

The poster features a dark blue background with a subtle, textured pattern of stars and stripes, reminiscent of the American flag. The title 'AMERICAN Connections' is prominently displayed in the center-left. 'AMERICAN' is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, while 'Connections' is in a large, elegant, white script font. To the right of the title, the concert date and time are listed in a white sans-serif font. Below this, the featured works are listed in a smaller, italicized white font. The overall design is sophisticated and patriotic.

Saturday, November 16th, 7:30pm

Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*
Ives' *Songs for Mezzo-soprano and Chamber Orchestra*
Ravel's *Trois Poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*
Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*

AMERICAN

Connections

Once again, Music Director Jonathan Yates has put together an exciting concert. Titled “American Connections,” the program is best epitomized by its featured work, George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, performed by acclaimed pianist Andrew Armstrong.

The evening commences with two intriguing song cycles, one by Charles Ives - *Mists, Charlie Rutlage and Rainbow* - and the other by Maurice Ravel - *Tres Poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*. Mezzo soprano star Rebecca Ringle Kamarei will be the soloist for these songs.

A third and tremendously innovative part of the concert will be a world premiere ballet set to Richard Wagner’s *Siegfried Idyll*, created and performed by the New England Dance Theatre. Written for his wife, Cosimo and performed on her birthday, it is an homage to the birth of their son, Siegfried.

Pianist Andrew Armstrong grew up in New Canaan. At the age 19, he won a Jury Discretionary Award at the 1993 Van Cliburn Competition. He then spent years perfecting his musical voice and building his career, which today covers the globe and includes appearances with conductors such as Peter Oundjian, Itzhak Perlman and Günther Herbig. His interpretation of *Rhapsody in Blue* on YouTube (with the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra) has drawn ecstatic praise from over 1.8 million listeners.

Mezzo Soprano Rebecca Ringle sings regularly at the Met and with the New York City Opera. Her “richly focused voice” (Opera News) has been heard in such leading roles as Queen Dido in Henry Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, at the Macau Music Festival, and Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, with the Piedmont Opera. A typical comment: “Fearlessly focused, Ms. Ringle sounded mellow and melancholy, her mezzo taking on an otherworldly luminousness” (New York Times).

The concert is at 7:30 PM at the historic Norwalk Concert Hall at 125 East Avenue, where the NSO has performed for eighty years. Individual tickets, which range from \$10 for students to \$50 for the best seats can be purchased online at the Symphony’s website www.norwalksymphony.org or by calling the office at 203-956-6771