

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/13/15

Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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Rachel Blaustein Classical Music Concert Benefits Morgan Arts Council

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV—The Ice House transforms into an opera hall for a Sunday afternoon concert on August 23. The performance begins at 3 p.m. and benefits Morgan Arts Council.

Rachel Blaustein, an accomplished soprano noted for her distinctive artistry, performs music from opera, classical song and modern theater, including selections from from *La Bohème*; a number of classical pieces including two songs of war, based on a poem by Walt Whitman and a letter written by Sullivan Ballou, who died at the First Battle of Bull Run; as well as selections from musical theater.

“We are thrilled to bring this level of classical music to Berkeley Springs,” said Anne Beckley, MAC Executive Director. “I encourage everyone to come and hear Rachel’s outstanding talent and support the arts in our community.”

Blaustein, a native of Olney, Maryland, is acclaimed for her command of the entire range of classic song, from Baroque opera to contemporary compositions. She performed with the Des Moines Metro Opera Company and the Chautauqua Opera Company, and was a soloist in Handel’s *Messiah* with the Amadeus Orchestra.

The young soprano is not the only world-class talent on stage for the concert. She is accompanied by Pat Springer of Berkeley Springs who boasts decades of professional experience as a voice and piano teacher as well as serving as accompanist for opera singers in New York and Baltimore. Springer is a graduate of the noted Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore where she and her husband Larry ran their acclaimed Elderhostel program.

“As hundreds of audience members who've enjoyed Springer's talent in everything from student recitals to Ice House productions can attest, it was a great day for classical music when the Springers retired to Berkeley Springs,” remarked Beckley.

Admission to this benefit concert is \$20 adults, \$15 students. Tickets available at the door; reservations suggested, call the MAC office at 304-258-2300.