

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

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



Viva Voce

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

You can enjoy the opportunity to meet and work with other opera fans and help sustain the programs you like. Currently we are looking for an assistant treasurer, event helpers, technical back-up and publicity committee volunteers. For information about these jobs or to speak with us about any volunteer interest, write to operaguildofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

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Edition *Viva Voce*, September 2020

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

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

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

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

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



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



Reader Article submission deadline for the next issue is

- [Volunteers](#)
- [This Month](#)
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September 1	Finger Lakes Opera	Gerard Floriano, Podcast 4
September 2	Met Video Concert	Joyce Di Donato
September 24, 25, 26	TriCities Opera	Miranda

The Opera Guild's September lectures are cancelled but may be rescheduled.

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

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

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TR | CITIES
O | P | ERA

Miranda -- A Steampunk VR Experience

September 24, 25 & 26
at 6:30 PM, 7:45 PM, 9:00 PM

Music by Kamala Sankaram
Libretto by Kamala Sankaram and Rob Reese

See tricityopera.com for trailer and access info.

Miranda: A Steam Punk VR Experience is a cutting-edge collaboration between LUMA, Tri-Cities Opera, Enhance VR, and Opera Omaha that re-imagines world-class theater for a socially distanced age.

LUMA, the country's premier festival for art, technology and narrative will headline its 2020 edition with this first-of-its-kind event, featuring live motion-capture performance during every showtime. Get ready to immerse yourself in the real time interactive narrative with a VR headset, on your PC, or via YouTube on any mobile device this September.

With a story and score by groundbreaking composer Kamala Sankaram, *Miranda* transports us to a dystopian future where growing class disparities have reached epic proportions and our criminal justice system serves only as a parody of what it once was. A wealthy woman has died under mysterious circumstances and three suspects' lives are on the line. They'll testify in aria for the chance at freedom. The online audience will serve as judge and jury-but can they even accept their own role at face value? Or has the game been rigged from the start? Sung in English, the opera is approximately 20 minutes long.

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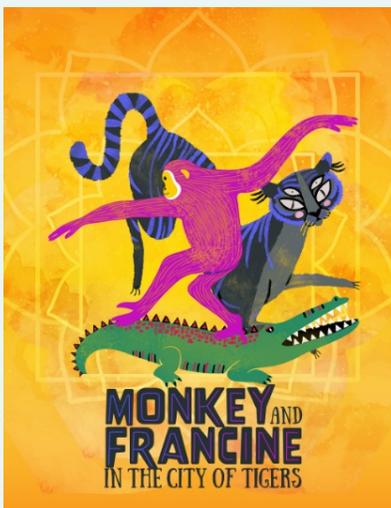
Online Opera Education for Young and Old

TRICITIES
OPERA

monkey and francine in the city of tigers

music by kamala sankaram

libretto by david johnston



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

Tri-Cities Opera has developed this year's Opera-Go-Round program as a virtual offering that will be delivered to students, whether in classrooms or home learning spaces, via a digital link. *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers* will include a detailed study guide, providing educators the flexibility to incorporate the performance into a comprehensive teaching unit. Sung in English, it runs for approximately 45 minutes.

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

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

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

San Francisco Opera has a great education site for youngsters which materials can be used in the home as well as by educators. [sfoopera.com/discover-opera/education](https://www.sfoopera.com/discover-opera/education)

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

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

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

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

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The Metropolitan Opera

As the Met is dark until December 31 due to the ongoing global health crisis, the three live transmissions scheduled for fall 2020 have been canceled.

Select cinemas across the globe will screen encore presentations of past titles during this period. Please check your local cinema listings for more information. (Nothing currently scheduled at Tinseltown, Henrietta, or Eastview.) The schedule for **Met encores at AMC Webster**, 2190 Webster Blvd. 14580, is as follows, all on **Wednesdays**, times not yet specified.

October 14, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, with Marlis Petersen, Isobel Leonard, Peter Mattei and Ildar Abdrazakov.

November 4, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, with Diana Damrau, Piotr Beczala, and Zeljko Lucic.

November 11, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, with Kristine Opolais, Roberto Alagna, Maria Zifchuk and Dwayne Croft.

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

The schedule for regular **Met Live in HD presentations** will be resumed in January, conditions permitting. All performances are on Saturdays at 12:55 unless otherwise noted.

Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, January 16

One of opera's most beloved fables returns, with Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting Tony Award-winner Julie Taymor's colorful, puppet-filled production. The cast of leading Mozarteans includes soprano Christiane Karg as Pamina, tenor Stanislas de Barbeyrac as Tamino, baritone Thomas Oliemans in his Met debut as Papageno, soprano Kathryn Lewek as the Queen of the Night, and bass Stephen Milling as Sarastro.

Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, January 30

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts one of the most sumptuous scores in the repertoire, leading Gounod's honeyed adaptation of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy. Radiant soprano Nadine Sierra makes her Met role debut as the effervescent Juliette, opposite tenor Stephen Costello as the ardent Roméo, all amid the romantic realism of Bartlett Sher's staging.

Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, March 27

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts a star-studded cast led by baritone Peter Mattei as a magnetic Don Giovanni, alongside the Leporello of bass-baritone Gerald Finley, who takes over the title role later in the season. Soprano Ailyn Pérez, mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, and soprano Hera Hyesang Park make a superlative trio as Donna Anna, Donna Elvira, and Zerlina, and tenor Ben Bliss completes the principal cast as Don Ottavio.

Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, April 17

American composer Jake Heggie's 21st-century masterpiece, the most widely performed new opera of the last 20 years, has its highly anticipated Met premiere, in Ivo van Hove's second new staging of the season. Based on Sister Helen Prejean's memoir about her fight for the soul of a condemned murderer, *Dead Man Walking* matches the high drama of its subject with Heggie's beautiful and poignant music and a brilliant libretto by Tony and Emmy Award-winner Terrence McNally. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin is on the podium when this important work comes to cinemas April 17, with mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato starring as Helen Prejean. The outstanding cast also features baritone Etienne Dupuis as the condemned Joseph De Rocher, soprano Latonia Moore as Sister Rose, and legendary mezzo-soprano Susan Graham—who sang Prejean in the opera's 2000 premiere—as De Rocher's mother.

Strauss' *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, April 24 at 11:55

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Herbert Wernicke's sensational staging of Strauss's magisterial vision of otherworldly love. Tenor Klaus Florian Vogt and soprano Elza van den Heever are the unearthly Emperor and Empress (the woman without a shadow), baritone Michael Volle and soprano Nina Stemme are the earthbound Barak and his wife, and soprano Evelyn Herlitzius is the sinister Nurse.

Verdi's *Nabucco*, May 8

Further cementing her place as one of history's most riveting dramatic sopranos, Anna Netrebko adds the bloodthirsty Babylonian princess Abigaille to her already impressive lineup of Met roles. Baritone George Gagnidze is the tyrannical ruler Nabucco, alongside mezzo-soprano Varduhi Abrahamyan as Fenena, tenor Najmiddin Mavlyanov as Ismaele, and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy as Zaccaria. Marco Armiliato conducts.

Bellini's *Il pirata*, May 22

Soprano Diana Damrau stars in this Bellini vehicle for bel canto pyrotechnics, the story of a woman driven mad by love for her exiled pirate. Tenor Javier Camarena joins her, showing off his spectacular high notes as the buccaneer. Maurizio Benini conducts the striking production, last seen at the Met in 2003.

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Bravo Nights

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

Watch here for the next scheduled virtual Bravo Night!

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

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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 2021 *Viva Voce*. 8 pm, Kilbourn Hall, Gibbs Street, Rochester.

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

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures No September lectures at Fairport Library, although they may be rescheduled. See February and March 2021 *Viva Voce* for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.

\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs." Opera DVD presentations at Temple B'rith Kodesh. Four Sundays in January at 1 pm, see the 2021 schedule in Nov and Dec 2020 issues. Pre-performance talk, refreshments at intermission, children and students always FREE.

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

\$25 per (senior) ticket - Metropolitan Opera simulcasts in HD 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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**Eastman School of Music - Eastman Opera Theatre
2020 -2021 Season ANNOUNCEMENT
SHAPING THE FUTURE.**

Eastman Opera Theatre Statement Regarding Covid-19

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

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

KILBOURN HALL -NOVEMBER5, 6, 7, & 8 -2020

(Live, Live Stream or Virtual)

Lyric Études -Immersive Composer Collaborations, An Evening of Staged Songs and Arias

Steven Daigle, Stephen Carr, and Madeleine Snow, Directors

Timothy Long and Wilson Southerland, Music Directors

Eastman Opera Theatre will meet the challenges of social distancing by focusing on the creative process through intimate, one-on-one musical collaborations with prominent composers for the voice and lyric stage. including Anthony Davis, Ricky Ian Gordon, Lori Laitman Missy Mazzoli, and Ben Moore. These renowned composers will each curate a program of their vocal music, join in group discussions, and guide the process up to our November performances, which will be live-streamed from Kilbourn Hall.

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

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

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

Steven Daigle, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor.

KODAK HALL -APRIL 2021

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

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

Stephen Carr, Director: Timothy Long, Conductor

804 ANNEX BLACKBOX THEATER -MAY-2021

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Nickel City Opera

NCO PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL EVENING
with Valerian Ruminski in

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

Monday, December 14th, 2020 7:00pm,
The Saturn Club, 977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

More Info [Here](#)..

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION

Amahl and the Night Visitors

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

MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDARS

Sotto Voce and Nickel City Opera present

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

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

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CANADIAN OPERA

COC has cancelled fall performances, but the following operas are scheduled beginning in January

Carmen Georges Bizet January 23, 2021 to February 19, 2021



Katya Kabanova Leoš Janáček's February 6, 2021 to February 20, 2021



La Traviata G. Verdi April 17, 2021 to May 14, 2021



Orfeo ed Euridice Christoph Willibald Gluck May 1, 2021 to May 15, 2021



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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 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!

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News from your Opera Guild

Things are beginning to look up! Although we will have four months mostly devoid of live performances, in September some encore presentations of Met Live in HD simulcasts are scheduled for Webster. In January the Met Live in HD regular simulcasts will resume, with seven performances in the half-season (see listings this issue). The Met itself reopens in January - for some details of the adjusted season, go to [metopera.org/about/press-releases](https://www.metopera.org/about/press-releases) and scroll down to June 1, 2020. See the issue also for the Eastman Opera Theater's projected season, the first event of which is in November. Finger Lakes Opera has virtual fall projects in the works, details to be announced. Although Syracuse Opera has not announced its schedule yet, live performances beginning in mid-winter are planned for Nickel City Opera and Canadian Opera (the latter contingent on the border being open for US residents).

All of course, all subject to continuing control of the pandemic. We are fortunate to live in New York, where measures to control the spread of the virus were taken relatively promptly in spite of our being hit early on. Here's hoping to see you again in a few months, healthy and safe and enjoying opera.

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Pegasus Early Music

The Pegasus season has been postponed until 2021.

L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 19, 20 and 22, 2021

Pre-concert talks 1 hour before each performance

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

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

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

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

Michael Beattie, music director

Emily Cuk, stage director

Julia Noulin-Merat, scenic designer

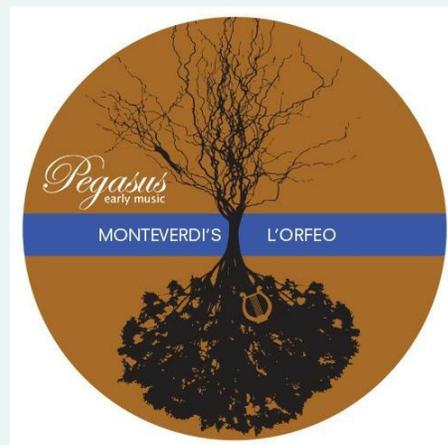
Peggy Murray, choreographer

Whitney Locher, costume designer

John Cuff, lighting designer

Orfeo: Colin Balzer, tenor

Musica & Proserpina: Laura Heimes, soprano



Apollo: Sumner Thompson, tenor

Messenger & Speranza: Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano

Caronte: Steven Hrycelak, bass

Euridice: Madeline Healey, soprano

Plutone: Mischa Bouvier, baritone

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

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

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recorded. Click the YouTube
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