

October 2025



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Edition Viva Voce

October 2025

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. Our addresses are P.O. Box 244, Pittsford, NY 14534;
info@operaguilddofrochester.org

The Guild presents Bravo Nights (free informal opera programs at the Little Café), free opera lectures at local libraries, trips to productions of local and regional opera companies, including the Glimmerglass Festival, the Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series of DVD presentations in January, and recitals and concerts.

This newsletter is sent via email each month, currently to about 2,500 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our website and sign up at www.operaguilddofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce

The deadline for submission of articles and event announcements for the next issue is the 19th of the previous month.

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 us at Operaguilddofrochester.org, at Facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester, or on Instagram.com/operaguilddrochester

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



Opera Guild of Rochester,
P.O. Box 244, Pittsford, NY 14534

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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. We find ourselves with ample room at the recital; therefore donors may bring guests (with notice).

Chorus: \$65 per person, \$95 per couple.

Comprimario: \$100-\$249.

Primo: \$250-\$399.

Diva: \$400-\$549.

Maestro: \$550-\$999.

Impresario: \$1000 or more.

You may also mail a check to Opera Guild of Rochester,
PO Box 244, Pittsford, NY 14534.

Please include an email or other address for your tax receipt.

A Note on Tax Receipts from the President

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 canceled 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!

**Donate
Online**



News From Your Opera Guild

We are proud to be sponsoring Sarah Cooper's master class at Roberts Wesleyan University, free and open to the public, and we look forward to hearing this talented soprano in *Mass in Blue*. The master class will be a great event, but for those who prefer to stay in Rochester, there is the OGR Bravo Night, also a great event - The FLO Young Artists always seem to lift our spirits as well as provide great music.

Watch for our donation campaign letter in the mail, which includes the Annual Events Card with our own activities for the year. In addition to the Glimmerglass trip, we are in the process of planning a second day trip to a beloved opera - so stay tuned - and please - **Support the programs you enjoy in the company of others who love opera!**

For opera fun all month, see OPERATOBER, p. 23, by Opera Volunteers of America, Inc.

Looking forward to seeing those of who attend the meet-up at Tinseltown and have a spooky Halloween.

Carol Crocca

Editor's Corner

Great music in October! Our cover tells much of the story, with the addition, locally, of more from Rochester Oratorio Society (Page 42); Publick Musick (Page 45), Pegasus (Page 47) and Third Thursdays at the Memorial Art Gallery (Page 40). Noted soprano Sarah Cooper is visiting us (Page 19), and at the end of the month, Eastman Opera Theatre begins its season (Page 33). Farther afield, Tri-Cities has *Gianni Schicchi* (Page 51) and Canadian Opera Company has two operas in October, plus its Gala (Page 57). Let the season begin!

Carol Curcio

Volunteer



Please 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 info@operaguildofrochester.org and the appropriate person will contact you.



Opera Guild of Rochester **Bravo Nights**

Sunday, October 26, 7 pm

The Little Café, 240 East Avenue

Bravo Nights are performances 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.

Bravo Nights take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue.

Refreshments may be purchased.

Our next Bravo Night is **Sunday, October 26, 7 pm**, with the Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists



Meet-ups at Tinseltown!

All are at Tinseltown, 12:00–1pm (Opera at 1pm)

2291 Buffalo Road, Rochester

Meet-ups are informal gatherings to give people a chance to chat about screenings of opera productions and all things opera. The Guild has reserved the party room at Tinseltown one hour before showtime so opera goers can meet for coffee and conversation beforehand. We'll have light refreshments on hand for all.



The meet-up is free, but you'll need to purchase a ticket to the actual screening. [Click here](#) to purchase a ticket to the Met Live in HD simulcast at Tinseltown.

Very special thanks to our generous donors,
Drs. Margaret and Arnold Matlin,
for underwriting our meet-ups!

La Sonnambula

Sat, Oct 18, 2025 1:00 PM

Nadine Sierra is Amina, who sleepwalks her way into audiences' hearts in Bellini's poignant tale of love lost and found. In his new production, Rolando Villazón—the tenor who has embarked on a brilliant second career as a director—retains the opera's original setting in the Swiss Alps but uses its somnambulant plot to explore the emotional and psychological valleys of the mind. Tenor Xabier Anduaga co-stars as Amina's fiancé, Elvino, alongside soprano Sydney Mancasola as her rival, Lisa, and bass Alexander Vinogradov as Count Rodolfo. Riccardo Frizza takes the podium for one of opera's most ravishing works.

Bellini, *Bel Canto* Master. Part 1

Part I. The first half of the composer's short career and *La sonnambula*.

Part II, in January, his later life and *I puritani*.

Carol Crocca



Act I, Amina and Elviro, (Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Florez)

Vincenzo Bellini (1801–1835) was the youngest of the three great bel canto composers in the first part of the 19th century, the others being Rossini (1792–1868) and Donizetti (1797–1848). While Rossini was more renowned and influential in many ways, and Donizetti justly popular, prolific and skillful, Bellini is considered to have brought bel canto to its apogee and have taken the lead in shaping the Romantic period that was to come. He wrote ten operas, all semi-seria or tragic, and no comedies in the traditional buffa style. *Il pirata* (1827), *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* (1830), *La sonnambula* (1831), *Norma* (1831), and *I puritani* (1835) are in all in performance today. (Note 1.)



Act II, Amina and Elviro with villagers

Bellini was born in Catania, Sicily into a musical family. As a very young child, his father gave him piano lessons and he was given rudimentary schooling by the local priest. He was an accomplished pianist at age five, had an excellent musical ear and memory, and wrote his first composition at six. At seven, he began studying composition with his grandfather, and at the age of eighteen went to study at the San Carlo Conservatory in Naples. There he eventually became the pupil of Nicola Zingarelli, who encouraged him to diverge from the standard contrapuntal studies and develop his talent as a melodist. (Thank you, Zingarelli!)



Vincenzo Bellini, portrait by Jean-François (circonflex on the 'c.') Millet, 1814-1875

Bellini had a very successful operatic debut as a student with *Adelson e Salvini*, was commissioned to write an opera for the Teatro San Carlo, and was then asked to go to Milan, where he composed *Il pirata*. Happily, the librettist for that work was the accomplished and renowned poet, Felice Romani. The partnership was a marvelous fit, and Bellini's subsequent seven Italian operas were all composed to his libretti. *Il pirata* was so well-received that Bellini had now achieved success with the public at a very early age.

By 1830, he wrote, 'My style is now heard in the most important theatres in the world and is heard with the greatest enthusiasm.' (Quoted by Friedrich Lippmann in Masters of Italian Opera, W.W. Norton & Co., NY, 1980, p. 160.)

These successes made it possible for Bellini to achieve something different from the standard fate of contemporary composers. Rather than going rapidly from one opera to the next, he liked to compose slowly, demanded higher fees, and never sought or accepted any official teaching or administrative post, the goal of other composers who sought a secure source of income. He was able to live well on his composing fees, often helped by living at the homes of friends, and valued his independence.



Act II, closing scene, Amina sleepwalking

Obviously, Bellini had no lack of self-regard, and he was often difficult and demanding, insisting on his view in various disagreements with opera management and librettists. He was very concerned about the singers who would perform his work and would refuse to finalize a contract until they had been engaged, contrary to the usual custom. Personally, he was blond, very slim, handsome and something of a dandy in his dress, with an elegant demeanor and popular in society. He had an habitual, somewhat melancholy, expression, and was once described as 'a sigh in pumps.'

Singers were important to Bellini not only for his own artistic purposes, but because in the *bel canto* period, singers reigned. This is described by Phil J Goulding:

In the bel canto period, opera belonged, not to composers, conductors, librettists, or proprietors, but to the singing stars. The public was not looking for the ideal blend of drama and music, for unity of structure, for character development, or for Shakespeare-like understanding of the human condition. It wanted to hear the superstars belt out the arias."

Ticket to the Opera, Fawcett Books, New York, 1996, p. 324

Dramatically, Bellini liked a libretto with thrilling situations and the opportunity to write passionate music, one of the characteristics of Romanticism. He is particularly praised for congruence of words and music: the text of the libretto is precisely declaimed and the verbal and musical accents coincide. Perhaps the most renowned characteristic of his music, however, is what Verdi termed those 'long, long, long melodies.' His music is full of melodic curves of wide span, which he achieved through a variety of techniques. A well-known example is *Casta diva* from *Norma*. (Note 2) He was determined to distinguish himself from Rossini, the superstar of the time; one way was to use less coloratura (extended passages of ornamental singing, which helped give 'bel canto' its name) and when used, he integrated it with the text.

La sonnambula, his first mature masterpiece, was also his first triumph. The premiere was at the Teatro Carcano in Milan, March 1831. It is described as follows

Thanks to the combination of the exquisite lyricism of Bellini's full maturity and the incomparable vocal arts of Pasta and Rubini [lead soprano and tenor] the early performances of *La sonnambula* provided some of the most blissful evenings in the annals of Italian opera.

Holden, Amanda, ed., The New Penguin Opera Guide, Penguin Books, London, 2001, p 50.

In *La sonnambula*, the chorus participates in the drama, creating a sense of the community in which the story takes place. This is a relatively new development used by Bellini to good effect.

Some highlights:

Act I, scene i: The duet of Almina and her fiancé Elvino, 'Son geloso del zefiro errante' ('I am jealous of the wandering breeze') is full of melody, directness of expression, and the integration of text and music for which Bellini is celebrated.

Act II, scene i: Elvino's aria expressing his bitter feelings at Amina's supposed betrayal, 'Tutto e sciolto'-'Ah perche non posso odiarti' ('All is undone'-Ah, why can't I hate you?') evidences the composer's ability to give passionate musical voice to strong emotion.

Act II, closing scene: Amina's aria, 'Ah! non credea mirarti' ('Ah! don't believe what you see') is a superb example of those long, long melodies of which he was the master.

Note 1. *I puritani* will be given on January 10 at the Met Live in HD; *Norma* will be featured at OGR's Beat the Blahs series, also in January.

Note 2. For a technical discussion of the musical methods used to achieve those long melodies, see Lippmann, Friedrich, Vincenzo Bellini in Masters of Italian Opera, opus cited in text, p.170.

References in addition to those already cited in the text:

Parker, Roger, ed., The Oxford Illustrated History of Opera, Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 1994.

Weaver, William, ed., The Golden Century of Italian Opera, Thames and Hudson, New York, 1988.



This fall's Finger Lakes Opera Engagement Tour features a newly-written children's opera: *Too Many Notes!* and community concerts across the region.

Under the direction and production design of Kasi L. Krenzer Marshall this fall children's opera features four of FLO's Young Artists: Izabella Gozzo (2025), Alexandra Sanchez (2023), Conor Brereton (2023) and Steven Warnock (2023), as well as Rochester-based performer/acting coach/fight choreographer J Simmons as the Narrator. This show is the newest creation of Larry Hensel and the cast will be joined onstage by two of Hensel's custom puppets (puppeteered by



Simmons). Perfect for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade this fast-paced, 30-minute performance encourages patience, responsibility, and teamwork.

Krenzer Marshall says, "As soon as we open the schedule, our Education Partners begin reaching out to book a performance. The fall school show has become a favorite among teachers and students alike...and it's one of our favorite types of performances, too." Kasi originally joined FLO in 2019 as the children's opera costume designer, but now wears many hats in her full-year staff position as FLO's Community Engagement and Operations Director.

During their three-week tenure in Rochester, the Fall Tour Singers also give concerts across the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes region. Featuring a repertoire of opera arias, musical theatre standards, and art songs, they will also appear at OGR's Bravo Night on Sunday, October 26. These

types of concerts occur throughout the year with various rosters of FLO Singers, but the fall tour provides a unique mix of performance opportunities for the Singers to share their vast talents.

Krenzer Marshall adds, "FLO's mission to bring music into the community extends to everyone, young and old, opera lover or novice. We're excited to bring another tour to life and share the music we love."

Rosie Kearns, for the
Finger Lakes Opera



All snapshots from FLO's 2024 Children's Opera, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Mass in Blue

October 17, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Hochstein Performance Hall

The ROS opens its 80th season in celebratory style with brilliant music by Rochester composers and a jazz-inspired mass. Jeff Tyzik's "Psalm 150" was premiered by the ROS 20 years ago. Hear it in Jeff's new edition along with Ron Nelson's "Fanfare for a Festival" and the globally famous "Mass in Blue," by Will Todd, in its local premiere.

Sarah Cooper, soprano, and the ROS Orchestra and Jazz All Stars. See profile of Sarah Cooper, next page.





The Opera and Voice Department
of Robert Wesleyan University proudly present

A Master Class with Sarah Cooper

Wednesday, October 25 • 7 pm

Cultural Life Center, Lower Level, Shewan Recital Hall

Roberts Wesleyan University

Apple Lane, North Chili, NY 14514

Sarah Cooper

"A meltingly beautiful soprano" (Opera News), Sarah Cooper will grace the performance of *Mass in Blue* for the Rochester Oratorio Society this month, and also conduct a master class at Roberts Wesleyan University, hosted and coordinated by Constance Fee, Professor of Voice, and Opera Guild board member.

Recent highlights for Ms. Cooper include her debut with Seattle Opera as Minnie Tate in the world premiere of Tazewell Thompson's *Jubilee*, a return to Carnegie Hall as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* and *Vesperae solennes de confessore* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, the role of Tebaldo in Verdi's *Don Carlo* with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the title role in James Kallembach's *American Jezebel: The Trial of Anne Hutchinson*, a world premiere opera commissioned by Harvard University.

Other performances in the 2025–2026 season include her debut with the Harvard–Radcliffe Orchestra as the soloist in Mahler’s Fourth Symphony, and an appearance with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra as a soloist in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.

Ms. Cooper has received awards from the George London Foundation and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, in addition to many other prizes and recognitions. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in French at Princeton University and her Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College, where she received the Gwynn Moose Cornell Endowed Award, given to the student who shows the most promise for a career in vocal performance.

In addition to performing, Ms. Cooper serves as volunteer Executive Assistant for [Help!ComeHome!](#), a nonprofit dedicated to meeting the needs of under-served communities throughout the US in Jesus’ Name. She also enjoys gardening, playing cello, being active outdoors, and is a former competitive gymnast.



Sarah Joyce Cooper

*The Erwin H. Johnson
Memorial Fund for Opera, Inc.*

Cordially Invites You to Our

Celebrate World Opera Day Concert 2025

"Opera With & Without Words"

featuring

Katie Riederer, soprano
Michael Serio, piano & Shannon Reilly, violin

Saturday, October 25th at 3 PM

Enjoy lush melodies, beloved arias, fantasias, duets, and trios,
written by the masters, Puccini, Mozart, Saint-Saëns,
Massenet and more.

Recital held at the WNED Soundstage
140 Lower Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14202

This concert is Free

Pre-registration is required

(Registration begins September 29)

Go to- www.btpm.org/events

Questions- 716-992-9264



Covenant United
Methodist Church



Organ Centennial Concert

Sunday, October 19th, 2025 — 3 PM

1124 Culver Road (at Parsells Avenue)

**Celebrating the 100th Anniversary
of Covenant's 1925 Austin Pipe Organ**

Featuring Organists from The Eastman School of Music,
representing four continents!

Donations gratefully accepted for the
Eastman Student Travel Fund

CovenantRoc.org

October is "Operatober"!

Opera Volunteers International (OVI) invites you and your members to join a month-long celebration of opera in October, with special events, entertaining creative activities, and plenty of ways to connect.

Daily Social Fun

Every weekday in October, OVi will post themed content on its social media channels.

Meme Mondays

Twisted Tuesdays

(opera trivia & puzzles)

Wine-Down Wednesdays

Thumb-Thru Thursdays

(favorite books & scores)

Factual Fridays

(opera facts & history)

Weekly Highlights

Enjoy a fresh activity each week to share with your group. It's a fun way to bond with local members and explore the world of opera together.

Week of Oct 6: Opera Scavenger Hunt – Virtually discover opera groups near & far.

Week of Oct 13: Opera Art Show – An online celebration of opera with a curated mini art show, soaring arias, a lively Carmen sing-along, historically accurate costumes, decorations, and more.

Week of Oct 20: Opera Movie Club – A one-hour Zoom discussion of Bellini's enchanting *La Sonnambula*.

Week of Oct 27: Behind the Scenes – A backstage tour with Florida Grand Opera's CEO, Maria Todaro, during rehearsals for *Silent Night*.

The complete details can be found on OVI's website at
www.operavolunteers.org/operatober

Connect. Create. Celebrate.

This is a great "opera-tunity" to bond with your local members and meet opera enthusiasts across the U.S. and Canada.

Don't miss the music and the fun—be part of Operatober!



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



La Sonnambula

Sat, Oct 18, 2025 1:00 PM

Nadine Sierra is Amina, who sleepwalks her way into audiences' hearts in Bellini's poignant tale of love lost and found. In his new production, Rolando Villazón—the tenor who has embarked on a brilliant second career as a director—retains the opera's original setting in the Swiss Alps but uses its somnambulant plot to explore the emotional and psychological valleys of the mind. Tenor Xabier Anduaga co-stars as Amina's fiancé, Elvino, alongside soprano Sydney Mancasola as her rival, Lisa, and bass Alexander Vinogradov as Count Rodolfo. Riccardo Frizza takes the podium for one of opera's most ravishing works.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



The Met has announced its season for Live in HD transmissions. The dates for these are as listed in This Month and below. Theaters are AMC Webster, Eastview Regal, and Cinemark Tinseltown in Greece. **There is a free Meet-up before each opera at Tinseltown, with the exception of Andrea Chénier.** Essays on the operas appear in *Viva Voce* in appropriate months.

The following currently appears for each showing, but the actual content does not seem to be available yet: "English Stream Text captioning is available for the Met's transmission. A transcript of the transmission will also be available to view after the live performance."



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



La Bohème

Sat, Nov 08, 2025 1:00 PM

With its enchanting setting and spellbinding score, the world's most popular opera is as timeless as it is heartbreaking. Franco Zeffirelli's picture-perfect production brings 19th-century Paris to the Met stage as Puccini's young friends and lovers navigate the joy and struggle of bohemian life. Soprano Juliana Grigoryan is the feeble seamstress Mimì, opposite tenor Freddie De Tommaso as the ardent poet Rodolfo. Keri-Lynn Wilson conducts.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



Arabella

Sat, Nov 22, 2025 1:00 PM

Strauss's elegant romance brings the glamour and enchantment of 19th-century Vienna to cinemas worldwide in a sumptuous production by legendary director Otto Schenk that "is as beautiful as one could hope" (*The New York Times*). Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen stars as the title heroine, a young noblewoman in search of love on her own terms. Radiant soprano Louise Alder is her sister, Zdenka, and bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny is the dashing count who sweeps Arabella off her feet.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



Andrea Chénier

Sat, Dec 13, 2025 1:00 PM ET

Giordano's passionate tragedy stars tenor Piotr Beczala as the virtuous poet who falls victim to the intrigue and violence of the French Revolution. Following their celebrated recent partnership in Giordano's *Fedora* in the 2022–23 *Live in HD* season, Beczala reunites with soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Chénier's aristocratic lover, Maddalena di Coigny, with baritone Igor Golovatenko as Carlo Gérard, the agent of the Reign of Terror who seals their fates. Met Principal Guest Conductor Daniele Rustioni takes the podium to lead Nicolas Joël's gripping staging.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



I Puritani

Sat, Jan 10, 2026 1:00 PM

For gorgeous melody, spellbinding coloratura, and virtuoso vocal fireworks, *I Puritani* has few equals. The first new Met production of Bellini's final masterpiece in nearly 50 years with a striking staging by Charles Edwards. Conducted by Marco Armiliato, for the demanding principal roles: Soprano Lisette Oropesa and tenor Lawrence Brownlee are Elvira and Arturo, brought together by love and torn apart by the political rifts of the English Civil War, with baritone Artur Ruciński as Riccardo, betrothed to Elvira against her will, and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn as Elvira's sympathetic uncle, Giorgio.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



Tristan und Isolde

Sat, Mar 21, 2026 12:00 PM

The electrifying Lise Davidsen tackles one of the ultimate roles for dramatic soprano: the Irish princess Isolde in Wagner's transcendent meditation on love and death. Heroic tenor Michael Spyres stars opposite Davidsen as the love-drunk Tristan. A new Met-staging by Yuval Sharon—hailed by *The New York Times* as “the most visionary opera director of his generation” and the first American to direct an opera at the famed Wagner festival in Bayreuth—as well as Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin's first time leading *Tristan und Isolde* at the Met. Mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova reprises her signature portrayal of Brangäne, alongside bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny, who sings Kurwenal. Bass baritone Ryan Speedo Green makes an important role debut as King Marke.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



Eugene Onegin

Sat, May 02, 2026 1:00 PM

Following her acclaimed 2024 company debut in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, soprano Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in this ardent operatic adaptation of Pushkin. Baritone Igor Golovatenko is the urbane Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. The Met's evocative production, directed by Tony Award-winner Deborah Warner, "offers a beautifully detailed reading of ... Tchaikovsky's lyrical romance" (*The Telegraph*).



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD Series



El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego

Sat, May 30, 2026 1:00 PM

American composer Gabriela Lena Frank's first opera, a magical-realist portrait of Mexico's painterly power couple Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, with libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz. Fashioned as a reversal of the Orpheus and Euridice myth, the story depicts Frida, sung by leading mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, leaving the underworld on the Day of the Dead and reuniting with Diego, portrayed by baritone Carlos Álvarez. The famously feuding pair briefly relive their tumultuous love, embracing both the passion and the pain before bidding the land of the living a final farewell. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts the Met-premiere staging of Frank's opera, a "confident, richly imagined score" (*The New Yorker*) that "bursts with color and fresh individuality" (*Los Angeles Times*). The vibrant new production, taking enthusiastic inspiration from Frida and Diego's paintings, is directed and choreographed by Deborah Colker.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Eastman Opera Theatre



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman
School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

Eastman Opera Theatre Announces 2025-2026 Season Including World Premiere Performance

A FALL PRESENTATION OF ONE-ACTS

esm.rochester.edu

EASTMAN
Opera Theatre
25-26 SEASON

CLICK! (World Premiere)
October 30 & November 1
Kilbourn Hall

In a Grove
October 31 & November 2
Kilbourn Hall

Winter Vocal Fest

Impressions de Pelléas
January 29-February 1
Annex 804

TWENTY-FOUR, or The Cure for Love
February 5-8
Annex 804

Second Annual songSLAM Eastman
February 7 | Sproull Atrium
Presented in collaboration with
Sparks & Wiry Cries

Die Fledermaus
April 9-12
Kodak Hall at
Eastman Theatre



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Eastman Opera Theatre

"CLICK!" (2025) — World Premiere

October 30 & November 1

Kilbourn Hall

Music by Steve Bramson; Libretto by Gayle Hudson
Directed by Pat Diamond; Conducted by Timothy Long
Sung in English with chamber orchestra

CLICK! is a new opera based on the life and legacy of André Kertész and his wife, Elizabeth, and it will make its world premiere at the Eastman School of Music this fall. Set in Budapest, Paris, and New York, it explores the themes of exile, artistic identity, and love's enduring force through the shifting political and socioeconomic tides of the twentieth century. With a score that invokes Phillip Glass and Stephen Sondheim, *CLICK!* features a cast of three singers and one spoken role.

This production coincides with a related exhibition at the George Eastman Museum: *American Born, Hungary: Kertész, Capa, and the Hungarian American Photographic Legacy*.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Eastman Opera Theatre

"In a Grove" (2021)

October 31 & November 2

Kilbourn Hall

Music by Christopher Cerrone; Libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann

Directed by Joelle Lachance; Conducted by Timothy Long

Sung in English with chamber orchestra

Inspired by Japanese author Ryūnosuke Akutagawa's short story and Akira Kurosawa's acclaimed film *Rashōmon*, *In a Grove* unfolds as a haunting, nonlinear investigation into the disappearance of a young woman and the murder of her husband in a burned Oregon forest. Set in 1921, the story is told by a string of unreliable narrators—witnesses offering conflicting accounts of what happened to the girl. "The crux of this show is the fallibility of memory," comments director Joelle Lachance '25E (DMA). "It bends the truth until you believe that what you 'remember' is what actually happened." *Due to sensitive subject matter involving violence and sexual assault, this opera is not recommended for children.*



WINTER VOICE FESTIVAL

"Impressions de Pelléas" (1992)

January 29, 30, 31, February 1

Annex 804

Music by Claude Debussy; Adapted by Marius Constant

Directed by Pat Diamond; Conducted by Wilson

Southerland

Sung in French with two pianos

This chamber adaptation of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* distills the original into an intimate, 100-minute experience, reimagined for two pianos and voice. The opera explores a tangle of emotion, secrecy, and longing, centered on the mysterious Mélisande and the fraught relationship between two brothers who love her. Performed in Eastman's black box theatre, *Impressions de Pelléas* invites the audience into close proximity with the cast for an immersive concert experience.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Eastman Opera Theatre

"TWENTY-FOUR," or "The Cure for Love" (2022)

February 5, 6, 7 & 8

Annex 804

Conception, musical arrangements
& orchestrations by Tony Boutté
Original scenario & English dialogue
by Chas Rader-Shieber & Tony Boutté,
Music Directed by Alison D'Amato

TWENTY-FOUR is a snappy, modern opera about the futility of trying to control love. Lord Tirsi has often stepped in to advise and help young lovers with his potions and remedies, but after 24 years of bitterness, he has reached his breaking point. When one final scheme backfires, chaos is unleashed and forces everyone to confront the true nature of love. Will budding romance be thwarted, or will fate and reason prevail?



Second Annual “songSLAM Eastman”

February 7

Sproull Atrium

Presented in collaboration with Sparks & Wiry Cries

For the second year in a row, Eastman is partnering with Sparks & Wiry Cries to bring songSLAM to Rochester. This event is a unique opportunity for composer-performer teams to premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes. Each team presents an original composition of five minutes or less for voice and one other instrument in any language. In the poetry slam tradition, the audience votes on their favorites and prizes are awarded. Registration information to be announced.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Eastman Opera Theatre

SPRING MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

Die Fledermaus" (1874)

April 9, 10, 11 & 12

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Music by Johann Strauss II,

Libretto by Karl Haffner and Richard Genée

Directed by Octavio Cardenas; Conducted by Timothy Long

Sung in German with English dialogue and full orchestra

Closing the season in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, EOT's lively take on *Die Fledermaus* brings the charm, wit, and champagne-fueled shenanigans of this timeless operetta into the spotlight. "This *Die Fledermaus* spins beneath the glitter ball of Studio 54, where Strauss meets sequins, and mistaken identity dances to a disco beat," exclaims director **Octavio Cardenas**. From mistaken identities and elaborate disguises to revenge schemes and late-night revelry, this joyful tale of Vienna's elite is not to be missed.

Tickets to all EOT performances will be sold through Eastman's Box Office website, though they are not yet available for purchase.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Memorial Art Gallery



Third Thursdays at the Memorial Art Gallery

On the third Thursday of each month, from October through May, the Eastman School of Music and the Memorial Art Gallery present varied concert programs by faculty and guest artists featuring Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ. These concerts are included with museum admission after 5:00 pm and are made possible by the Rippey Endowed Trust.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Third Thursdays at the Memorial Art Gallery

Third Thursday Concerts

Eastman School of Music & Memorial Art Gallery

All performances are 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Fountain Court

500 University Avenue, Rochester

October 16

Anne Laver, organ
Katherine Weber,
mezzo soprano

November 20

Michael Unger, organ
Erin Ellis, Baroque cello

December 18

Peter Dubois, organ
Mary DuBois, narrator

January 15, 2026

Crista Miller, organ

March 19, 2026

Edwin Huizinga, Baroque violin
Naomi Gregory, organ

February 19, 2026

Eastman School of Music
Organ Faculty:
David Higgs
Nathan Laube
William Porter
Stephen Kennedy

April 16, 2026

Hans and Ulrika Davidsson,
organ

May 21, 2026

Publick Musick
Naomi Gregory, organ



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Rochester Oratorio Society



ROCHESTER
ORATORIO
SOCIETY

Arts Connexions presents Alicia Esmeralda Barry

Friday, November 14, 2025
07:30 PM – 09:00 PM

First Universalist Church of Rochester
150 S Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604

Featuring Alicia Esmeralda Barry, mezzo-soprano, and Stephanie Paredes, storyteller with music, poetry, and spoken word of Mesoamerica

A Joyful Christmas

Friday, December 19, 2025
07:30 PM – 09:00 PM

Hochstein Performance Hall
50 N Plymouth Ave. Rochester, NY 14614

Julia Figueras, narrator; Hochstein Youth Singers; the Rochester Oratorio Society Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra



Arts Connexions presents Inventions of a Dream

Sunday, February 15, 2026
3:00 PM – 04:30 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
25 Westminster Rd. Rochester, NY 14607

A program of art song, musical theater, opera,
and original poetry, exploring Isabel Randall's
journey as a poet and opera singer.

The Cry of Jeremiah

Friday, March 20, 2026
7:30 PM – 09:00 PM

Hochstein Performance Hall
50 N Plymouth Ave. Rochester, NY 14614

Pablo Willey-Bustos, tenor; Rev. Dr. Rickey B.
Harvey Sr., narrator; Roberts Wesleyan Chorale;
the Rochester Oratorio Society Symphonic
Chorus and Orchestra



RIVC 2026 Emerging Artist Prize, “Joseph Eduardo” Finals

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Save the date for the Emerging Artist Prize,
“Joseph Eduardo” finals round of the Rochester
International Vocal Competition.

ROS with the RPO: Carmina Burana

Saturday, May 30, 2026 – Sunday, May 31,
2026

07:30 PM – 09:30 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
26 Gibbs St. Rochester, NY 14604

A choral spectacle of fate, fortune, and
unrelenting rhythm. The program opens with
Pacho Flores performing Roberto Sierra’s
stunning trumpet concerto Salseando.



Publick Musick

PUBLICK MUSICK

Opus 1

Saturday October 4, 4:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
21 Clara Barton St., Dansville

Sunday October 5, 3:00 pm

Episcopal Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene
(Two Saints Church)
17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester

A fun and intimate program exploring the first published works of some of our favorite Baroque composers. We'll be able to hear the birth of new musical trends, as well as trace influences from earlier generations. Music of Castello, Corelli, Vivaldi, and more!



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Publick Musick

Viola!

Saturday March 7, 4:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

21 Clara Barton St., Dansville

Sunday March 8, 3:00 pm

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word

597 East Ave., Rochester

The rich and beautiful timbre of the viola is most often heard as an inner voice, but in this program we will also feature the viola as a solo instrument. The program will include Bach's famous Brandenburg Concerto No. 6, as well as lesser-known gems of his contemporaries.

Celebrating the MAG Organ

Thursday May 21, 7:00 pm

Memorial Art Gallery Fountain Court

500 University Avenue, Rochester

It is always a treat to perform with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ! This season celebrates the 20th anniversary of the installation of this fantastic instrument in the Fountain Court of the MAG, and to commemorate this milestone our program will include an organ concerto with strings.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Pegasus Early Music



All programs at Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, 14614.

Darpana: Mirroring Traditions of Raga & Harmony



October 19, 2025
4:00 pm

An innovative cross-cultural collaboration between two distinct classical music traditions — European medieval to baroque music, and classical Indian music. We'll explore the connections and contrasts between these two musical worlds, their shared values of beauty and virtuosity, and the deep cultural histories they represent.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Pegasus Early Music

The Holly, the Ivy, and the Rose



December 14, 2025

4:00 pm

Carols for the season from medieval and renaissance England, including music by King Henry VIII.



Songs Old and New

February 8, 2026

4:00 pm

Dowland Mini-Festival Part 1:
Commemorating the 400th anniversary
of the death of John Dowland in February
1626: Dowland's lute songs, perfect
musical miniatures, alongside a special commission of
new lute songs by Jonathan Woody



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Pegasus Early Music



Paul O'Dette, lute

February 22, 2026

4:00 pm

Dowland Mini-Festival Part 2:
Commemorating the 400th
anniversary of the death of John
Dowland in February 1626 The many
moods of Dowland, merry to
melancholic, played by our local
world-renowned lute maestro

Resurrexit!

April 19, 2026

4:00 pm

Glorious 17th century
Italian music for cornetto
and voice, reflecting the
power of the human spirit.



All concerts take place in the lovely Sanctuary located
within the bustling Downtown United Presbyterian
Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614. The
church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Free parking is available in the lot across the street. The
church is ADA accessible.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Buffalo Opera Unlimited



Rehearsal Pianists' Revenge

February 1, 2026
2:30 PM

Lippes Concert Hall at Slee Hall
University at Buffalo North Campus



Opera on Tap

March 7, 2026
7 PM

Resurgence Brewing Company
55 Chicago Street, Buffalo

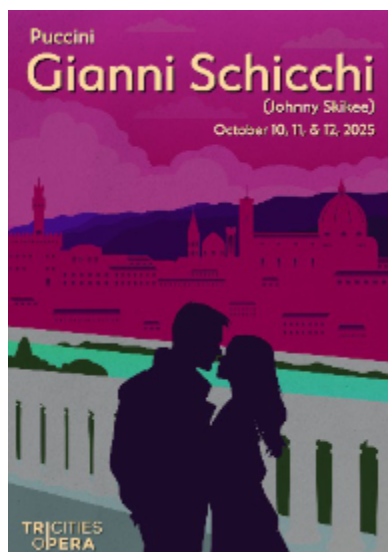




THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Tri-Cities Opera



Gianni Schicchi

Fri. Oct. 10 at 7:30 pm

Sat. Oct. 11 at 7:30 pm

Sun. Oct. 12 at 3:00 pm

Tri-Cities Opera Center

315 Clinton Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

Performed in **English**, 60 min with no intermission

Set in medieval Florence, *Gianni Schicchi* explores themes of greed, deception, justice, and the power of love. When the wealthy Buoso Donati dies, his family is horrified to discover that he has left his entire fortune to a monastery. Desperate to keep the inheritance for themselves, they turn to the clever and street-smart Gianni Schicchi for help.

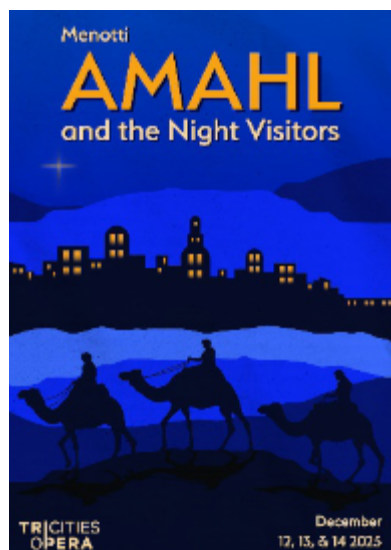
In a daring and hilarious scheme, Schicchi impersonates the dead man to dictate a new will—outsmarting the greedy relatives by securing the best parts of the estate for himself. Meanwhile, a heartfelt subplot unfolds as young lovers Rinuccio (Buoso's nephew) and Lauretta (Schicchi's daughter) hope that Schicchi's scheme will also secure their future together, a hope expressed in Lauretta's iconic aria, "*O mio babbino caro*."



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Tri-Cities Opera



Amahl

Fri. Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm

Sat. Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm

Sun. Dec. 14 at 3:00 pm

Tri-Cities Opera Center

315 Clinton Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

Performed in **English**

60 min with no intermission

Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a retelling of the story of the Magi from the point of view of a young disabled boy named Amahl. He sees a bright star in the sky one night and tells his mother, but she brushes him off, buried in concern over their poverty and bleak future. That night, three kings come across their hut, seeking shelter after a long journey following the star of which Amahl had spoken. They bring gifts to give to "the Child," who has just been born and will reign over all.

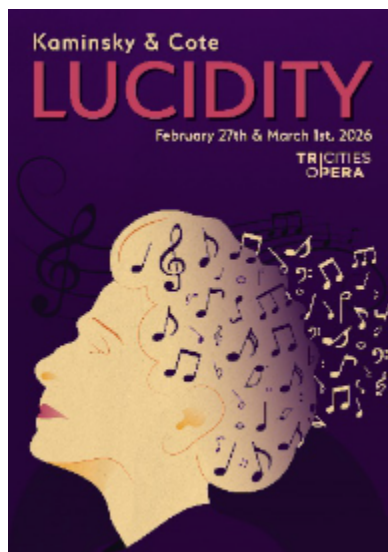
When his mother makes a questionable decision, Amahl's bravery and character shine through. We see that miracles are possible when we selflessly give our best gifts. A vivid and accessible family-friendly tale, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a perfect first or hundredth opera!



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Tri-Cities Opera



Lucidity

Fri. Feb. 27 at 7:30pm

Sun. Mar. 1 at 3:00 pm

Tri-Cities Opera Center

315 Clinton Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

Performed in **English**,
90 min with no intermission

Lucidity is a chamber opera by composer [Laura Kaminsky](#) and librettist [David Cote](#) that explores the fragile interplay between memory, identity, and music. The story centers on Lili, a celebrated former opera singer confronting the early stages of dementia. As her cognitive abilities decline, her son Dante—a once-promising pianist—has put his own career on hold to care for her. Their dynamic is further complicated when Dr. Claire Klugman, a neuroscientist and Lili's former student, introduces Lili to a music therapy study involving Sunny, a gifted young clarinetist.

The relationships between the characters deepen, revealing how music acts as both a bridge and a balm in the face of personal loss and change.

Themes of memory, caregiving, ambition, and the transcendent power of music resonate throughout *Lucidity*. Through Kaminsky's emotionally charged score and Cote's poetic libretto, *Lucidity* offers a moving portrait of resilience, connection, and the healing capacity of sound.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Tri-Cities Opera



La Traviata

Sat. Apr. 18 at 3:00 pm

Broome County Forum
Theatre

236 Washington Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

Performed in **Italian**
with English supertitles

One of the most popular and beloved operas in the canon, Verdi's *La Traviata*, is set in Paris and follows the story of Violetta Valéry, a celebrated courtesan. Violetta's dream of a redemptive love with Alfredo, portrayed with profound musical beauty, is crushed by the request of his father that she relinquish him in the interests of his family's welfare in society. Their tragedy is expressed in some of the most touching arias in opera, contrasted with scenes of the gaiety and indulgence enjoyed by that society.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Tri-Cities Opera



November 8, 2025

Tri-Cities Opera Center

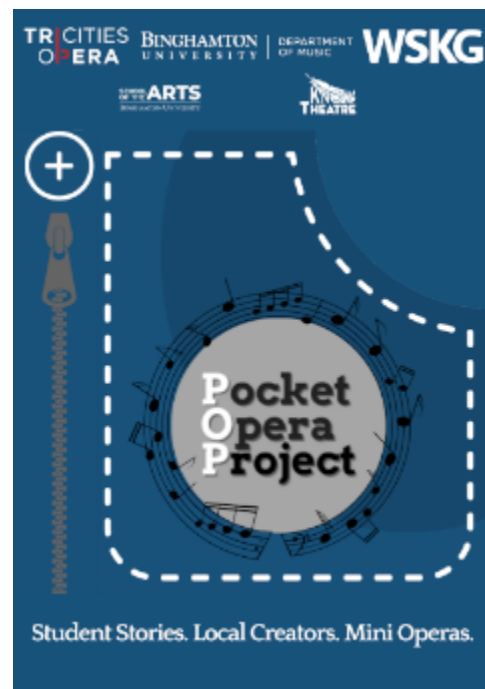
[More Info](#)



May 9, 2026

Tri-Cities Opera Center

[More Info](#)



May 9, 2026

Binghamton Club

[More Info](#)



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Canadian Opera Company



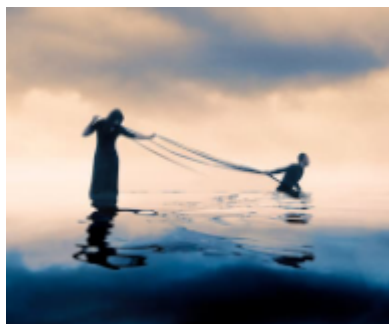
All performances at the Four Seasons
Centre for the Performing Arts



Charles Gounod's Roméo et Juliette

September 27 – October 18, 2025

Relocating the feuding Montagues and Capulets from Renaissance Verona to Gilded Age New York, this daring and delightful production takes audiences on a journey from the soaring emotional highs of young love to heartrending despair as a fateful romance turns to tragedy.



Christoph Willibald Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice

October 9 – 25, 2025 Four

Beloved for its noble simplicity, Carsen's stylized interpretation of the haunting Greek myth of Orpheus is minimalist, stark, and experimental.

The divinely gifted Orpheus draws on exquisite musical talents to beg the gods for the return of his recently deceased wife, Euridice. Permitted to bring her back from the Underworld on the condition that he not look at her or explain why—at the risk of losing her forever—Orpheus embarks on a journey that proves, once again, the enduring power of love.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



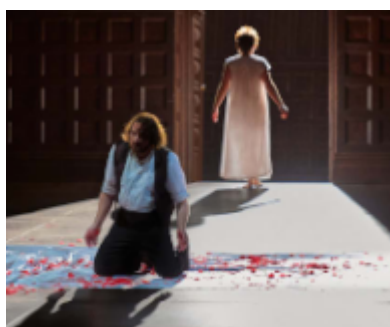
Canadian Opera Company



Centre Stage Ensemble Studio Competition & Gala

October 23, 2025

Centre Stage: Ensemble Studio Competition & Gala—the Canadian Opera Company’s signature fundraising event, is returning to the mainstage in spectacular style. This unforgettable evening combines world-class music, stunning performances, and elegant celebration—all in support of the rising stars of opera.



Giuseppe Verdi’s Rigoletto

January 24 – February 14, 2026

Four Seasons Centre for the
Performing Arts

This riveting musical drama by master composer Giuseppe Verdi tells the tale of the tragic jester Rigoletto, who embarks on a fateful quest for revenge, featuring some of opera’s most beautiful and widely-recognized melodies. Director Christopher Alden’s widely praised production evokes a Victorian men’s club in this masterpiece of Italian grand opera.



THE 2025-2026 SEASON



Canadian Opera Company



Rossini's The Barber of Seville

February 5 – 21, 2026

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Count Almaviva is hopelessly in love with Rosina, whose guardian Doctor Bartolo is keeping her locked inside their home. The Count hires Figaro, Seville's famous barber and schemer, to help true love win the day—for a price.

A wonderful introductory opera for audiences of all ages, director Joan Font's colourful production once again evokes all the whimsy and wit of the circus, brimming with madcap costumes and outsized sets.



Bluebeard's Castle/Erwartung

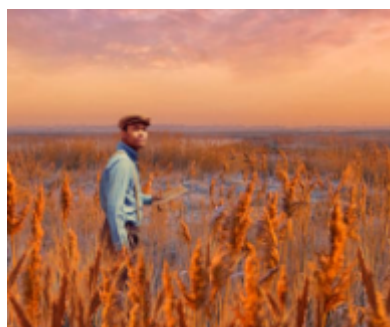
Bartók/Schoenberg

April 25 – May 16, 2026

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

A pair of one-act psychological thrillers makes for an unforgettable double feature from theatrical visionary Robert Lepage.

In Bartók's Symbolist fairy tale *Bluebeard's Castle*, a new wife discovers that seven locked doors in her husband's home conceal gruesome secrets. Then, in Schoenberg's Modernist *Erwartung*, a woman's search for her missing lover explodes a single moment into a blistering descent into madness. Enter—if you dare!—to discover this unforgettable double-bill, hailed for its boldly original design elements.



Jules Massenet's Werther

May 7 – 23, 2026

Four Seasons Centre for
the Performing Arts

This rare operatic gem from one of French opera's great composers tells the story of a young man's romantic infatuation and the spiral of despair that consumes him when that love is denied. Massenet's sumptuous score delves into the tortured passions of a young mind while shining a light on the social conventions he rejects, as well as those whose lives are forever altered by his desperate final act.

Opportunities & Education

Online Opera Education for Young and Old

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.

San Francisco Opera has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. <https://www.sfopera.com/learn>

Los Angeles Opera has programs for both adults and children at [laopera.org/community](https://www.laopera.org/community)

Utah Opera at <https://utahopera.org/education/students/> also has good student materials.

From Arizona Opera, at <https://azopera.org/education-community/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.

Great Operatunities

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

NEW Resource for opera at operaonvideo.com

24,000 operas available to view free. You can donate a modest amount to get screenings ad-free, and if you scroll down on the home page, will find search advice.

FREE – Opera Guild Lectures. See February and March Viva Voce for spring lectures at Brighton Library.

\$10 – Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs," opera DVD presentations. Four Sundays in January/February. Includes pre-performance talk & refreshments at intermission.

\$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. These performances usually take place on Saturdays at 1 pm. An encore performance, not live, is given on the Wednesday following for \$23. Theaters are at Tinseltown, Eastview, and Webster. 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.

FREE – Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition in February. 8 pm, Kilbourn Hall, Gibbs Street.

FREE – The Lotte Lenya Competition: young multi-talented singer/actors performing both opera and musical theater selections. See Viva Voce for information about the May 3 event.

2025-2026 PROGRAMS

More 2026 events to be added soon!

FREE Meet-ups

At Tinseltown in the Party Room, 12-1 pm.

10/18/25: Before Met Live in HD, *La Sonnambula*

11/8/25: Before before Met Live in HD, *La Bohème*

11/22/25: Before Met Live in HD, *Arabella*

Bravo Nights

At The Little Cafe, 7 pm.:

Free, informal performances of opera and musical theater featuring local up-and-coming musicians.

Sunday, 10/26/25: A special presentation by Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists.

Monday, 2/9/26: Romantic arias by Roberts Wesleyan University students for Valentine's Day.

Monday, 4/20/26: Eastman School of Music students accompanied by Wilson Southerland.

Holiday Bravo Nights

Asbury First United Methodist Church, East Ave.

Saturday, 12/13/25, 4 pm: Holiday Bravo recital with Mark Daniels, tenor, accompanied by Rob Goodling. Special guest Jennifer Honan. *Admission.*

Beat the Blahs: *The Golden Age of Italian Opera*

Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Ave 1-5pm.

1/11/26: Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* **1/18/26:** Bellini's *Norma*

1/25/26: Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra*

2/1/26: Verdi's *Nabucco*

ATTEND - LEARN - DONATE - VOLUNTEER
operaguildofrochester.org



P.O. Box 244, Pittsford, NY 14534

eMail: info@operaguildofrochester.org