



Biography

Kristof and Kane is an international piano/soprano duo that performs classical music and innovative fusions of musical theatre, American and European songbooks, opera, and art song that they call *Classical Cabaret*.

Kristof & Kane's original classical cabaret show *Duel-Duet* was conceived and directed by distinguished Belgian film director, Lieven Debrauwer. The Cabaret West Newsletter reviewed the *Duel Duet* debut at the Gardenia in Hollywood and stated that it **"stunned those in attendance through the sheer musical command of these two performers."**

Their most recent shows have been performed in live venues and streaming live on Concert Window, an online concert venue. "Falling in Love Again" was the first live streaming concert in November of 2014. December's show was "The Secret of Christmas" and their current show: "Better Together" was given as part of the long-running series Classics at the Merc in Temecula, CA. Robert Culverhouse, curator of Classics at the Merc said that the **"program was superbly crafted and delivered with style and sophistication."**

Kristof & Kane have produced a CD of songs and arias entitled *A Moment of Joy* reviewed by John France of *Music Web International*: **"Her [Kane's] accompanist Kristof Van Gryspeer is always sympathetic and responsive to both Kane's voice and the wide variety of moods and styles represented on this CD."** Music critic, Richard McKinney, stated: **"Graced with the sensitive yet powerful piano playing of Kristof Van Gryspeer, this series of art songs and arias brings phrase after phrase of artful music in the true spirit of the art song."** Words used to describe Kane's singing include: **"crystal clear voice and impeccable technique" (LA Culture Spot Magazine), "clear and vibrant soprano" (McKinney), and "powerful and soothing" (Lopez).**

Both Kristof Van Gryspere and Susan Mohini Kane hold doctorates in music from top conservatories: Kristof from The University of Southern California and Kane from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. They have performed together for such varied musical productions as the opera *La tragédie de Carmen* (Kristof conducted and Kane sang the soprano lead), the highly acclaimed CD of art songs and arias entitled *A Moment of Joy* (available at i-Tunes, Amazon.com, and CDBaby), and many concerts in Europe and the States. For detailed biographies please check out our website: www.kristofandkane.com.

Kristof Van Gryssperre

Kristof Van Gryssperre, a native of Belgium, has an international career as a pianist, chamber musician, vocal coach, and as a music director. This past decade he emerged as a thrilling talent in the conducting world. The Orange County Register hailed him as “gifted and stylistically impeccable” and as “a conductor with pugilistic power and sensitivity.”

After a three-year intermezzo in Belgium where he worked as full-time piano professor, Van Gryssperre returned to Southern California. He currently serves as associate conductor, chorus master and artistic administrator at **Long Beach Opera**, where he successfully conducted *King Gesar*, *An American Soldier's/Fiddler's Tale* and *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* this season. He is also artistic director of **Angels Vocal Art**, an organization dedicated to fostering young vocal talent through education and performance. A highlight was a series of workshops with Italian tenor legend **Carlo Bergonzi**.

With a strong vocal background and a repertoire of over forty operas Van Gryssperre conducted performances at **Opera Pacific, Baltimore Opera Studio, Long Beach Opera, Intimate Opera Company, SongFest** and **USC Opera**. Critically-acclaimed productions included *Tosca*, *La Tragédie de Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *The Mikado*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Magic Flute*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Così fan Tutte*.

He assisted **John DeMain, Edoardo Muller** and **Andreas Mitisek** in productions such as *La Bohème*, *The Magic Flute*, *Susannah*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Volo di Notte*, *Il Tabarro*, *Jenufa*, *La Périchole* and *The Ring of the Nibelung*.

As a vocal coach, he was engaged by the **Tanglewood Music Center Vocal Program**, the **Aspen Opera Center** and the **Bakersfield Symphony**. He established flourishing studios in Pasadena and Long Beach.

As a pianist Van Gryssperre collaborated with leading instrumentalists and singers, such as violinist **Maria Newman**, tenor **Philip Webb** and sopranos **Angela Meade, Juliana Gondek, Ollie Watts Davis** and **Susan Mohini Kane**. Van Gryssperre recorded for the **René Gailly** and **Phaedra** labels, the **Flemish** and **Suisse Radio and Television** and **K-Mozart**. Van Gryssperre taught at the **University of Southern California**, the **California Conducting Workshop** and **SongFest**. In 2003 and 2004 he was named acting music director of the **USC Opera**.

Susan Mohini Kane

American soprano and author, Susan Mohini Kane's "crystal-clear voice and impeccable technique" (LA Culture Spot Magazine) has captured audiences in performances of opera, oratorio, art song, and classical cabaret. Kane's book: *The 21st Century Singer, Making the Leap from the University into the World*, published by Oxford University Press is now on Amazon.com. Kane's solo CD recording: A MOMENT OF JOY, inspired these reviews: "This series of art songs and arias brings phrase after phrase of artful music." (McKinney) Music Web International hails Kane's CD as "a truly inspirational disc." Her second CD, for voice and piano with pianist Sunha Yoon, is a beautiful selection of vocal pieces with no words called FROM THE HEART and is due to be released in 2015. You can hear Susan Mohini Kane perform every month around the full moon when her duo, Kristof & Kane, perform classical

cabaret on Concert Window.com.

Susan Mohini Kane and pianist, Kristof Van Grysperre, (Kristof & vKane), debuted their classical cabaret show in Ghent, Belgium. Their LA debut was at The Gardenia in Hollywood *“where it stunned those in attendance through the sheer musical command of these two performers.”* (Cabaret West Newsletter) Kristof & Kane’s current show, “Better Together” was given for the distinguished series Classics and the Merc where the curator said that the *“program was superbly crafted and delivered with style and sophistication.”* Please visit www.kristofandkane.com for more information about this performing duo.

Kane’s recent orchestral performances include the Mendelssohn’s ELIJAH, Brahms' A GERMAN REQUIEM, Dvorak’s TE DEUM, Handel's MESSIAH, Mendelssohn's MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, and the Saint-Saëns CHRISTMAS ORATORIO for the Bakersfield Symphony, the California Philharmonic, California State University, Los Angeles, and the Schantz Music Series in Encinitas, CA. Kane's most recent opera roles include Donna Anna in COSI FAN TUTTI by Mozart and Michaëla in LA TRAGEDIE DE CARMEN adapted from CARMEN by Bizet.

Kane maintains a blog on singing, a performing schedule, and a private studio as well as being a full professor at CSULA where she teaches voice and directs the opera program. For more information please see her websites: www.the21stcenturysinger.com and www.smkane.com.