

Viva Voce

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 operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

IN THIS ISSUE

Edition *Viva Voce*, March 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 operaguil dofrochester@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 operaguil dofrochester.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.

- [This Month](#)
- [Opera Guild Lecture Series](#)
- [Bravo Nights](#)
- [Eastman Theatre Voice Competition](#)
- [Pegasus](#)
- [Royal Opera at The Little](#)
- [Rochester Oratorio Society](#)
- [Mark Daniels Album Release](#)
- [Eastman Opera Theatre](#)
- [Met HD](#)
- [Syracuse Opera](#)
- [Rochester International Vocal Competition](#)
- [Annual Recital](#)
- [Salon Concerts](#)
- [TriCities Opera](#)
- [Great Opera-tunities](#)
- [Canadian Opera Company](#)
- [Essay: The Flying Dutchman](#)
- [Donations and Tax Receipt Note](#)

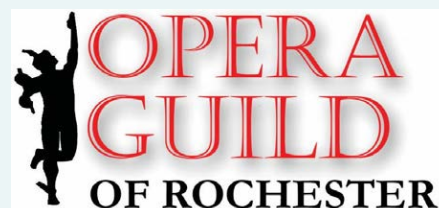


March 1	Rochester Academy of Med	Salon Concert
March 10	OGR Lecture Series	<i>Satyagraha</i>
March 14	Met HD Simulcast	<i>Der Fliegende Holländer</i>
March 15	Pegasus	<i>The Panther and the Rose</i>
March 17	OGR Lecture Series	<i>Operatic Oddities</i>
March 24	OGR Lecture Series	<i>Simon Boccanegra</i>
March 29	Rochester Academy of Med	Salon Concert
March 29 and 31	ROH at The Little	<i>La Boheme</i>
March 31	OGR Lecture Series	<i>Verdi</i>

[Return to Contents](#)

Opera Guild of Rochester Free Lecture/Listening Series

Brighton Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Tuesdays, 7-9 pm



Note: Due to the renovation taking place at the library, the February 25th lecture is CANCELLED. It will be rescheduled; watch *Viva Voce* for details.

March 10, Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*, David Dean. This is the second of Glass' trilogy of operas about great men in each of three fields of human endeavor. It concerns Gandhi and the fight for social justice in South Africa.

March 17, *Operatic Oddities, Singing Outside the Box*, Art Axelrod. Explores some opera scenes that do not follow the usual conventions of music drama and composition.

March 24, Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Peter Dundas. From a Met telecast on Dec.29, 1984; Sherrill Milnes as Bocanegra, Anna Tomowa-Sintow as Amelea, conducted by James Levine. The New York Times: "...[I]t contains some of the most powerful music that Verdi ever wrote."

March 31, *Great Scenes from Verdi*, Rosalba Pisaturo. The title says it all!

[Return to Contents](#)



Bravo Nights

Bravo Nights are performances at The Little Caf  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.

Mark your calendar for the remaining Bravo Nights in 2020:

[Wednesday, June 10](#)

[Tuesday, September 29](#)

[Monday, November 30](#)

The Little is located at 240 East Avenue, performances are 7-9 pm, and refreshments may be purchased at The Little Caf .

[Return to Contents](#)

Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition

The 2020 vocal competition winners are as follows:

First Place: Ye Ji Lee

Second Place: Sophie Thompson

Third Place: Patrick Graham

Honorable Mention: Michael Aiello

FEO sponsors an annual Vocal Competition in which a number of Eastman's very best singers, selected by their teachers, compete for significant cash awards. It provides an opportunity for these singers to perform for a nationally or internationally recognized conductor, stage director, or impresario serving as adjudicator who give them valuable feedback.



[Return to Contents](#)

Pegasus 2019-2020 Season



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

[Return to Contents](#)



Royal Opera House Film Series at The Little

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!

[Return to Contents](#)



ROS presents Bloch's "Sacred Service"

Friday, April 24, 2020 | 7:30 PM

Hochstein Performance Hall
50 Plymouth Ave N
Rochester, NY 14614

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

The ROS commemorates the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps through an inspiring performance of Bloch's "Sacred Service," sung in Hebrew and English. Cantor Isaac Assor is the soloist with the ROS orchestra and chorus in this fifth annual collaboration with the University of Rochester Humanities Center.

[Return to Contents](#)

Mark Daniels Album Release

Mark Daniels, well known to the Rochester community from recitals at the Lyric Theater and appearances at Bravo Night and the Opera Guild's Annual Donor Recital, has released his first album, "The Lyric Tenor in Recital." Accompanied by Rob Goodling, noted piano accompanist, teacher, and frequent competition juror, the album comprises opera arias, musical theater selections, and songs in six languages. To order, send Mark an email at mdmarky76@gmail.com. Also note that Mr. Daniels' next recital at the Lyric Theater will take place on **Sunday, April 26 at 4 pm.**



[Return to Contents](#)

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE 2019-2020 SEASON



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>.

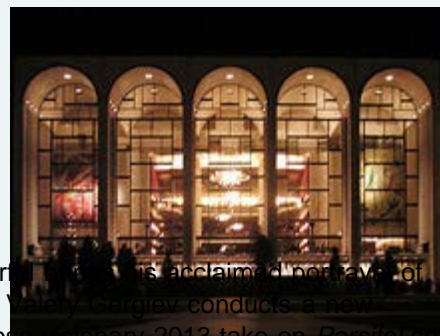
[Return to Contents](#)

Metropolitan Opera HD Season 2019 - 2020

All showings at 12:55 pm

Wagner, *Der Fliegende Holländer*
March 14

For more info, [click here](#)



The great bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel is the acclaimed portrayer of the doomed sea captain of the title.. Yannick Nézet-Séguin 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. [Click Here](#) for an essay on *Der Fliegende Holländer*.

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.

[Return to Contents](#)



Hear it. See it. Feel it.

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

[Return to Contents](#)

Rochester International Vocal Competition

Rising Stars | Distinguished Judges | An Event Like No Other

Be there as young artists perform thrilling renditions of the most moving classics of opera, art song, and oratorio. Participate in this one-of-a-kind evening of music by voting for your favorite performance.

Purchase a VIP ticket for special reserved seating and parking, as well as a chance to meet the distinguished panel of judges in a private cabaret setting with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert.

Saturday, May 2, 2020 | 6:30 PM

Rochester Lyric Theatre
440 East Avenue
Rochester NY, 14607

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to rossings.org

[Return to Contents](#)

Annual Recital

Each year we invite our donors to an Opera Guild recital with an emerging operatic talent. This year's event features baritone [Samson McCrady](#), who returned to Washington National Opera last fall as a Young Artist for the 2019-2020 season, where he sang Papageno in the Maurice Sendak production of *The Magic Flute*.

The Recital will take place on **Sunday, May 17, 2020**, from 2 - 3:30 pm at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14610. A reception with the artists, including refreshments, will follow.

Not a donor? Simply push the donate button, complete your gift, rsvp for the date by phone (585)385-6971) or email and your name will be on the invited list.

About Our Performers

Samson McCrady graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in December 2015 with a degree in vocal performance. He won first place in the Rochester Lyric Opera recital competition and gave a recital there in March 2016. He also won first place in the Classical Singer Competition at the Boston Convention in May, 2016.

While a student at Cincinnati College Conservatory, he was invited to be a Young Artist at Opera Theatre of St. Louis in the summer of 2018, and a Young Artist in the Domingo-Caffritz program at Washington National Opera for the 2018-2019 season, where he sang the role of Wagner in *Faust*. Samson spent the summer of 2019 as a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival where he sang the lead baritone role in the Missy Mazzoli 2018 opera, *Proving Up*. He was invited back to Washington National Opera last fall as a young artist for the 2019-2020 season, where he sang Papageno in the Maurice Sendak production of *The Magic Flute*.

[Listen to Samson McCrady singing an excerpt of the Sextet from La Cenerentola.](#)

Samson will be accompanied by Brock Tjesvold, who has performed throughout the United States with many up-and-coming musicians, as well as established ensembles. Brock is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Dr. Andrew Harley. He previously completed his master's degree at the University of Michigan with Martin Katz and a Performer's Certificate at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, studying with Anne Epperson and Kevin Murphy.

Most recently, he was the official pianist for the 2019 Donald Runnicles Musical Arts Scholarship Competition Finals at the Grand Teton Music Festival. Brock was a collaborative piano fellow at the 2018 Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA., studying with Jonathan Feldman, and other recent performance highlights include Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the National Repertory Orchestra and a performance at Carnegie Hall with clarinetist Amy Humberd. In March 2020, he appeared as piano soloist with Æ†PEX Contemporary Performance Ensemble for a performance of Berg's *Kammerkonzert*.

[Return to Contents](#)

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

Rochester Academy of
Medicine

1441 East Avenue

(585) 271-1314

room.org

Rebecca Penneys, piano

Mikhail Kopelman, violin

Stefan Reuss, cello



[Return to Contents](#)

TRICITIES OPERA

Tickets, call 607-772-0400;

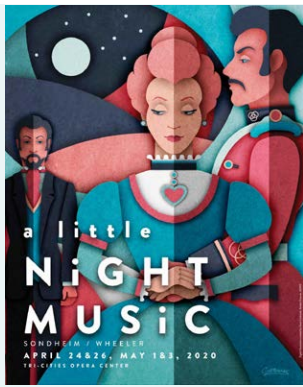
Box office information and to buy online, see tricitiesoera.com/box-office

A Little Night Music

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

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

Tri-Cities Opera Center



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

315 Clinton Street
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.

[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 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 February and March issues for listing.

\$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 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 Caf  , 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](#)



**CANADIAN
OPERA
COMPANY**

AIDA April 18, 2020 to May 8, 2020

[Learn More](#)

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

[Learn More](#)

[Return to Contents](#)

Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman) **Peter Dundas**

You may know the fable of the *Flying Dutchman*. It is the story of an enchanted ship which can never arrive in port, and which since time immemorial has been sailing about at sea. When it meets a vessel, some of the unearthly sailors come in a boat and beg the others to take a packet of letters home for them. The letters are always addressed to people whom no one knows, and who have long been dead, so that some late descendant gets a letter addressed to a faraway great-great-grandmother, who has slept for centuries in her grave. That timber specter, that *Flying Dutchman*, is so called from the captain, a Hollander named Vanderdecken, who once swore by all the devils that he would get around the Cape of Good Hope in spite of a fearful storm, though he should sail till the Day of Judgement. The devil took him at his word, and therefore he must sail forever.

It was Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) who introduced the idea of redemption to the story. In his book, "Memoirs of Herr Von Schnabelewopski," published in 1834, he discussed and modified the legend: the devil will now allow the 'enchanted' captain to land once in seven years, get married, and so find opportunities to save his soul. Before this point, in all the Dutchman stories there was no way the captain could be saved from hell. The character of Senta was added to be the vehicle of the Dutchman's redemption. In the memoirs, Heine also mentions the song later used in the opera by Wagner, the Ho-i-ho Song of the Sailors, in his poetic description of his experience on leaving Hamburg to sail for Amsterdam.

"It was a charming spring day when I first left Hamburg. I still hear the joyous, long-drawn Ho-i-ho! of the sailors. Such a port in spring-time has a pleasant similarity with the feelings of a youth who goes for the first time out into the world on the great ocean of life. All his thoughts are gaily variegated, pride swells every sail of his desires-ho-i-ho! But soon a storm rises, the horizon grows dark, the wind's bride howls, the planks crack, the waves break the rudder, and the poor ship is wrecked on romantic rocks, or stranded on damp, prosaic sandbanks; or perhaps, brittle and broken, with its masts gone, and without an anchor of hope, it returns to its old harbor, and there molds away, wretchedly unrigged, as a miserable wreck.

Wagner was only 21 when he read Heine's version of the *Flying Dutchman* legend and then used it, six years later, to develop the plot of his opera of the same name. It was finished in 1841 and premiered at the Hoftheater in Dresden on January 2, 1843, conducted by Wagner himself. The costume designer for that performance was Ferdinand Heine, who contacted Wagner with questions about his opera. Unfortunately, this letter cannot be found. We do not know if Ferdinand was even related to Heinrich. However, we do have a letter written by Wagner to Ferdinand Heine, in July 1843, which confirms his knowledge of the Heine modification and the introduction of Senta, the daughter of Daland, the Norwegian captain in the opera.

As to Wagner's particular approach to the story, we have the following:

He writes, "When I wrote my *Flying Dutchman* [1841], it was in the firm conviction that I could not proceed

otherwise than I did. During my famous sea-voyage and amid the Norwegian cliffs the subject - already long known to me through your namesake - acquired for me a quite peculiar color and individuality, gloomy, it is true, but deriving from the nature common to all of us, not at all from the speculation of a gloom-sick enthusiast. But the vast wild ocean, with the legends woven about it, is an element that does not lend itself obediently and willingly to being trimmed into a modern opera; and I saw that the whole story of the Flying Dutchman, filled as it is with the roar of the sea - which now took such complete possession of me that it cried out for artistic reproduction - would have to be atrociously cropped and mangled to be made into an opera text with piquant suspenses, surprises and so forth with the modern taste demands. Therefore, I preferred not to modify the material, just as it lay to my hand, to any further extent than is required by a dramatic action, leaving the full aroma of the legend entirely free to spread itself over the whole. Only in that way, I believe, could I cast upon the spectator the full spell of that strange mood in which anyone with a feeling for poetry can take to his heart this gloomiest of legends." ("Richard Wagner's Letters to his Dresden Friends", published by H Grevel and Co., London 1890).

[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](#)

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.