

YEHUDA GILAD CONDUCTS SASHA COOKE AND THE COLBURN ORCHESTRA



Opera News heralded mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke's** debut album on Yarlung Records and described her onstage "attractive, erotic stage presence." Writing in *Opera News* specifically about this recording **Eric Myers** continues "Chausson's heartfelt *Poème de l'Amour et de la Mer* is a magnificently over-the-top work, one that can be hugely effective when performed by a singer of Cooke's intelligence and restraint. ... her voice rides beautifully atop Chausson's churning Symbolist score." The *New Zealand Herald* describes Sasha's voice as "bewitchingly lustrous."

Even though Sasha Cooke has been recognized as a young superstar in concert and opera for many years, it was as Kitty Oppenheimer in The Met's 2008 production of **John Adams' Doctor Atomic** that we first heard her. Since then we have heard Sasha's Southern California debuts with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Opera, at San Francisco Opera and in Santa Fe. Sasha's concert and opera schedule now takes her all over the world. Sasha won her first GRAMMY® Award for Sony's DVD release of *Doctor Atomic* from The Met and her second GRAMMY for **The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs at Santa Fe Opera**. In addition to her performances in the major concert halls and opera houses around the world, Sasha performs regularly with **The English Concert** conducted by Yarlung's Special Advisor **Harry Bicket**. Speaking of Chausson, I hope you were fortunate enough to hear a 2021 live performance or telecast of Sasha as Genièvre in Chausson's magnificent Wagner-inspired opera **Le roi Arthus**, Chausson's

version of the King Arthur legend. **Tony Tommassini** wrote "As the queen, the mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke brings gleaming sound and a touch of self-destructive volatility to her singing" in a rave *New York Times* review.

Colburn Orchestra musicians enrich our lives in Los Angeles. Maestro **Yehuda Gilad** elicits sensitive and lyrical interpretations of the repertoire. The *New York Times* recognizes his "strong imaginative programming," and



SASHA COOKE

POÈME DE L'AMOUR ET DE LA MER

SIDE A LA FLEUR DES EAUX
INTERLUDE
SIDE B LA MORT DE L'AMOUR

"great sensitivity for details." Gilad's appearances on the podium have garnered critical acclaim in the United States, Asia and Europe, where he has conducted throughout Spain, Sweden, Germany, Finland and France. Over the course of his career, he has collaborated with many leading musicians including Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham, Sarah Chang, Ann Marie McDermott, Pepe Romero, Joseph Kalichstein, Vladimir Feltsman, Misha Dichter, Jeannine Altmeyer and Sasha Cooke.

To capture the luscious sound of Sasha Cooke and Colburn Orchestra in the wonderful acoustics of Zipper Hall at The Colburn School, we built out and doubled the size of the stage to accommodate the number of musicians. We chose two coincident Neumann U-47s for 95% of the sound and two AKG C-12s for a small amount of reinforcement for the percussion and winds. We used microphone preamplifiers made for Yarlung by **Elliot Midwood**. We summed into two tracks as usual, without using a mixing board, and went directly to Agfa-formula 468 tape.

This album proudly bears the seal and endorsement of the Los Angeles and Orange County Audio Society. President **Mike Wechsberg**, Chairman **Robert Levi** and the society's multi-year collaboration with Yarlung have

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The Colburn Orchestra, Caitlin Kelley, Concertmaster

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: JIM MULALLY
Producer and Recording Engineer: Bob Attiyeh
Mastering Engineers:
Steve Hoffman, Arian Jansen, Bob Attiyeh
SonoruS Holographic Imaging Technology by Arian Jansen
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Cover Photography: Dario Acosta
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YARLUNG RECORDS
BOB ATIYEH, PRODUCER

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enabled joint concerts and recordings to reach larger audiences; indeed many on Yarlung's technical team and board of directors are members of the Audio Society. Sasha joins me in expressing appreciation.

Yarlung Records joined **SonoruS Audio** at The Show in Newport with analog tape of this album before its release on CD or vinyl. Numerous critics and friends kept returning to our room to hear more of Sasha and this tape. **Dr. David W. Robinson**, Editor-in-Chief of *PFO* later gave Yarlung and SonoruS the prestigious **Audio Oasis Award** in recognition of his return again and again over the course of the show to hear Sasha and Colburn Orchestra repeatedly. Sasha and the outstanding Colburn Orchestra under the baton of Yehuda Gilad offer us a musical oasis indeed.

Enjoy executive producer **Jim Mulally's** earlier 180 Gram vinyl releases on Yarlung Records, including Sibelius Piano Trio's *Korppoo Trio* nominated for a GRAMMY and ICMA Award, and for Sasha's earlier album *If You Love for Beauty*, including works by John Adams, Mahler and Handel.

Ernest Chausson composed and revised *Poème de l'Amour et de la Mer* for ten years, writing between 1882 and 1892, setting the text of three poems by his friend Maurice Bouchor. The first movement of Chausson's work sets the poem *La fleur des eaux*, followed by an orchestral interlude (cello solo here played beautifully by Benjamin Lash) followed by a second movement for which Chausson set Bouchor's poem *La mort de l'amour* and concluded with part of Bouchor's *Le temps des lilas*.

–Bob Attiyeh, producer

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