



THE "NEW ARIA"
CLASSICAL MUSIC. *Reimagined*

"Five standing ovations..."

I highly recommend this show."

-BOB HOROWITZ, PRESENTER

ARIA
nouveau

THE EXPERIENCE.

Building on the legacy of crossover pioneers like Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, and Josh Groban, *Aria Nouveau* invites audiences into a breathtaking, full-symphonic experience where classical hits, opera favorites, legendary cinematic themes, iconic popular standards, and global musical influences are all woven together in one spectacular, emotionally charged evening.

True to its name — “The New Aria” — *Aria Nouveau* delivers timeless repertoire through new orchestral interpretations, brought to life by the world-class talents of soprano Laura Auer, tenor John Riesen, and baritone Jay Dref, whose exceptional vocal versatility and undeniable onstage chemistry make every performance a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

THE BUZZ.

UPTOWN KNAUER PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER, WEST CHESTER, PA



“Yesterday was pure magic as we celebrated the stunning debut of ARIA NOUVEAU! The singers captivated us all with their breathtaking performances, blending world-class vocals with unforgettable emotion. The energy in the room was electric, and this debut was nothing short of spectacular. Here’s to the beginning of something truly extraordinary! Thank you for gracing our stage!”

LYCEUM HALL CENTER FOR THE
ARTS, BURLINGTON, NJ



“The word ENCHANTED does not aptly describe my experience, for I was also mesmerized, captivated, and enthralled as I watched Laura Jay and John perform some of the most beautiful songs I ever heard! Not that I was hearing these songs for the first time, but it was the first time I was hearing these songs, a few of my favorites as well, sung by three of the MOST EUPHORIC, MELODIOUS, VIRTUOSO singers I ever had the pleasure of listening to.”

PLYMOUTH PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA



“We love[d] it! The song selections were wonderful – Some of my favorites along with many new songs this show introduced me to for the first time... the solo performances and duets, and of course the absolutely beautiful voices all created a beautiful journey through music and life that [we] would love to see again and recommend to anyone!”

THE MUSIC.

DUETS/ENSEMBLE:

- Torna a Surriento
- Stranger in Paradise
- Moulin Rouge
- Amigos Para Siempre
- Nella Fantasia
- E Più Ti Penso
- Phantom of the Opera
- Marietta's Lied
- The Flower Duet
- Time to Say Goodbye
- Cinema Paradiso
- The Prayer
- The Sound of Music

SOPRANO:

- Ennio Morricone
- Madame Butterfly
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow
- The Swan/Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix
- Gladiator/Hans Zimmer Medley

TENOR/BARITONE:

- Granada
- Nessun Dorma
- The Godfather
- Alla luce del sole
- My Way
- O Sole Mio
- Wicked Game

ORCHESTRAL:

- Libertango/Carmen Medley
- Kismet
- Victory
- Kashmir
- Desert Rose



THE ARTISTS.

LAURA AUER

From acoustic stages to international symphony halls, Top 10 Billboard-charting artist Laura Auer (OU-ər) delivers the soaring power of a pop soprano diva with the emotional depth of a tenured singer-songwriter. Her voice—with “pristine high notes” and a velvety, rich lower register—alongside her original songs and modern arrangements of classical hits has even captivated the likes of Disney and led to collaborations with renowned musicians worldwide.

A longtime collaboration with three-time Grammy-winning producer Tim Sonnefeld helped shape her original songs into a cinematic, world-beat-driven orchestral pop sound they coined “*popra*.” Then in 2021, Auer returned to her classical roots, drawn to the Italian “bel canto” singing style — a lighter, lyrical, sweet-toned vocal technique in contrast to the heavier traditional sound of opera. Auer & Sonnefeld recorded fresh arrangements of her favorite songs and arias to offer a modern take on the true meaning of bel canto. The result was **SEASONS**, a four-part album series: Spring brought her to Taiwan's premier Evergreen Symphony Orchestra for Disney's Fantasy Symphony Live Tour and her breakout cover of “So This Is Love”; Summer debuted at #8 on the US Billboard Classical Crossover chart, with Boyd Meets Girl and operatic tenor John Riesen; Autumn reimagined the Irish classic “Carrickfergus” with renowned Celtic flutist Michael McGoldrick; and Winter, the finale, features her most-streamed track, a cover of “In Dreams” from The Lord of the Rings, now past one million Spotify streams. It was the work that took to create this series — building symphonic reinterpretations of timeless, beloved repertoire — that became the blueprint for **Aria Nouveau**.

JOHN RIESEN

Hailed as “every inch the hero in stature and voice” (Classical Voice North America), award-winning American tenor John Riesen is consistently impressing audiences with his “impassioned...and vibrant” voice (Opera Today). Seen around the globe, he has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Pacific Symphony, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Vegas Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, Portland Symphony, Detroit Opera, Shreveport Opera, Pensacola Opera, Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Utah Symphony, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, the Flint Symphony Orchestra, the Brevard Music Center Orchestra, Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Opera Birmingham, Nashville Opera, Opera Roanoke, Des Moines Metro Opera and many more.

Riesen was also seen on NBC's America's Got Talent as part of the finalist group Metaphysic, singing “Nessun Dorma” as the voice of Howie Mandel. This performance was praised as “The best act of the series” by Simon Cowell.

JAY DREF

Juilliard-trained baritone Jay Dref inspires audiences with his passionate, transcendent voice. Reviewers have called him “Groban-like,” and the emotional impact of his live performances has quickly made him one of the premier vocalists of his generation. For the past five years, Dref has joined world-renowned soprano Sarah Brightman on her Winter Symphony and Starlight Symphony tours throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Asia, and Europe. Traveling with his idol has been a dream come true. During the Covid pandemic, he participated in online concerts sponsored by Classical Crossover Magazine. Dref has released an original duet with Italian soprano Angelica Volpi, “L'Amore è un Attimo,” which remains a popular choice on his digital platforms. He collaborated with the songwriting team of Lauren Christy and Stephan Moccio on his single “Taxi in the Rain.” Moccio, who also worked with Sarah Brightman, praised Dref as “the best of the best,” and Christy described him as a “really special singer.”

THE PLAYERS.

FULL ORCHESTRAL LINE-UP

Standard Symphony orchestra lineup. Full forces, supporting full operatic voice, lush string pads and dynamic pops energy.

2 Flutes (1 doubling Piccolo, 1 doubling Irish Whistle)
1 Oboe (doubling English Horn)
3 Bb Clarinets (one doubling Bb Bass Clarinet)
1 Bassoon
4 French Horns
3 Trumpets
2 Trombones
1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba
3 Percussion (including Timpani & mallets)
1 Piano (doubling Electronic Keyboard)
1 Harp
1 Guitar (optional)
12 Violin 1s
10 Violin 2s
8 Violas
6 Cellos
4 Basses

REDUCED SALON LINE-UP (35 PLAYERS)

Still supports dynamic range and a hybrid classical/pops aesthetic flexibly. Option to support with track elements if required to keep it sounding full (necessitates a click for conductor & all performers).

1 Flute (doubling Piccolo)
1 Flute (doubling Clarinet)
1 Oboe (doubling English Horn)
1 Clarinet (doubling Bass Clarinet)
1 Bassoon
2 French Horns
2 Trumpets (doubling Flugelhorn)
1 Trombone
1 Bass Trombone (doubling Trombone)
2 Percussion (including Timpani & mallets)
1 Piano (doubling Electronic Keyboard)
1 Harp
6 Violin 1s
5 Violin 2s
4 Violas
3 Cellos
2 Basses

BACKING TRACK LINE-UP (5-7 PLAYERS)

MD cues supplemental backing tracks and all players have in-ear monitors providing click track

Piano/MD
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Optional Double Bass
Optional Guitar

CONTACT.

ARIA

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SYMPHONY & ORCHESTRA

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