

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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art.party.theater.company presents

bad romance

a couples therapy session featuring Schumann Opus 39 and 48

In the first production of its second season, art.party.theater.company, “a young company with a taste for smart generous experimentation in form” (nytheatre.com), tackles 19th century song cycles by Robert Schumann. Come in pairs or *da solo* to work out your relationship issues in a welcoming environment along with Dr. Liebe—art.party’s certified couples therapist.* Dr. Liebe will help “translate” many of the he-said-she-said issues that occur when couples try to express their emotions using German romance art songs. “An all-too-common occurrence,” comments Dr. Liebe.

Presenting Schumann’s Opus 39 (Heine’s *Dichterliebe*) and 48 (Eichendorf’s *Liederkreis*), director **Mary Birnbaum** joins forces with rising-stars mezzo-soprano **Rebecca Ringle** (praised by *Opera News* for her “richly focused voice”), tenor **Caleb Stokes** (“a stand out” writes Feast of Music blog) and actress Carolyn McCandlish to create a memorable musical evening. Classical music fans will no doubt recognize Schumann’s two beautiful song cycles of love and longing, but the art.party team promises its signature fresh-take on these romantic cycles with irreverence, intelligence, and magic.

BAD ROMANCE: a couples therapy session featuring Schumann Op. 39 & 48	The Great Room at American Opera Projects 138 South Oxford Street Brooklyn, NY 11217	an art.party.theater.company production Artistic Director, Mary Birnbaum Artistic Producer, Jess Burkle Executive Producer, Leticia Frazao Directed by Mary Birnbaum Conceived by Mary Birnbaum & Jess Burkle Featuring: Rebecca Ringle, Caleb Stokes, & Carolyn McCandlish & Carol Wong
THREE PERFORMANCES February 18 at 8pm February 27 at 8pm February 28 at 8pm	Tickets: \$10 - \$30 Available at brownpapertickets.com/event/96569	

REBECCA RINGLE (*Liederkreis*)

Recent and future work includes collaborations with The Cleveland Orchestra (*Don Carlo*, *Elektra*), Washington National Opera (*Die Walküre*), New York City Opera (*Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Cendrillon*, *Madama Butterfly*), Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi Di Milano (*The Fairy Queen*, *Il Tabarro*, *Suor Angelica*), The National Chorale (Mozart *Requiem*, Haydn *Paukenmesse*) and the Marlboro (*Liederkreis* Op. 39) and Princeton Festivals (*A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Ariodante*). Awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Spazio Musica Concorso Internazionale and Heida Hermanns International Opera Competition. Graduate of Yale School of Music and Oberlin College.

CALEB STOKES (*Dichterliebe*)

Recent performances: Siegmund in Act I of *Die Walküre* (Manhattan Chamber Opera) and Horatio in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (American Opera Projects) directed by Mark Morris. Upcoming: der Königssohn on Humperdinck's *Königskinder* with Dell'arte Opera. Past credits include: Peter Grimes in *Peter Grimes*, Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Narraboth in *Salomé* (One World Symphony), Don Jose in *Carmen* (Dell'arte), Boris in *Kat'a Kabanova* (Yale Opera), Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmelites* (Manhattan Chamber Opera), and The Governor/Vanderdendur in *Candide* (Orchestra di Milano Giuseppe Verdi). Graduate of Yale School of Music and Oberlin College.

ABOUT ART.PARTY.THEATER.COMPANY:

art.party.theater.company makes bold performances that engage the creativity of an audacious audience. Our art is irreverent, physical, intelligent, magical, and surprising. Catching the eye of *The New York Times* blog, *Time Out New York*, and others in its first year, art.party explodes form to illuminate content. Past projects include: art.party's *SCHOOLED: or m. moliere's the learned ladies*, (dir. Birbaum) set in the salons of New York City luxury apartments; *Bryant in the Park* (cr. Birnbaum/Burkle) in cooperation with the Bryant Park Corporation featuring fourteen actors clad in white playing croquet on the Bryant Park lawn while spouting the poetry of William Cullen Bryant; the month-long performance installation *so much depends upon* [a red wheel barrow] at chashama's Times Square storefront; art.party's *Duchess in the Dark* a take on Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* where the audience created a live light design with flashlights. Visit artpartytheatercompany.com.

* Just kidding. She's a certified actor and art.party artist.