

Soprano and Conductor BARBARA HANNIGAN presents 2019 Louis C. Elson Lecture

On September 23, 5:15pm in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, Barbara Hannigan's Elson lecture "Equilibrium" will explore the Canadian soprano and conductor's philosophy of mentoring young professionals. Hannigan is an artist at the forefront of her field, with colleagues such as Christoph Marthaler, Simon Rattle, Sasha Waltz, Kent Nagano, Vladimir Jurowski, and John Zorn. As a singer, conductor – or both simultaneously – Hannigan has given the world première performances of over 85 new creations.



Photo by Musacchio-Ianniello-Accademia-Nazionale-di-Santa-Cecilia

Her range of reference remains wide: [...] inspirations as various as Joni Mitchell's purity; the "untouchable" quality of the theremin, her favorite instrument; and the swoop of the opening line of "Bali Hai," from "South Pacific."

—Zachary Woolfe, *New York Times*, 8.5.2016

Barbara Hannigan sang the title role in the 2018 world premiere of Jarrell's *Bérénice* at the Paris Opera. She also recently sang one of her heart's most beloved pieces: *let me tell you* by Hans Abrahamsen – the work she premiered with the Berlin Philharmonic in 2013 and which she has now performed with over a dozen orchestras worldwide. In the past year, she has conducted the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Cleveland Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Ludwig Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Münchner Philharmoniker and also London Symphony Orchestra, with programs including repertoire by Haydn, Sibelius, Strauss, Berg, Bartok and Gershwin.

This past summer she was Music Director of the prestigious Ojai Festival in California, where the *LA Times*' Mark Swed described her as “the indefatigable Barbara Hannigan, for whom the festival became an ironwoman musical triathlon of exacting singing, vital conducting and inspiring mentoring. No music director of the 72 earlier festivals has had quite that combination of skills.”

In 2019-20, Hannigan begins her tenure as Principal Guest Conductor of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra in Sweden.

Hannigan's groundbreaking mentorship program *Equilibrium Young Artists* is the subject of her Louis C. Elson lecture, given at 5:15pm on Monday, September 23 in John Knowles Paine Concert Hall. Hannigan officially launched Equilibrium in 2018 as a mentoring initiative for young professional musicians that quickly attracted over 350 applicants from 39 countries. The program's inaugural year saw 21 participants hand-selected by Hannigan and with whom she worked intensively on Mozart's Requiem, Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. The latter will have over 15 performances conducted by Hannigan with orchestras around the world.

Hannigan's lecture is free and open to the public, and no tickets are required; seating is first come, first served. Paine Hall is located at 3 Oxford Street, directly behind the Science Center on the Harvard Cambridge campus (Harvard Square Red Line T stop). It is wheelchair accessible.

For additional information: musicdpt@fas.harvard.edu or 617-495-2791