

# Viva Voce

October 2023



ROS Hallelujah From on High, p9

Dead Man Walking - Met live in HD - essay, p12

Bravo Night - FLO Young Artists, pp 17 & 19

Macbeth Lecture, p8

Edition *Viva Voce*,  
October 2023

**IN THIS ISSUE**

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 25613, Rochester, NY 14625; [operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com](mailto:operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com)

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 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our Website and sign up at <https://www.operaguil dofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce> The deadline for submission of articles and event announcements for the next issue is the 20th 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 [operaguil dofrochester.org](http://operaguil dofrochester.org) and at [Facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester)

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



Opera Guild of Rochester,  
P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625

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Oct 13	Rochester Oratorio Soc.	<a href="#"><u>Resonanz, Geneva</u></a>
Oct 15	Pegasus Early Music	<a href="#"><u>Paul O’Dette, Lute</u></a>
Oct 19	Memorial Art Gallery	<a href="#"><u>Third Thursday</u></a>
Sept 29-Oct 20	Canadian Opera Co.	<a href="#"><u>Fidelio</u></a>
Oct 20, 22	Syracuse Opera	<a href="#"><u>I am a Dreamer...</u></a>
Oct 6-28	Canadian Opera Co.	<a href="#"><u>La Boheme</u></a>
Oct 21	Met Live in HD	<a href="#"><u>Dead Man Walking</u></a>
Oct 22	Pegasus Early Music	<a href="#"><u>Sephardic Reflections</u></a>
Oct 22	Opera Guild of Roc.	<a href="#"><u>Bravo Night, FLO</u></a>
Oct 25	Opera Guild of Roc.	<a href="#"><u>Lecture : Macbeth</u></a>
Oct 27	Rochester Oratorio Soc.	<a href="#"><u>Hallelujah from on High</u></a>

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**NOTE:** Michael Amorese want to go to ***Fidelio***, and would like to know if anyone wants to join him. Let him know that you’re interested by an email to [michaelamorese@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelamorese@yahoo.com)

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## OUR FALL DONATION CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY!

Your Opera Guild wants to continue to provide “operatunities” for all devotees of this wonderful and varied art form!

The free October Bravo Night at The Little Café with the Young Artists of the Finger Lakes Opera, the free fall lectures on *Macbeth* and *Turandot*, and the free Viva Voce you are reading are perfect examples of our programs, which nevertheless cost expertise and money to produce.

Our recently instituted Holiday Concert on December 14th will prove a gala celebration of the season, and the perennial popular Beat the Blahs comes up in January, an opportunity for old and new fans to enjoy opera together. And a Glimmerglass trip next summer-

Most Importantly, by supporting the Opera Guild, you are also supporting the opera companies and singers for whom we provide funds and opportunities for performance, one of our primary missions.

All donors receive an invitation to the Annual Recital for Donors in May.

Please donate!



You can do so online, by clicking the donate button, in the mail (OGR, P.O.Box 25613, Rochester, NY, 14625) or at [roctheday.org](http://roctheday.org) on **Tuesday, November 28.**

## Editor's Corner

The season is in full swing, with many local options and Syracuse and Canadian Opera, too. See the note after [This Month](#) for an opportunity for company to see *Fidelio*. For insurance purposes I must point out that this excursion is not sponsored by the Opera Guild, but if past experience is any guide, in my personal opinion, the music and singing will be excellent and the theater itself is well worth seeing.

The Rochester Oratorio Society, in addition to other offerings, has a visiting artist from China, tenor Ziwen Xiang, who sounds wonderful. [Link to page](#)  
The Met Live in HD begins the season with an impressive production of *Dead Man Walking*, one of the most popular 21<sup>st</sup> century operas so far. See essay, p. [link](#)  
Hope to see you

- Carol

## News From Your Opera Guild

Our Bravo Nights will begin with what is always a fine performance by the FLO Young Artists, and a lecture on Macbeth will be given at Fairport Library with ghosts, witches, murder and madness for Halloween fans and some redeeming intellectual value via Shakespeare (the subtitles improve when he is the basis for the libretto!).

For those of you who are wondering about the Sibley Library Tour, it wasn't advertised because participation is limited and we have filled it last year and this with sign-ups at events. Arrangements will be made for additional tours at some point in the future, and one of our spring lectures, "Inside the Archives of the Sibley Music Library" will be presented by Jim Farrington and David Copen of the Eastman School.

Our fall donation campaign commences – you will be receiving your request in the mail with our schedule for the season. As you know, costs continue to rise, and if you are wondering why some of our venues are changing, that is the reason. We really depend on donations to keep us going, so please remember us!



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## Great Opera-tunities

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

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See September Viva Voce for fall lectures at Fairport Library; 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. 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. 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. Look for next year in February 2024 Viva Voce. 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 2024 event.



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 [operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com](mailto:operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com) and the appropriate person will contact you.

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

*Comprimario*: \$100-\$249.

*Primo*: \$250-\$399.

*Diva*: \$400-\$549.

*Maestro*: \$550-\$999.

*Impresario*: \$1000 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:

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!



## FREE Lecture/Listening Series

Held at the Fairport Library, 1 Fairport Village Landing, 14450



Wednesday, October 25, 7pm

**Verdi and Shakespeare:  
Macbeth**

Verdi's favorite of his operas up to that time, most of it very faithful to Shakespeare, whom the composer called "the master of the human heart." Witches, ghosts, murder and madness! In addition to many scenes from the drama, the transition from play to opera will be discussed.

Carol Crocca

Wednesday, November 8, 7pm

**Forbidden Fruit: Bringing Puccini's *Turandot*  
Home to Beijing's Forbidden City**

A fascinating story, a fascinating opera! For years the government of China prohibited the performance of Puccini's *Turandot* – an opera set in mythical ancient China. Conductor Zubin Mehta successfully worked to bring *Turandot* "home" to the Forbidden City in a unique performance on site in 1998. We will learn about what led to this famous performance and watch video clips of the highlights.







Listen to the Rochester Oratorio Society at [rossings.org](http://rossings.org)

## Hallelujah From on High

Friday, October 27, 2023  
| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |  
Hochstein Performance Hall



Hailstork's cantata, "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes," for tenor, chorus and orchestra, comprises three beautifully compelling settings of Psalms 121, 13 and 23. Adolphus Hailstork, a world-renowned composer and educator, was born in Rochester in 1941. Ziwen Xiang reprises his Carnegie Hall performances in the brilliant tenor solo role.



Ziwen Xiang, Tenor  
Rochester Oratorio Society Chorus and  
Orchestra

Adolphus Hailstork: I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes  
Mozart: Mass in C Major, K. 317,  
"Coronation"  
Beethoven: "Hallelujah," from *Christ on the  
Mount of Olives*

## Special Events & Appearances

For more information and to buy tickets, go to [rossings.org](https://rossings.org), click on Events, Upcoming Events, and “read more.”



### Resonanz

**Friday, October 13, 2023**

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |  
Geneva Public Library



### ROS w/ the RPO : Ode to Joy

**Thursday, May 30, 2024**

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |  
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater

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## Join the Chorus

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**Apply Today | Monday Night Rehearsals | Scholarships Available**

**The 2023-2024 season includes:**

- Choral masterworks and modern classics with full orchestra
- Tour of France and Switzerland with the chorus in June 2024
- Solo and small ensemble opportunities
- Annual holiday community concert
- Opportunity to sing with the RPO!

See [rossings.org/membership/join-the-chorus](https://rossings.org/membership/join-the-chorus)  
for audition form and more information.



## [A City Sings for the Season 2023](#)

Sunday, December 3, 2023

| 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm |

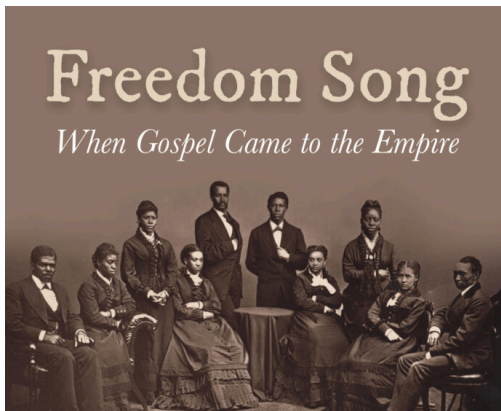
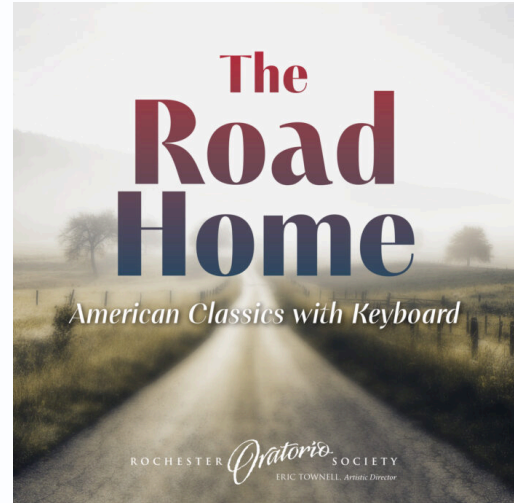
Stardust Ballroom at the Edgerton R Center

## [The Road Home](#)

Friday, March 15, 2024

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |

Asbury First United Methodist Church



## [Arts Connexions: Freedom Song: When Gospel Came to the Empire](#)

Saturday, April 27, 2024

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |

Fort Hill Performing Arts Center

Arts CONNEXIONS  
A PRODUCTION OF THE ROCHESTER Oratorio SOCIETY

## [2024 Rochester International Vocal Competition Celebration](#)

Saturday, May 18, 2024

| 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

First Unitarian Church of Rochester



## Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*

By Carol Crocca

*Dead Man Walking* was composer Jake Heggie's first opera, the libretto by Terence McNally, premiered in 2000 by San Francisco Opera. It is one of the most popular 21<sup>st</sup> century operas, having had hundreds of productions around the world. In the book of the same title on which it is based, Sister Helen Prejean, a Catholic nun, tells of her experience as the spiritual advisor of a death row prisoner, Patrick Sonnier, who was executed in 1984. It is also the account of her education about the death penalty as adjudicated and administered in Louisiana, resulting in her life-long commitment to work for its abolition.

In the words of Barnaby Hughes (November 13, 2019, [stageandcinema.com](http://stageandcinema.com), reviewing the Lyric Opera of Chicago's production): "There's no doubt that this is a thoroughly American opera, and a very contemporary one. Although the debate on capital punishment has moved forward considerably since this opera's premiere, the conversation on prisons remains timely. But *Dead Man Walking* isn't a political piece; it's a very human story of love and redemption."

This opinion is echoed by [Anthony Tommasini](#) (The New York Times, Sept. 16, 2002, reviewing New York City Opera's production). He writes: "Two of the best moments in the opera are scenes where she [Sister Prejean] is accosted by the parents of the murderer's young victims. These confrontations keep the opera from being a one-sided argument for prisoners' rights and against the death penalty. The parents' and Sister Helen's points of view are expressed in a musically compelling quintet."

This is not to say that the opera consists only of affecting moments of emotional argument. A graphic scene in the first act portrays the murders for which the death penalty was imposed.

On the negative side, Tommasini also comments:

*Dead Man Walking* was the first big success by Jake Heggie, who has gone on to write the opera *Moby Dick* and many independent songs. He writes well for voice and exceptionally well for orchestra. His palette is tonal and accessible, including some influence of Gian Carlo Menotti and Benjamin Britten plus touches of gospel and rock.

Still, the problem remains that Mr. Heggie's score seems like just one element of the drama, along with text, sets, staging and movement. Opera is a form of theater that has always been driven by music. However appealing, Mr. Heggie's music is just not strong enough to take on this complex story.

However, in [Jake Heggie: Dead Man Walking](#), reviewing its premiere at San Francisco Opera, Classics Today expressed what amounts to the consensus:

Although Heggie doesn't break any new ground in his first opera, he and McNally have created an enormously effective piece of theater that's punctuated by some truly lovely music. Several writers commenting on *Dead Man Walking* have opined rather nastily that the best music of the evening was a "spiritual" titled "He Will Gather Us Around". Yes, it's a glowing gem of a song, heard near both the beginning and end of the opera, but it's not borrowed material—it's a Heggie original. The way he uses that one emblematic tune, first as an expression of Sister Helen's somewhat naïve optimism and later as an assertion of the rock-solid strength of religious belief in the face of misery and ugliness, is impressive, as is the luminous yet heartbreaking aria that Mrs. De Rocher sings in desperate defense of her son at his pardon board hearing.

The Met's Live in HD presentation on October 21<sup>st</sup> stars Joyce DiDonato, whose portrayal of Sister Helen Prejean for the Houston Grand Opera in 2001 was described by Steve Smith in the *New York Times* (Feb. 2, 2001) in the following terms: "...her extraordinary mix of vibrancy, gravity and exacting nuance amounted to a portrayal that easily ranked with her finest work."

There is an interview with Jake Heggie and Joyce Di Donato in the October issue of *Opera News*.

In the end, "Dead Man Walking" takes us to uncomfortable places in uncommonly effective ways, luring us to its message through the luster of Heggie's score and the ingenuity of McNally's libretto. Surely it will be performed for as long as society opts to execute killers and dares to contemplate why. [Howard Reich](#) (*Chicago Tribune* Nov 03, 2019 at 9:36 am, review of Lyric Opera of Chicago's production).

**Note:** I have followed my usual practice when writing about an opera I haven't seen, is not available on DVD, and about which, because of its recency, there is little or no scholarly treatment. This is to cull and quote what I hope are useful reviews.



Joyce DiDonato and Susan Graham in the world premiere production of *Dead Man Walking* by the San Francisco Opera in 2000.

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## 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.  
**Essays on the opera appear in Viva Voce in appropriate months.**

**For theater directions,** see [metopera.org](http://metopera.org), click menu icon in upper left corner, click ‘Season’, click ‘In cinemas’, click ‘Find theater.’

October 21

### **Dead Man Walking**

American composer Jake Heggie’s masterpiece, the most widely performed new opera of the last 20 years, in a haunting new production by Ivo van Hove. 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 Terrence McNally. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium, with mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato starring as Sister Helen and bass-baritone Ryan McKinny as the death-row inmate Joseph De Rocher.

## November 18

### **X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X**

Anthony Davis's groundbreaking and influential opera, which premiered in 1986. Tony-nominated director Robert O'Hara oversees a potent new staging that imagines Malcolm as an Everyman whose story transcends time and space. Baritone Will Liverman, who triumphed in the Met premiere of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, sings Malcolm X, alongside soprano Leah Hawkins as his mother, Louise; mezzo-soprano Raehann Bryce-Davis as his sister Ella; bass-baritone Michael Sumuel as his brother Reginald; and tenor Victor Ryan Robertson as Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad. Kazem Abdullah conducts the newly revised score, which provides a layered, jazz-inflected setting for the esteemed writer Thulani Davis's libretto.

## December 9

### **Florencia en el Amazonas**

Sung in Spanish and inspired by the magical realism of Gabriel García Márquez, Mexican composer Daniel Catán's 1996 opera tells the enchanting story of a Brazilian opera diva who returns to her homeland to perform at the legendary opera house of Manaus—and to search for her lost lover, who has vanished into the jungle. The December 9 performance stars soprano Ailyn Pérez as Florencia Grimaldi, with Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium to lead a spellbinding new production by Mary Zimmerman.

## January 6

### **Nabucco**

Ancient Babylon comes to life in a classic Met staging of biblical proportions. Baritone George Gagnidze makes his Met role debut as the imperious king Nabucco, alongside soprano Liudmyla Monastyrskya reprising her thrilling turn as his vengeful daughter Abigaille. Mezzo-soprano Maria Barakova and tenor SeokJong Baek are Fenena and Ismaele, whose love transcends politics, and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy repeats his celebrated portrayal of the high priest Zaccaria. Daniele Callegari conducts Verdi's exhilarating early masterpiece, which features the ultimate showcase for the great Met Chorus, the moving "Va, pensiero."

## January 27

### **Carmen**

Acclaimed English director Carrie Cracknell brings a vital new production of one of opera's most enduring and powerful works, the classic story moving the action to the modern day and finding issues that could not be more relevant today: gendered violence, abusive labor structures, and the desire to break through societal boundaries. Dazzling young mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina is Carmen, alongside tenor Piotr Beczała as Carmen's troubled lover Don José, soprano Angel Blue as the loyal Micaëla, and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen as the swaggering Escamillo. Daniele Rustioni conducts Bizet's heart-pounding score.

March 9

**La Forza del Destino**

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Verdi's grand tale of ill-fated love, deadly vendettas, and family strife, with stellar soprano Lise Davidsen as the noble Leonora, one of the repertory's most tormented—and thrilling—heroines. Director Mariusz Treliński sets the scene in a contemporary world; the distinguished cast also features tenor Brian Jagde as Leonora's forbidden beloved, Don Alvaro and baritone Igor Golovatenko as her vengeful brother.

March 23

**Romeo et Juliette**

Radiant soprano Nadine Sierra and tenor sensation Benjamin Bernheim come together as the star-crossed lovers in Gounod's sumptuous Shakespeare adaptation, with Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium to conduct one of the repertoire's most romantic scores. Bartlett Sher's towering staging also features baritone Will Liverman and tenor Frederick Ballentine as the archrivals Mercutio and Tybalt, mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey as the mischievous pageboy Stéphano, and bass-baritone Alfred Walker as Frère Laurent.

April 20

**La Rondine**

In Puccini's bittersweet love story, soprano Angel Blue stars as the French courtesan Magda, opposite tenor Jonathan Tetelman as Ruggero, an idealistic young man who offers her an alternative to her life of excess. Maestro Speranza Scappucci conducts Nicolas Joël's Art Deco-inspired staging, which transports audiences from the heart of Parisian nightlife to a dreamy vision of the French Riviera.

May 11

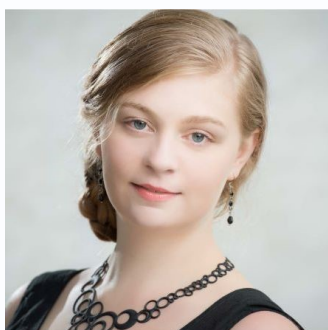
**Madama Butterfly**

Extraordinary soprano Asmik Grigorian tackles the demanding role of Cio-Cio-San, the loyal geisha at the heart of Puccini's devastating tragedy. Tenor Jonathan Tetelman stars as the callous American naval officer Pinkerton, whose betrayal destroys her. Mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong reprises the role of the steadfast maid Suzuki, and baritone Lucas Meachem is the American consul Sharpless. Acclaimed maestro Xian Zhang takes the podium to conduct Anthony Minghella's vivid production.



## Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists Program

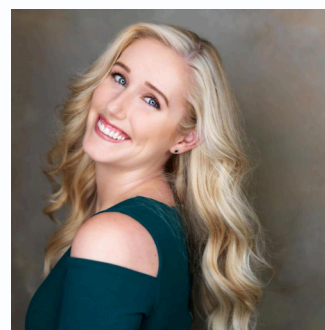
Watch for the Young Artists at fall events to be announced and as some of the performers on Bravo Night, Oct. 22.



**Rosie Kearin,  
soprano**



**Nathaniel Catasca,  
tenor**

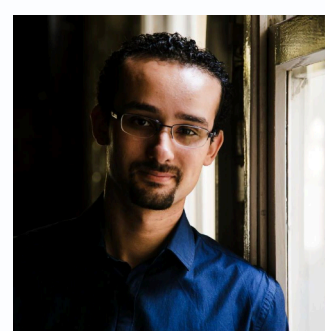


**Victoria Thomasch,  
mezzo**

## Finger Lakes Opera Young Artist Program



**Casey Germain,  
bass-tenor**



**Erico Bezerra,  
pianist**

## 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](http://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](http://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.



OPERA CLOAK OF THE NEW MATERIAL.



# *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.

Bravo Nights take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue. Refreshments may be purchased there.

- Please note new times -

**Sunday, 10/22, 7:00 PM**

**Monday, 2/12/24, 7:00 PM**

**Monday, 4/22/24, 7:00 PM**

# Third Thursday Concert

Two concerts in the first half of the season.

By [Eastman School of Music](#), [Memorial Art Gallery](#)

The Third Thursday concert series provides musicians and music-lovers the opportunity to experience authentic Baroque music on a regular basis. Its concerts highlight Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ, which was built around 1770 in central Italy. Restored and installed in 2005 at the Memorial Art Gallery, the instrument is the only one of its kind.



Thursday, October 19

**Geoffrey Burgess, Baroque oboe, and  
Leon Schelhase, harpsichord and organ**

Thursday, November 16

**17th-C. Italian and German  
vocal music**

Admission to the concert is included with museum admission, which is half-price on Thursday evenings after 5 pm and free to University of Rochester student ID holders.

**Seating is limited and is available on a first-come basis.**

This concert is made possible by the Rippey Endowed Trust.

**Performances are 7:30pm to 8:30pm  
500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607**





# THE FALL SEASON



## Eastman Opera Theater Season

### **Opera Season Preview**

September 17 at 5 p.m.  
Miller Center Atrium

**RSVP** to [feo1995@gmail.com](mailto:feo1995@gmail.com)

### **Opera Encounter with Nicole Cabell**

November 15 at 5 p.m.  
Miller Center Atrium

### Double Bill:

**Mythology Through a New Lens!\***

***To Hell and Back* (2006)**

Music by Jake Heggie  
Libretto by Gene Scheer

***We've Got Our Eye on You* (2016)**

Music by Nkeiru Okoye  
Libretto by David Cote

Kilbourn Hall

**November 2, 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

**November 5 at 2:00 p.m.**

### Winter Double Bill\*

***Ariadne auf Naxos*: Prologue (1912)**

Music by Richard Strauss  
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

***Dido and Aeneas* (1689)**

Music by Henry Purcell  
Libretto by Nahum Tate adapted by  
Benjamin Britten and Imogen Holst

804 Annex

**January 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

**January 28 at 2:00 p.m.**

**February 1, 2, 3 at 7:30 p.m.**

**February 4 at 2:00 p.m.**

\*Tickets sold through the Eastman Theatre Box Office  
433 East Main Street, Rochester, NY  
585-274-3000

**Pre-performance talks will take place one hour before each performance.  
Please check the ESM website for additional information.**



# THE FALL SEASON



FRIENDS OF  
*Eastman Opera*

## FEO Voice Competition

February 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Kilbourn Hall

### *Dialogues des Carmélites* (1957)\*

Music and Libretto by Francis Poulenc  
April 4, 5, 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
April 7 at 2:00 p.m.  
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

## EASTMAN *Opera Theatre*

Announcing the  
**2023-24 SEASON**



EASTMAN  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER





# THE FALL SEASON



**CANADIAN  
OPERA  
COMPANY**

**Canadian Opera Season**

All except *Aportia Chryptych* at The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Go to the home page at [coc.ca](http://coc.ca) and click on 'next season' to access video clips, specific dates, and more production info.



Beethoven's only opera follows the story of Leonore, a woman who disguises herself as a man to go undercover into the very prison where she suspects her husband is being held as a political prisoner. As she descends deeper into the prison's cells, she uncovers a sinister plot of abuse and oppression.

From a cold but charming apartment in the Latin Quarter to the bustling street scenes at the Café Momus, we follow the poet Rodolfo and his seamstress neighbour Mimì, struggling artists searching for love and life in Bohemian Paris.





When a forest gamekeeper traps a fox and attempts to domesticate her, their encounter leads to a poignant reflection on the natural cycle of life and death, as well as our relationship with the planet. This family-friendly opera invites audiences to reflect on the advancing toll of climate change and the importance of cultivating a harmonious interrelationship with the natural world.

Mozart's dark, twisted masterpiece is presented as you've never seen it before in this breathtaking production from Danish director Kaspar Holten. The show features spectacular set designs combined with ingenious video projections, plunging audiences into an Escher-like web of rotating rooms, revolving with the rhythms of *Don Giovanni's* infernal drama.



The aging Pasquale refuses to let his love-struck nephew Ernesto marry, and decides to get married himself. The only snag is that the woman he's chosen as his bride-to-be, the fiery Norina, is secretly his nephew's beloved, which sets up a riotous clash between generations.



Never before seen on the COC stage and seldom performed anywhere in the world, *Medea* is an exquisite rarity, featuring one of the most challenging roles in opera history.

As the culmination of our season, world-renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky will tackle the role, reuniting with director Sir David McVicar for this brand-new production.



**World Premiere**  
Canadian Opera Company Theater,  
227 Front St. E., Toronto

Nova Scotian contralto Portia White was the first Black Canadian concert performer to achieve international fame in the mid- 20th century, touring North America and performing in Europe while being hailed as the best classical voice of her generation. Yet despite such artistic accomplishments, her story has been erased from Canadians' collective memory.



I AM A DREAMER  
WHO NO LONGER  
*Dreams*

JORGE SOSA

Oct 20 & 22, 2023

This poignant and topical work navigates both compassion and the dark side of humanity through the intersecting lives of two immigrants. The story chronicles the complicated parallels and experiences of Rosa, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico; and her court appointed attorney, Singa, herself an immigrant from Indonesia with a green card.

ALL IS *Calm*

*The Christmas Truce of 1914*

PETER ROTHSTEIN

Dec 15, 2023

The remarkable true story of an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music and peace.

*The*  
FANTASTICKS

TOM JONES &  
HARVEY SCHMIDT

Feb 16 & 18, 2024

A modern telling of the age-old story of meddling parents and the power of love.

THE  
*Barber*  
of Seville

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

Apr 28, 2024

The beloved prequel to *The Marriage of Figaro*, comedic Rossini in Grand Opera style.



End the season  
with a special  
*Celebration*  
May 21, 2024

Go to [syracuseopera.org](http://syracuseopera.org) home page and click on Teaser Brochure for information about locations and times.



## 2023-24 Season

### A Companionable Afternoon

**Saturday October 7, 2023, 4:00 pm,**

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

**Sunday Oct. 8, 2023, 2:00 pm,**

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

**Jeffrey Thompson, *tenor***

**Christopher Haritatos, *baroque cello***

**Boel Gidholm, *baroque violin***

**Mary Riccardi, *baroque violin***

**Beiliang Zhu, *viola da gamba***

**Naomi Gregory, *harpsichord***

Music for violins and viola da gamba from Germany and France. Tenor Jeffrey Thompson will join us for songs by Erlebach, a gorgeous cantata by Montéclair with viola da gamba solo, and a comic mini-opera by Grandval, allowing Jeffrey to portray 5 different characters within 15 minutes!

**Admission Free!** Donations gratefully accepted (\$20 suggested).

## Echoes of the Renaissance

**Thursday February 15, 2024 7:30 pm**

Memorial Art Gallery Fountain Court, 500 University Avenue, Rochester

The use of double choirs—two (or more) ensembles of instruments or voices trading musical material antiphonally—was popular in northern Italy in the late 1500s and early 1600s. Complementing these rich sounds of the late Renaissance will be sonatas for strings and basso continuo by composers who then ushered in a new era, the Baroque.

**On the series of Third Thursday Concerts with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ**

**Free with Gallery admission** Limited seating!

## Concerto Grosso!

**Friday April 12, 2024 7:30 pm**

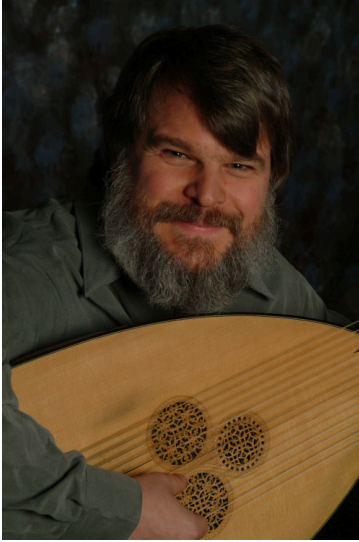
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word,  
597 East Avenue, Rochester

**Saturday April 13, 2024 4:00 pm**

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



**Announcing our 19th season!  
Tickets available now!**



## **Knight of the Lute**

**October 15, 2023 @ 4 pm ET**

Discoveries from a lost Italian manuscript. Paul O'Dette plays solo lute music from the Albani Manuscript, only recently discovered in an Italian villa. Music of Kapsberger, Lorenzino, Cavaliere del Liuto, and more. US Premiere!

**An extra concert!**

## **Old & New: Sephardic Reflections**

Early and contemporary music from the Jewish Sephardic tradition. A collaboration with Rochester's exciting new music ensemble *fivebyfive* and with artist Lynne Feldman.

**October 22, 2023    3-5 pm    Temple Beth El, 139 Winton Road 14610**

**Please note: this concert is not a part of our series subscriptions.**

[Tickets here.](#)



## **A Festive Sound**

**December 3, 2023 @ 4 pm ET**

Celebrate the season with glorious 17th century Italian/German music by Buxtehude, Monteverdi, Sulpitia Cesis, Rafaella Aleotti, Johann Theile, and more!



## [Flash and Fire](#)

January 21, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

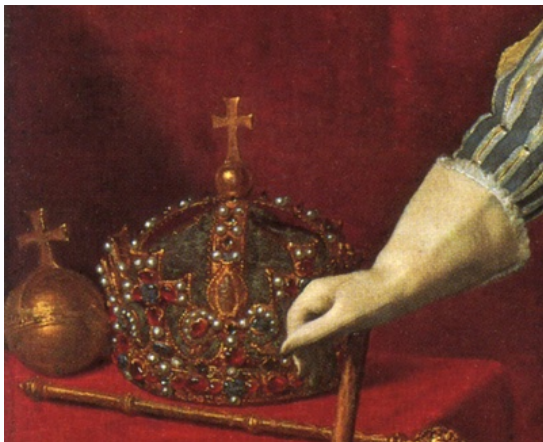
Nina Stern, recorder, and friends explore the virtuosic Italian style of the 17th century. Music by Castello, Frescobaldi, Corelli, and more.



## [Humours of Whisky](#)

March 17, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

Baroque meets traditional! Historical fiddling from the British Isles, and music of O'Carolan, Purcell, and Geminiani. Back by popular demand, the Berwick Fiddle Consort and friends.



## [Music for Kings](#)

April 28, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

The exquisite Royal Consorts of William Lawes for pairs of theorbos, violins, and violas da gamba, plus songs and music from the English 17th century courts.

*L'Orfeo - August 2022 Coming soon on YouTube!*



## Glimmerglass Opera Tour

**Tuesday, July 30, 2023** Matinee at 1 pm.

***Gounod's Romeo et Juliette***

Presented in French with projected English text



Lunch at the beautiful refurbished Glimmerglass Pavilion.

Our trip to Glimmerglass was an enjoyable one: the weather was good, the bus trip uneventful, *Romeo and Juliette* with beautiful music and an interesting production, and a relaxing dinner at the Brewster Inn, Cazenovia. We have a group that attends year after year and new participants as well.

If you have never gone on this trip, consider it for next year, when the presentation will be the *Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan, on July 30, 2024.





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