



# Viva Voce

## Our Fall Donation Campaign is underway!

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

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

Coming up are more virtual Bravo Nights with enhanced production values, including a holiday concert on December 15th with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling. (Please keep in mind that it is frequently more expensive to produce these for streaming than to have a live concert.) We still have hopes for Beat the Blahs in January (Jan 10 -31) and for the lecture series later in the spring. And of course we hope to plan an outstanding Donor Recital in May to celebrate live opera once again!

Our donation request letter will be in your mailboxes this month, but you may donate online through PayPal at any time. For complete donation information, [click here](#).

## 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 [\[email protected\]](#) and the appropriate person will contact you.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Edition *Viva Voce*, November 2020

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

- [Volunteers](#)

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 [\[email protected\]](mailto:info@operaguildofrochester.org).

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](http://operaguildofrochester.org).

For up-to-date information on opera-related news and events, please visit us on [facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester).



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



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

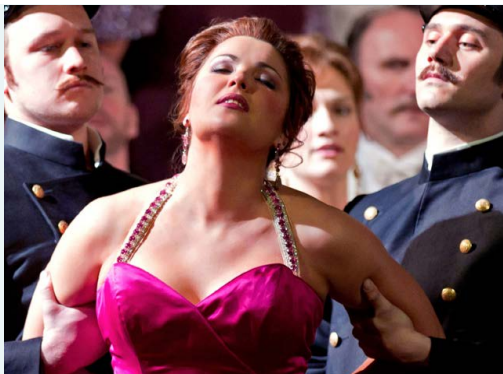
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November 2 - 15	<a href="http://MetOpera.org">MetOpera.org</a>	Two-week tour of opera history
November 5 - 8 (virtual)	<a href="#">Eastman Opera Theatre</a>	Lyric Etudes
November 21	Met Stars Live in Concert (MetOpera.org)	Sonya Yoncheva (in Germany)
November (all month)	<a href="#">Teatro Grattaciello</a>	Gigli: 100 Years at the Met

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We are very fortunate to have a great variety of streamed opera presentations at no charge during this time. See [operaguildforochester.org](http://operaguildforochester.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](http://operawire.com)**

**Another great site** for all kinds of listings, including opera streaming schedules, is [bachtrack.com](http://bachtrack.com).

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## Online Opera Education for Young and Old



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

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



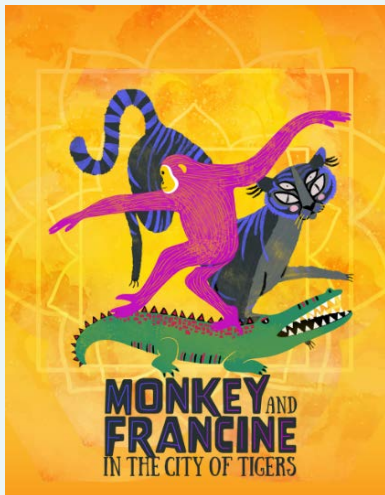
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# TRICITIES OPERA

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

**San Francisco Opera** has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. [sfopera.com/discover-opera/education](https://www.sfopera.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](https://www.utahopera.org/education/school-from-home) also has good student materials.

**From Arizona Opera**, at [azopera.org/learn-connect-opera-home-virtual-learning-tools](https://www.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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**COMING IN DECEMBER:** A unique presentation of *Pinocchio* with marionette puppets featuring the 2020 Tomita Young Artists.

Cast (left to right) - Tenor Matthew Campisi as GEPETTO. Baritone Rob Riordan Jr. as DR. DULCAMARA/WOLF. Pianist Brock Tjosvold serves as accompanist. Tenor David Soto Zambrana as PINOCCHIO. Mezzo Victoria Thomasch as CAT. Soprano Robin Steitz as OLYMPIA/LADY IN BLUE.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please reach out to [floexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:floexecutivedirector@gmail.com) or visit [fingerlakesopera.org](http://fingerlakesopera.org)

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## The Metropolitan Opera

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

**A Two-Week Tour of Opera History**

**Part I, From Handel to Wagner, [November 2-8](#).**

**Part II, From Tchaikivsky to Ades, [November 9-15](#)**



Over the course of two weeks, the Met's Nightly Opera Streams take viewers on a tour through opera history, moving chronologically from the early 18th century to the present day. Explore the articles and resources available at [metopra.org](http://metopra.org) to orient yourself for the journey and dive deeper into the details of the history and the music. Scroll down the first page to the block for Nightly Opera Streams November 2 to November 8 and click on Learn More. Click on Nightly Opera Streams Upcoming Schedule for the listing which includes the second week.

Select cinemas across the globe will screen **encore** presentations of **past titles** during this period. Please check your local cinema listings for more information. Despite the listing published last issue for AMC Webster, **there is currently nothing scheduled at local theaters** who regularly show the live presentations, including Webster, Tinseltown, Henrietta, and Eastview. If you are traveling, you might catch one of the following somewhere else:

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

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# 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.

Watch here for the next scheduled virtual Bravo Night and mark your calendars for a special virtual holiday concert with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling on December 15.

In normal times, Bravo Nights take place at The Little Caf  , 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. The **20-21 simulcasts have been canceled**. See note [here](#) for some encore presentations. These performances usually take place on Saturdays usually at 1 pm. An encore performance, not live, is given on the Wednesday following for \$23. Theaters are at Tinseltown, Eastview, Webster and Henrietta. See full listing and essays in *Viva Voce*.

**FREE - Opera Guild Bravo Nights** at The Little 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*.

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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 - NOVEMBER 5, 6, 7, & 8 -2020**

(Live, Live Stream or Virtual)

Lyric Á%studes -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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## Teatro Grattacielo

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

diversity, innovation, technology and multimedia arts.

With a commitment to our mission in mind, we are delighted to share our most recent project, **BENIANIMO GIGLI, 100 YEARS at the Met, with scenes from Boito's *Mefistofele***. This project was created in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the great tenor Beniamino Gigli's debut at the Met in the role of Faust in *Mefistofele*, which occurred on November 26, 1920, and features an opening introduction by Beniamino Gigli's great-granddaughter Francesca Romana Gigli, commentary by music critic, John Yohalem, and a highly skilled cast of internationally renowned singers.



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

<https://grattacielo.org/opera-streaming/boito-mefistofele-2020>

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

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

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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

The best news I can bring you is that of our Holiday Concert, to be streamed on December 15th. (See the website in December for the program at [www.rochesteroperaguild.org](http://www.rochesteroperaguild.org).) Our tenor, Mark Daniels is great, the selections are varied, and the recital will be professionally recorded in the festive Corn Hill home of Rob Goodling, vocal coach and accompanist. Look also for Rob's Opera Profile in the December issue. Holiday music to lift our spirits in the traditional way!

Many other things are up in the air, including the financial health of the Opera Guild and other organizations. As of this writing, the donation requests letters have not been received, between delays in the mailing organization, the post office and the Guild itself, although they will be soon. I know the financial picture is uncertain, but your donation in any amount helps, not least in lifting the spirits of those in charge of your Opera Guild. PayPal is always available.

Viva Voce is delayed because I have been trying to get specific information about future events, for example, Beat the Blahs. I have been unable for the most part to do so. Although The Little is preparing to re-open, as yet there are no operas from Covent Garden scheduled. There is a possibility of *The Magic Flute* on December 5th at Tinseltown, but this is subject, as we might expect, to a renewal of pandemic restrictions on theaters.

The holidays will be different this year. Fortunately, there is plenty of music to be had -streaming operas and concerts, on the radio, and I hope, via your own making. I encourage you to sing every day! It has known health benefits, and will show your resolve not to be brought down by our current circumstances.

I hope all of you are well and have reason to be grateful.

Best wishes,  
Carol Crocca

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## New Feature!

The next article in our new feature, Opera Profiles, will appear in December's issue. Until then, we bring you again the first in this series. There follows an article about Rose-Marie Klipstein, Board Chair of Finger Lakes Opera, who has been a contributor of expertise and support to opera in Rochester for many years.

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## Rose-Marie Klipstein, Peerless Volunteer

By Elizabeth Long, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Opera

Successful non-profit performing arts organizations thrive because of strong leadership: visionary artistic direction, committed management and, of course, resilient governance. An effective board president works to engage all members not simply for the betterment of an organization but also for the community in which it resides. At Finger Lakes Opera, the company has been fortunate to have Rose-Marie Klipstein as board president since shortly after it was awarded 501(c)(3) status in late December 2016.

[For the interesting history of Finger Lakes Opera, see accompanying article.]

Before Finger Lakes Opera, Rose-Marie served on the boards of the Norman Howard School, Young Audiences of Rochester, Friends of Rochester Public Library, and served as president of the boards of Literacy Rochester, the Brighton Memorial Library, and Friends of Eastman Opera. "Rose-Marie is a peerless volunteer. The late Eastman School of Music Dean Doug Lowry commented that Rose-Marie stood out above all the volunteers he had worked with over his entire career," former Rochesterian and FEO President Cathy Lewis stated.

So, who is Rose-Marie Klipstein, and how did she become the contributor to the growth and direction of so many Rochester organizations?

Rose-Marie was born in Stuttgart, under the flag of the Third Reich, two months before Hitler invaded Poland. She spent most of her first six years in bomb shelters, moving from one bombed out building to another, occasionally farmed out to country relatives. She has a lasting fear of basements and sitting in the middle of rows with no escape. When World War II ended and US soldiers marched through her city streets, almost six-year-old Rose-Marie was one of many who met the soldiers with cheers and V-signs because they showered everyone with chewing gum and Baby Ruths, Rose-Marie's favorite candy bar ever since.

She moved to Newcastle, England at the age of 9, and it was while living there that her father took her to see American heartthrob Mario Lanza in *The Great Caruso*. After hearing his marvelous tenor voice, Rose-Marie instantly fell in love with opera. Her family returned to Stuttgart in 1952 and Rose-Marie saw her first live opera, *Tales of Hoffmann*, at the Staatsoper (one of the few major German opera houses not destroyed in the war).

Rose-Marie left Stuttgart on her 17th birthday, sailed for America and upon arrival in New York City, at a hotel near Grand Central Station, on a tiny television set, watched the Democratic Convention featuring Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver. "I remember thinking - what a bizarre happening: democracy at work in a party atmosphere?" She entered the strange American high school world that included crinolines, bobby socks, lipstick, shaved legs, and especially bizarrely, Elvis Presley. "Can you imagine the effect he had on a girl raised on classical music and folksongs?" Rose-Marie chuckles. She also was introduced to civil rights: the quest for integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas was much in the news. Her Ridgewood High School history teacher explained that yes, indeed, the Civil War had freed the slaves, but they were still fighting for their civil rights. That prompted Rose-Marie to become involved with civics, little realizing then that the fight for civil rights would be ongoing. That teacher also assigned a research paper on UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. Rose-Marie was surprised to discover she could find resources at the public library, which was free. That made Rose-Marie aware of how much a community could provide for its citizens and how many people volunteered to help those services. Going forward, she pledged to find ways to contribute herself.

After two years at Swarthmore College, Rose-Marie had every intention of moving back home to Stuttgart and purchased a ticket to her birthland in the summer. Upon arrival in Stuttgart, as she tried to find herself at home again in Germany, she realized her world had expanded exponentially. Germany no longer felt like home; she returned to Ridgewood, New Jersey and became a citizen, in time to vote for John Kennedy. In May of 1965, Rose-Marie

married an American of German ancestry. They married coincidentally but unwittingly on the 20th anniversary of VE-Day and spent 36 happy years together before he passed away in 2001. Rose-Marie has three sons and four grandchildren.

This author remembers hearing about her foray into serious volunteerism as she was being honored by the Literacy Volunteers of Rochester (now called Literacy Rochester) for 45 years of service to the community at a special luncheon in May of 2019. As she was driving home from dropping her youngest child off for the first day in nursery school, she heard a radio ad for taking a Literacy Volunteers workshop and volunteering to tutor. When she got home she called, and the rest, shall we say, is history. John Williams, who worked at Literacy Volunteers for some years, describes Rose-Marie as, "...a driving force behind Rochester's goal of being a more literate community. Rose-Marie always gives 200% and her example inspires others to do the same. And former Literacy Rochester Executive Director Eliza Coyle offered this, "One thing I love about Rose-Marie is that she is fearless and unafraid to tackle the tough issues. She has a strong moral compass and the drive to see projects through from idea to completion, no matter how much effort is involved.

Rose-Marie also remembers those days. "I remember, in the early 80s, when I was working on my master's degree at Nazareth, raising a 17, 16 and two 14-year old boys (one, a foreign exchange student from Madrid who lived with us for a year) and also becoming more involved on volunteer boards. Trying to juggle those civic responsibilities, which I take very seriously, my family life and career - those were challenging times."

On tackling tough issues, Rose-Marie has this to say: "One organization in particular had the opportunity to move from all-volunteer management to the hiring of staff. Transitioning from one to the other is always difficult; certain board members become accustomed to performing administrative tasks that ultimately must be turned over to professional staff. With any young organization, this kind of transition is painful. There were uncomfortable conversations that needed to be had with people unwilling to move forward."

Whether as a board member or board president, Rose-Marie understands what it means to be a board member. She understands the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of what it takes to be a good board member. This author can say, "She isn't afraid to address challenges and is eager to work hard to move the needle forward. I've served on boards and been the senior staff person who has reported to the board chair. She is the best I've had the privilege to work with. People like Rose-Marie don't always tell you what you want to hear but they definitely tell you what you need to hear."

In the last few months Rose-Marie has, like the rest of us, been forced to partake in her favorite artform through a screen. "Don't get me wrong - I've always enjoyed the high definition presentations of opera at our local movie theaters and Saturday afternoons listening on the radio. And I'm proud of what Finger Lakes Opera accomplished in a short amount of time this summer - the wonderful video programming online. But music, opera - it's a living artform and that doesn't translate powerfully enough through a screen. We will keep doing what we must to stay safe, but I can't wait for the time when we all can be together again. And hopefully when that happens, we'll have a lot of new friends joining us."

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## The Founding and Re-founding of Finger Lakes Opera

By Elizabeth Long, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Opera

The Finger Lakes Opera initially enjoyed great success under the wing of SUNY Geneseo, after being co-founded by Artistic Director Gerard Floriano (who is also chair of the college's music department). The first performances of Carmen, held in the summer of 2013, were sold out, the community of Geneseo had wholeheartedly and enthusiastically embraced Finger Lakes Opera, and it seemed as though the partnership between the company and college would be a fruitful one. Even in those early days though, Maestro Floriano was encouraged to have an advisory council and one of the first people he asked to serve on the panel was Rose-Marie Klipstein (as well as current Opera Guild of Rochester member Helga Strasser, and Suzanne Gouvernet). "As a founding member of the advisory board to Finger Lakes Opera (or as I refer to them, "i consiglieri"), Rose-Marie was instrumental in helping



FLO got started at SUNY Geneseo in 2013 and has been a stalwart and brilliant leader since our inception. ... Simply put, there is no Finger Lakes Opera without Rose-Marie Klipstein," Floriano states.

In the fall of 2016, while planning for the 2017 season, SUNY Geneseo announced it would no longer host Finger Lakes Opera at the college. "This was a devastating blow to the company," Rose-Marie explains and goes on to say, "I think those associated with Finger Lakes Opera, including the Geneseo community, felt the decision was made arbitrarily and shortsightedly. Luckily, we had the advisory council, now larger with the fortunate addition of a lawyer, Helen Zamboni. I distinctly remember meeting at my dining room table when we voted to proceed with steps necessary to become an independent, non-profit performing arts organization."

It is no surprise to those reading this article that one of the main reasons FLO was able to proceed with its 2017 season and the successful performances of Tosca was the generous support of the Opera Guild of Rochester. "The Guild provided the single largest gift during the 2017 season," Rose-Marie stated. "Their support was invaluable and continues to be greatly appreciated to this day."

Since that first season, Rose-Marie has overseen the addition of a young artist program, the hiring of the company's first year-round staff person, the first strategic planning process, and the promotion of the company from Associate to Professional Company Member within Opera America. "It has been a pleasure to work with Rose-Marie, and to learn about her dedication to opera, to Finger Lakes Opera, and to the larger Rochester community. She is a skilled and dynamic board leader who appreciates the value of teamwork and hard work!" Opera America President & CEO Marc Scorca remarked.

See FLO listing [here](#) for upcoming events.

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## Pegasus Early Music Fall 2020 Season (Virtual)

November 20 at 7:30pm and November 22 at 4:00pm:

**Beiliang Zhu**, *baroque cello*

Another local musical icon, award-winning cellist Beiliang Zhu, plays an unusual program which includes a Bach violin partita on 5-string cello and other virtuosic solos.

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

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

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

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

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

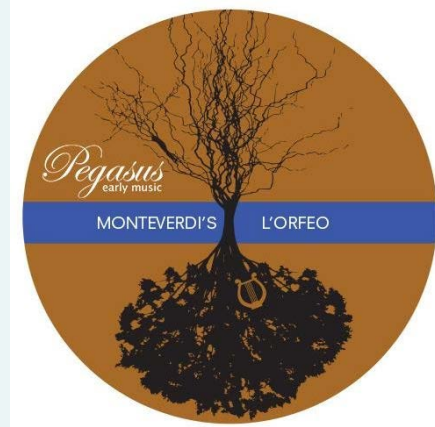
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## Pegasus Early Music

**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 Noulín-Merat**, scenic designer  
**Peggy Murray**, choreographer  
**Whitney Locher**, costume designer  
**John Cuff**, lighting designer

**Orfeo:** Colin Balzer, tenor

**Musica & Proserpina:** Laura Heimes, soprano

**Apollo:** Sumner Thompson, tenor

**Messenger & Speranza:** Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano

**Caronte:** Steven Hrycelak, bass

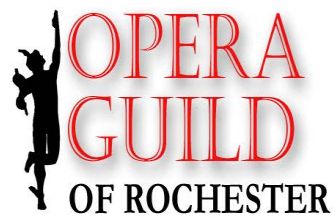
**Euridice:** Madeline Healey, soprano

**Plutone:** Mischa Bouvier, baritone

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

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



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