

Gawain and the Green Knight

A New Year's Legend from Camelot

words and music by Doug Balliett

with Karim Sulayman, Molly Netter, Jesse Blumberg, ACRONYM, and more

December 31th, 7:30 PM doors // 8 PM concert

St. Mary's Church 440 Grand St, New York, NY 10002

\$60 - ticket includes champagne and treats

Back for the third year by popular demand, celebrate New Year's Eve in Manhattan with *Gawain and the Green Knight*: New Year's legend, horror story, romance, paean to nature. Set at King Arthur's court, huddled in luxury on the borders of unforgiving wilderness and forces unknown, Gawain has agreed to have his head chopped off in a year's time. But why? And can he live up to his promise, or his legendary perfection?

Now a yearly New Year's tradition, composer Doug Balliett teams up with baroque string band ACRONYM and a formidable cast of singers to present this medieval Christmas tale as a passion play filled with music, story, and song. Performed at the Camelot-esque Grand Hall at St. Mary's Church, jewel of the Lower East Side, the audience is immersed in King Arthur's court, complete with edible dainties, wine and champagne, and sheet music for the choral sing-alongs. Grammy winner Karim Sulayman takes the title role of Gawain, while other major roles are taken by baroque opera favorites Molly Netter, Jesse Blumberg, Taylor Ward, and more. The highly acclaimed baroque ensemble ACRONYM brings their characteristic groove and virtuosity.

CAST:

Karim Sulayman, Gawain

Taylor Ward, The Green Knight

Molly Netter, Lady Bertilak

Jesse Blumberg, King Arthur

Elisa Sutherland, Morgan le Fay

Anicet Castel, Bishop Baldwin

musicians from ACRONYM, supplemented by winds and reinforced continuo

Praise for ACRONYM:

"it would be hard to find any Biber that has been better performed." — American Record Guide

"ACRONYM's consistently fine intonation and exceptional ensemble were nothing short of amazing all evening." — Cleveland Classical

"consummate style, grace and unity of spirit..." — The New York Times

"Played with expertise, enthusiasm, and an almost tactile sense of timbre..." — Gramophone

<http://www.acronymensemble.com/>

Praise for Doug Balliett:

"Get ready to know Doug Balliett—a name you will remember after this year." — Charleston Today

"Move over Lin Manuel Miranda. Your phenomenon has ignited the world and paved the way for new music-theatre makers." — DCTheaterScene

"brilliant and witty" — The New York Times

Praise for the singers:

Karim Sulayman:

“Lucid, velvety tenor and pop star charisma” —BBC Music Magazine
2019 GRAMMY® Award Winner, Best Classical Solo Vocal Album
www.karimsulayman.com/about

Molly Netter:

"clear, beautiful tone and vivacious personality" (NYTimes)
<https://about.me/mollyknetter>

John Taylor Ward:

“finely calibrated precision and heart-rending expressivity” (Washington Post)
<https://www.johntaylorward.com/>

Jesse Blumberg:

“baritone Jesse Blumberg stole the show with his bass arias, strong yet deeply expressive and smartly modulated” – New York Times
<http://jesseblumberg.com/>

Charlotte Mundy:

"daredevil with an unbreakable spine" (SF Classical Voice)
"an oasis of radiant beauty" (NYTimes)
<http://www.charlottesmundy.com/>

Elisa Sutherland:

“Sutherland’s soul-infused expressiveness and unselfconscious joie de vivre explain why she was front and center throughout much of the show.” (New York Music Daily)

<http://elisasutherland.com>

Anicet Castel:

<https://tenet.nyc/vocalist-info/anicet-castel>

Gawain is produced and made possible by the generous support of Father Andrew O’Connor