



Pitre, Odekirk, Altay, Mastrone, McLeod Will Join Sjöholm and Watson in *Kristina* Concerts

BY ANDREW GANS
AUG 18, 2009

Complete casting has been announced for the upcoming C concerts of Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' *Kristina*, with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, which will play the famed Manh; Sept. 23-24.



Louise Pitre and Kevin Odekirk

As previously reported, Helen Sjöholm, who originated the title role in the Swedish production of *Kristina*, will reprise the role for two evenings at Carnegie Hall, where she will be joined by internationally renowned tenor Russell Watson in the role of Kristian.

Newly announced for the two evenings are *Mamma Mia!*'s Louise Pitre as Ulrika and *Les Misérables*' Kevin Odekirk as Robert. Odekirk played the role of Robert in the New York workshop presentation of *Kristina*.

The company will also feature Derin Altay, Chris Bohannon, Jane Brockman, Walter Charles, Rebecca Eichenberger Gruda, Liz Griffith, Joy Hermlyn, David Hess, Michael James Leslie, T. Doyle Leverett, Rob Lorey, Frank Mastrone, R. McLeod, **Linda Mugleston**, Jan Neuberger, Robert Ousley, Sal Sabella, Greg Stone, **Jessica Vosk** and Kathy Voytko.

Lars Rudolfsson will direct the concerts; Paul Gemignani will conduct a 50-piece American Theatre Orchestra.

Universal Music's Decca Records will record both evenings and will release a CD at a future date. The show's plot is by Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg. *Kristina from Duvemala* premiered at the Malmo Music Theatre on Oct. 7, 1995 at Gothenburg's Opera House and Stockholm's Cirkus Theatre, among others.

In October 2005 Ulvaeus had this to say about *Kristina*: "It's about immigrants going from the south of Sweden in the 19th century. . . . Ulvaeus told Playbill.com. "It's about their lives. It's an epic saga really. We did that in Sweden successfully – ran it in various cities. . . . And then we wanted to translate it [into English] because we thought it was American history as opposed to American history than Swedish. **Herbert Kretzmer** did [the translation] with me, and we did a workshop here in New York to figure out what people didn't understand, what the weaknesses were and what it would be like to do it in English. And, we did that."

Björn Ulvaeus and **Benny Andersson** also collaborated on the rock musical *Chess* (with lyricist **Tim Rice**), and their international hit ***Mamma Mia!***

Tickets for the fall concerts are available by visiting the Carnegie Hall Box Office (57th Street and Seventh Avenue) at 212-774-7800 or by logging on to www.carnegiehall.org.

For more information visit www.kristinathemusical.com.

TODAY'S MOST POPULAR NEWS: