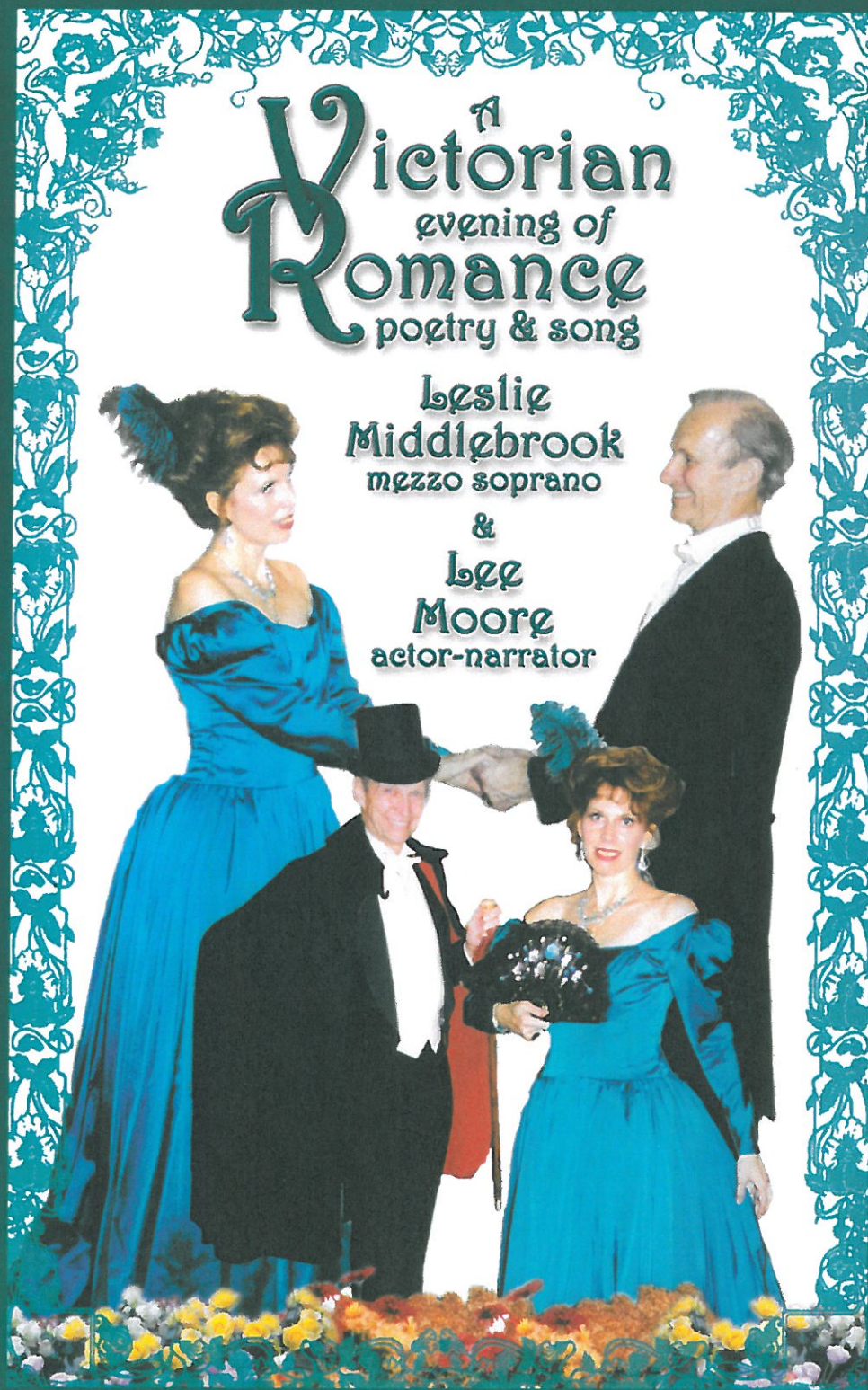


A Victorian evening of Romance poetry & song

Leslie
Middlebrook
mezzo soprano

&

Lee
Moore
actor-narrator





A Victorian Evening of Romance, Poetry & Song *or "The Tale of Dolly Gray"*

This period performance features a delightful array of evocative songs, arias, and poetry presented in the colorful ambiance of the Victorian era. Poetic gems of Keats, Browning, and Shakespeare sprinkle the imaginative program of rarely-heard but beautiful and memorable songs, including "After the Ball," "A Bird in a Gilded Cage," and "Dolly Gray." Selections from the works of Herbert, Foster, Balfe, Sullivan, Offenbach, and Saint-Saens are woven throughout the performance, all together giving respite from the day and transporting you back to a cozy Victorian evening.

A Victorian Evening of Romance is adaptable to a variety of settings. It has been presented in small, candle-lit drawing rooms as well as on the theatrical stage. Mezzo-soprano Leslie Middlebrook and actor-narrator Lee Moore are accompanied on the piano by celebrated composer and pianist Richard Pearson Thomas. Renowned Broadway musical star Sheila Smith is the choreographer and co-director. Presenters of *A Victorian Evening of Romance* include:

The Players, Gramercy Park, NYC
Lamb's Club, NYC
Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre, NYC
Meet the Artists, Lincoln Center, NYC
University Club, NYC
Stone Church Concert Series, New Preston, CT
Benefit for Glenholme School, Washington, CT
Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, Falls Village, CT
Sevenars Music Festival, MA
Gasparilla Inn, Boca Grande, FL


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"The performers transported the audience out of the hurried and pressure-filled 21st century to a bygone era...No one wanted the evening to come to a close." — Lakeville Journal, CT

"Enchanting performance...one of the most exciting Command Performances...superb entertainment."
— National Arts Club, NYC

"Middlebrook delivered charmingly in a big, rich, textured mezzo-soprano with assured technique and stagecraft to match, while Moore's rousing bass-baritone, timing and vocal resources as host/ declaimer bespoke years of experience."
— Frank Merkling, Danbury News-Times, CT

"Music and professionalism...fast pace and perfect energy...each number was superb."
— Professional Conferences International, New England/FL






Leslie Middlebrook

Mezzo-soprano Leslie Middlebrook has been winning recognition and acclaim throughout the United States and Europe from critics and audiences alike. She appeared at The Bach to Bartok International Music Festival in Imola, Italy where she made her recital debut at the historic Palazzo Tozzoni, and was alto soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Verdi's *Requiem*. Her European opera debut was in Bremen, Germany in the title roles on a double bill of Menotti's *The Medium* and *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She also performed in Austria with *Vienna Kammeroper*. In the U.S., she has sung with the Virginia, Berkshire, Des Moines, NJ Verismo, and Harrisburg Operas among others, in roles ranging from Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* and Amneris in *Aida* to La Principessa in *Suor Angelica* and Katisha in *The Mikado*. Ms. Middlebrook's frequent concert and oratorio engagements include her Carnegie Hall debut as alto soloist in the U.S. premiere of Sir Eugene Goosen's re-orchestration of *The Messiah* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, alto soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the St. Thomas More Chamber Orchestra, Harvey Burgett conducting, and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle* with the Brooklyn Philharmonia. She sang the world premiere of Margarita Zelenai's *Mother's Lamentations for Mezzo-Soprano and Strings* with One World Symphony which was also broadcast on international satellite television. In recent seasons, Ms. Middlebrook has emerged as a Wagnerian mezzo, having performed all the major mezzo roles in *The Ring Cycle*, as well as other operas with the Wagner Festival Orchestra of New York, David Gilbert, conductor.

Highlights of the past few seasons feature roles with One World Symphony, VPR Opera, and Opera Company of Brooklyn, ranging from Herodias in *Salome* and Mrs. Sedley in *Peter Grimes* to Frugola in *Il Tabarro*. Ms. Middlebrook also appeared as Mrs. Noah in Britten's *Noyes Fludde* with the Church of Transfiguration Orchestra. Other recent engagements include performances at the Ondine Festival in Bulgaria (Sofia and Rusalka), the Buxton Festival in England, and the world premiere of Luis Andrei Cobo's song cycle for mezzo-soprano, *History*, presented by Golden Fleece Ltd. Recent concert roles include Laura in *La Gioconda*, Bradamonte in *Alcina*, and Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare*. Ms. Middlebrook has also performed with both La Serenata and Light Opera of New York for the past five seasons at venues such as Symphony Space, Liederkrantz, and The Players. She sings annually at the Metropolitan Museum Concert Series.

An accomplished actress known for her comedic talents, Ms. Middlebrook's musical theater credits range from a revival of Noel Coward's *Bittersweet* at the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts to Madame Pavlenko (Margaret Dumont) in *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine* at the Pioneer Theatre in Salt Lake City. She has appeared as Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* with New England Lyric Operetta at the Rich Forum in Stamford, CT (Neal Goren conducting) and the Duchess of Plaza Toro in *The Gondoliers* at John Jay Theater (F. Paul Driscoll directing). Ms. Middlebrook was also alto soloist in the *Best of Gilbert & Sullivan* with Skitch Henderson's NY Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and portrayed the Duchess and the Keeper of Knowledge in the world premiere of a new musical based on H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* by Carlos Gorbea. She can be heard as the Dowager Empress Marie and Lenin's Wife on the CD of the new musical theater piece *Faberge* and appears as Helga on the DVD of *The Magic Fruit* by Barbara Stewart. Ms. Middlebrook recently played the Countess in Victor Herbert's *The Red Mill* with Light Opera of New York during the centennial celebration for Herbert.

A native of New York City, Leslie Middlebrook received her Master of Music in Opera from Manhattan School of Music.



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"Leslie Middlebrook gave a riveting and decisive performance in a complex role." — Weser Kurier, Bremen, Germany

"Leslie Middlebrook ...makes a striking entrance in the first act. She has a commanding presence and a rich confident voice."
— The Denver Post

"As Adalgisa, her luscious lyric mezzo voice poured out so beautifully in the difficult music, and she has the proper style for the Bellini music." — Opera, L, December, 2006

"With a first rate voice and exceptional acting ability Leslie Middlebrook was more than effective as part of the madness."
— Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Leslie Middlebrook, as Augusta gave an extremely affecting, heartfelt portrayal." — Newark Star Ledger

"Leslie Middlebrook is outstanding...a positive masterpiece of comic character." — Times Herald, Delaware

"The grand (Edwin Booth Annual) birthday evening's revels opened with Booth's favorite Stephen Foster song, 'Beautiful Dreamer,' sung by the statuesque mezzo-soprano Leslie Middlebrook, who in her lush voice hit just the right note of nostalgia to commemorate the occasion." — Big Apple News Network, NYC

Lee Moore

Lee Moore is an acclaimed New York City-based theater, film, and television actor. Mr. Moore's theater credentials include performances at several Off-Broadway theaters in New York, including the Mint Theater, where he has appeared as General Bonsor in *The Charity that Began at Home*, Rutledge in *Welcome to Our City*, John in *Alison's House*, and Sir John in *The Return of the Prodigal*, and the Quaigh Theater, where he played Baron Scarpia in *Before Dawn*, Moxley in *Blessed Event*, and Kenneth Blake in *Christopher Blake*.

Mr. Moore has also appeared in regional theaters throughout the U.S. His roles include Poole in the Cleveland Playhouse production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and Rumsey in the world premier of *City of Light* at the Buffalo-Arena Theater. He also sang the role of Sir John in *Me and My Girl* at Fullerton Light Opera in California, appeared as Lord Kitchener in the U.S. premiere of *Breaker Morant* in Los Angeles, played Dr. Alfred Morris in the Arizona Theater Company production of *Permanent Collection*, and Klingehoff in Rochester's Geva Theater production of Steve Martin's *Underpants*. Recently, he appeared as Joshua Pennyfeather in Victor Herbert's *Red Mill* with Light Opera of New York.

Mr. Moore played Glenn Taggart for seven years on the CBS daytime drama *Guiding Light* and has performed in a wide variety of roles on all of the daytime serials. He also played Mr. Bing alongside Kelly Ripa in the television series *Hope and Faith* and was featured in *War and Remembrance*, *Obara*, and *The Law and Harry McGraw*. Mr. Moore co-starred in *Meet the Muncys*, *Columbus Circle*, and in the Italian mini-series *The Lion of the Desert*, with Omar Sharif and Elliott Gould. Mr. Moore's film roles include Reginald in Jim Carrey's *Mister Popper's Penguins*, Father O'Malley in *Christ in the City* (Toronto Film Festival award winner), John Brown in *An American Story* (NY Film Festival award winner), and Winter Garden in *The Cutting Room Floor*.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Moore resides with his wife Leslie Middlebook in Manhattan and Cornwall, CT. He is a member of both The Players and The Lambs Club.

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"Among the excellent cast of twelve in The Charity that Began at Home, Lee Moore stands out in his hilarious turn as General Bonsor, the dullest house guest in England." — The New Yorker Magazine

"The Charity that Began at Home has been expertly cast, with no weak links to be found among the twelve actors. Griffith, Schuttler, and London are particularly good, but the undeniable standout is Lee Moore...His appearance in the first act is so fall-on-the-floor funny, and sustained for such an impossibly long period of time, it's a race to see whether you'll die of laughter or just bust a gut." — Talkinbroadway.com

"Perhaps perfectly epitomizing 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' is Jekyll's butler Poole (Lee Moore) who steals the show, based on his fine acting as well as humorous one-liners that keep the audience alert." — Cleveland News Herald

"In Welcome to Our City, Lee Moore displays a fine blend of aristocratic reserve, simmering emotion, and finally despair."
— Curtain Up

"Lee Moore was the solid center of The City of Light as Dexter Rumsey. His professionalism was apparent in his slightest word..."
— Buffalo News



Richard Pearson Thomas

Richard Pearson Thomas, composer and pianist, has had works performed by the Boston Pops, Covent Garden Festival, Houston Grand Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Banff Centre, Skylight Opera Theatre, and Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir. His songs have been sung in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, Joe's Pub, and before the U.S. Congress. He is a recipient of an American Composers' Forum Continental Harmony commission for the Alabama Tri-State Orchestra. His work *Race for the Sky*, which was commissioned as a commemoration of the events of 9/11, has been performed by the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra and in recitals nationwide.

Mr. Thomas' musical *Parallel Lives* was produced Off-Off Broadway by the Riverside Opera Ensemble, as was *Ladies in a Maze*, produced by Encompass Music Theatre. His musical *Golden Gate* is winner of the Michael Stewart Foundation Award and was presented in concert version by the Monmouth County Civic Chorus in New Jersey. His original music for *In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War* has been heard in more than 140 cities.

Mr. Thomas is currently on faculty at Teachers College/Columbia University. He has also taught at Yale and the University of Central Florida. Mr. Thomas is composer-in-residence of the Gold Opera Project, Young Audiences/New York. In that capacity, he has composed more than 85 operas with students in New York City public schools. His work with children was featured on CBS's *The Early Show* and singled out for praise by President Clinton when Young Audiences/New York was awarded the National Medal of Arts. Additionally, Mr. Thomas has concertized with singers worldwide.

He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California, and is a native of Montana.


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"Thomas dominated the program. Like that of most of his colleagues here, his music is rooted in soothing diatonic language. Dissonance is present, but it serves more to decorate than take on a life of its own. Mr. Thomas has listened acutely to the world around him. He can bounce with nervous metric energy, sing simply, and do a nice Kurt Weill imitation as well." — The New York Times

"The peerless accompaniment of Thomas was evidenced by his ability to unobtrusively support the vocal duo of Trillium Ensemble while playing as many notes as he did." — ABC Newspapers, Anoka, Minnesota

"Richard Pearson Thomas is gaining national recognition as a classically trained composer of opera, chamber music, art and cabaret songs, music theater, and film music. Like Bolcom, his three volumes of Cabaret Songs combine contemporary classical harmonic and rhythmic language with the European cabaret tradition and popular American musical style. Thomas blends current classical dissonances into popular music rhythms. His songs present a variety of styles including a dissonant tango, a modern version of a Parisian Valse, and spare expansive Coplandesque chordal writing that supports deeply emotional text." — NATS Journal of Singing

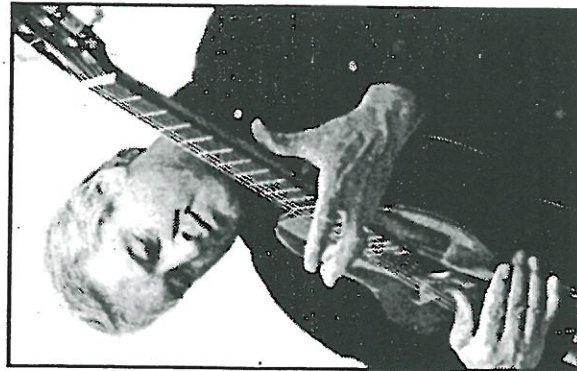
"The concert included some very wonderful medleys and original compositions by Thomas. The accompaniment, along with the original songs of Thomas, added subtlety, warmth and depth to the richness of the evening." — The Journal-Standard, Freeport, Illinois



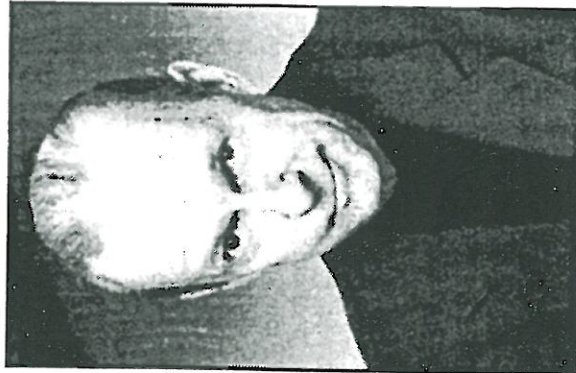
Voices Section Two



Daniel Cory



Pedro Avila



Lee Moore



Leslie Middlebrook

NEW PRESTON — The First Ecclesiastical Society of New Preston offers three concerts at the Stone Church in New Preston this summer.

Each concert is at 6 p.m. Sundays with tickets priced at \$20; all three events can be purchased for \$50.

American bass Daniel Cory with accompanist Iya Fedotova will present an evening of Musorgsky and other songs July 20.

Originally from Pasadena, Calif., Mr. Cory began private lessons with a protégée of Ezio Pinza and went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music and Northwestern University in Chicago.

Cornwall residents mezzo-soprano Leslie Middlebrook and actor-narrator Lee Moore, accompanied by Richard Pearson Thomas, will perform *A Victorian Evening of Romance, Poetry and Song* August 3.

Ms. Middlebrook, also known as an accomplished actress with comedic talent, has been winning recognition and

acclaim throughout the U.S. and Europe from both critics and audiences.

She has more than 40 roles in her repertoire and has performed with the San Francisco Opera, the Virginia Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Berkshire Opera and the Colorado Gilbert and Sullivan Festival.

Mr. Moore has made many contributions to film and many roles on television.

Mr. Thomas has had works performed by the Boston Pops, Covent Garden Festival, Houston Grand Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Banff Center and the Skylight Opera Theatre.

His songs have been sung in Alice Tully Hall, before the U.S. Congress and throughout Europe.

With a dialogue written by Mr. Moore, this evening features evocative songs, arias and poetry, with some rarely

heard but remembered melodies, such as "After the Ball," "A Bird in a Gilded Cage," and "Dolly Gray," and with selections from the works of Herbert, Foster, Balfe, Sullivan, and Saint Saens, as well as some poems of Keats, Browning and Shakespeare.

Guitarist and singer Pedro Avila will offer songs by Lorca as well as songs from different countries August 17.

Mr. Avila began his musical career in Paris, where he cut records, performed with various orchestras and musical groups and also became the lead singer in Moulin Rouge.

Increasingly interested in "lending music to poetry," Mr. Avila then traveled to Greece, Brazil and Mexico where he gave many recitals and performances including at universities and on television, and also made further recordings.

Those seeking further information may call 860-868-7211.

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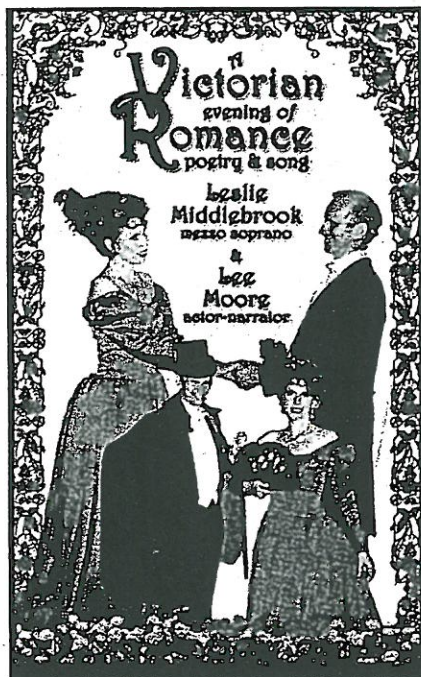
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MUSIC: NEW PRESTON



Leslie Middlebrook and Lee Moore are among the musical acts appearing in the summer concert series held at the Stone Church in New Preston.

Courtesy Stone Church

A Victorian celebration opens New Preston series

The First Ecclesiastical Society of New Preston recently announced several Sunday concerts to be held at the Stone Church in New Preston this summer. Each concert is on a Sunday at 6 p.m. with tickets priced at \$20 and all three events can be purchased for \$50.

Today, Cornwall residents Mezzo-Soprano Leslie Middlebrook and actor-narrator Lee Moore, accompanied by Richard Pearson Thomas, will perform: A Victorian Evening of Romance, Poetry and Song.

Mezzo-Soprano Leslie Middlebrook, also known as an accomplished actress with comedic talent, has been winning recognition and acclaim throughout the United States and Europe from both critics and audiences. She has over 40 roles in her repertoire, including Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Cigaretta in Mascagni's *Isabeau*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Amneris in *Aida* and Katisha in *The Mikado*.

She has performed with the San Francisco Opera, the Virginia Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Berkshire Opera, and the Colorado Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, to name a few.

Ms. Middlebrook made her Carnegie Hall debut as alto soloist in the American premiere of Sir Eugene Goossens's re-orchestration of *The Messiah* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Actor Lee Moore has made many contributions to film (2003 releases include *Sin of the Fathers* and *Ghost Houses*, where he plays the lead) and many roles on television.

Pianist and composer Richard Pearson Thomas has had works performed by the Boston Pops, Covent Garden Festival, Houston Grand Opera Chautauqua Opera, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Banff Center and the Skylight Opera Theatre.

His songs have been sung in Alice Tully Hall, before the U.S. Congress and throughout Europe. He has performed concerts with singers worldwide, and has served as coach/director for the Aspen Music Festival and the Yale School of Music. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and is a native of Montana.

With a dialogue written by Lee Moore, this evening features evocative songs, arias, and poetry, with some rarely heard but memorable melodies, such as "After The Ball," "A Bird in a Gilded Cage," and "Dolly Gray," and with selections from the works of Herbert, Foster Balfe, Sullivan, and Saint-Saens, as well as some poems of Keats, Browning and Shakespeare.

Guitarist and Singer Pedro Avila will offer songs by the great Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca and songs from other countries on Aug. 17. Pedro Avila is known for his extensive repertoire and his warm, expressive voice.