission. Performed in English, German and Italian with both English and Mandarin surtitles.



WEIWUYING 衛武營國家藝術文化中心 國家教術文化中心

#### Program

C. IVES: "The Unanswered Question"
Rachel PORTMAN: "The First Morning of the World"
G. MAHLER: II. "Ich atmet' einen linden Duft!" from *RÜCKERT-Lieder*M. UCCELLINI: Sinfonia Terza à 5 stromenti from *Ozio Regio*, Op.7
B. MARINI: III. "Con le stelle in ciel che mai" from *Scherzi e canzone*, Op.5
J. MYSLIVEČEK: "Toglierò le sponde al mare" from Oratorio *Adamo ed Eva*G. VALENTINI: Sonata enharmonica in g minor
F. CAVALLI: "Piante ombrose" from Opera *La Calisto*C. W. GLUCK: "Danza degli spettri e delle furie" from Opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Wq. 30
C. W. GLUCK: "Misera, dove son!" from Opera *Ezio*, Wq. 15
G. F. HANDEL: "As with Rosy Steps the Morn" from Dramatic Oratorio *Theodora*, HWV 68
G. MAHLER: III. "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen" from *RÜCKERT-Lieder*

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# Special

"Seeds of Hope" - Composed by the Children of the Canterbury Choir, Bishop Ramsey CE School, with Mike ROBERTS

G. F. HANDEL: "Ombra mai fu" from Opera Serse, HWV 40

## Synopsis

#### ONE SONG • ONE SEED

I don't know yet if it's simply the general times we are living in, or if the "Great Pause" alone has given rise to ever deepening and restless queries within, but as Gene SCHEER perfectly captures in the text of our world premiere, The First Morning of the World: "I am filled with nothing but questions." *EDEN* has emerged as an integral part of the journey towards finding answers.

You see, I'm a problem solver, a dreamer, and – yes – I am a belligerent optimist who believes in the incredible power of not only the human spirit to overcome, but with each passing day I trust more and more in the perfect balance, astonishing mystery, and guiding force of the Natural World around us. How much Mother Nature has to teach us through her awe-inducing majesty, her staggeringly complex simplicity, and her ever-present patience. It's almost as if She has all the time in the world.

*EDEN* is an invitation to return to our roots. To remember. It is an overture to contemplate the sheer perfection of the world around us, and to explore whether or not we are connecting as profoundly as we can to the pure essence of our being. It is a clarion call to consider if our collective suffering and confusion isn't perhaps linked to the aching separation from something primal within and around us.

During the pandemic, I observed closely the flowers that emerged from the ground as the "real world" went quiet. Despite our pressing issues of shutdowns and closures, these wondrous miracles arrived – unassuming and unheralded – bursting out of their seed coverings after the long winter's sleep, modestly employing the water and soil at hand to reach ever higher towards the sky, soaking up the full glory of the sun. But the doubt persists, often in the darkest hours of the night:

"What can I alone do?"

"What difference can I possibly make?"

And the truth is, I'm not at all sure of the answer. The immense and deafening pain and destruction of the world at large often overwhelms me. Any hope of "saving it" seems to float further and further away.

This is then the moment when I seek out the comfort and connection of Music: with

each passing day I trust more and more in the perfect balance, astonishing mystery, and guiding force of the Musical World with which we are blessed. Story tellers and creators from HANDEL to IVES and from RÜCKERT to PORTMAN, who have so much to teach us as they sort through the simple complexity of our human dilemma and search for universal truths, give us guidance and wisdom to aid us in our questioning. Time often seems to stand still when absorbed in the integrated harmonies and rich poetry of great music, and in that beautiful suspension we are afforded the gift to examine, expand and feel. We connect. The painful separation begins to dissipate and we are empowered to act.

*EDEN* is a call to action to build a paradise for today: to fertilize, nourish, and protect the pure bliss that the deepest part of us knows and yearns for: the unpolluted perfume of a linden branch; the comforting shade of a towering tree; the breathtaking sanctity of pure love; the generosity of the endless light that breaks open for us every single morning; the dying to the world we have known, only to embrace and live aloud in our heaven, our love, and our song.

The way I look at it, this is the precise moment in time when each of us is called to participate in nourishing and healing our world and our hearts: repairing where broken, rebuilding where barren, replenishing where exhausted. Both Nature and Music are showing us the way. Will we answer the call? With that in mind, I ask you:

In this time of upheaval, which seed will you plant today?

- JOYCE DIDONATO

### **About the Artist**



Mezzo-soprano
Joyce DiDONATO

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Multi-GRAMMY Award winner and 2018 Olivier Award winner for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, Kansas born Joyce DiDONATO entrances audiences across the globe, and has been proclaimed "perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation" by *The New Yorker*. With a voice "nothing less than 24-carat gold" according to *The Times*, Joyce has towered to the top of the industry as a performer, a producer, and a fierce advocate for the arts. With a repertoire spanning over four centuries, a varied and highly acclaimed discography, and industry-leading projects, her artistry has defined what it is to be a singer in the 21st century.

Joyce begins her ambitious 2023-24 season by opening The Metropolitan Opera's season performing her signature role of Sister Helen in a new production of Jake HEGGIE's *Dead Man Walking*, where she will return later in the season to revive her critically acclaimed "Virginia Woolf" in Kevin PUTS' The Hours. This season also sees Joyce touring *Dido & Aeneas* with il pomo d'oro, and further tours of *EDEN* and the GRAMMY Awardwinning *Songplay* in Asia, South America, and Europe. In concert, Joyce appears with her hometown Kansas City Symphony Orchestra for a series of subscription concerts, as well as performances in Istanbul, Strasbourg, and Paris. Joyce also performs in recital at Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, Wiener Musikverein and Carnegie Hall.

Recent highlights include giving the world premiere of Tod MACHOVER's *Overstory Overture* in the role of Patricia Westertord at Alice Tully Hall in New York and Seoul Arts Center in South Korea and an in-depth residency at Musikkollegium Winterthur.

Joyce's groundbreaking *EDEN* Tour has had further success with recent tours in Europe and North America. In June 2022, Joyce joined the Metropolitan Orchestra for a tour that included the orchestra's first visit to the UK in over 20 years, with performances at The Barbican, Philharmonie de Paris and Festpielhaus Baden-Baden. Her performance was "the embodiment of musical perfection", according to the *Wochenblatt Reporter*.

In opera, Joyce's recent roles include *Agrippina* at the Metropolitan Opera and in a new production at the Royal Opera House, Didon in *Les Troyens* at the Wiener Staatsoper; *Cendrillon* in Cendrillon and Adalgisa in *Norma* at the Metropolitan Opera; *Agrippina* in concert with il pomo d'oro under Maxim EMELYANCHEV; Sister Helen in *Dead Man Walking* at the Teatro Real Madrid and London's Barbican Centre; *Semiramide* at the Bavarian State Opera and Royal Opera House, and Charlotte in *Werther* at the Royal Opera House.

Much in demand on the concert and recital circuit, Joyce has held residencies at Carnegie Hall and at London's Barbican Centre, toured extensively in the United States, South America, Europe and Asia and appeared as guest soloist at the BBC's Last Night of the Proms. Other concert highlights include the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon RATTLE, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under Sir John Eliot GARDINER, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick NÉZET-SÉGUIN, and the Accademia Santa Cecilia Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra USA under Sir Antonio PAPPANO.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics/ Erato, Joyce's expansive discography includes the highly celebrated *Les Troyens* (winning Gramophone's coveted Recording of the Year) and HANDEL's *Agrippina* (Gramophone's Opera Recording of the Year). Joyce's other albums include her singular *EDEN* that has toured to nearly 40 cities globally, the acclaimed *Winterreise* with Yannick NÉZET-SÉGUIN, GRAMMY Award winning *Songplay*, *In War & Peace*, the 2017 Best Recital Gramophone Award, *Stella di Napoli*, GRAMMY-Award-winning *Divo* and *Drama Queens*. Other honors include the Gramophone Artist and Recital of the Year awards, as well as an inaugural inductee into the Gramophone Hall of Fame.



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Conductor and Violin
Zefira VALOVA

Zefira VALOVA was born in Sofia where she obtained a Master's degree at the National Music Academy. From 2009 until 2011 she specialized in baroque violin at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, having studied with Lucy van DAEL.

From 2003 until 2008 she was concertmaster of several orchestras in Bulgaria including The National Youth Orchestra of The Netherlands. She appeared as a soloist with the Academic Symphony Orchestra Sofia, Classic FM Radio Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra Orpheus, and Ars Barocca Ensemble – awarded by the Bulgarian National Radio with the prize "Ensemble of 2007".

Zefira VALOVA is among the founders of the Sofia Baroque Arts Festival; the only annual event dedicated to early music and historically informed performance in Bulgaria. As a member of the European Union Baroque Orchestra in 2008, working with Roy GOODMAN, Lars Ulrik MORTENSEN and Enrico ONOFRI, she started her experience in the historical performance practice. She has been concertmaster of il pomo d'oro since 2015, mainly under the direction of Maxim EMELYANYCHEV. Since 2016, she has conducted the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra within their early music series.

Last season she appeared as concertmaster of il pomo d'oro performances with Joyce DiDONATO, Ann HALLENBERG, Franco FAGIOLI, Jakub ORLINSKI, and Edgar MOREAU. She collaborates with Helsinki Baroque Orchestra for wide range of baroque, classical and romantic repertoire.

She has also collaborated with Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, La Chambre Phillharmonique, B'Rock, Les Ambassadeurs and others. She appears in chamber music ensembles with pianists Olga PASHCHENKO, Vasily ILISAVSKY, guitarist Izhar ELIAS and recorder player Erik BOSGRAAF.

Zefira VALOVA was awarded in the competition of the Jumpstart Jr. Foundation, which provided her with a violin Lorenzo & Tomaso Carcassi 1760, Florence.



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#### il pomo d'oro

The ensemble il pomo d'oro was founded in 2012. It is characterized by an authentic, dynamic interpretation of operas and instrumental works from the Baroque and Classical period. The musicians are all well-known specialists and are among the best in the field of historical performance practice. The ensemble so far worked with the conductors Riccardo MINASI, Maxim EMELYANYCHEV, Stefano MONTANARI, George PETROU, Enrico ONOFRI and Francesco CORTI. Concertmaster Zefira VALOVA leads the orchestra in various projects. Since 2016 Maxim EMELYANYCHEV has been its Chief Conductor, and since 2019 Francesco CORTI is Principal Guest Conductor.

Il pomo d'oro is a regular guest in prestigious concert halls and festivals all over Europe. After the worldwide success of the program *In War and Peace* with Joyce DiDONATO, in 2020, il pomo d'oro and Maxim EMELYANYCHEV presented *My favorite things* and is now on tour worldwide with *EDEN*, the latest program and album of il pomo d'oro, Maxim EMELYANYCHEV and the American Mezzosoprano.

The discography of il pomo d'oro includes several opera recordings: G. F. HÄNDEL's *Agrippina, Serse, Tamerlano, Partenope* and *Ottone*, Leonardo VINCI's *Catone in Utica*, and Alessandro STRADELLA's *La Doriclea*. It features Recitals with the countertenors Jakub Józef ORLIŃSKI, Franco FAGIOLI, Max Emanuel CENCIC, and Xavier SABATA, with mezzo sopranos Ann HALLENBERG and Joyce DiDONATO and with sopranos Lisette OROPESA, Emöke BARATH and Francesca ASPROMONTE. Among the instrumental albums the

recordings of HAYDN's violin and harpsichord concertos as well as a cello album with Edgar MOREAU received Echo Klassik Awards in 2016. Further instrumental recordings are dedicated to the violin concertos and the harpsichord concertos by J.S. BACH, with Shunske SATO and Francesco CORTI as soloists, and to virtuoso violin concertos with Dmitry SINKOVSKY.

In 2021 new albums with *BACH Harpsichord Concertos Vol. II* with Francesco CORTI, *Ombra Compagna* with Lisette Oropesa (MOZART concert arias) and Jakub Józef ORLI ŃSKI (*Anima Aeterna*) were released. In 2022 seven albums have been published: HANDEL's *Apollo e Dafne* with Kathryn LEWEK (Soprano) and John CHEST (Bass), *Mandolin on Stage* with Raffaele La RAGIONE (Mandolin), the new recital with Joyce DiDONATO, *EDEN*, *BACH Harpsichord Concertos Vol. III* with Francesco CORTI, Violin Concertos by BENDA, GRAUN, SAINT-GEORGES and SIRMEN with Zefira VALOVA as soloist, *Roma Travestita* with Soprano Bruno de SÁ, and HANDEL's oratorio *Theodora* with a stellar cast (Lisette Oropesa, Joyce DiDONATO, Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian, Michael SPYRES, John CHEST) – also introducing the new vocal ensemble of il pomo d'oro. The first solo recording of the vocal ensemble, *Gesualdo's Sacrae Cantiones*, was released in March 2023 with Aparté.

A solo-recital with American tenor Michael SPYRES, *Contra-Tenor*, (May 2023, Erato) continues il pomo d'oro's series of recordings with outstanding singers. It will be followed by *Beyond*, (Erato, October 2023), the new solo-album with Jakub Józef ORLIŃSKI.

In 2022, il pomo d'oro started a long-term recording project of MOZART-Symphonies and selected solo-concerts with Maxim EMELYANYCHEV conducting.

The albums *Anima Sacra* with Jakub Józef ORLIŃSKI, and *Voglio Cantar* with soprano Emöke BARATH received the prestigious Opus-Klassik Award, and the recording of G.F. HANDEL's Serse, conducted by Maxim EMELYANYCHEV, was awarded the Italian "Abbiato del Disco". In 2018, the recording of Alessandro STRADELLA's opera *La Doriclea*, conducted by Andrea di CARLO, received the German "Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik". *Virtuosissimo* with Dmitry SINKOVSKY, released in 2019, received a "Diapason d'Or". In 2022, *EDEN* with Joyced DiDONATO received a "Choc" from Classica and an "Opus Klassik".

Il pomo d'oro is official ambassador of El Sistema Greece, a humanitarian project to provide free musical education to children in Greek refugee camps. il pomo d'oro plays charity concerts and offers workshops and music lessons according to the El Sistema method on a frequent regular basis in various refugee camps in Greece.

#### **Ensemble Roster**

Violin I Zefira VALOVA Edson SCHEID Dmitry LEPEKHOV Jesus MERINO Miriam HONTANA

Violin II Nicholas ROBINSON Lucia GIRAUDO Katarzyna OLSZEWSKA Ilaria MARVILLY Clarinet Francesco SPENDOLINI

Bassoon Angel ALVAREZ

Horn Christian BINDE Achim SCHMID-EGGER

Harpsichord Arianna RADAELLI

Viola Giulio d'ALESSIO Archimede De MARTINI

**Cello** Natalia TIMOFEEVA Kristina CHALMOVSKA

**Double Bass** Jonathan ALVAREZ Maria VAHERVUO

Theorbo Miguel RINCON

Flute Eva IVANOVA-DYATLOVA

**Oboe** Christopher PALAMETA

#### **EDEN** Engagement Introduction

This special initiative is built on the framework of the "Stage Reading Course" of Weiwuying's "Theater Arts and Education Project" launched in 2020. It partners with the International Teaching Artist Collaborative (ITAC) and internationally renowned mezzosoprano Joyce DiDONATO to introduce the "EDEN Engagement" teaching plan that advocates for environmental sustainability. In the workshop designs conducted by ITAC in its world tour cities, the course activities use various art forms as mediums to trigger students' awareness of the natural environment they live in and inspire them to use creative actions to face the challenges brought by current sustainability issues.

In the performance city of Kaohsiung, two schools that are concerned about local environmental issues were invited: Renwu Elementary School and Hou-Zhuang Elementary School. About 30 fifth-grade students from each school participated in 13-week workshops led by YANG Yu-chiao, the teaching artist recommended by Weiwuying. Students from the two schools took interdisciplinary courses in natural science, literature, physical development, and sound exploration related to air pollution and water resources. This has made Kaohsiung become the "Root City" with the longest duration since the launch of the *EDEN* Engagement, and the students participate in the chorus performance of the program's anthem, "Seeds of Hope," during the encore segment of *EDEN*.

Through the integration of artistic and cultural experiences, students gradually achieve in-depth learning of environmental sustainability issues, and they believe that they have the ability to bring about change and take actual actions. They step onto the international stage of Taiwan to speak for the future of the Earth.

#### **About the Teaching Artist**



Teaching Artist YANG Yu-chiao

YANG Yu-chiao is a multidisciplinary narrative artist whose core focus lies in solo performances of folktale narration. They have been actively engaged in narratology studies of drama and film for many years, specializing in poetics and comparative storytelling, YANG regularly hosts lecture performances on folktales. From a young age, they studied the piano, specializing in Baroque keyboard works by composers such as BACH, SCARLATTI, and COUPERIN. They have also received vocal training under the guidance of Teacher Grace LIN, and have actively participated in solo performances in various opera productions at the National Theater. Furthermore, YANG has been an assistant conductor and professional accompanist for some choirs. In 2017, he began experimental sound performances, combining vocal music, blackboard writing, free improvisation, and oral performance art in the series "Anamorphosis & Anatexis"(based on the folktales) and "Necromantia Dispersus" (based on the poem). Their experimental performances have been featured in various art festivals and cultural events, and they have participated in residencies and international exchanges in countries such as France and South Korea. Currently serving as a teaching artist at the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying), YANG has also been a guest lecturer at the Kaohsiung Film Archive and the Golden Horse Film Festival. YANG is also engaged in experimental literary writing and has published the acoustic Imaging poetry collection titled "Xi Xiang ( 肸 蠁)". Recently, YANG actively explored AI-driven storytelling and collaborative creation. His work "στρέφειν στόμα (strephein stoma)" is featured in the 2024 AI exhibition "Hello, Human!" at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA Taipei).

#### **About the Youth Choir**



#### **Renwu Elementary School**

Renwu Elementary School is located in Renwu District, Kaohsiung City, only 500 meters away from the Renda Industrial Park. The issue of air pollution has always been severe, and local residents in Renwu have long faced the conflict between sustainable environmental and economic prosperity. Therefore, the school's teaching teams start from the perception of local culture, combine the community's cultural context with real-life scenarios, and guide children to use their critical thinking to sort out various perspectives when facing local environmental issues, as well as establishing their own viewpoints. Renwu Elementary School expects the children to apply the knowledge to their lives and think about the co-existence and co-prosperity of people and the environment, while also hoping to awaken the children's feelings and emotions for the land and create a mutual and prosperous environment for both people and nature.

The seventh class of fifth grade at Renwu Elementary School is like a postmodern atonal composition, with a strongly self-assertive musical narrative, unexpected and whimsical avant-garde rhythm, as well as fragmented and persistent accompaniments with continuous bass. In every "movement" of the school, there is warmth and enthusiasm, as well as conflicts and resolutions, jubilant cheers and even sparks of discord. Renwu Elementary School aims to foster an environment where children learn to listen to each other and the world around them. By understanding the space and harmony between different voices, students can find their own unique place and contribute to a beautiful symphony of life.

WU Mingh-siang, LI Chao-yen, LIN Po-yen, YANG Tzu-chieh, YANG Yung-teng, WANG Yuhsun, <u>LO Chia-he</u>, SU Ching-i, CHIU Kai-chen, KUO Yu-chia, WEI Po-chieh, HUANG Yinghsiang, HUANG Po-jui, LIU Yu-hsin, LIAO Pe-chu, TSENG I-ching, TSENG Yun-chen, LI I-chen, LIN Pei-chun, WANG Hsiao-ping, WENG Chieh-en, YEH Cheyu, TUNG Chien-yun, TSAI Wan-chun, KUO Hsin-yu, CHENG I-yuan, <u>CHEN Yu-chie</u>

🔶 Solo



# Hou-Zhuang Elementary School

Hou-Zhuang Elementary School is located in Kaohsiung City, beside the historically significant Cao-Gong Canal, which is also one of Kaohsiung's most important water conservancy projects. The meandering canal flows alongside the campus, adding a picturesque landscape to the school.

The participating students are primarily from the fifth grade, consisting of 13 boys and 16 girls. Hou-Zhuang Elementary School's students are lively, innocent, and eager to explore new things, displaying proactive attitudes. In their elementary school years, fifth-grade students demonstrate higher learning abilities and self-management skills, fostering independent thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The school utilizes the resources of the Cao-Gong Canal to conduct related educational activities, such as environmental education courses and ecological field trips. These activities enable students to connect with nature, understand the significance of water conservatory projects, and cultivate their environmental awareness and social responsibility.

As a symbol of local history, the Cao-Gong Canal complements the Hokkien architecture and local cultural elements of Hou-Zhuang Elementary School. Together, they create a campus environment with a profound historical heritage and a rich cultural atmosphere. The combination of these elements provides students with a vibrant, interesting, and exciting learning environment, nurturing outstanding students who love their hometown and life.

LI Pin-chen, LI You-dian, LIN You-jie, LIN Chen-you,YANG You-cheng, YANG Yong-teng, <u>CHEN Li-hna</u>, CHEN Ting-an, WU Yi-chen, XU Pei-xuan, LIN Pei-chen, PAN Pei-cheng, WANG Rou-yuan, CAI Yin-xuan, ZHENG Jie-an, CHEN Xiang-ning, LI Le, GUO Teng-yi, CHEN Yu-zhen, LIN Yan-yun, <u>SHI Pin-yu</u>, LIANG Rui-cheng, CAI Meng-xue, CHEN Liangtong, SU Chu-yin, ZHANG Ge-yi, LI Xin-yi, CHEN Xiang-qing, XU Pei-en

🔷 Solo

#### **EDEN** Artistic and Production Team

Mezzo-soprano/Executive Producer | Joyce DiDONATO Conductor and Violin | Zefira VALOVA il pomo d'oro

Stage Director | Marie LAMBERT-LE BIHAN Lighting Designer | John TORRES

EDEN Engagement Manager and Partnership Liaison | Sophie DAND

Tour Management | Askonas Holt Production Manager | Colin MURPHY Stage Manager | Phoebe FRANCIS LX Board Operator | Vincent ROUZIER LX Technician | June Gonzalez IRIARTE Set Technician | Javi CASTRILLON Set Choreographer | Manuel PALAZZO

Set Created by | Escenografia MOIA Technical Director | Sergi Galera NEBOT Design Consultant | Joan FONT

Partners | International Teaching Artist Collaborative Botanical Gardens Conservation International

Choir | Hou-Zhuang Elementary School Renwu Elementary School Class507

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Bernard and Barbro OSHER Helen BERGGRUEN The Getty Foundation Sara MORGAN Franci NEELY John STUDZINSKI Ann ZIFF McDermott Foundation Kern WILDENTHAL Mary Ellen CLARK Natalia LIKHACHEVA

Linda NELSON John SINGER Camilla SMITH Dame Janet BAKER Michael BEVERLY, DL Sarah Billinghurst Solomon Foundation Nancu DEHMLOW Katherine G. FARLEY Tom and Pamela FRAME Richard GADDES Eva HALLER Joan and Louise HARRIS INSPIRATUM David JACOBS Eric LAUB Ellen MARCUS Kavita and Anupam MISHRA Frank and Lynne MODRUSON Alexandra NICHOLS Sir Simon ROBEY

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#### Cultural Development Partner | 柯珀汝

