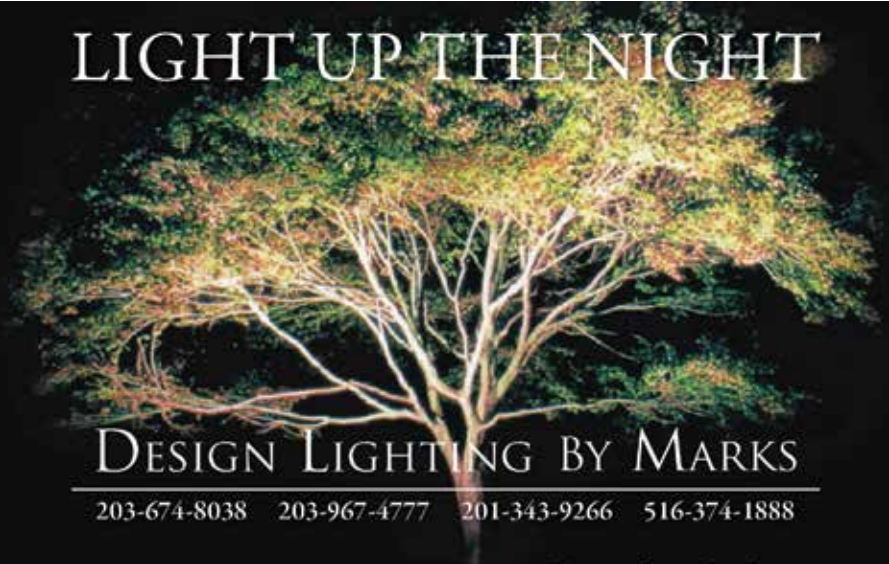


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# Winter Pops!

December 18, 2016, at 3pm

**Ted Sperling, conductor**  
**Ashley Brown, vocals**  
**Ji, piano**

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## Ashley Brown, vocals

**A**shley Brown originated the title role in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway for which she received Outer Critics, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations for Best Actress. Ms. Brown also starred as Mary Poppins in the national tour of *Mary Poppins* where she garnered a Garland Award for Best Performance in a Musical. Ms. Brown's other Broadway credits include Belle in *Beauty and The Beast*, and she has starred in the national tour of Disney's *On The Record*. Ms. Brown recently returned to critical acclaim starring in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of *Oklahoma!* She has played Magnolia opposite Nathan Gunn in Francesca Zembello's *Showboat*, also with the Lyric Opera. Ms. Brown has performed with virtually all of the top orchestras in North America, including the

Boston Pops, the New York Philharmonic, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra at Disney Hall, The Pittsburgh Symphony, the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall (four times), Fort Worth Symphony, the Cincinnati Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra (two times), the Milwaukee Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony (three times), Seattle Symphony, the Houston Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Jacksonville (two times), and the Philly Pops. She has also performed with the BBC Orchestra opposite Josh Groban. Ms. Brown made her solo concert debut at The Kennedy Center as part of Barbara Cook's Spotlight Series, and has appeared in New York City at prestigious venues including Feinstein's at the Regency and Birdland. Other projects include star turns in *Hello Dolly!* at The Goodspeed Opera House, *The Sound of Music* at the St. Louis MUNY which garnered her a Kevin Kline Award, *Limelight* at the La Jolla Playhouse, and her own PBS special called *Ashley Brown: Call Me Irresponsible* which received a PBS Telly Award. Other television credits include NBC's *The Sound of Music*. Ms. Brown's long awaited album of Broadway and American Songbook standards is available on Ghostlight/Sony. Ms. Brown is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

**H**ailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as "a gifted young pianist who is clearly going places," Ji has been praised from a young age for his compelling musical presence and impressive technical command. He has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Toronto Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Nashville Symphony, Bangor Symphony, Fairfax Symphony, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Philharmonic, Victoria Symphony, New

Haven Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, and the Brevard Festival Orchestra.

Winner of the 2012 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Ji made recital debuts at Merkin Concert Hall and the Kennedy Center on the Young Concert Artists Series to rave reviews. He has given recitals and educational outreach programs throughout the U.S. at the Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center, the Harriman-Jewell Series, Philadelphia's Morning Musicales, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Mary Baldwin College, the Brownville Concert Series, La Jolla Music Society, San Diego's Mainly Mozart Festival, the Morgan Library and Museum, St. Vincent College, the Evergreen Museum and Library, the Port Washington Library, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. He has also performed in four-hand recitals with Marika Bournaki at the Seoul Art Center and with Charles Wadsworth in a chamber music program of Charles Wadsworth and Friends.

Highlights of the 2016-2017 season include recitals at the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, the National Gallery of Art, the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Iowa State University, the Haywood County Arts Council, Mexico's Centro Nacional de las Artes, the Honest Brook Music Festival, and Saint Martin's Abbey Church.

Well-known in Korea, Ji performed the country's first outdoor classical concert as soloist with the BBC Symphony under Jiri Belohlávek and performed in Seoul with world-renowned ballerina, Sue Jin Kang and dancers from the Stuttgart Ballet. Ji's creative vision to make classical music accessible to young people led to his "Stop & Listen" outdoor "guerrilla" performances in 2010, during which he worked with renowned Korean pop-artist Tae Jung Kim to design the "Ji-T" piano, bringing classical music to the public on the busy streets of Seoul. He also collaborated with the Japanese electronic/house music singer FreeTEMPO. From 2008 to 2013, Ji performed as a member of the Ensemble DITTO in Korea and Japan with violinist



## Ji, piano

Stefan Jackiw, violist Richard O'Neill, and cellist Michael Nicolas.

In early 2016, Ji was the star of a national Android commercial in which he performs Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata on two pianos, one that features the usual 88 pitches on a piano, and one that is tuned so that each key plays a middle C. He has recorded two CDs: *Bach Exhibition* on the Credia label, and *Lisztomania* with Credia/Universal Music. He will be recording his next CD on the Warner Classics Label.

Ji began playing the piano at the age of five. At the age of ten, he was the youngest pianist to win the New York Philharmonic's Young Artists Competition, resulting in a performance at Avery Fisher Hall under Maestro Kurt Masur. He graduated from The Juilliard School where he studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky.