

Program

5:15	144 TH ARMY BAND, ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD
6:00	WELCOME BY CHIEF JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN REMARKS BY HON. JAMES R. THOMPSON REMARKS BY ISBA PRESIDENT RICHARD D. FELICE UNVEILING OF PLAQUE
6:15	PERFORMANCE BY NATHAN AND JULIE GUNN

⊠ **Nathan Gunn** has made a reputation as one of the most exciting and in-demand baritones of the day. He has appeared in internationally renowned opera houses such as the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera House, Paris Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Opera Festival, Theater an der Wien, Teatro Real in Madrid, and the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. Also a distinguished concert performer, Mr. Gunn has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

A frequent recitalist, Mr. Gunn has been presented in recital at Alice Tully Hall and by Carnegie Hall in Zankel Hall. He has also been presented by Roy Thomson Hall, Cal Performances, the Schubert Club, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Vocal Arts Society in Washington, DC, the University of Chicago, the Krannert Center, the Wigmore Hall, and the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. As a student, he performed in series of recitals with his teacher and mentor John Wustman that celebrated the 200th anniversary of Franz Schubert's birth.

Mr. Gunn was the recipient of the first annual Beverly Sills Artist Award, and was awarded the Pittsburgh Opera Renaissance Award. He is an alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Program and was a winner of the 1994 Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition. Mr. Gunn is also an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where he is currently a professor of voice and was recently named General Director of the Lyric Theater @ Illinois.

Mr. Gunn is the great-grandson of Walter B. Gunn of Danville, Illinois. Walter Gunn was a justice on the Supreme Court of Illinois from 1938 to 1951, and served as chief justice from 1940 to 1941.

✠ **Julie Gunn** is a pianist, music director, vocal coach, and song arranger. She has appeared on many prestigious recital series over the last several years, including the Carnegie Hall Pure Voice Series, Lincoln Center Great Performers, Boston's Jordan Hall, Brussels' Theatre de la Monnaie, San Francisco's Herz Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Toronto's Roy Thompson Hall, University of Chicago Presents, San Francisco Performances, Oberlin College, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the Kranert Center for the Performing Arts, the Ravinia Festival, Manhattan's legendary Café Carlyle, and the United States Supreme Court. She has been heard in recital with William Burden, Elizabeth Futral, Richard Croft, Mandy Patinkin, Yvonne Gonzales Redman, Michelle De Young, the Pacifica Quartet, and Nathan Gunn.

In her faculty appointment at the University of Illinois, she works with singers, pianists, chamber musicians and songwriters. She serves as the Assistant Director for Development and Public Engagement at the School of Music. She works as an advocate for state and local arts organizations in the development of projects ranging from constructing arts buildings to mentoring inner-city high-schoolers interested in the arts. She is the founder and director of the Illinois School of Music Academy, a program for talented pre-college chamber musicians and composers.

On a national level, she solicits and programs the work of emerging and established American songwriters on recitals, and is proud to have been the music director of her husband Nathan Gunn's solo disc, *Just before Sunrise*, released by Sony/BMG records, which included arrangements of songs by Gene Scheer, Ben Moore, Joe Thalken, Billy Joel, Sting, and Charles Ives. Her arrangements of traditional American songs and standards have been heard at the Kennedy Center, Chicago's Symphony Center, and London's Queen Elizabeth Hall.

For more information please visit <http://music.illinois.edu/faculty/julie-gunn>.

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