

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Opera Guild of Rochester. Don't forget to add operaguildofrochester@gmail.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Viva Voce



Don't miss our holiday edition of Bravo Nights, featuring Mark Daniels, tenor, accompanied by Rob Goodling. The event will be December 15 at 7pm on YouTube. The link to the event will be made available prior to the event. View additional details and Mark's program [here](#). And there is a feature article about Rob Goodling later in this issue.

Our Fall Donation Campaign is underway!

In these precarious days for arts organizations, when the Met has just announced the cancellation of the rest of the 20-21 season, the Opera Guild is focusing on informing you of virtual events, producing Bravo Nights online, and supporting opera programming in our region - to assist organizations to survive the lack of direct audience contact so crucial to our enjoyment and their bottom lines.

We have already made grants to Finger Lakes Opera, Glimmerglass, the RPO, Pegasus (for *Orfeo*, next August), and ROCopera for the Fringe Festival, and are planning to increase our support as circumstances dictate and our resources allow.

Coming up are more virtual Bravo Nights with enhanced production values, including a holiday concert on December 15th with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling. (Please keep in mind that it is frequently more expensive to produce these for streaming than to have a live concert.) Of course we hope to plan an outstanding Donor Recital to celebrate live opera once again!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CALL!

We still have a way to go to meet our goal.

There is an additional opportunity to give on Giving Tuesday, December 1, at ROCthe Day, [here](#).

You may also donate by telephone on the day at (585) 242-6450.

Please also keep in mind that we are a volunteer organization!

You can enjoy the opportunity to meet and work with other opera fans and help sustain the programs you like. Currently we are looking for an assistant treasurer, event helpers, technical

back-up and publicity committee volunteers. For information about these jobs or to speak with us about any volunteer interest, write to operaguildofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

IN THIS ISSUE

Edition *Viva Voce*, November 2020

The Opera Guild of Rochester, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to support opera and opera education in the greater Rochester area.

The Guild presents free opera lectures at local libraries, tours to productions of local opera companies and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and our popular Beat-the-Blahs, Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series, at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton.

This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to over 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription send your contact details, including your eMail address, to operaguildofrochester@gmail.com.

Our Website and Facebook pages serve as a clearinghouse for local and regional opera, concert, and recital information, with links to other music organizations in our area. Please visit our Website at operaguildofrochester.org.

For up-to-date information on opera-related news and events, please visit us on facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester.



Some events are now being recorded. Click the YouTube logo to visit us there.



Reader Article submission deadline for the next issue is the 15th of the previous month.

- [Volunteers](#)
- [This Month](#)
- [Streaming](#)
- [FLO Pinocchio](#)
- [Rochester Oratorio Society](#)
- [OnLine Opera Education](#)
- [The Met](#)
- [Bravo Nights](#)
- [TriCities Opera](#)
- [Chautaugua Opera](#)
- [Nickel City Opera](#)
- [Great Opera-tunities](#)
- [Eastman Opera Theatre](#)
- [Teatro Grattaciolo](#)
- [Canadian Opera](#)
- [Donations and Tax Receipt Note](#)
- [News from your Opera Guild](#)
- [Opera Profile: Rob Goodling, Music Man](#)

- [Pegasus 2020 Virtual Fall Season](#)
- [Pegasus Early Music](#)



December (all month)

[Teatro Grattaciolo](#)

Fedora, Gigli, Mephistopheles

Dec 3

[Chautauqua Opera](#)

Song Cycle

Dec 12

metopera.org

Bryn Terfel holiday concert

Dec 13

[TriCitiesOpera](#)

Cocoa and Carols

Dec 14, 15

[Nickel City Opera](#)

Art Songs and Arias

Dec 15

[Opera Guild of Rochester](#)

Holiday Bravo Night

Dec 18

[Rochester Oratorio
Society](#)

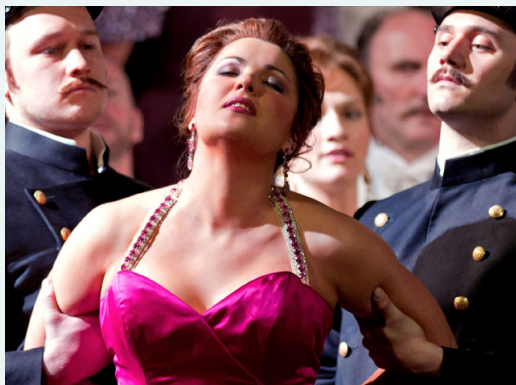
Encore, Brahms concert

Dec 26, 27, 28

[Nickel City Opera](#)

Amahl and the Night Visitors

[Return to Contents](#)



We are very fortunate to have a great variety of streamed opera presentations at no charge during this time. See operaguildforrochester.org for weekly listings of Metropolitan Opera offerings, among others. For a purportedly **complete listing of streamed opera showings, including European and other international houses, go to operawire.com**. At this site may also be found the season listing of **Metropolitan Opera radio broadcast**.

Another great site for all kinds of listings, including opera streaming schedules, is bachtrack.com.

[Return to Contents](#)





Don't miss FLO's unique musical version of *Pinocchio*, written by John Davies and put to the music of Mozart, Offenbach and more. In collaboration with the Puppet Co., Finger Lakes Opera's 2020 Tomita Young Artists will bring to life marionette puppets in this creative, available for streaming (in December) rendition of the classic tale that emphasizes the importance of telling the truth through the eyes of a mischievous puppet, his father, a conniving wolf, and his crafty, sidekick cat. Streaming / OnLine via YouTube & Facebook.

See [FingerLakesOpera.org](https://www.fingerlakesopera.org) for further details.

[Return to Contents](#)



Live Encore: [Brahms' Schicksalslied and Nänie](#)
Friday, December 18, 2020 | 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
December 18, 2020 | 7:00 PM.

Join ROS for a Live Encore broadcast of the Rochester Oratorio Society's performance of Schicksalslied and Nänie by Johannes Brahms. RSVP and view the live broadcast on Facebook Live.

[Read More](#) »

[Return to Contents](#)

Online Opera Education for Young and Old



Join Music Director Joseph Colaneri at on Saturday nights 6:30 p.m. EDT for a six-episode series offering insights on the operatic art form.

Created with the support of the Glimmerglass Festival Guild, the series will offer a brief episode Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. Each episode can be viewed on the [Glimmerglass Festival website](#) or our [YouTube channel](#). Can't make it at 6:30 p.m.? Check back to view the episodes on your own time.



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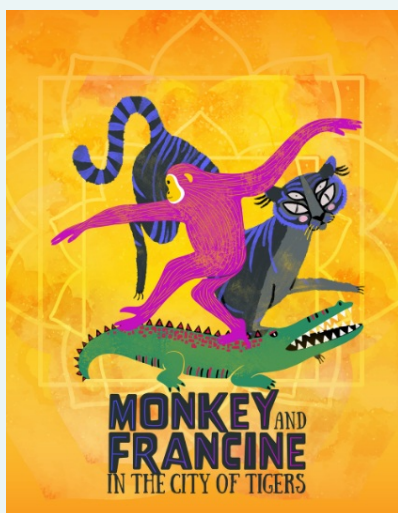
monkey and francine in the city of tigers

music by kamala sankaram

libretto by david johnston

Fusing stories and music from India, China, and West Africa, this original children's opera tells the story of Monkey and his brainy sister Francine. They must learn to work together and use their smarts to escape the hungry Crocodile and outwit the greedy Lord of the Tigers. Combining musical styles from Bollywood, to Latin, to Jazz, and featuring relatable, contemporary language and characters, the opera conveys a timely message of unity - that together, respecting individual differences and strengths, we can accomplish anything.

Tri-Cities Opera has developed this year's Opera-Go-Round program



as a virtual offering that will be delivered to students, whether in classrooms or home learning spaces, via a digital link. *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers* will include a detailed study guide, providing educators the flexibility to incorporate the performance into a comprehensive teaching unit. Sung in English, it runs for approximately 45 minutes.

MONKEY AND FRANCINE IN THE CITY OF TIGERS was commissioned by Houston Grand Opera and developed in partnership with American Lyric Theater. Premiered by Houston Grand Opera at the Heinen Theater on February 2, 2018.

Of course, the Metropolitan Opera has many resources for both adults and students. If you haven't explored them already, go to the main menu at [metopera.org](https://www.metopera.org) and click on 'discover.' This leads to another menu of all kinds of educational features from podcasts and articles to more formal educational materials for students.

From Chataqua Opera, at chq.org/opera-video-index, you will find a listing of all the features that were part of the 9-week summer video opera events, which are archived on the website's Virtual Front Porch platform. These include conversations with artists, vocal events, master classes, the Opera Song Cycle, new compositions, and more.

San Francisco Opera has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. sfopera.com/discover-opera/education

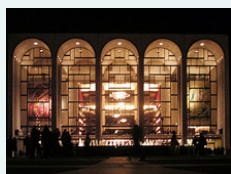
Los Angeles Opera has programs for both adults and children at laopera.org/community

Utah Opera at utahopera.org/education/school-from-home also has good student materials.

From Arizona Opera, at azopera.org/learn-connect-opera-home-virtual-learning-tools, videos for middle school and older students with introductions to four operas. Although produced for Arizona Opera presentations, they are suitable as general references.

Many opera companies have such sites; you can search "virtual opera education" for more.

[Return to Contents](#)



The Metropolitan Opera

The Met has now cancelled its entire 2020-21 season due to the ongoing global health crisis, so there will be no Live in HD simulcasts.

Select cinemas across the globe will screen **encore** presentations of **past titles** during this period.

Please check your local cinema listings for more information. Despite the listing published last issue for AMC Webster, there is currently nothing scheduled at local theaters who regularly show the live presentations, including Webster, Tinseltown, Henrietta, and Eastview. If you are traveling, you might catch one of the following somewhere else:

December 16, Puccini's *Tosca*, with Sonya Yoncheva, Vittorio Grigolo and Zeljko Lucic.

Possible encore of holiday version *Magic Flute*, Dec 5, at Cinemark Theater. Check prior to attendance for possible COVID-related cancellation.

[Return to Contents](#)



Bravo Nights

Bravo Nights are performances at The Little Café of opera and musical theater selections by talented local singers in an informal setting. They are appreciated by both seasoned opera fans and newcomers who wish to learn about the art form.

It's here on December 15th at 7 pm! Our virtual **Holiday Bravo Night** with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling. Go to 'Events, Bravo Nights' at our web site, operaguilddofrochester.org for more details and the program. Link info to be sent in an email blast soon.

In normal times, Bravo Nights take place at The LittleCafé, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue, performances are 7-9 pm, and refreshments may be purchased there.

[Return to Contents](#)



Cocoa & Carols

Streaming from our homes to yours
December 13, **3:00 PM EST**

Hosted by Jake Stamatis

Featuring your favorite TCO alumni

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

Cocoa & Carols puts a modern spin on the holiday TV specials of days gone by. Former Resident Artist Jake Stamatis will host as we welcome back other TCO alums to share messages and songs of holiday cheer. **[Free registration is our gift to you!](#)** Upgrade your experience by purchasing our Cocoa Care Package (For details, follow the Reservation link).

Run time: Approximately 60 minutes.

[Return to Contents](#)



Chautauqua Opera : In Our Silence: A Song Cycle, Part 1

Thursday, December 03, 2020 | 08:00pm EDT

Over four days in early June, composer Frances Pollock and playwright and librettist Jerre Dye interviewed each of Chautauqua Opera Company's 2020 Young Artists. Together they investigated the emotional and professional impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the isolation it has created for so many people around the world, and other current events, including the murder of George Floyd and the beginnings of the Black Lives Matter protests. Drawing from and inspired by these interviews, Pollock and Dye created one a cappella song for each Young Artist.

Now Chautauqua Opera is bringing together these songs to create an unforgettable tapestry of film and music which responds immediately to this unique moment in the world. Sewn together with newly created piano solos, this untraditional song cycle explores themes of love, loss, faith, and the musical ties that connect us all even as we are isolated from each other.

The song cycle will be presented in three parts on the evenings of December 3, 10, and 17. These events will also include a newly created documentary about the creation of the project and opportunities for the audience to ask the creators questions about their process.

Location: CHQ Assembly Video Platform

Details: [click here](#).

[Return to Contents](#)



Nickel City Opera

**NCO PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL EVENING
with Valerian Ruminski in**

The Tale of John Charles Fix
A Personal Journey, Art Songs & Arias

Monday, December 14th, 2020 7:00pm,
The Saturn Club, 977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
More Info [Here](#)..

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION

Amahl and the Night Visitors

December 26th, 27th & 28th
The Varsity Theatre, 3165 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo
& additional venues TBA
More Info [Here](#)..

MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDARS

Sotto Voce and Nickel City Opera present

The Second Sight
RESCHEDULED to June 26th & 27th 2021
An original opera by Jessie Downs
Unitarian Universalist Church
695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo
More Info [Here](#)..

All events to follow CDC, City, County, State Health guidelines as they develop. We have a greater need than ever for the experience of live music and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

[Return to Contents](#)

GREAT OPERA-TUNITIES

(For those wishing to explore opera without spending a lot of money)

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. Look for listing in February 2021 *Viva Voce*. 8 pm, Kilbourn Hall, Gibbs Street, Rochester.

FREE - The Lotte Lenya Competition: young multi-talented singer/actors performing both opera and musical theater selections. See *Viva Voce* for more information about the 2021 event.

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures See February and March 2021 *Viva Voce* for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.
\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs." Opera DVD presentations at Temple B'rith Kodesh. Four Sundays in January at 1 pm, see the 2021 schedule in Nov and Dec 2020 issues. Pre-performance talk, refreshments at intermission, children and students always FREE.

\$24; UR students \$10 with ID - The Eastman Opera Season: (Eastman voice students). Pre-performance talks; see full listing in *Viva Voce*.

\$25 per (senior) ticket - Metropolitan Opera simulcasts in HD. The **20-21 simulcasts have been canceled**. See note [here](#) for some encore presentations. These performances usually take place on Saturdays usually at 1 pm. An

encore performance, not live, is given on the Wednesday following for \$23. Theaters are at Tinseltown, Eastview, Webster and Henrietta. See full listing and essays in *Viva Voce*.

FREE - Opera Guild **Bravo Nights** at The Little Café, live accompanied singers perform opera favorites in an informal atmosphere. See *Viva Voce* for next date.

\$18 Opera performances from the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden are screened several times a year at **The Little Theatre**, as listed in *Viva Voce*.

[Return to Contents](#)

Eastman School of Music - Eastman Opera Theatre 2020 -2021 Season ANNOUNCEMENT SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Eastman Opera Theatre Statement Regarding Covid-19

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19, Eastman Opera Theatre is committed to presenting a full, varied, and artistically fulfilling 2020-21 season. Our primary focus, as always, remains on the growth of our students. While the specific performance parameters of each work may change as we all adapt to an unpredictable pandemic, we have chosen titles and performance projects that may be adapted to whatever performance guidelines are dictated by changing circumstances.

In celebration of Eastman's 2021 Centennial, we have chosen to present titles during the 2021 calendar year by Eastman alumni. We will also offer an all-Mozart program in May 2021 to complement the contemporary nature of a season featuring Eastman composers.

WINTER PRODUCTION - Dates TBD (start of the spring semester 2021)

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

Postcard from Morocco -1971 Dominick Argento (ESM '58) & John Donahue

Steven Daigle, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor.

KODAK HALL - APRIL 2021

Silent Night-2011 Kevin Puts (ESM '94, '99) & Mark Campbell

Sung in English, German, French, Italian, and Latin, with English supertitles

Stephen Carr, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor

804 ANNEX BLACKBOX THEATER -MAY-2021

[Return to Contents](#)



Teatro Grattacielo

At Teatro Grattacielo, our mission is to promote the performances of those works in the operatic repertoire that are rarely heard in the United States. Through performances at Alice Tully Hall and other venues, educational outreach and informal lecture-concerts, Teatro Grattacielo provides emerging artists and music lovers with the opportunity to become familiar with lesser-known repertoire and performance styles, thus promoting the expansion and appreciation of operatic traditions with an eye on diversity, innovation, technology and multimedia arts.

With a commitment to our mission in mind, we are delighted to share our most recent project,

BENIANIMO GIGLI, 100 YEARS at the Met, with scenes from Boito's *Mefistofele*. This project was created in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the great tenor Beniamino Gigli's debut at the Met in the role of Faust in

Mefistofele, which occurred on November 26, 1920, and features an opening introduction by Beniamino Gigli's great-granddaughter Francesca Romana Gigli, commentary by music critic, John Yohalem, and a highly skilled cast of internationally renowned singers.



Please use the link below to watch this virtual production for free!

Although this film is provided free through our website, we do accept donations to continue our work of promoting and expanding the operatic tradition through the performance of rarely heard operas!

There is also a virtual production of Umberto Giordano's *Fedora*. With filming complete, this production is set to stream through our website at <https://www.grattacielo.org> at the end of November!

[Return to Contents](#)

CANADIAN OPERA

Canadian Opera has now cancelled the rest of the 20-21 season. See site for further information, coc.ca.

[Return to Contents](#)

Donations

As an *Amici*, your contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. All donation levels receive an invitation to the Annual Recital; those listed below will be given priority until a date specified on the invitation, and at the *Comprimario* level and above may request extra tickets._

Chorus: \$50 per person, \$80 per couple.

Comprimario: \$100-\$149.

Primo: \$150-\$199.

Maestro: \$200-\$299.
Impresario: \$300 or more.

**Donate
On Line**

You may also mail a check to Opera Guild of Rochester, P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625. Please include an email or other address for your tax receipt.

A Note on Tax Receipts from the President: I am sorry that I am unable to continue President Emerita Agneta Borgstedt's practice of sending a personal thank you note to each contributor. The IRS does not require a charity to give, or the donor to have, a formal acknowledgment from the charity for donations under \$250.00. Your cancelled check or credit card record is sufficient evidence for your donations below this amount if you itemize them. Donations of \$250.00 and above will receive the required acknowledgment from the Opera Guild before January 31st following the end of the calendar tax year. The invitation to the Annual Recital is our way of showing our appreciation to our donors and we sincerely hope to see you there!

[Return to Contents](#)

News from your Opera Guild

Many thanks to all of you who have donated so far! We still have a way to go to meet our goal (which is basically the money necessary to finance our activities for the year). You have an additional way to give today at ROC the Day - see info at beginning of the issue. We will have a Donor Recital, even if we have to have it in September!

With a vaccine(s?) in prospect, there is, as they keep saying, light at the end of the tunnel. However, it seems to be a very long tunnel.

There is some holiday light, though, as many groups will have a presentation, usually virtual, for December. Our own holiday Bravo Night can be seen on December 15th at 7 pm (link to follow). I attended the professional recording session with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Canadian Opera has cancelled the rest of its already truncated season, although since the border is closed, it doesn't make much difference to us. On the positive side, Glimmerglass Festival is considering using its plentiful outdoor space for the summer, so even if we still have covid restrictions, there may be opera there. Beat the Blahs will not take place in January but could be rescheduled. As for the lecture series, stay tuned.

Now that the weather will be closing in, at least we can curl up and enjoy that cozy feeling of being warm inside while the elements howl, making good winter food and listening to great holiday music. We can pretend that we wouldn't go out even if we could.

So stay well, be safe, and don't forget to sing!
Best wishes for the season,
Carol Crocca

[Return to Contents](#)

Rob Goodling, Music Man

By Carol Crocca

From tuba to tenor, Rob Goodling has made music so much of his life and shared it with so many. He is now retired from 28 years as Director of Vocal Music at Churchville-Chili High School. Rob was responsible for all types of vocal music:

directing choruses and other ensembles, teaching voice, and directing musicals. He spent many years adjudicating the NYSSMA competitions, and is still called upon to judge those competitions as well as others. Rob says he loved his whole tenure there - it was so satisfying to watch students mature into young adults over four years and to see the part music played in this growth. Especially gratifying has been his long-standing relationship with Renée Fleming. He was her first voice teacher (after her mother) - they both started at the high school on the same day - and Rob has had many exciting experiences at operas and premieres through her friendship.

He came to his career from a very diverse experience as an instrumentalist, conductor, singer, and musical theater whiz. As a young music student, he played the violin, his first love, and piano. He saw his task as learning as many instruments as possible, and took advantage of a scholarship at Lebanon Valley College to major in the tuba. But he was always a music renaissance man - he was asked there as a junior to take over the direction of an original musical production when the professor in charge was taken ill. As a pianist, he also acted as accompanist for many voice students. Taking enthusiastic and competent hold of every musical opportunity is a characteristic Rob has never lost.

Upon graduation, Rob was offered a position as conductor of the Corning Youth Orchestra, and he spent four years there, also becoming first violin in the Corning Philharmonic and leading the second violin section of the Elmira Symphony. During this period, Rob estimates that he participated in over fifty musicals, as director, singer and actor. Not surprisingly, he decided eventually that he had mastered the genre and had had enough!

It was while studying for his master's degree at Eastman that Rob had the opportunity to become a voice student. He was accompanying a young soprano and she asked him to partner her as baritone in a duet for her teacher, former Met star Anna Kaskas. Ms. Kaskas expressed interest in having him as a student, and so he became. At this point, all the foundations were laid for his pursuit of the many different ways he has enriched our musical lives.

Rob's first experience with opera was accidental. At the age of nine, he took refuge from some boring adult gathering and found himself watching an opera on television. His mother found him and asked if he liked it, even though he couldn't understand the words. He tentatively assented, and she arranged for him to attend a Met performance. There he sat with a kind lady who helped him appreciate what he was seeing and hearing. As an adult he went on to serve as a board member for the Friends of Eastman Opera, writing for their newsletter among other responsibilities, and working with Susan Cotroneo at the Lyric Theater, judging competitions and promoting singers. Rob and his former student Jessica Best, a talented soprano now with an established career, presented the final fundraising recital in his home for the benefit of Mercury Opera.

He also became a friend of the Opera Guild, advising on the talent for the Annual Recital for Donors, and for many years taught music history at the Hochstein School, where his opera history course was appreciated by Opera Guild board members. His involvement in the Annual Recital resulted in his collaboration with tenor Mark Daniels, now well-known to us as a recitalist, who will be presenting our next Bravo Night, a virtual holiday concert, on December 15th. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the project make it a pleasure to work with them both. He and Mark will be the subjects of an article in the magazine "585 Rochester" coming up in January.

Finally, Rob is the benefactor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as the sponsor of the of the "Rob W. Goodling Tuba Chair, funded in perpetuity."

My last question to Rob was whether he had had any particular struggles in his very productive musical life. He answered, "Well, I have been fortunate in having had opportunities arise at each stage which offered me work I enjoyed." We agreed that it is passion for the work that leads to fulfillment, not merely the drive for success.

[Return to Contents](#)

Pegasus Early Music Fall 2020 Season (Virtual)

December 11 at 7:30pm and December 13 at 4:00pm:

At the Court of the Sun King: *Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, composer and musician*

Pegasus Director Deborah Fox presents a multi-media presentation on the life and music of this trend-setting independent woman at the French royal court of Versailles.

Please check the [website](#) or newsletters closer to each date to find out how to access.

All events will be online and free! Please note that artists will be paid their professional performance fees, and donations will be gratefully accepted.

[Return to Contents](#)

Pegasus Early Music

The Pegasus season has been postponed until 2021.

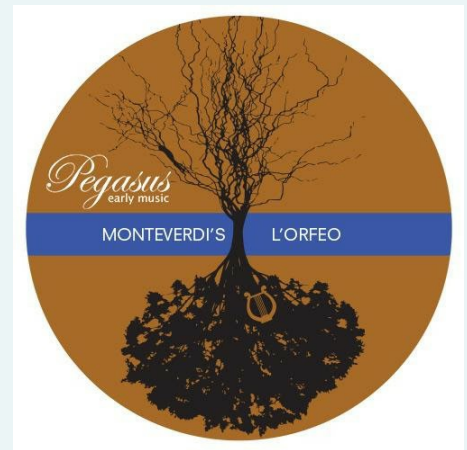
L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 19, 20 and 22, 2021

Pre-concert talks 1 hour before each performance

Hart Theater at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center
1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester



This ground-breaking opera, written in 1607 and considered the first "real" opera, still has the power to captivate audiences over 400 years later, with its universal story, virtuosic expressive music, and colorful orchestration. Its themes of love and loss, human weakness and strength, redemption and the power of music, remain relevant today and will resonate profoundly with our audiences.

As Orfeo, famous for his musical prowess, joyfully celebrates his marriage to Euridice, a messenger brings the news that she has died. Orfeo travels the treacherous path to the Underworld to win her back - with his seductively entrancing music - only to lose her again because of his own doubt. Eventually escorted by the god Apollo, he ascends to the heavens where he can be reunited in the stars with his Euridice. A cast of shepherds, nymphs, spirits, and gods support the flow of the drama with dance, heartfelt solos, and dynamic choruses, that comment on and interpret the action.

We are thrilled to present tenor Colin Balzer in the virtuosic and dramatically expressive role of Orfeo, the singer who must travel to Hell and back to regain his beloved Euridice.

Michael Beattie, music director

Emily Cuk, stage director

Julia Noulín-Merat, scenic designer

Peggy Murray, choreographer

Whitney Locher, costume designer

John Cuff, lighting designer

Orfeo: Colin Balzer, tenor

Musica & Proserpina: Laura Heimes, soprano

Apollo: Sumner Thompson, tenor

Messenger & Speranza: Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano

Caronte: Steven Hrycelak, bass

Euridice: Madeline Healey, soprano

Plutone: Mischa Bouvier, baritone

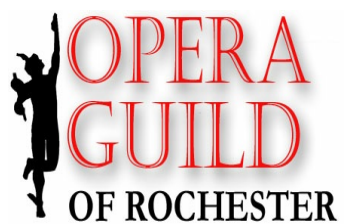
Pastori, Spiriti: Andrew Fuchs, Jonas Budris, tenors; Douglas Dodson, countertenor;
and a chorus that includes young emerging artists of the Pegasus Rising program

[Return to Contents](#)

Submission deadline for the next issue is the
15th of the previous month

Free subscription on-line at
operaguildofrochester.org





Some events are now being recorded. Click the YouTube logo to visit us there.