



from
Young Concert Artists, Inc.

SASHA COOKE, *Mezzo-Soprano*

THE
PHOENIX

Boston, Massachusetts • February 1, 2008

Country for old men

Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, BMOP, Marc-André Hamelin, and Sasha Cooke

BY LLOYD SCHWARTZ

➤ Keep your eye out for Sasha Cooke, a 23-year-old mezzo who, accompanied by pianist Pei-Yao Wang, sang a thoughtful Gardner Museum concert on Sunday that included three song cycles about women: John Harbison's mysterious and funny *North and South* (six incandescent, mercurial poems by Elizabeth Bishop), Debussy's erotic *Chansons de Blittis*, and Schumann's domestic *Frauenliebe und -leben*. Cooke has a thrilling, dramatic voice that matches the color of her luxuriant dark red hair, and the empathetic ability to live inside these poems and articulate their variegated emotional shadings. ⑤



ERIC ANTONIOU
SASHA COOKE: Keep your eye out for this 23-year-old mezzo.

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