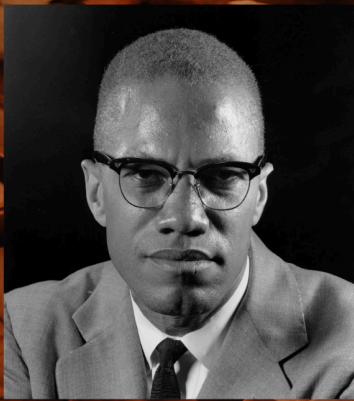


# Viva Voce

November 2023



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**.TURANDOT.**  
MUSICA DI G. PUCCINI LIBRETTO DI G. ADAMI e R. SIMONI  
= EDIZIONI RICORDI =

Edition *Viva Voce*,  
November 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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Nov. 8	Opera Guild Lecture	<a href="#"><u>Puccini's Turandot</u></a>
Nov. 15	Eastman Opera Theater	<a href="#"><u>Encounter w/ Nicole Cabell</u></a>
Nov. 16	Memorial Art Gallery	<a href="#"><u>Third Thursday Concert</u></a>
Nov. 18	Met Live in HD	<a href="#"><u>X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X</u></a>

### **Holiday Preview**

Dec. 3	Roch. Oratorio Society	<a href="#"><u>A City Sings for the Season</u></a>
Dec. 3	Pegasus Early Music	<a href="#"><u>A Festive Sound</u></a>
Dec 14	Opera Guild Holiday Concert	<a href="#"><u>Mark Daniels &amp; Guest</u></a>
Dec. 15	Syracuse Opera	<a href="#"><u>All is Calm</u></a>

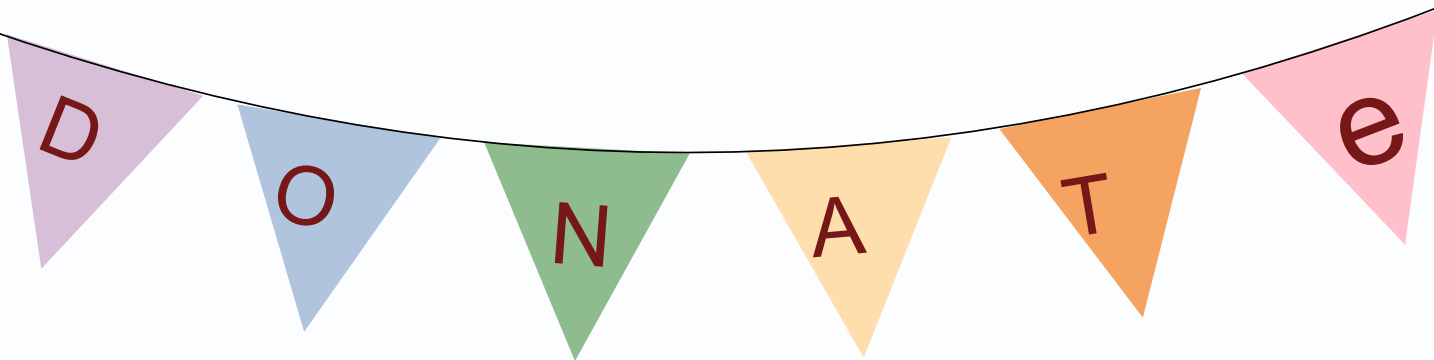
Don't forget RPO's *Nutcracker* and GEVA's *Christmas Carol*

## **Editor's Corner**

A good month, with room for the holiday. Whether or not you are a fan of 21<sup>st</sup> century opera, you will be interested in the essay on Malcolm X. Jessica Moss will take you by the hand and explicate the intricacies of the modern genre.

There is a preliminary listing of December fare after the November [This Month](#), so you can put some festive events on your calendar.

Cindy Battiti's lecture on *Turandot* will include the fascinating story of how the Chinese came to allow this previously forbidden opera to be performed – I'm looking forward to learning about that.



## 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.**

# *Express your passion for opera!*

Opera Lover Tote  
Great for Live in HD Days  
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**\$28**



## **Fantastic Opera Lover Holiday Gifts!**



Opera Lover Beverage  
Tumbler keeps drinks hot or  
cold for hours!

**\$25**

Available exclusively at  
[www.operabracelets.com](http://www.operabracelets.com)  
**Click to Shop Now**

## News From Your Opera Guild

Those of you who wanted to come to the Holiday Concert last year but couldn't because it was sold out will be glad to know we have a much larger venue in December and no one should be disappointed. We look forward to a very festive evening!

Watch next month for Beat the Blahs – there will be a new venue and a new registration procedure. We are excited to be hosting this at the Pittsford Community Center – an attractive room with plenty of space and good visibility. Hope to see you, and enjoy your turkey (or other holiday fare)!

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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!



## Our Third Holiday Concert

Dec 14, 7:00 pm

See Website for more info

w/ tenor **Mark Daniels** & guest  
soprano, **Amanda Varrone**



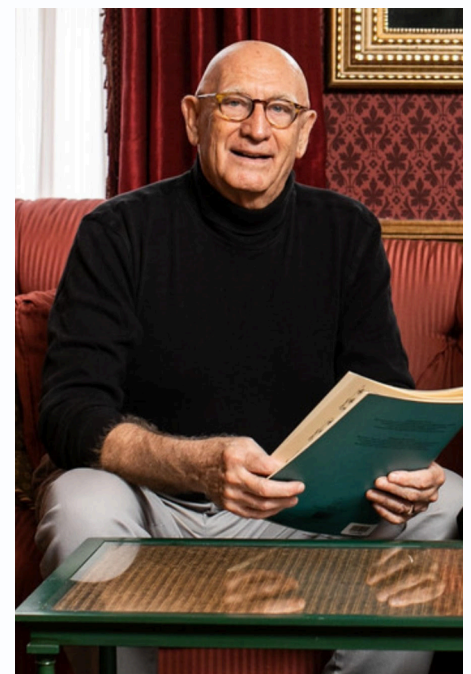
**Mark Daniels** is a versatile tenor who hails from Kennebunk, Maine. Mr. Daniels studied at the Eastman School of Music in the studio of Rita Shane, where he made his Eastman Opera Theatre operatic debut as Sam in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. He performed the role of Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in Urbania, Italy with Benton Hess's Oberlin in Italy program and again in Buffalo, NY with Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

In addition to his performing many other opera roles, Great Lakes Productions created a show around Mark Daniels called "A Tenor," which he performed for two years throughout upstate New York with "The Tuscan Trio and Two Sopranos." Recently he was featured as a tenor soloist in performances of Mozart's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson's Mass* as well as in a highly acclaimed Opera Under the Stars evening at Highland Park.

The larger part of **Rob Goodling's** musical life has been coaching, accompanying and training singers. Having taught music history courses at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance for twenty years, Mr. Goodling was also the vocal music and choral director at Churchville-Chili High School for twenty-eight years, where many of his students went on to outstanding music careers. His choirs consistently won state and national honors that resulted in their representation of New York State in international performance tours to many nations.

In addition to being awarded several Outstanding Music Educator citations; the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra named him their 1996 Outstanding Choral Director; and he was the first recipient of the Roberts Wesleyan College Outstanding Music Educator award. Mr. Goodling was named an affiliate Professor of Music Education at the Eastman School of Music, where he later served as editor of the opera department's FEO Newsletter.

In 2017, Mark Daniels and collaborative pianist Rob Goodling began a partnership that has resulted in continuing recitals together in New York State, Florida, and Maine.







Rochester native **Amanda Varrone** received her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, and has studied in Italy and Austria during summers of her undergraduate and graduate years. While a student at Churchville-Chili Senior High School, she studied with Rob Goodling and is pleased to be working with him once again. Amanda is a very busy mother of two daughters and a professional vocalist—singing throughout Rochester for various events, such as weddings, funerals and masses. She is thrilled to be performing with Mark and Rob again in the Opera Guild of Rochester’s Holiday Bravo Nights recital. Amanda would like to thank her family and friends for all their support and encouragement!

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## FREE Lecture/Listening Series

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

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.





## 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 |

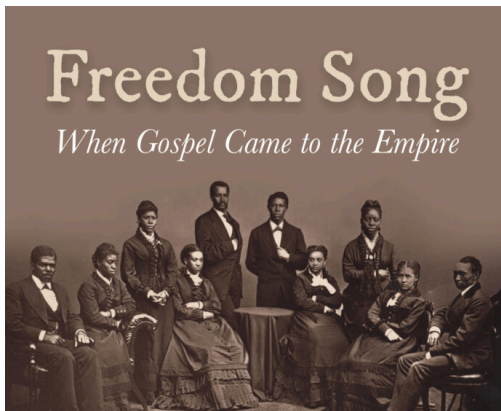
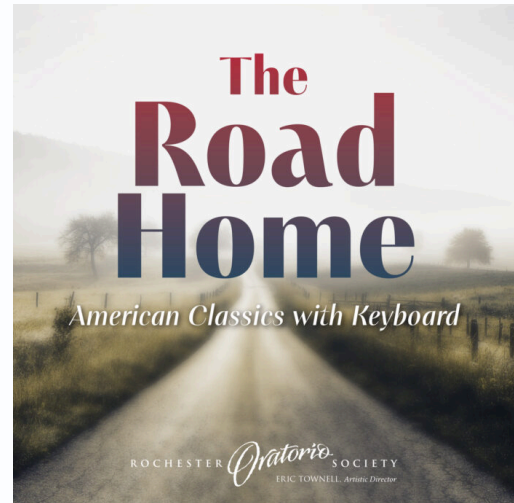
Stardust Ballroom at the Edgerton R Center

## [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



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

Jessica Moss

The Life and Times of Malcolm X by Anthony Davis and his cousin Thulani Davis premiered in 1986. In the operatic tradition, this would be considered a contemporary work. For many people it can be rather overwhelming to experience a new opera. The plot might be too political, too dense, or fail to take advantage of an entertaining, and palatable plot. Due to modern trends in composition it can be difficult, if not impossible to find a singable melody, or a tune to whistle home. The staging can be so unexpected that, as an audience member, you're not sure that the show onstage is the same as the one described in your Playbill. Generally the anxiety over these issues leads to complete avoidance of this musical adventure. Instead, let this article assist in calibrating the mind, ears, and eyes to this modern work.

(Before diving in a little more deeply, a brief synopsis of the plot can be found on the Metropolitan Opera Website: <https://www.metopera.org/discover/synopses/x-the-life-and-times-of-malcolm-x/>)

What caused composer Anthony Davis to choose Malcolm X as the subject of his opera? Politically, Malcolm X was considered a charismatic, commanding, and controversial man. He was assassinated at the age of 39. Because of his thoughts and actions, he became a legend in the conversations about Civil Rights. Composer Anthony Davis thought Malcolm's life made him a tragic hero, lending the story well to the operatic stage. Although this show is based on the life of Malcolm X, Anthony and Thulani Davis hoped not only to "make the story of Malcolm X a living history for the younger generations who didn't experience and live during his time", but to cause the individual to reflect (May 3, 2022. Interview at Detroit Opera with Anthony and Thulani Davis, [https://youtu.be/bDgbB\\_Z4mOY?si=b8rgkJEJ3100znu](https://youtu.be/bDgbB_Z4mOY?si=b8rgkJEJ3100znu)). They wanted to encourage the audience to consider their individual ability to change and be dynamic forces in the world. So instead of looking for a big verismo climax, be prepared to experience the slow rolling undulations of the human struggle.

The music of *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* is modern in nature. A full orchestra with a plush cushion of strings is traded in for the timbre of an American chamber orchestra. From the downbeat of the overture, anyone familiar with Gershwin or American Big Band will have some tonal and stylistic reference for anchor.

Anthony Davis uses many techniques to deftly achieve shifts in the circumstances and the psyche of the characters. Three selections that stand out include the Social Worker, Child's Aria, and Act 2 Scene 1. The scene of the Social Worker is pure genius. Davis takes away any sense of tonal center and leans into fairly avant-garde, jagged improvisation to aurally represent the amount of chaos not only in the mind of Malcolm's mother Louise, but the tangible environment in the home and its children. After this scene is the Child's Aria. In stark contrast to the rhythmic improvisational breaks of the former number, Davis orchestrates a very expansive void by employing shifting, hollow long tones. In doing so he gives us a true sense of the inner feelings of young Malcolm: As if he has nothing to anchor to, that he's lost and confused. Later in the opera, whenever the group of the Nation of Islam is involved, they sing vaguely like a gospel choir. These voices are united in rhythm, and generally in harmony. There is a superficial connection to religion in this compositional application. It seems that a slightly deeper meaning is the appeal to unity in the midst of a story and life that has been composed of chaos and violence. It is true however that there aren't many tunes to hum while leaving the theater. As a whole, there are numerous brilliant moments achieved by Anthony Davis's composition and Thulani's text.

The staging and visual aspects of this production are the work of Robert O'Hara. He is mostly known for his work in Broadway and Musical Theater, but he was excited to be a part of this new work. What inspired him most was showing the transformation of Malcolm in his behaviors, thoughts and ideologies. In an interview with Leo Adam Biga and the American Theater publication, O'Hara said. "...You can see how one can evolve in various ways of understanding. That is what's so powerful about the message to me of the Malcolm X story: It's an evolution. His liberation evolved, so I think there is that lesson in that one can actually learn as one teaches." (Nov. 2, 2022) O'hara uses his knowledge of the score to create fairly abstract sets and staging to capture these quickly moving scenes. It seems that this helps create a time-less space and setting, thus assisting in creating a more contemplative environment and atmosphere for the audience.

The way that Anthony and Thulani Davis approached creating *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, and Robert O'Hara's staging might be the best way to approach such a complex topic and person. They each allowed the story to be less about the controversial preachings of a gripping political figure, and more about bringing perspective on his evolution as a human. Hopefully some trepidation has been eased and curiosity has been sparked. The molding of the future of opera comes from our willingness to experience these new works, appreciate them for their aims, and talk critically about production as a whole. *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* will be in cinemas on November 29th.

A list of links below to research the show a bit more:

<https://www.wisemusicclassical.com/work/27257/X-The-Life-and-Times-of-Malcolm-X--Anthony-Davis/>

[https://youtu.be/bDgbB\\_Z4mOY?si=b8rgkJEJ3100znvu](https://youtu.be/bDgbB_Z4mOY?si=b8rgkJEJ3100znvu)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/arts/music/malcolm-x-opera-detroit.html>

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2022/11/02/the-evolution-of-anthony-daviss-malcolm-x-opera/>

# 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.**

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.



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

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 Monastyrska 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 Beczala 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.

## 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 -

**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, 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

### 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.

**Opera Encounter  
with Nicole Cabell**

**November 15 at 5 p.m.  
Miller Center Atrium**

\*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.



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.



Canadian Opera Company Theater,  
227 Front St. E., Toronto

## World Premiere

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.





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

### 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!**



### 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.

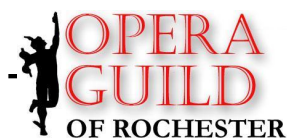


## [Music for Kings](#)

**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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