



Celebrity Series of Boston
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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Celebrity Series of Boston
Gary Dunning, President and Executive Director
Presents
***What Makes It Great?*[©]**
The Music of Richard Rodgers
with Rob Kapilow, commentator,
and vocalists Rebecca Luker and Michael Winther
on Sunday, April 1 at 3pm
at NEC's Jordan Hall

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present ***What Makes It Great?*[©] The Music of Richard Rodgers with commentator, Rob Kapilow and vocalists Rebecca Luker and Michael Winther** on Sunday, April 1 at 3pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. This performance is sponsored by Amy and Joshua Boger. Media partner is 99.5 All-Classical.

Tickets for ***What Makes It Great?*[©] The Music of Richard Rodgers** are priced at \$40 and \$30, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or at the Jordan Hall box office, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** has presented ***What Makes It Great?*[©]** with Rob Kapilow 30 times since its Boston debut in 1997.

***What Makes It Great?*[©]** made its debut on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* more than a decade ago, and with its accessible and digestible 10-minute format, quickly attracted a wide base of fans. It soon developed into a full-evening concert program regularly booked by presenters seeking to build new audiences. During each ***What Makes It Great?*[©]** program, Mr. Kapilow dissects a selection of music in a listener-friendly way—pulling themes apart, demonstrating how melodies might sound in lesser hands, guiding listeners through the maze of themes, and finishing with a complete performance of the work.

Rob Kapilow is a graduate of the Yale School of Music and the Eastman School of Music, and is an accomplished pianist. He has brought the joy and wonder of classical music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, opening their ears to musical experiences and helping them to listen actively. The reach and diversity of his interactive events is considerable, both geographically and culturally: from Native American tribal communities to inner-city high school students and from children barely out of diapers to musicologists long out of Ivy League programs. Mr. Kapilow's popularity and appeal are reflected in notable engagements: on NBC's "Today Show" in conversation with Katie Couric, in a program for broadcast on PBS's "Live From Lincoln Center" in January 2008; and in his books, *All You Have To Do Is Listen* and *What Makes It Great?*

Richard Rodgers' contributions to the musical theatre of his day were extraordinary, and his influence on the musical theatre of today and tomorrow is legendary. His career spanned more than six decades, and his hits

(more)

ranged from the screens of Hollywood to the stages of Broadway, London and beyond. He was the recipient of countless awards, including Pulitzers, Tonys, Oscars, Grammys and Emmys. He wrote more than 900 published songs, and 40 Broadway musicals.

Born in New York City in 1902, Rodgers' earliest professional credits, beginning in 1920, included a series of musicals for Broadway, London and Hollywood written exclusively with lyricist Lorenz Hart. Their most notable collaborations were *Babes and Arms* and *Pal Joey*. The Rodgers and Hart partnership came to an end with the death of Lorenz Hart in 1943 at the age of 48.

Rodgers then joined forces with lyricist and author Oscar Hammerstein II, whose work in the field of operetta throughout the '20s and '30s had been as innovative as Rodgers' own accomplishments in the field of musical comedy. Among their most notable productions are *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*. Collectively, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals earned 34 Tony Awards, 15 Academy Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, two Grammy Awards and two Emmy Awards. In 1998 Rodgers and Hammerstein were cited by Time Magazine and CBS News as among the 20 most influential artists of the 20th century and in 1999 they were jointly commemorated on a U.S. postage stamp.

Vocalist Rebecca Luker was last seen paying tribute to Barbara Cook at the 2011 Kennedy Center Honors. On Broadway she has starred in *Mary Poppins* (2007 Tony Nomination), *Nine*, *The Music Man* (Tony nomination), *The Sound of Music*, *Showboat* (Tony Nomination), *The Secret Garden* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. In addition to numerous Off-Broadway productions, she has also been featured on TV in *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order: SVU*, Rodgers & Hart and Oscar Hammerstein tributes, and *An Evening with the Pops*. She has performed concerts, including the Lincoln Center's American Songbook Series; Carnegie Hall's *No, No Nanette*; *Gay Divorce*; and *My Favorite Broadway: The Leading Ladies*; *Encores! Where's Charley?* and *The Boys From Syracuse*. She has performed with symphonies around the world, including London, Stockholm, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Hollywood Bowl and more. Her recordings include *Greenwich Time* (PS Classics), *Leaving Home* (PS Classics), *Anything Goes: Rebecca Luker Sings Cole Porter* (Fynsworth Alley), *Aria, Aria 2 & Aria 3* (Koch), *Wonderful Town*, *Jerome Kern Treasury*, *Broadway Showstoppers*, *Brigadoon*, *Strike Up the Band* and more. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Luker was recently given an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts degree from the University of Montevallo.

Vocalist Michael Winther is returning for his fifth performance with the Celebrity Series of Boston. He has starred in numerous Broadway productions including *33 Variations*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Crucible*, *1776*, *Artist Descending a Staircase* and *Damn Yankees*. Off-Broadway he has appeared in *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Songs From An Unmade Bed* (Drama Desk Nomination), *Radiant Baby* and *Hapgood*. His recent concert engagements include Fred Hersch's *My Coma Dreams* (Berlin, San Francisco), *William Finn's Songs of Innocence and Experience*, *The Songs of Fred Hersch*, *Hear & Now!* (Lincoln Center American Songbook), "What Makes It Great?" with *Rob Kapilow* (Lincoln Center, Cerritos Center), *The Songs of James Taylor*, *Bill Finn's Songs By...* (Merkin Hall), *New Love Songs* (Metropolitan Room), *New Voices* (Symphony Space), *Broadway Cabaret Series*, and *Broadway By The Year* (Town Hall). Recent film and TV credits include *The Avengers*, *Leverage*, *Meet Dave*, *Jumper*, *The Break Up*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, and *Law & Order*.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 73rd season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program, the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops, and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from Amy & Joshua Boger; The Little Family Foundation; Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation; The John S. and Cynthia Reed Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Parametric Technology Corporation; Charlesbank Capital Partners; Susan Pravda & Gabor Garai, Honorary Consul General of Hungary, and the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts; Comcast; Massachusetts Cultural Council; New England Foundation for the Arts; and The D.L. Saunders Companies and The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC.

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