

QUEER URBAN ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS

Gay-La!

A SPECIAL EVENING OF 'GUILTY PLEASURES' TO
RAISE FUNDS FOR QUO ON ITS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY!



SATURDAY, JUNE 20 AT 8:30PM

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES, 296 NINTH AVENUE AT WEST 28TH STREET

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From Our Board President

Dear esteemed guests,

If the winter holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year, then Pride Month is definitely the most fabulous. There's a festive feeling in the air as communities all over the world celebrate our self-acceptance, our shared beauty, our differences, and our collective strength.

Tonight, we celebrate our own small efforts towards full LGBT acceptance. For six years, QUO has been proudly performing concerts and small engagements that further our message of equality, accompanied by our name and rainbow logo. We've gone from rehearsing in the 12th floor cafeteria of the old GMHC office to this beautiful church. We've gone from filling in missing instruments on the piano to playing with harpists, harpsichordists, and even once a cimbalom player. We've gone from passing the hat, to fiscal sponsorship, to incorporating as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (QUO, Inc.).

As we play for you yet another evening of beautiful music, this time infused with guilty pleasures, pop tunes, and recognizable numbers you'll be humming as you head home, we're asking for your support. We're pleased to present ten enticing lots in our silent auction, all proceeds from which will go to QUO (see our shopper's guide on pages 8-10). You can also avail yourself of our refreshments, or just make a generous gift using our donation form on the inside back cover.

Why should you give? Your donation can:

- purchase a month of storage space (\$35)
- pay dues for a member in need (\$50)
- buy a night of rehearsal at this very church (\$150)
- commission a new composition (\$1,000)
- host a concert in a professional hall (\$1,500)
- buy timpani! (\$10,000)

That list was a lot longer before we trimmed it down a bit, but as you can see there's plenty we can do with your help. Your generosity will make the 2015-2016 QUO concert season possible, and beyond!

Thanks again for joining us on this special night. Enjoy the music, the food, the drinks, and the company. Happy Pride!

Andrew Berman
President, QUO



presents

Gay-La

An Evening of Guilty Pleasures

Julie Desbordes and Ian Shafer, conductors

Brent Reno, master of ceremonies

Radetzky March, op. 228[†]

Johann Strauss, Sr.

Cabaret Music:

Seth Bedford

Three Pieces for Chansonnier and Orchestra[‡]

1. Early Chill
2. Waltz-Intermezzo
3. Ethyl

Brent Reno, voice

Overture from *Otello*[‡]

Giacchino Rossini

Intermission

"I Love to Have the Boys Around Me"[‡]

Irving Berlin
arr. Seth Bedford

Brent Reno, voice

Cole Porter Salute[‡]

arr. John Whitney

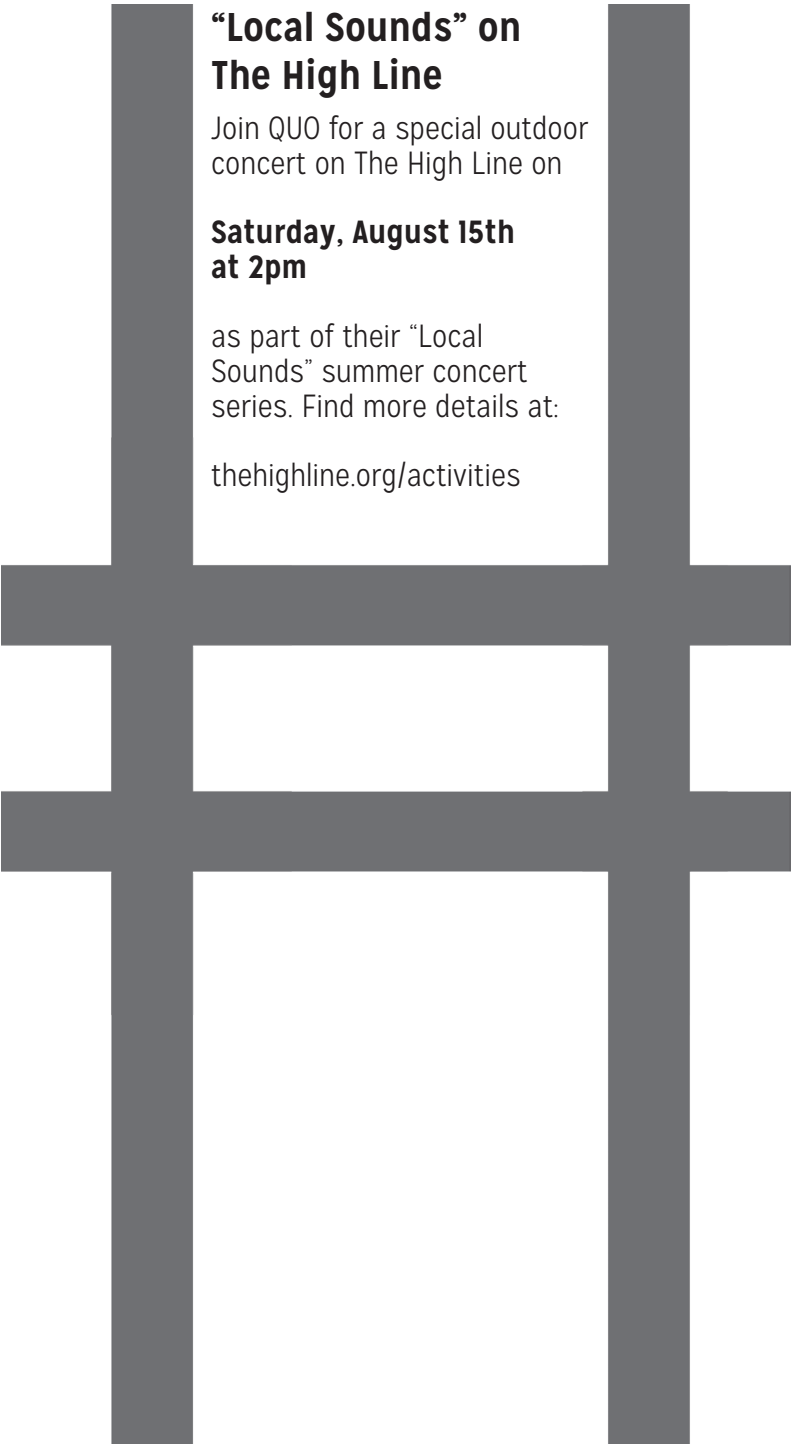
Carmen Suite No. 1[†]

Georges Bizet

1. Prélude
- 1a. Aragonaise
2. Intermezzo
3. Seguedille
4. Les dragons d'Alcala
5. Les Toréadors

[†] conducted by Ian Shafer

[‡] conducted by Julie Desbordes



“Local Sounds” on The High Line

Join QUO for a special outdoor
concert on The High Line on

**Saturday, August 15th
at 2pm**

as part of their “Local
Sounds” summer concert
series. Find more details at:

thehighline.org/activities

Queer Urban Orchestra

Julie Desbordes, Artistic Director

Ian Shafer, Assistant Conductor

1ST VIOLIN

Phong Ta,
concertmaster
Brooks Berg
Brian Harrington
Andrew Holland
Nick Johnson
Navida Stein
Adam Von Housen
Liann Wadewitz

2ND VIOLIN

Christopher Minarich,
principal
Alva Bostick
Andre Gillard
Reyenne Schiowitz
Jarred Small
Stephanie Stattel

VIOLA

Morgan Bartholick,
principal
James Di Meglio
Thomas Lai
Michael Lee
Dustin Zuelke

CELLO

Jay Varga, principal
Kurt Behnke
Alex Humesky
Chad Longmore
Brittany Taylor

BASS

Rodney Azagra
Carlos Barriento

FLUTE

Craig Devereaux,
section leader
Jenn Forese
Scott Oaks

PICCOLO

Scott Oaks

OBOE

Matthew Hadley,
section leader
Bryan Tallevi

ENGLISH HORN

Bryan Tallevi

CLARINET

Travis Fraser,
section leader
Donald Moy
Fran Novak

BASS CLARINET

Donald Moy

BASSOON

Charlie Scatamacchia,
section leader
David Lohman,
principal

FRENCH HORN

Steven Petrucelli,
section leader
Eric Hayslett,
principal
Mary Helander
Nathan Quist

TRUMPET

Joe Burgstaller
Paul Murphy
Ron Nahass

TROMBONE

Jim Babcock,
section leader
Alex Arellano
Amy Soffer

TUBA

Andrew Esposito

HARP

Alix Raspé

PIANO

Scott Hawley

PERCUSSION

Andrew Berman,
section leader
Seth Bedford
Álvaro Rodas
Mark Saccomano



Artistic Director, Julie Desbordes



Originally from Limoges, France, Julie Desbordes' love for music began from the moment she picked up the cornet at age 8. She is now a sought after conductor and trumpeter residing in New York City. Ms. Desbordes is honored to be the new Artistic Director of the Queer Urban Orchestra this season.

As a rising conductor, Ms. Desbordes has enjoyed wide acclaim, including a 2006 1st prize (2nd named) at the DADSM French National Conducting Competition of the Confederation Musicale de France (Paris, France). From 2004-2007 she held the position of Assistant Conductor and Assistant Director for the touring wind ensemble of the *Harmonie Municipale de Limoges*.

Ms. Desbordes' passion for music education and outreach is present in many aspects of her career. She works as a conductor, teaching artist and coach at the Harmony Program (one of the biggest El Sistema inspired organizations in the US), and in the summer she is a regular guest conductor and teacher in El Sistema's homeland of Venezuela. Appointed Associate Conductor of Education and Outreach for The Chelsea Symphony in April 2013, she makes a point to create interesting programs that bring a wider and more diverse audience into concert halls.

An active freelancer trumpeter, Ms. Desbordes performs with several New York-based groups, from chamber music to various symphonic orchestras. Julie has performed in the U.S., the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, France, Germany and Spain. Her love of a wide variety of musical styles has led to musical adventures ranging from the Montreal-based pop group *Lazuli* to the *Collectif 129 Big Band* (France), from Broadway (*Evita*, 2012) to more traditional ensembles. Having been trained as an orchestra musician herself, she believes a conductor should encourage, enable and enhance all the talents of the orchestra musicians onstage while serving the composer's vision.

Ms. Desbordes holds Bachelors and Masters performance degrees in both Trumpet and Conducting from the Conservatoire of Montreal, Canada, where she conducted the world premiere of the opera *Le Quai des Noyés* (by Canadian composer Marie-Pierre Tremblay) and studied with Maestro Armenian. She holds additional degrees and certifications from the Conservatoire of Bordeaux (where she was awarded first prizes in both trumpet and chamber music), and the Conservatoire of Limoges (prizes in analyzing and conducting). She has also studied trumpet with Anthony Plog (Germany), Manu Mellaerts (Belgium), Antoine Cure (Paris) and David Fedderly (Baltimore). Her current conducting teacher is Maestro Gustav Meier.

Assistant Conductor, Ian Shafer



Ian Shafer is a passionate, multifaceted musician. He has held positions as a conductor, an oboist, chamber music coach, and teacher. He made his public conducting debut at 13 years old, conducting the world premiere of his composition, *Beau Terre* for wind ensemble. In addition to the Assistant Conductor of QUO, he has been the Music Director of the Trappe Chamber Players, (PA); the Greater Philadelphia Honors Orchestra, the orchestras of the *Creseendo* Chamber Music Festival; the Winter-term Opera and Orchestras of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music; and

the Assistant Conductor of the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra. Mr. Shafer was the cover conductor of Oberlin's Contemporary Music Ensemble and conducted *Ancient Voices of Children* at the "George Crumb Festival" while at Oberlin. Additionally, he prepared the cast and orchestra for the performance and recording of *Starbird*, an opera, by Henry Mollicone.

As an oboist, he enjoys a very active performance career as a freelance artist in New York and abroad. His playing has been described as, "sinuous, refined... and refreshing, with facility," ([Q]on Stage). This season, Mr. Shafer made his Carnegie Hall debut to a very enthusiastic crowd where he gave the world premiere of Mohammed Fairouz's *Locales* a work written for him on commission. He has also given the world premieres of several other works: *Elegy and Impromptu* by James Adler; *Layers of Earth*, by Lars Graugaard, to be released this spring on CD; *Langanach-Taragto*; a seven-minute improvised solo to Elizabeth Hoffmann's digital score, which later expanded to *Improvisational Spirals* for oboe, dancer, and DJ premiered at the NYSoundCircuit; *Noor Al Salam* (Light of Peace) and *ResoNations* at two "Concerts for Peace" for the delegates of the United Nations.

Mr. Shafer is on faculty at the Manhattan School of Music in the Precollege divisions of Oboe performance, Music Theory and Ear-training. holds a M.M. in Oboe performance from NYU, and B.M. from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Composition and Musicology. He has worked with Robert Spano, Louis Lane, Jorma Panula, Alfred Gershfeld and Jonathan Coopersmith for conducting and Bert Lucarelli, Ray Still, and Jonathan Kelly for oboe. He has studied composition with Richard Hoffmann, a former student of Arnold Schoenberg and has several compositions to his credit, *Fugue for Four Trombones*, which was premiered by members of the Chicago Symphony, *Dreams* for Woodwind Quintet, by the Sarasota Orchestra's wind quintet, and *Russian Games*, by the Oberlin Wind Ensemble.

Guest Soloist and Host, Brent Reno



Brent is thrilled to be performing with QUO again after being a soloist and percussionist from 2011-2012. Texas born and raised, he received his Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Tech University and his Master's degree in Modern American Music from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. While in the Boston area he performed with several theatre companies including the Boston Lyric Stage Company, the New Repertory Theatre Fiddlehead Theatre, Animus Ensemble, and American Classics. Some of his favorite roles include Curly (*Oklahoma!*), Anthony (*Sweeney Todd*), Soldier/Alex (*Sunday in the Park with George*), and Kodaly (*She Loves Me*).

Since moving to NYC, he has become active in the cabaret burlesque scene at various venues around the city as well as singing with various groups including the prestigious Chelsea Symphony. He is a co-founder of the troupe Fein & Dandee with fellow vaudevillian Seth Bedford and they have taken their "Waldorf & Statler-esque" brand of comedy all over the United States. Brent is also an active member and producer of the Weimar-inspired Huxley Vertical Cabaret Nouveau. He would like to take this opportunity to thank his family (Texas and NYC) for everything they have done.

About QUO

Founded in July 2009, the Queer Urban Orchestra (QUO) is a musical organization dedicated to the promotion of fine arts in the New York City metropolitan area whose membership is open to all adult musicians regardless of age, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. QUO strives to entertain and educate members and audiences alike through performances of classical and contemporary music, promoting equality, understanding, acceptance, and respect.

Come play with us

Play an instrument? Come and join QUO! Membership is open to all adult musicians regardless of age, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Chat us up after the concert or email us at membership@queerurbanorchestra.org.

Silent Auction Shopper's Guide

Lot 1: Four Grandstand Seats to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Value: Priceless

Opening Bid: \$200

Win four (4) Uptown Grandstand Tickets to Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade featuring the best of America's High School and College marching bands, dazzling floats, world-famous balloons and, of course, the one and only Santa Claus. With 3.5 million spectators lining the streets of NYC and over 60 million watching on NBC, you and three guests can be front and center and see this magnificent spectacle march on by.

Lot 2: Two tickets to a filming of Bravo's *Watch What Happens Live*

Value: Priceless

Opening Bid: \$150

Hang out with Andy Cohen and his celebrity friends in the Bravo TV Clubhouse. Filming date to be determined between item winner and show producers.

Lot 3: The Inside Scoop: Dinner with QUO's Conductors

Value: Priceless

Opening Bid: \$75

Get to know QUO's artistic leaders at this special dinner with QUO Artistic Director Julie Desbordes and Assistant Conductor Ian Shafer. Who knows, you might also get the inside scoop on QUO's upcoming season!

Lot 4: Adventures in Conducting with Julie Desbordes

Value: Priceless

Opening Bid: \$150

Do you "air conduct" while listening to WQXR? Have you ever wondered what it is like to conduct a live orchestra? You'll start with two hours of conducting lessons (one two-hour lesson or two one-hour lessons) with QUO Artistic Director Julie Desbordes, followed by the opportunity to conduct a piece of appropriate difficulty with QUO at a mutually agreed upon rehearsal.

Silent Auction Shopper's Guide (continued)

Lot 5: NYC Walking Tour with John Kriskiewicz

Value: \$300

Opening Bid: \$100

Do you have a favorite NYC neighborhood? Are you smitten with a certain period of NYC architecture? Take your friends on a custom-designed walking tour led by noted architectural historian, and associate member of The American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter, John Kriskiewicz. Whether you're interested in Ladies Mile, Brooklyn Heights, the evolution of the skyscraper, colonial New York, or more, John will be your guide. Tour will be 90 minutes to two hours in length and can include up to six (6) people.

Lot 6: Bikram Yoga Harlem

Value: \$20

Opening Bid: \$10

Whether you are looking to try Bikram yoga for the first time or are a yogi at heart, enjoy an introductory week (7 consecutive days) of classes at Harlem's hottest Bikram yoga studio.

Lot 7: One-of-a-Kind "I am Free" Dragonfly Necklace with Matching Earrings from Kelley Love Designs

Value: \$100

Opening Bid: \$50

Dragonfly totems represent change, heading where the wind blows us & living life to the fullest. They also symbolize the deeper, dreaming mind, reminding us to both nurture those thoughts & remind us that what we think, we are.

In this one-of-a-kind piece, a beautifully earthy verdigris patina dragonfly flutters beneath a rosary-style strand of handmade glass beads from Indonesia. Your dragonfly is paired with a handmade tassel made from genuine recycled sari silk from India, and an antiqued silver ring with the word FREE engraved on one side. Matching earrings complement the set.

Silent Auction Shopper's Guide

Lot 8: Musical Dream Package with Ian Shafer

Value: \$300

Opening Bid: \$100

Have you ever wanted to learn how to write music, conduct an orchestra, play the oboe, make reeds for the oboe, train your ears, or increase your knowledge of music history or theory? Then, this package is for you!

Study with QUO's Assistant Conductor and Manhattan School of Music faculty Ian Shafer during three private lessons that are tailor-made to meet your goals and interests.

Lot 9: The Theory of Everything with Seth Bedford

Value: \$80

Opening Bid: \$40

Hone your music theory or composition skills with a package of two lessons with composer and Met Opera Teaching Artist Seth Bedford. In addition to being a member of QUO, Bedford is also a contributing composer and member of The Chelsea Symphony.

Lot 10: Two tickets to Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater

Value: \$64

Opening Bid: \$10

Win two tickets to Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater - one of New York's most popular live entertainment experiences, attracting performers and audiences the world over. The classic competition is known for its notoriously tough audience, gleefully deciding who will "be good or be gone" to win the grand prize. Who will be the next Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown or Michael Jackson? At Amateur Night, you decide. Your tickets will be for a mutually agreed upon performance.

About Our Home

Church of the Holy Apostles

QUO has made its home at the Church of the Holy Apostles since 2010, but Holy Apostles has been welcoming LGBT groups and parishioners since the beginning of the gay rights movement in New York. "I know of few New York City GLBTQ organizations which did not have a home at some point in their history at the Church of the Holy Apostles," says Father Rand Frew, 12th Rector of Holy Apostles.



photo by Carlos Restrepo

When QUO violinist Joey Plaster discovered that the Gay Activists Alliance had its headquarters at Holy Apostles in the early seventies, we reached out to Fr. Frew for more information. He shared: "The annual Pride March was announced in the bulletin and verbally, and people were encouraged to take part for the expansion of human rights. The Chelsea Gay Association met at Holy Apostles. The late Vito Russo's documentary, groundbreaking film *The Celluloid Closet* was first previewed and shown at Holy Apostles with commentary by Mr. Russo. The New York City Gay Men's Chorus rehearsed and performed at Holy Apostles."

QUO is just one of several groups at Holy Apostles that spread a message of equality and acceptance through music. We're happy to share this space with fellow LGBT music performing groups such as The Stonewall Chorale and the Empire City Men's Chorus.



Vasanth Subramaniam, second violin. The Queer Urban Orchestra

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Ernesto Lopez
Ron Nahass

Charlie Scatamacchia
Ian Shafer
Phong Ta

Additional Special Thanks To...

Rodney Azagra for sound recording

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Alva Bostick for stage managing and always going the extra mile

Jeff Haines, Michael Hawley, Karen Leach, Lisa LoFaso, and Mark

Saccomano for volunteering tonight

Alan Hyde and **David Drebotick** for managing our music library

Mara Kristula-Green for photography

The Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps for their xylophone and friendship

Nick Johnson for concessions

Scott Oaks for managing our website and program printing

Michael Ottley and the staff of the **Church of the Holy Apostles**

Brent Reno for hosting and singing

Paul Stack for graphic design

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Ticket sales cover only a small portion of our expenses, so we rely on the generous contributions of our patrons. Please become a jewel and help us by donating today.

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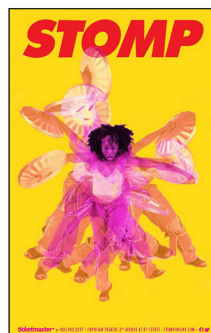
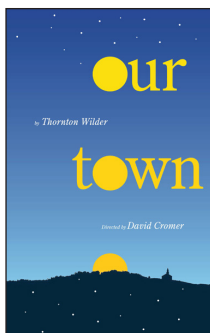
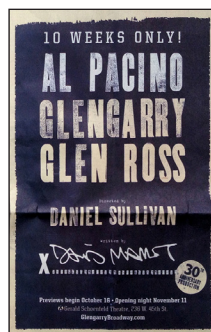
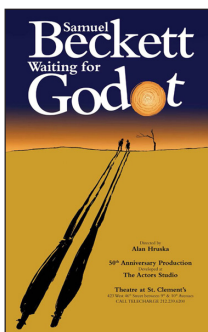
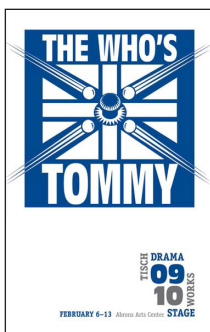
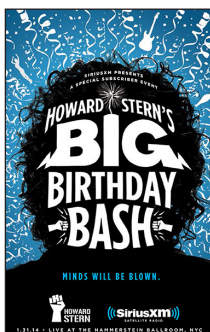
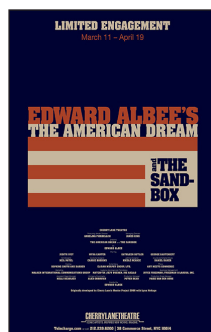
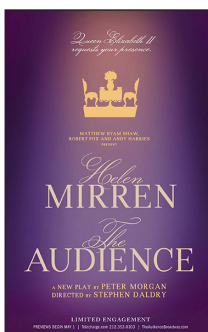
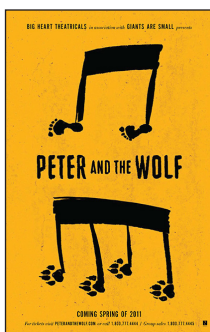
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