NEW YORK, NY (July 11, 2016) — Lincoln Center announces an artist update for the 50th season’s opening program on July 25 and 26. Due to pregnancy, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke has withdrawn from these performances and will be replaced by Daniela Mack, who makes her New York and Mostly Mozart Festival debuts. In recent seasons, Mack has appeared with the San Francisco Opera and the Santa Fe Opera, and recently created the role of Jacqueline Kennedy in the world premiere of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek’s JFK at the Fort Worth Opera. She also debuted with three orchestras under conductor Charles Dutoit: Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2016–17, Mack will debut at the Royal Opera House–Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The special opening program event on July 25 and 26 will see the transformation of David Geffen Hall into a theatrical environment for a specially commissioned evening with selections from Mozart’s operas. Conceived by the visionary British director and video artist Netia Jones, The Illuminated Heart will feature a white-box theater, which frames the action and serves as backdrop for a series of imaginative projections and visual imagery. Louis Langrée will conduct the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra in this opening program that traverses the many dimensions of Mozart’s opera oeuvre. The Illuminated Heart features an impressive range of singers, including sopranos Kiera Duffy (Mostly Mozart debut), Christine Goerke, Ana María Martínez (Mostly Mozart debut), and Nadine Sierra (Mostly Mozart debut); mezzo-sopranos Marianne Crebassa (Mostly Mozart debut); tenor Matthew Polenzani; and baritones Christopher Maltman (Mostly Mozart debut) and Peter Mattei (Mostly Mozart debut).

ABOUT THE MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival—America’s first indoor summer music festival—was launched as an experiment in 1966. Called “Midsummer Serenades: A Mozart Festival” its first two seasons were devoted exclusively to the music of Mozart. The official title of Mostly Mozart was coined in 1970, and the festival has evolved over time to become a New York institution and a highlight of
the city’s summer classical music season. Over time, and through the leadership of Ehrenkranz Artistic Director Jane Moss and Renée and Robert Belfer Music Director Louis Langrée, Mostly Mozart has broadened its focus beyond the music of Mozart to include works by his predecessors, contemporaries, and successors. In addition to concerts by the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Mostly Mozart now includes performances by the world’s outstanding period-instrument ensembles, chamber orchestras, and acclaimed soloists, as well as opera productions, dance, film, and late-night concerts. Contemporary music has become an essential part of the festival, embodied in annual artist and composer residencies that have included Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, Kaija Saariaho, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, George Benjamin, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Among the many artists and ensembles who have had long associations with the festival are Joshua Bell, Christian Tetzlaff, Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Stephen Hough, Osmo Vänskä, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Emerson String Quartet, Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. The festival’s popularity has been reflected in several cultural touchstones, including an Al Hirschfeld illustration, a Peanuts cartoon strip, beer cans, and a cover of The New Yorker magazine.

The Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra is the resident orchestra of the Mostly Mozart Festival, and is the only chamber orchestra in the U.S. dedicated to the music of the Classical period. Since 2002 Louis Langrée has been the Orchestra’s music director, and since 2005 the Orchestra’s David Geffen Hall home has been transformed each summer into an appropriately intimate venue for its performances. Over the years, the Orchestra has been the festival’s ambassador, touring to such notable festivals and venues as Ravinia, Great Woods, Tanglewood, Bunkamura in Tokyo, the Kennedy Center, and The White House. Conductors who made their New York debuts leading the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra include Michael Tilson Thomas, David Zinman, Jérémie Rhorer, Edward Gardner, Lionel Bringuier, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Charles Dutoit, Leonard Slatkin, Susanna Mälkki, and Edo de Waart. Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli, flutist James Galway, soprano Elly Ameling, and pianist Mitsuko Uchida all made their U.S. debuts with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra.

ABOUT LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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