



For Immediate Release

**OVER THE RAINBOW**  
**A CELEBRATION TO BENEFIT OPERA PARALLÈLE**  
**STARRING ACCLAIMED COUNTERTENOR OPERA/POP/JAZZ SINGER**  
**JOHN HOLIDAY**  
**FEATURED ON NBC TV'S "THE VOICE"**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 14 AT SAINT JOSEPH'S ARTS SOCIETY**



To Order Benefit Tickets: <https://operaparallele.org/rainbow/>

SAN FRANCISCO (March 22, 2022) — **Opera Parallèle** today reaffirmed the company's upcoming benefit celebration, *Over the Rainbow*, Thursday, April 14, 2022 at Saint Joseph's Arts Society, 1401 Howard Street. Special to the evening will be the San Francisco debut performance of critically acclaimed opera singer and finalist on NBC television's hit show *The Voice*, countertenor **John Holiday**, in a spectacular musical program spanning opera to pop, including the artist's heartfelt interpretation of Harold Arlen's immortal "Over the Rainbow." **Kevin Korth** will be Holiday's musical collaborator.

The company also announced today that Holiday will be joined on stage by his cherished friend and colleague, world renowned mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**, for a musical duet.

Opera Parallèle General and Artistic Director **Nicole Paiement** said, "When we selected the theme of 'Over the Rainbow' for our benefit celebration - thinking of the dispersion of light and hope in our community, I immediately thought of John Holiday as the perfect artist." Paiement continued, "John's astonishing voice has a myriad of colors that take you from opera and jazz, to gospel and pop music.

He is also a powerful storyteller with an amazing life story of his own and a generous spirit on stage. His magnetism will magically pull us together into a colorful evening.”

The evening will begin at 5:15 p.m. with arrivals for a pre-event sponsor reception, including a Meet and Greet with John Holiday. Later at 6:30 p.m., Opera Parallèle will welcome all Benefit Celebration guests with a reception of cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres curated by the **Hugh Groman Group**. Popular Bay Area auctioneer **Michael Tate** will serve as the evening’s emcee.

During the evening, Rainbow Chorus Co-Chairs **Deb Stallings** and **Paul Woolford** will announce the launch of a new LGBTQ+Ally social network, the Rainbow Chorus, in support of Opera Parallèle's intentional artistry.

### **ABOUT JOHN HOLIDAY**

John Holiday has established himself as “one of the finest countertenors of his generation” (*Los Angeles Times*). His voice has been praised as “a thing of astonishing beauty” (*New Yorker*), “arrestingly powerful, secure and dramatically high” (*Wall Street Journal*), “exceptional [and] strong...even in its highest range” (*The New York Times*) and “timeless” (*The Washington Post*). Holiday’s unique voice and powerful story have been the subject of profiles in *The New Yorker*, CNN’s “Great Big Story” and more.

**In October 2020, during the 19<sup>th</sup> season of NBC’s popular show *The Voice*, Holiday made a sensational nationwide debut singing an unforgettable Ella Fitzgerald arrangement of the jazz standard, “Misty.”** Holiday was immediately invited to join the John Legend music team for musical mentorship. <https://youtu.be/CTUIHwplvMI>

During the current 2021-22 season, Holiday’s engagements include performances with the LA Philharmonic and Maestro Gustavo Dudamel; a Metropolitan Opera debut under Maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Matthew Aucoin’s *Eurydice*; Munich Opera in Barrie Kosky’s production of *Agrippina*; Utah Opera and Dallas Opera for Jonathan Dove’s opera, *Flight*; the *Messiah* at New York’s Riverside Church; and a concert at London’s Barbican Centre. Holiday’s classical music credits include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, LA Opera, Dutch National Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and Glimmerglass Festival.

In August 2021, Holiday released a hit single “Alive in Me” from his forthcoming album, showcasing his amazing crossover talent. The new single takes on a personalized meaning of love surviving through many challenges for Holiday who says the song “brought about a new awakening in my life and helped me to find that place of surrender – to love, to the process of the journey, to life and my pursuit of happiness.”

A native of Texas, Holiday holds music degrees from Southern Methodist University, Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School. Holiday has been the recipient of numerous major competitions and award programs including the 2017 Marian Anderson Vocal Award; 2014 Richard Tucker Foundation’s Sara Tucker Award; first place at the 2013 Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition; 2012 Sullivan Foundation; 2011 Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition; and third place winner in the 2014 OPERALIA competition.

Opera Parallèle’s Benefit Celebration Chair is **Alan Olejniczak** and the Lead Artist Sponsor is **Bernice**

**Lindstrom.** *Over the Rainbow* sponsors to date include **Donna Dubinsky and Len Shustek, Jerome Roth and Ray Jenks, Didi and Dix Boring, Bob Ellis, Philip Goward and Theodore Ueki, Thomas E. Horn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Lisa Lindelef, Nancy Petrisko, Robert Ripps and Steven Spector, and Jack and Betty Schafer.**

Tickets for the April 14<sup>th</sup> Benefit Celebration begin at \$300 per person and may be purchased online by visiting [www.operaparellele.org/rainbow](http://www.operaparellele.org/rainbow). All guests will be required to show proof of full COVID 19 vaccination and required to wear masks when not eating or drinking. If eligible, Opera Parallèle strongly encourages all attendees to obtain a vaccine booster by March 31.

Opera Parallèle's 2021-22 season will conclude with iconic composer **Philip Glass' *La Belle et la Bête* (*Beauty and the Beast*)**, in a surreal new take on a timeless tale, fusing opera and **Jean Cocteau's** classic 1946 film live on stage. Presented in collaboration with SFJAZZ at Miner Auditorium, 201 Franklin Street, four performances are scheduled: July 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m., and July 17 at 3 p.m. To order tickets, please visit <https://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/productions/philip-glass-la-belle-et-la-bete/>.

For details about Opera Parallèle, visit [operaparellele.org](http://operaparellele.org).

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**NB:** For complete information about John Holiday, visit the official website: [johnholiday.com](http://johnholiday.com)

**John Holiday on NBC TV's *The Voice*:** <https://youtu.be/CTUIHwplvMI>