


Viva Voce

December 2023

January: Beat the Blahs – New Venue!

- Opera Guild Holiday Concert, p8
 - A City Sings for the Season, p13
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- 

Edition *Viva Voce*, December 2023

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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; operaguilddofrochester@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.operaguilddofrochester.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 [operaguilddofrochester.org](https://www.operaguilddofrochester.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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Dec 3	Roch. Oratorio Society	A City Sings for the Season
Dec 3	Pegasus Early Music	A Festive Sound
Dec 7	Rochester Philharmonic	Magic of Giving Concert
Dec 9	Met Live in HD	Florencia en el Amazonas
Dec 14	OGR Holiday Concert	Mark Daniels & Guest
Dec 15, 16, 17	Rochester Philharmonic	Gala Holiday Pops

News From Your Opera Guild

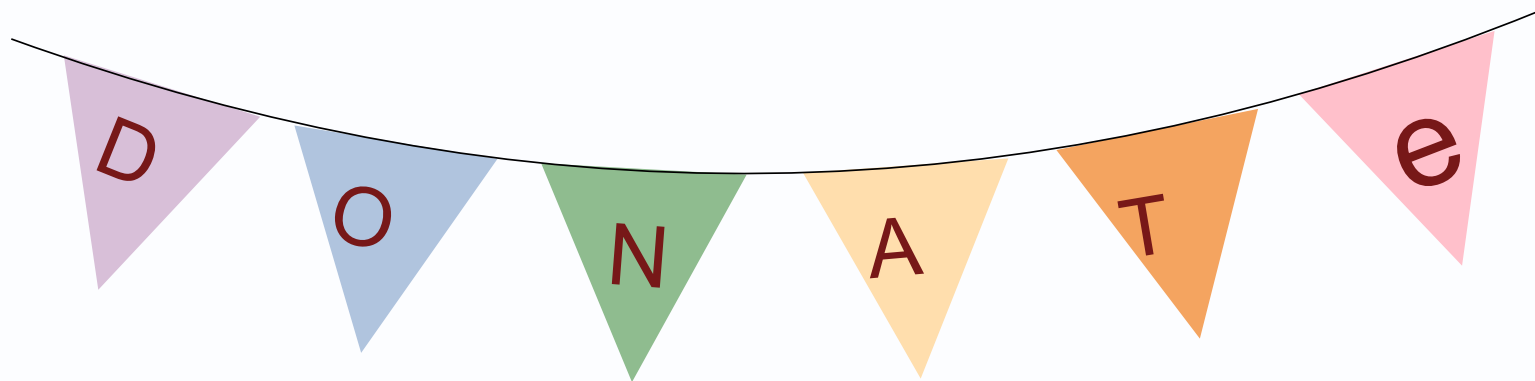
Join us to celebrate the season with our Third Annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 14th! ([p. 8](#)) Our new venue will accommodate all who wish to attend, and there will be yummy holiday treats at intermission!

We have welcomed new board members:

Jessica Moss is a soprano and voice teacher who has already been active with the Communications Committee, is full of energy and ideas, and is our window on younger generations.

Michael Amorese is a long-time supporter of the Guild, very knowledgeable about opera, and has revealed hidden talent by agreeing to replace Marcia Elwitt, who has retired, as Secretary.

Don't forget to check out our new venue and procedure for Beat the Blahs. ([p. 9](#)) This popular program has been satisfying opera fans' thirst for many years, with great productions on DVD in a convenient and sociable setting.



OUR FALL DONATION CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY!

Your Opera Guild wants to continue to provide “opportunities” 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)

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Editor's Corner

I note with chagrin Syracuse Opera's cancellation of the rest of its season. The company has been in partnership with Tri-Cities Opera and the operas no longer available there will be shown by Tri-Cities. ([link](#)). Covid has a lot to answer for: an article in Opera News detailed the creative and timely responses of opera companies around the country, but noted that big donors were less so and subscriptions down. Newcomers are less likely to subscribe, but choose more spontaneously and therefore are so far a less reliable audience. I hope Syracuse Opera will return, as any production I saw there was very good.

Carol Crocca

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 operaguilddofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

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

Join us for our festive Third Annual Holiday Concert
Opera, Seasonal Favorites and Holiday Cheer.



A RECITAL BY
TENOR MARK DANIELS,
PIANIST ROB GOODLING
& GUEST SOPRANO AMANDA VARRONE

DEC 14, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH,
220 S WINTON RD, ROCHESTER, NY 14610



Mark Daniels, tenor



Rob Goodling, piano



Amanda Varrone, soprano

There will be plenty of room and refreshments at intermission.

[See website for more information and to purchase tickets.](#)

Tickets will also available at the door with cash or check.

Opera Guild of Rochester : Beat the Blahs

"Beat the Blahs" is our way to cope with the winter doldrums and relax after the holidays. Enjoy great opera in the company of other fans, with refreshments at intermission.

Opera Beats the Blahs

Carol Crocca, Instructor

NEW

Reg. No.	Day	Date	Time	Fee
BELLINI'S LA SONNAMBULA (ITALIAN)				
120511-01	Sun	Jan 14	1:00-5:00PM	\$10
BRITTEN'S PETER GRIMES (ENGLISH)				
120511-02	Sun	Jan 21	1:00-5:00PM	\$10
BORODIN'S PRINCE IGOR (RUSSIAN)				
120511-03	Sun	Jan 28	1:00-5:00PM	\$10
JACQUES OFFENBACH'S LES CONTES D'HOFFMAN (FRENCH)				
120511-04	Sun	Feb 4	1:00-5:00PM	\$10
120511-05		All 4 operas		\$40
Ages 18 & up				PCC Rm 107

A series of 4 DVD opera presentations, with cookies and beverages served at intermission. There will be a brief introduction to each opera by a Guild docent. The time for public arrival will be 1:00PM and the ending time will vary based on the length of the program (between 3.5-4.5 hours).

All productions will be shown with subtitles and will include the following:

January 14- Bellini's *La sonnambula* (Italian)

The composer's first mature masterpiece, rich in melodic invention; the story of an engaged woman wrongly accused of shamelessness, whose reputation is restored when her sleepwalking problem is finally revealed.

January 21- Britten's *Peter Grimes* (English)

The fascinating study of a fisherman with a problematic history, situated in an English coastal town, which is itself a main character.

January 28- Borodin's *Prince Igor* (Russian)

Based on a Russian national epic, and full of beautiful melodies, it concerns a campaign against the Palovtsi, in which Prince Igor is captured by the enemy and rescued to general rejoicing.

February 4- Jacques Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffman* (French)

Called "a fantastic opera," this final work of the composer is serious in tone, combining reality and fantasy. It includes many virtuosic and lyrical scenes, such as the aria of the mechanical doll and the famous barcarolle.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

All registration will be through the Pittsford Community Center:

****You may register online at**

townofpittsford.org/recreation

****By printing the attached form and sending it in by mail**

****In person on the day of the event (you may also register for subsequent operas)**

Registration begins Dec. 4th for Pittsford residents (who receive the brochure in the mail).

Registration begins Dec. 11th for non-residents.

Note: there is a \$5 registration fee for non-residents. You will save money by registering at the same time for all the operas you intend to see.

Our new venue is spacious and convenient:

Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY, 14534, parking in rear.

PITTSFORD RECREATION WINTER 2024 REGISTRATION FORM

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

NAME _____
PRIMARY GUARDIAN FIRST AND LAST NAME

NAME _____
SECONDARY GUARDIAN FIRST AND LAST NAME

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME# _____ WORK# _____

HOME# _____ WORK# _____

EMAIL _____

EMAIL _____

EMERGENCY# _____ CELL# _____

EMERGENCY# _____ CELL# _____

NON-RESIDENT FEE: Participants living outside of the Town of Pittsford and the Pittsford School District are required to pay a \$5.00 per activity registration fee (per individual registrant). No fee is required for free programs. Programs offered are designed for residents of the Town of Pittsford and Pittsford School District. If class size allows, registrations from non-residents who have paid the non-resident fee will be accepted. Participants living outside of the Town of Pittsford and Pittsford School District may register to receive our program brochures by mail by contacting the Recreation Department. There is a \$3.00 fee charged for outside mailing.

REFUND POLICY: Refunds are available, unless otherwise stated in the program description. All refund requests must be submitted to the Pittsford Recreation Department. If a program is canceled, total amount will be refunded. You may withdraw up to 7 calendar days prior to the start of a program; a refund will be granted with a **\$5 processing fee per person/per program** (certain programs may be nonrefundable or involve a portion of nonrefundable monies.) Within one week of a program's start date, or after a program has begun, only medical refunds will be granted. A doctor's written statement must accompany your request. Refund will be prorated based on the date of your notification to the Recreation Department. Absolutely no refunds will be granted after the program ends.

REGISTRATION TIPS: Programs that do not meet the minimum number of participants are subject to cancellation. Assume you are registered in the program unless the recreation department notifies you. Please remember that some of our programs fill quickly so please register early.

RELEASE: As part of my registration, or as a parent/guardian on behalf of a minor child, I recognize that programs involving physical activity have inherent risks of injury and/or damage and I assume all such risks, as well as the responsibility to be fully aware of the inherent risks associated with any program for which I register, before I begin participation. I also recognize my participation in a program may result in the transfer or transmission of an illness or disease, including but not limited to COVID-19, which could result in serious sickness and/or death. The Town and its employees will not be liable for injury, damage or illness that occurs as a result of such risks and I waive and release the Town and its employees from any such liability. I also grant full permission to the Town to use my name, photograph, videotape or recording for any publicity promotion purposes without obligation or liability.

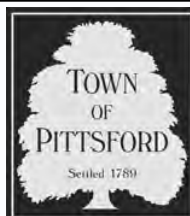
DATE SIGNATURE REQUIRED: _____ REGISTRANT (PARENT OR GUARDIAN IF UNDER 18)

Current Medical Conditions, Allergies, or Medications: _____

Special Accommodations? Yes, Please Indicate: _____

Participant Name	Gender	Birthdate	Grade	Program Title	Activity Code	Fee

T-Shirt Sizes YS YM YL YXL
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**INCLUDE NON-RESIDENT FEE - \$5.00
(PER PERSON & ACTIVITY IF APPLICABLE)**

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable to Town of Pittsford

*Mail-In Forms to to 35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford NY 14534

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

PAYMENT METHOD: CASH _____ CHECK _____ CARD VS MC DV RECEIPT # _____

RESIDENT REGISTRATION BEGINS DECEMBER 4

NON-RESIDENT REGISTRATION BEGINS DECEMBER 11

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra



THE MAGIC OF GIVING

*Thursday
December 7, 2023
7:00 PM*

Celebrating the Magic of Giving this holiday season! All tickets are pay what you wish – with 100% of your contribution going to support OPUS|Orchestral Program for Urban Students. The concert includes a special performance by [RCSD/Center for Youth's Strings for Success](#), one of our flagship OPUS partners. Experience firsthand the Magic of Giving by bringing a household item to benefit Rochester's own [Bethany House](#). Check out their [Amazon wish list](#) for most-needed items. Families are invited to wear their comfiest pajamas and get cozy with timeless holiday classics. [See website](#) for program and parking details.

GALA HOLIDAY POPS

*Friday, Saturday
December 16, 18, 2023
8:00 PM*

*Saturday, Sunday
December 16, 17, 2023
2:00 PM*

Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik, your RPO, the Festival High School Chorale, and Rochester's favorite storyteller, Jay Stetzer, narrating *The Night Before Christmas*.



Special Events & Appearances

For more information and to buy tickets, go to rossings.org, click on Events, Upcoming Events, and “read more.”



ROS w/ the RPO : Ode to Joy

Thursday, May 30, 2024

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater

Join the Chorus

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

for audition form and more information.



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

Sunday, December 3, 2023

| 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm |

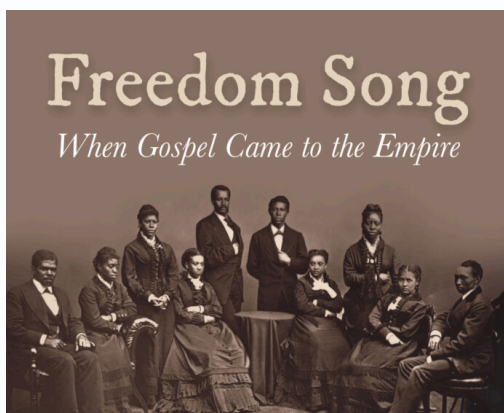
Stardust Ballroom at the Edgerton R Center

[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



[2024 Rochester International Vocal Competition Celebration](#)

Saturday, May 18, 2024

| 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

First Unitarian Church of Rochester



Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas* Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain

Carol Crocca

Daniel Catán Porteny (1949–2011) was a Mexican composer, writer and professor. His second opera, *Rappaccini's Daughter*, was the first Mexican opera to be produced by a professional opera company in the United States. With a libretto by one of his pupils, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, his next opera, became the first in Spanish to be commissioned by an opera company in this country. Catán has received a Plácido Domingo Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship Award for his contributions to music. In September 2010, his opera *Il Postino* was premiered by the Los Angeles Opera, with Plácido Domingo singing Pablo Neruda, a role written specifically for him. Catán died while working on his next opera, *Meet John Doe*. *Florencia* has had many American and international productions.

In the words of the composer:

"Because I had lived so many years in Britain and in Europe and in the States, I assimilated the operatic tradition of the West," Catán told the Cincinnati Opera on the eve of *Florencia's* performances there in 2008. "I respect and love that tradition very deeply, but at the same time I wanted to reconnect with my own roots and not only write operas in Spanish, but to use a Spanish that evoked our whole culture—otherwise, they would sound like translated operas. The works of great writers like Gabriel García Márquez, [...] were a great inspiration to me to try and do the same thing in opera."

I discovered an African drum called a djembe that can capture the crisp rhythms of the tropical rain as well as the deepest rumbles of a fearful storm. ... I thought of the marimba, its luscious wooden sounds and the way they would combine with flutes, clarinets, and harp. The sonorities of these instruments seemed to me to capture the sound of the river, the way it changes its timbre as it flows, transforming everything in its path.



The Met's production is widely praised:

The production by theatre professional Mary Zimmerman [...] she prefers to call it 'mythical realism,' which she defines as "all the experiences that are not completely logical, but come from passion."] was for me her most successful at the Met, capturing the Amazon Basin and the strangers making their way to the opera house in the middle of the jungle for various reasons. The setting by Riccardo Hernandez with projections by S. Katy Tucker and lighting by T.J. Gerckens was lush and the magical figures—dancers, choreographed by Alex Sanchez, and costumed by Ana Kuzmanic as fish and floating flora, puppeteers as monkeys and alligators—were, indeed, fascinating.

BroadwayWorld.com, [Richard Sasanow](#) Nov. 18, 2023

Your view of this opera depends on your perspective. if you are enthralled by spectacle, fantastic costumes, lush scenery, and simple lyricism, you will be enthusiastic, as many audiences have been, about this work. An enthralled reviewer:

It's a true grand opera with familiar-feeling characters who appear in enchanted landscapes that take inspiration from the magical realist works of Latin-American writers like Gabriel García Marquez. [...] Catán's opera bursts into life in resplendent—dare I say magical?—fashion, giving us one of the Met's most visually stunning and emotionally affecting outings of recent seasons. [...] *Florencia* is a feast for the eyes. Certain visual flourishes—a heron-dancer unfurling his spectacular wings, a puppet alligator that seemed to swim through the stage, the black floor now black river water, the final transfiguration of Florencia—were beautiful enough that tears sprang to my eyes.

Observer.com, [Gabrielle Ferrari](#), 11/21/23

There is, however, an opposing view:

The piece exudes homogeneous, interchangeable, anesthetized prettiness; you get the sense that any character's music could just as easily been transferred to anyone else. While it's not an unpleasant way to spend a couple of hours, there is nothing approaching vivid characterization or compelling drama — the things that mattered to Puccini, that his supreme lyrical gift was serving.

And while the baritone Mattia Olivieri, in his Met debut, sings Riolo, the narrator, with firm, juicy tone, the staging struggles to capture his status on the blurry boundary between real and magic.

[Zachary Woolfe](#), The New York Times, Nov. 17, 2023

The Broadway World reviewer continued thus:

Yet, I wish I could say that it worked better for me as a whole. True, the score was easy on the ear, but didn't really go anywhere, though it had some lovely stops along the way, thanks to the best efforts of conductor Yannick Nezet-Seguin and the Met Orchestra. The Met's chorus, under Donald Palumbo, had its grand moments as well.

I saw the Eastman Opera Theater's production of *Florencia*, and, except for the comments on the Met's production, which I haven't seen, this sums up my reaction to the work. Granted, I am not a fan of 'magical realism' and I go to opera for the music and the drama, not the spectacle. It was not the singing, costumes, or the staging at EOT that failed to please, but I left the theater unsatisfied, if not actually put off. Catán has been compared to Puccini, but that was certainly not my first thought.

I leave you with a review that sums up the opera's strengths, particularly at the Met:

Catán's opera is not a perfect creation, but the score is an ideal vehicle for Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He drew playing from the orchestra that is full of energy and passion, yet with careful attention to detail.

Pérez, alone on stage and attired in an iridescent black gown, was at her most compelling giving voice to Florencia's fear of never again seeing Cristóbal [her lover who disappeared in the Amazon many years ago]. Suddenly she was transformed into a beautiful butterfly with the appearance of softly, fluttering wings as luminous as her singing. As her spirit hovered off to join his in the jungle, the effect was simply magical.

Newyorkclassicreview.com, by [Rick Perdian](#), Nov. 20, 2023

The Metropolitan Opera

Live in HD Series

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 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.

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.'

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 repertoire'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 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

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



THE FALL SEASON



Eastman Opera Theater Season

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.



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

*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



**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 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.

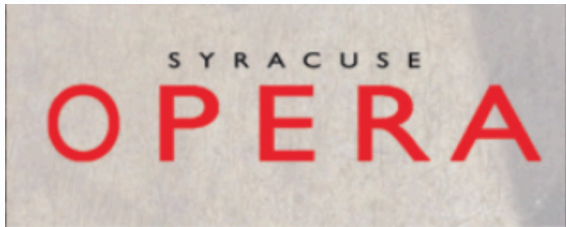
As the culmination of our season, world-renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky will tackle the role, reuniting with director Sir David McVicar for this brand-new production.



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.



Here is the unfortunate news from Syracuse Opera:

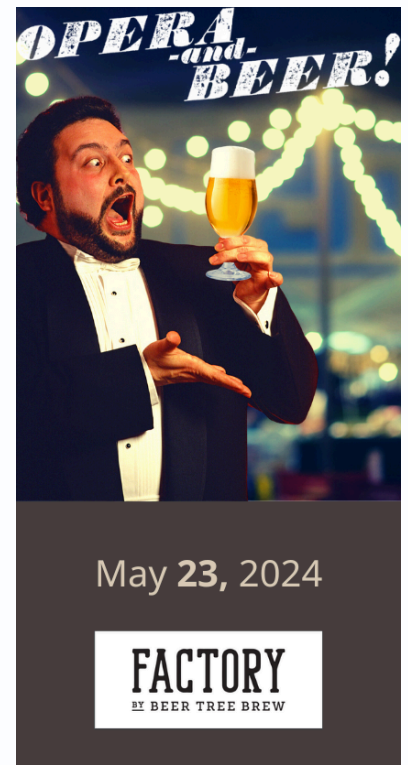
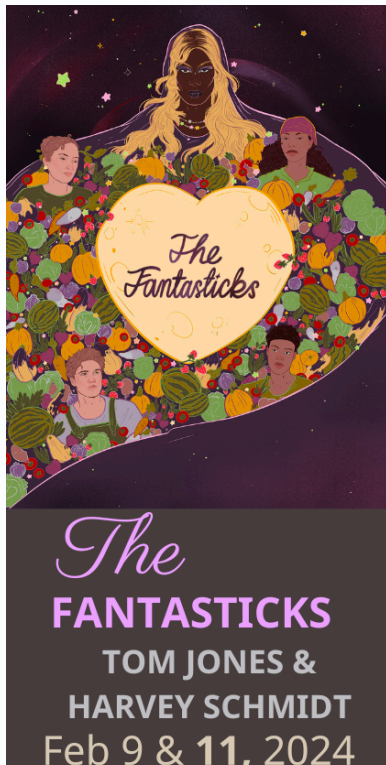
“After a beautiful year of fulfilling and powerful operatic experiences, it is with deep disappointment that **we announce the cancellation of the remainder of Syracuse Opera’s 2023-2024 Season.** While our recent productions have been artistically excellent and impactful, like many opera companies across the country, ticket sales have been considerably lower than projected, and we do not have the financial ability to continue the season. Consequently, we will be unable to produce the remaining operas: *ALL IS CALM*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, and *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*.”

For further information, and instructions to ticket holders, see syracuseopera.org



Tri-Cities Opera has announced the postponement of *All Is Calm* to the 24-25 season. Ticket holders will be contacted by the box office for options.

In its stead, there will be a program of Holiday Carols in the community. [See their website.](#)





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



All series concerts are Sundays at 4:00pm,
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester.

Free pre-concert talks at 3:15pm.



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

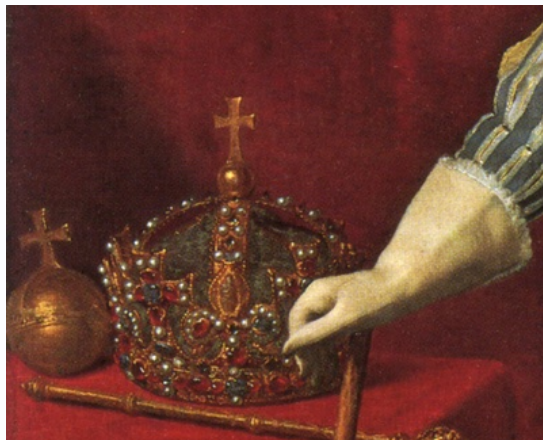
Nina Stern, recorder, and friends explore the virtuosic Italian style of the 17th century. Music by Castello, Frescobaldi, Corelli, and more.



[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.

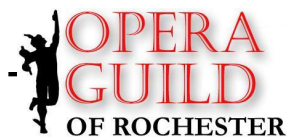


[Music for Kings](#)

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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