

MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK



Special Edition

May 2018

Composer

Music and libretto by Max Caplan

Producer

Commissioned and produced by
Musicians of Ma'alwyck, Ann-Marie
Barker Schwartz, Director

Directors

Stage Direction by Krysta Dennis
Musical Direction by Timothy Reno

Cast

Leda Richberg-Hornsby, "aviatrix"
from Chicago—Mezzo-soprano Tess
McCarthy

Ida Blair, N.A.W.S.A. publicity leader—Soprano Jean Leonard

Mary Otis Willcox, N.A.W.S.A. Staten
Island leader Contralto—Mezzo-
soprano Erica Sparrow

A Reporter for the *New York Sun*—
Baritone Byron Nilsson

Tickets

\$25, \$10 students

Available at:

www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org/

Aleda

814-441-0852

ALEDA

OR THE FLIGHT OF SUFF BIRD WOMEN

One-act chamber opera in three scenes

Friday, June 8 @ 7pm

Saturday, June 9 @ 7pm

Sunday, June 10 @ 5pm

CLYNK

Glenville Business & Technology Park



The Aleda Story.....Two years ago Musicians of Ma'alwyck mounted a Women's Suffrage concert in celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In preparation I looked at many archival resources and stumbled onto a wonderful blog by the New-York Historical Society which featured a riveting picture of two women in a bi-plane "toggled out in several layers of everything that birdwomen wear, with trimmings of suffrage yellow." These suffbirds, Ida Blair and Leda Richberg-Hornsby, were preparing for take-off on a cold December night to fly over New York Harbor during a national celebration at the Statue of Liberty in order to "bomb" President Woodrow Wilson with "votes for women" petitions. The aviatrix was Leda Richberg-Hornsby (1887-1939), described by the *New York Sun* as "petite, plucky, brunette, holding in her hand the all-around aviator's license she won a month ago which entitles her to fly as a Lieutenant in the Government's service in case of war." The eighth woman in the United States to earn a pilot's license, she was the first female graduate of the Wright Flying School in Dayton.

I read and re-read this blog article, fascinated by the bravery and commitment of these women; I could not stop thinking about them. Their story struck me as perfect material for an opera—appealing, bigger than life characters, fighting for their cause against great opposition, an almost tragedy—these elements make for compelling musical theater. Around the same time, Musicians of Ma'alwyck played a student composition concert at Union College. One of the composers was Max Caplan, then a senior at Union. His musical talent, creativity and maturity immediately struck me. His music had a truly unique and communicative voice, and he seemed able to assimilate other styles of music into his own work. The more I thought about the Suff Bird story and Max Caplan's musical gifts, the more the pairing seemed perfect. Max not only accepted my idea, he ran with it, writing both the music and the libretto.

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz

Burden of the Ballot.....The performance will open with "Burden of the Ballot," a one-act play taking place in May 1917 at Historic Cherry Hill in Albany. Written by Dr. Krysta Dennis, it explores the differing opinions of women in the early years of the last century regarding woman suffrage. When Emily Rankin's college friend Dorry Scribner comes for a visit, things do not proceed as usual at Cherry Hill. Dorry is a suffragist, and the Rankins are not so sure woman suffrage is a good idea. Addressing the suffrage question brings out the hopes and fears of these women living through this important moment in American history.

Performers: Kellyrose Marry, Sydney Paluch, Janet Hurley-Kimlicko, Sandra Boynton



Meet the Composer.....



Composer and pianist **Max Caplan** is a graduate of Union College, Schenectady, where he majored in Music and Classics. He is in the final year of a master's program in composition at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut. His composition teachers have included Hilary Tann, Max Lifchitz, Larry Alan Smith and Robert Carl. Caplan's stylistic interests encompass both contemporary classical music and jazz.

***Creating Aleda*—May 21 @ 7pm**

Attend a free lecture and preview to learn how this landmark opera was created and meet the cast and technical team, hosted by Union College.

Meet the Directors.....

Dr. Krysta Dennis works as a theatre-maker and director in the US and internationally, and teaches at Siena College. Krysta holds a dual PhD from the University of Kent in the UK and the Sorbonne in Paris, and trained as a performer at L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq. Krysta has published with Contemporary Theatre Review and Interdisciplinary Network Press, and has recently written and directed *Votes for Women*, an immersive promenade performance about the women's suffrage movement at Ten Broeck Mansion, Siena College, and Arts Letters & Numbers, and a one-act play entitled *The Burden of the Ballot*, which premiered at Historic Cherry Hill last year and has been performed at the Arkell Museum, the Guilderland Library, and the State Museum as part of the Researching New York conference. Her most recent performing credit was Richard Schechner's *Imagining O* at the Kerala Theatre Festival in India.



Dr. Timothy Reno, tenor, is Assistant Professor of Creative Arts at Siena College, where he conducts the Chorus and Chamber Singers, teaches courses in music, and acts as Music Director for musical theater productions. Incorporating a wide variety of styles and techniques, Dr. Reno's conducting, teaching, singing, and piano experiences reflect a diverse enjoyment of music and collaboration.

In addition to conducting the Montgomery and Schenectady All-County High School Choruses, Reno's recent work in the capital region has included solo vocal and choral collaboration with Musicians of Ma'alwyck, Burnt Hills Oratorio Society, Octavo Singers, the Diocese of Albany, and Congregation Beth Emeth. As an organist and keyboardist, he has performed Handel's *Messiah* with the Octavo Singers, and has performed for services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Trinity Lutheran Church in Amsterdam, and First Lutheran Church in Albany.

Aleda Events

May 2 @ noon
Press Conference
CLYNK

May 21 @ 7pm
***Creating Aleda*, lecture/preview**
Union College, Emerson Hall

May 21 @ 8pm
Backer's Audition
Union College, Burns Gallery
(by invitation only)

May 22 @ 10am
Ann Parillo "Schenectady Today"

May 31 @ 11:10am
Roundtable WAMC-FM

June 8 @ 7pm
Opening Night

June 9 @ 7pm
Aleda Performance

June 10 @ 5pm
Aleda Performance

Check listings on WMHT-FM for early June. Members of the cast along with the composer will be featured in an interview and performance of excerpts.

Backer's Audition

We will be holding a backers' audition party on Mon, May 21st following the public lecture/preview "Creating Aleda" (featuring the cast and technical team of the opera). If you are interested in supporting this opera, please call for more information about the private backers' party at 814-441-0852.



CLYNK

Glenville Business & Technology Park
Route 5 (Amsterdam Rd)
Scotia/Glenville, NY 12302

CLYNK 'drop & go' bottle redemption lo-
cations are located inside participating
Hannaford Supermarkets

Through Ann-Marie's active participation in Glenville's History, Culture & Events Committee, Town of Glenville Supervisor **Chris Koetzle** became instrumental in finding this incredible performance venue. CLYNK is housed in a warehouse built in 1942 by the Navy that was designed to service and repair landing craft used in Europe and along the Atlantic Coast. The staff of CLYNK, including **Molly Renaud**, Director of Retail Partnerships, has been wonderful in this collaboration, and we promise you will have an amazing experience at this venue!

About CLYNK: Art, in its many forms, can be a compelling impetus for change. It moves us. It stirs our emotions. It inspires us. While much of CLYNK's success is driven by the science behind our patented technology, our penchant for inspiring others to create a positive change on the world is more akin to an art. CLYNK is excited to share our space so the impact of Leda Richberg-Hornsby and the Suffbird Women can be told through the story of *Aleda*.

CLYNK is one of the fastest growing bottle and can redemption services in the country, processing almost 1 billion containers since its inception in 2006. A true industry disruptor, CLYNK combines sustainable recycling practices with traffic-driving incentivization for its retail partners. Unlike any other bottle redemption service worldwide, CLYNK offers a convenient and easy bag-drop system at retail outlets that eliminates waiting, counting, and material separation. CLYNK is also the only bottle redemption system that allows customers to create a personal account, accumulate a balance and use funds at their discretion (for cash, groceries or electronic donations to local charities). CLYNK's passion stems from a commitment to creating a positive change in the environment — while putting some change in your pocket in the process. To learn more visit www.clynk.com.



Aleda team in front of pallets of crushed bottles/cans



Aleda "theatre" & CLYNK production floor



Musicians of Ma'alwyck

511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302



LEDA RICHBERG HORNSBY
- CARROLL F. GRAY AERONAUTICAL COLLECTION



Sponsorship/Corporate Underwriting Opportunities

We are delighted to bring the Suffbird story to life, and you can help. There are many different areas at many different levels possible for underwriting (and, of course, you can just make a general donation as well), including individual singers and instrumentalists, stage, music and lighting directors, sponsor the composer and more. Each level of sponsorship will include mention in the opera program and, at certain higher levels, invitations to private receptions, VIP seating, subscription tickets, rehearsals and a chance to meet the person you have sponsored.

Underwrite a performance: \$5,000
Underwrite the composer: \$3,000
Stage or Music Director: \$2,500
Lighting, set, technical or costume designer: \$1,500
Singer: \$1,250
Concertmaster: \$1,250
Member of the orchestra: \$750

Contact Us

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302
(814) 441-0852

Annamarie
@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Irene@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Visit us on the web at:
www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org

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