

The New York Times

5 Classical Music Faces to Watch This Season

Sept. 14, 2018

The classical music season sprawls over centuries and the entire globe, a dizzying array of performances that manages to include both multimillion-dollar productions in front of 4,000 spectators at the Metropolitan Opera and intimate electronic experiments at Issue Project Room in Brooklyn. A balanced cultural diet would include a bit of both, as well as generous helpings of the five artists featured here; we're particularly looking forward to seeing what they're up to in the months ahead. They're musicians who unite virtuosic technique with boundless curiosity, creating new works and reshaping the way we hear old ones. *ZACHARY WOOLFE*

Julia Bullock



Credit Daniel Dorsa for The New York Times

The word “luminous” gets thrown around a lot when it comes to singers, but the soprano Julia Bullock has earned it. [Just listen to the way she sings](#), then repeats, then repeats once more, a simple question — “Am I in your light?” — in John Adams’s “Doctor Atomic,” capturing in just a few seconds a character’s love and loneliness. When she appeared as Kitty Oppenheimer in a new staging of that work this summer at Santa Fe Opera, Ms. Bullock brought new complexity to the role: flintiness, obsession, intelligence, sensuality. She took nothing about the part for granted, just as she and the composer Tyshawn Sorey took nothing about Josephine Baker for granted in their pensive evening-length reinterpretation of Baker songs, a work still in progress. It will be among the offerings in Ms. Bullock’s [residency this season at the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), an exciting showcase for an artist who unites vocal glamour and deep thoughtfulness. She’ll also appear in a chamber version of Mr. Adams’s Nativity oratorio “El Niño,” and in a program of Langston Hughes poems set to music. The residency culminates in a rare revival of Hans Werner Henze’s “El Cimarrón” (“The Runaway Slave”) for baritone and small ensemble — Ms. Bullock will presumably be watching from the audience — based on the story of an escaped Afro-Cuban slave. In June she stars alongside Davóne Tines in Terence Blanchard and Kasi Lemmons’s “Fire Shut Up in My Bones,” based on Charles Blow’s memoir, at Opera Theater of St. Louis.

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