

Viva Voce

Our Donation Campaign Continues!

Donate
On Line

Please give a holiday gift! Thanks to all who have contributed this fall. If you haven't gotten around to it yet, now is a great time to make a contribution to the Opera Guild of Rochester to support our programs in opera education, outreach, and grants to opera performances.

Our Bravo Nights and Opera Meet-ups are now established and successful parts of our program and we want to continue expanding and attracting new opera fans with your help! **We have reached out to different audiences** this year by helping to sponsor *The Telephone* at the Fringe Festival and supporting Pegasus Early Music's opera production of *Acis and Galatea*. We continue to support Finger Lakes Opera and present our traditional programs.

You can donate securely via Pay Pal or mail a check to Opera Guild of Rochester, PO Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625. Please include an email or other address for your tax receipt.

Levels start at \$50 for an individual and \$80 per couple, but donations in any amount are important and appreciated.

All donors receive an invitation to the Annual Donor Recital in May, and those who donate above the *Comprimario* level (\$100) may request extra tickets. See the Donations section for information on tax receipts.

For further information about our programs and activities, see [From Your Opera Guild](#).

Volunteering also makes a great contribution!

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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 operaguilddofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

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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](https://www.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.

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The Little

Gay Men's Chorus

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Pegasus

Eastman students and faculty

Don Pasquale

Treasured Traditions

Special Concert

A Baroque Noel

An Italian Baroque Christmas

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Beat the Blahs

The Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series
Opera DVDs with introductions by guild docents
January 2019 - 1 pm.



Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Social Hall (Rear Entrance of Temple)
 4 Sunday afternoons
 All performances start at 1pm
 Refreshments will be served at the intermission

- Jan 5th** Umberto Giordano, *Andrea Chenier*. 1984 production of the Metropolitan Opera, Luciano Pavarotti as Chenier, conductor James Levine.
Opera Talk, David Dean
- Jan 12th** Gaetano Donizetti, *Don Pasquale* with John Del Carlo, Anna Netrebko, Marius Kwiecen, and Matthew Polanzanyi, Metropolitan Opera 2010, Conductor James Levine. Suitable for children.
Opera Talk, Carol Crocca
- Jan 19th** Jules Massenet, *Werther*. A private DVD recording from the Met telecast of February 18, 2014; Jonas Kaufman as Werther, Sophie Koch as Charlotte, Lisa Orapesa as Sophie, conductor Alain Antinoglu.
Opera Talk, Peter Dundas
- Jan 26th** Double Bill: Pietro Mascagni, *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Placido Domingo as Turridu and Elena Obraztsova as Santuzza, followed by Ruggiero Leoncavallo, *Pagliacci* with Placido Domingo as Canio and Teresa Stratas as Nedda. Teatro alla Scala 1982, Conductor Franco Zeffirelli.
Opera Talk: Art Axelrod

	Opera Guild Donors	General Admission	Temple
Series of 4 operas	\$32.00	\$36.00	none
Single performance	\$9.00	\$10.00	none

For further information contact the Opera Guild of Rochester at operaguildofrochester.org or 585-385-6971.

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Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Treasured Traditions

Music that will transport you back to the memories of happy childhood holidays.

Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 PM

Hochstein Performance Hall

Purchase tickets at rgmc.ticketleap.com/treasured-traditions

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Royal Opera House Film Series at The Little

DON PASQUALE

Sunday Dec 1 (Noon)

Tuesday Dec 3 (6 pm)

LA BOHEME

Sunday Mar 29 (Noon)

Tuesday Mar 31 (6pm)

The Little Royal Opera House Series is sponsored in part by the Rochester Oratorio Society.

FREE: informal meet-ups after the Sunday showing in the Little Caf  . All welcome!

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Pegasus 2019-2020 Season



A Baroque Noel

December 15, 2019 @ 4 pm

Hochstein Performance Hall,

50 N. Plymouth Street, Rochester

Charpentier's beloved *Messe de Minuit pour Noel*, French popular noels, and music by Vivaldi and more, with

[Paul O'Dette](#), Director & theorbo

[Laura Heimes](#), [Shari Alise Wilson](#), sopranos

baroque orchestra.

[Debi Wong](#), mezzo-soprano
[Andrew Fuchs](#), [Jonas Budris](#), tenors
[Andrew Padgett](#), [Steven Hrycelak](#), basses

"Nevertheless, she persisted"

February 2, 2020 @ 4 pm
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester

Music of strong women, with Laura Heimes, soprano, and chamber ensemble. Music by Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Antonia Bembo, and George Frideric Handel.

[Laura Heimes](#), soprano
[Naomi Gregory](#), harpsichord
[Boel Gidholm](#), violin
[Deborah Fox](#), theorbo

The Panther and the Rose

March 15, 2020 @ 4 pm
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester

Medieval music from the Italian trecento: caccias, ballatas, and madrigales by Ciconia, Landini, and more.

[Andrew Rader](#), countertenor
[Jonas Budris](#), tenor
[Dongmyung Ahn](#), Vielle
[Christa Patton](#), harp & recorder
[Deborah Fox](#), lute

Diderot Quartet with Jesse Blumberg

May 17, 2020 @ 4 pm
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh St. Rochester

Haydn & Mendelssohn quartets plus song arrangements of Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn

[Jesse Blumberg](#), baritone
[Diderot String Quartet](#)
Johanna Novom,
Adriane Post, violins;
Kyle Miller, viola;
Paul Dwyer, cello

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Third Thursdays at the MAG

On the third Thursday of each month, October through May, the Eastman School of Music and the Memorial Art Gallery present concert programs by faculty, students, and guest artists featuring the Italian Baroque Organ. They take place in the Museum's Fountain Court and are free with Gallery admission, which is reduced on Thursday evenings. Concerts begin at 7:30 pm.

[December 19, An Italian Baroque Christmas](#)

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Nickel City Opera
Western New York's Premier Opera Company

Join NCO and friends for a special night!

The Moon & The Stars at The Saturn Club

An Evening of Songs, Magic and Cosmic Resonance

Thursday, December 12th 7pm

The Saturn Club
977 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY

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Warfield Scholarship Fund identifies top African American talent in first annual High School Classical Vocal Competition

The William Warfield Scholarship Fund [WWSF] awarded three deserving young artists cash support to further their studies in classical vocal performance at the collegiate level during the **first annual** William Warfield Scholarship Fund Classical Vocal Competition for African American High School Students.



Twelve semi-finalists from Georgia to New York were selected by electronic audition. Of these, six advanced to the final round held Saturday, October 19, 2019, at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance in Rochester, NY. Finalists and a chaperone were provided round-trip transportation and lodging for the event.

Kianna Kelly-Futch, of Washington, D.C., took top honors and \$2000 with her performance of "Elegy," by Jules Massenet. **Solomon Onyukwu, of Bowie, MD**, placed second (\$1500), singing the Spiritual "Give Me Jesus" in the Moses Hogan arrangement. In third place and winning \$500, **Jalynn Stewart, of Brooklyn, NY**, sang Benjamin Britten's challenging setting of "If Music Be the Food of Love."

Adjudicating the top contestants were internationally recognized artists and vocal music educators, including sopranos Kearstin Piper Brown and Paulette Gissendanner; Eastman School of Music faculty member Katherine Ciesinski; William Scott, chair of vocal studies at Hochstein; and baritone Fredrick Redd of New York City.

Founded in 1977, the William Warfield Scholarship Fund is dedicated to providing financial means for African American students to attain success in the field of classical vocal music and to fostering wider recognition of the life and legacy of the legendary American bass-baritone, educator, mentor and author, William Warfield. The WWSF has awarded scholarships to more than two dozen vocalists at the Eastman School of Music, including internationally renowned artists Julia Bullock and Nicole Cabell. Ms. Cabell returns to Rochester in January, 2020, as WWSF celebrates the centennial of Warfield's birth with its annual Scholarship Recital (**Kilbourn Hall, January 12, 2020, 3:00 P.M.**) Tickets and more

information may be found at www.williamwarfield.org.

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EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE 2019-2020 SEASON



January 23-26, 30-31, and February 1-2, 804 Annex Blackbox Theatre

Prima La Musica, Poi le Parole (First the Music, Then the Words), music by Antonio Salieri with lyrics by Giovanni Basti; and ***Der Schauspieldirektor (The Impresario)***, music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, lyrics by Gottlieb Stephanie, another double bill.

April 2-5, Kodak Hall

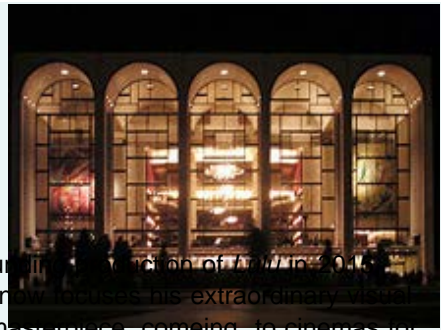
Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler.

Tickets are on sale now with **\$24 General Admission**. \$10 student tickets available. Tickets can be purchased at the Eastman Theatre Box Office, 26 Gibbs St.; by phone (585) 274-3000; or online at <http://eastmantheatre.org>.

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Metropolitan Opera HD Season 2019 - 2020

All showings at 12:55 pm



Berg, *Wozzeck*

January 11

For more info, [click here](#)

After wowing audiences with his astounding production of *Wozzeck* in 2014, South African artist William Kentridge returns to the Met with his extraordinarily imaginative production of Berg's other operatic masterpiece, coming to cinemas for the first time. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin is on the podium for this important event, with baritone Peter Mattei as the disturbed title character. Soprano Elza van den Heever is Wozzeck's unfaithful mate, alongside a commanding cast that also includes tenor Christopher Ventris, bass-baritone Christian Van Horn, and tenor Gerhard Siegel.

Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess*

February 1

For more info, [click here](#)

One of America's favorite operas - James Robinson's stylish production transports audiences to Catfish Row on the Charleston waterfront, vibrant with the music, dancing, emotion, and heartbreak of its inhabitants. "If you're going to stage Gershwin's opera, this is how," raved the *Guardian* when the new production premiered in London in 2018. David Robertson conducts a dynamic cast, featuring the sympathetic duo of Eric Owens and Angel Blue in the title roles and an all-star ensemble that includes Golda Schultz, Latonia Moore, Denyce Graves, Frederick Ballentine, and Alfred Walker.

Handel, *Agrippina*

February 29

For more info, [click here](#)

Handel's tale of intrigue and impropriety is set in ancient Rome, with star mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato as the controlling, power-hungry Agrippina and Harry Bicket conducting. Sir David McVicar's production ingeniously reframes the action of this black comedy about the abuse of power to "the present," where it should loudly resonate. The all-star cast features mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey as Agrippina's son and future emperor Nerone, soprano Brenda Rae as the seductive Poppea, countertenor Iestyn Davies as the ambitious officer Ottone, and bass Matthew Rose as the weary emperor Claudius.

Wagner, *Der Fliegende Holländer*

March 14

For more info, [click here](#)

The great bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel brings his acclaimed portrayal of the doomed sea captain of the title. Valery Gergiev conducts a new production by François Girard, whose visionary 2013 take on *Parsifal* set the recent Met standard for Wagner stagings. With sweeping sets by John Macfarlane, Girard's new production turns the Met stage into a rich, layered tableau reminiscent of a vast oil painting. The gifted German soprano Anja Kampe, in her Met debut run, is the devoted Senta, whose selfless love is what the Dutchman seeks, with bass Franz-Josef Selig as her father, Daland, and tenor Sergey Skorokhodov as her deserted former lover, Erik.

Puccini, *Tosca*

April 11

For more info, [click here](#)

Soprano Anna Netrebko, whom the *New York Times* hailed as "magnificent" when she made her role debut as Tosca in 2018, returns as Puccini's explosive diva. Tenor Brian Jagde is the idealistic painter Cavaradossi, and baritone Michael Volle completes the opera's fatal love triangle as the sinister Scarpia. Bertrand de Billy conducts Sir David McVicar's stunning production.

Donizetti, *Maria Stuarda*

May 9

For more info, [click here](#)

Soprano Diana Damrau, following her triumph as Violetta in last season's new production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, returns as the martyred Mary, Queen of Scots, in Donizetti's bel canto showcase. Star mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton is her imperious rival Queen Elizabeth I, and the silken-voiced tenor Stephen Costello is the noble Earl of Leicester. Maurizio Benini conducts Sir David McVicar's handsome production.

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Bravo Nights

Join us for some wonderful evenings of opera and musical theater with talented local artists! The dates for 2020, with program information to follow in future issues, are as follows:

Wednesday, February 5

Wednesday, June 10

Tuesday, September 29

Monday, November 30

Bravo Nights are appreciated by both seasoned opera fans and newcomers who enjoy the casual atmosphere and the chance to see top local talent, free of charge. Refreshments are available for purchase at the Caf  .

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Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*

February 7 & 9, 2020

A sparkling adaptation of Voltaire's satirical novella, *Candide* melds European operetta, musicals, Latin American dance rhythms, and everything in between into its own eclectic style. Young Candide's tutor believes everything happens for the best. Through war, plague, earthquake, shipwreck, and the Spanish Inquisition, Candide tries to hold onto this optimism. Will he become disillusioned or will he find the best of all possible worlds?

[Click Here](#) to Buy Tickets

Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*

May 1 & 3, 2020

Against a backdrop of intense political unrest, all of Rome is under control of the corrupt police chief Scarpia. When he becomes obsessed with the fiery diva Tosca, she takes a stand in the name of all she holds sacred-art, freedom, and love-in an attempt to free her lover and save herself. Experience the heartbreak, drama, and intrigue of Puccini's timeless masterpiece and enjoy its beloved music. Will love prevail? And at what cost?

[Click Here](#) to Buy Tickets

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Rochester Academy of Medicine

2019-20 Salon Concert Schedule

September 22, 2019

October 20, 2019

February 2, 2020

March 1, 2020

March 29, 2020

All Performances begin at 2pm

Season Ticket: \$140

Single Ticket: \$30

At the door: \$35

Rebecca Penneys, piano

Mikhail Kopelman, violin

Stefan Reuss, cello

Rochester Academy of

Medicine

1441 East Avenue

(585) 271-1314

raum.org



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TRICITIES OPERA

Tickets, call 607-772-0400;

Box office information and to buy online, see tricitiesoera.com/box-office

A Little Night Music

April 24 & May 1, 2020 - 7:30pm

April 26 & May 3, 2020 - 3:00pm

Tri-Cities Opera Center

315 Clinton Street



April 24 & May 1, 2020 - 7:30pm
 April 26 & May 3, 2020 - 3:00pm

Binghamton, NY 13905

Sondheim creates a stunning tour de force when he takes Ingmar Bergman's film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, and turns it into a musical of masterful execution and elegance. Winner of four Tony Awards, this is a musical work that has forever entranced the world of theatre, including the popular song "Send in the Clowns". The cast includes Kevin Bryant (Henrik), Emily Geller (Desiree), Chelsea Melamed (Charlotte), Gina Moscato (Anne), John Shelhart (Fredrik), and Heidi Weeks (Madame Armfeldt). The production is directed by James Kenon Mitchell, conducted by Joshua Horsch.

Preview Gala

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:30PM

Preview Gala

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:30PM

SAVOCA HIBBITT HALL
 TRI-CITIES OPERA CENTER
 315 Clinton Street.
 Binghamton, NY 13905

Opera does Broadway in this musical review! Our top-notch Resident Artists sing their 'farewell' at this rollicking evening of Broadway favorites! ONE NIGHT ONLY!
 \$29 & \$39 gets you a fantastic show with concessions available in the lobby.

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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 2020 *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 event being held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2020.

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures in September at Fairport Library, February and March (with many video selections) at Brighton Memorial Library, 7 pm, 2300 Elmwood Ave, see January issue for more information.

\$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 2020 schedule in this issue. 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 of live performances 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*.

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CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE January 19, 2020 to February 7, 2020

[Learn More](#)

HANSEL & GRETEL February 6, 2020 to February 21, 2020

[Learn More](#)

AIDA April 18, 2020 to May 8, 2020

[Learn More](#)

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN May 1, 2020 to May 16, 2020

[Learn More](#)

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News from your Opera Guild

Jack and the Beanstalk was a successful foray into the world of opera for my granddaughter Avery, shown here in a photo with the cast. The singing was great, and the presentation excellent, with narration in addition to the music which helped all to understand the story. The cast was lively, with simple choreography to accompany the numbers, and the acting excellent. The scenery was simple, the only shortcoming, in my view, being the lack of any representation of the beanstalk itself. In addition to the performance there were activities in the lobby of the Lyric Theater before the first show and between shows, which included sequin tattoos, face-painting, balloon animals to take home and a prize wheel, to gladden the hearts of all attendees. I am looking forward to the next performance for kids by Finger Lakes Opera!



And don't forget that we are presenting *Don Pasquale* at Beat the Blahs on January 12th, which is suitable for children, although not pre-schoolers. It will be in Italian with English subtitles, but the story may be grasped without knowing every word. The great cast of Anna Netrebko, Marius Kwiecin, John Del Carlo and Matthew Polanzani have a marvelous time with this opera, so come share the fun with your children or grandchildren.

Thanks to all who have contributed so far; we still have a ways to go to meet our budget and commitments. If you haven't given yet, please consider helping us continue to provide our traditional and new programs which are, we hope, better than ever!

Carol Crocca
President

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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: 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!

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

Free subscription on-line at operaguil dof rochester.org



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

STAY CONNECTED

