

# *Viva Voce* February 2024

**Eastman Opera Theatre, p17**

**Opera Guild Bravo Night, p16**

**FEO Voice Competition, p17**



Edition *Viva Voce*,  
**February 2024**

**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; [operaguilddofrochester@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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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## This Month

Feb 1-4	Eastman Opera Theater	<a href="#"><u>Winter Double Bill : Ariadne &amp; Dido</u></a>
FREE, Feb 2-4	Nazareth College	<a href="#"><u>Dialogues des carmélites</u></a>
Feb 4	OGR Beat the Blahs	<a href="#"><u>The Tales of Hoffman</u></a>
Feb 9, 11	Tri-Cities Opera	<a href="#"><u>The Fantasticks</u></a>
FREE, Feb 12	The Little Cafe	<a href="#"><u>OGR Bravo Night</u></a>
Feb 15	Memorial Art Gallery	<a href="#"><u>Publick Musick : Echoes of the Renaissance</u></a>
FREE, Feb 16	Friends of Eastman Opera	<a href="#"><u>Voice Competition</u></a>
Feb 1-16	Canadian Opera Company	<a href="#"><u>The Cunning Little Vixen</u></a>

## Editor's Corner

Good choices for a bleak time of year, from *Dido and Aeneas* to *The Fantasticks*! I took my two teen-aged nieces to see the musical back in the 60's in New York City and it's still going strong. Of course, *Dido* has been around a bit longer than that.

Any of these February offerings will take you away from cold and dark and beginning to hope for spring. The Met may be silent but we are not. Bravo Night, *Dialogues des carmélites* and the Voice Competition are free, or how about wishing someone a Happy Valentine's Day with a pair of tickets?



## News From Your Opera Guild

Last month I wrote about changes in board membership in the last year for the Opera Guild. But we have not only new board members, but changes in our activities. After leaving Temple B'rith Kodesh with regret for Beat the Blahs (the RPO Youth Symphony rehearses there now on Sunday afternoons), and trying some new venues, we think we have found a new home at the Pittsford Recreation Center. It is a pleasant, spacious room with good equipment and good visibility of the screen.

Besides continuing our traditional activities, we have been helping to sponsor some free recitals with local singers, and our Holiday Concert has become an annual event looked forward to by a large audience. Thanks to Communications Chair Mary Bonaccio, our constituents have never been so well-informed, and our presence in the community has increased.

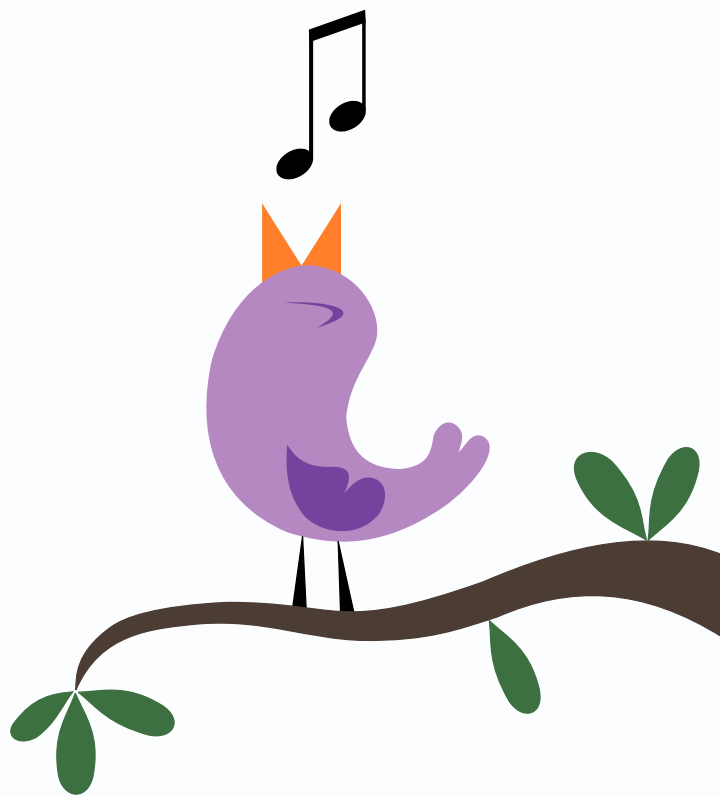
Through the generosity of some supporters who have remembered us with bequests in the last few years, we have been able to support opera organizations financially as well as with publicity in the newsletter. Finger Lakes Opera, Rochester Summer Opera, participants in the Fringe Festival, the RPO, Pegasus Early Music, Syracuse Opera, and Glimmerglass have all benefitted from this largesse.

I don't know if we will get bigger, but we will always try to get better. Your input is always helpful in this regard.

**We still need volunteers. Some ideas for good opera programming are not pursued for lack of personnel to carry them out.**

Wishing you good cheer while hoping for spring,

Carol Crocca





# *Express your passion for opera!*

Opera Lover Tote  
Great for Live in HD Days  
Strong and washable

**\$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**



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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. Includes pre-performance talk & refreshments at intermission.

\$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!



## Opera Guild of Rochester : Beat the Blahs

### 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.

Enjoy great opera in the company of other fans, with refreshments at intermission.

**Course #120511-04**

**Sun. Feb 4 1:00-5:00PM**

**\$10**

All registration will be through the Pittsford Community Center:

\*\*You may register online at [townofpittsford.org/recreation](http://townofpittsford.org/recreation)

\*\*In person on the day of the event

**Pittsford Community Center,**

**35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY, 14534, parking in rear.**



**The Gondola Scene, The Tales of Hoffman**

## Nazareth College

# Nazareth College Opera Workshop: Dialogues des carmélites

*Dialogues des Carmélites* is a story of faith put to the ultimate test. The opera tells the tale of a young woman from an aristocratic family who seeks refuge in a convent to escape the terror of the revolutionaries. Composer Francis Poulenc's combination of haunting melodies and religious hymns lingers in your memory long after the guillotine's fateful blade has fallen.

Friday, February 2 7:30–10 p.m.

Saturday, February 3 7:30–10 p.m.

Sunday, February 4 2–4:30 p.m.

Jessica Best, *Stage Director*  
Kevin Nitsch, *Music Director*

[Glazer Music Performance Ctr, Beston Hall](#)

**Free and open to the public!**





# Third Thursday Concert :

## **Publick Musick: Echoes of the Renaissance**

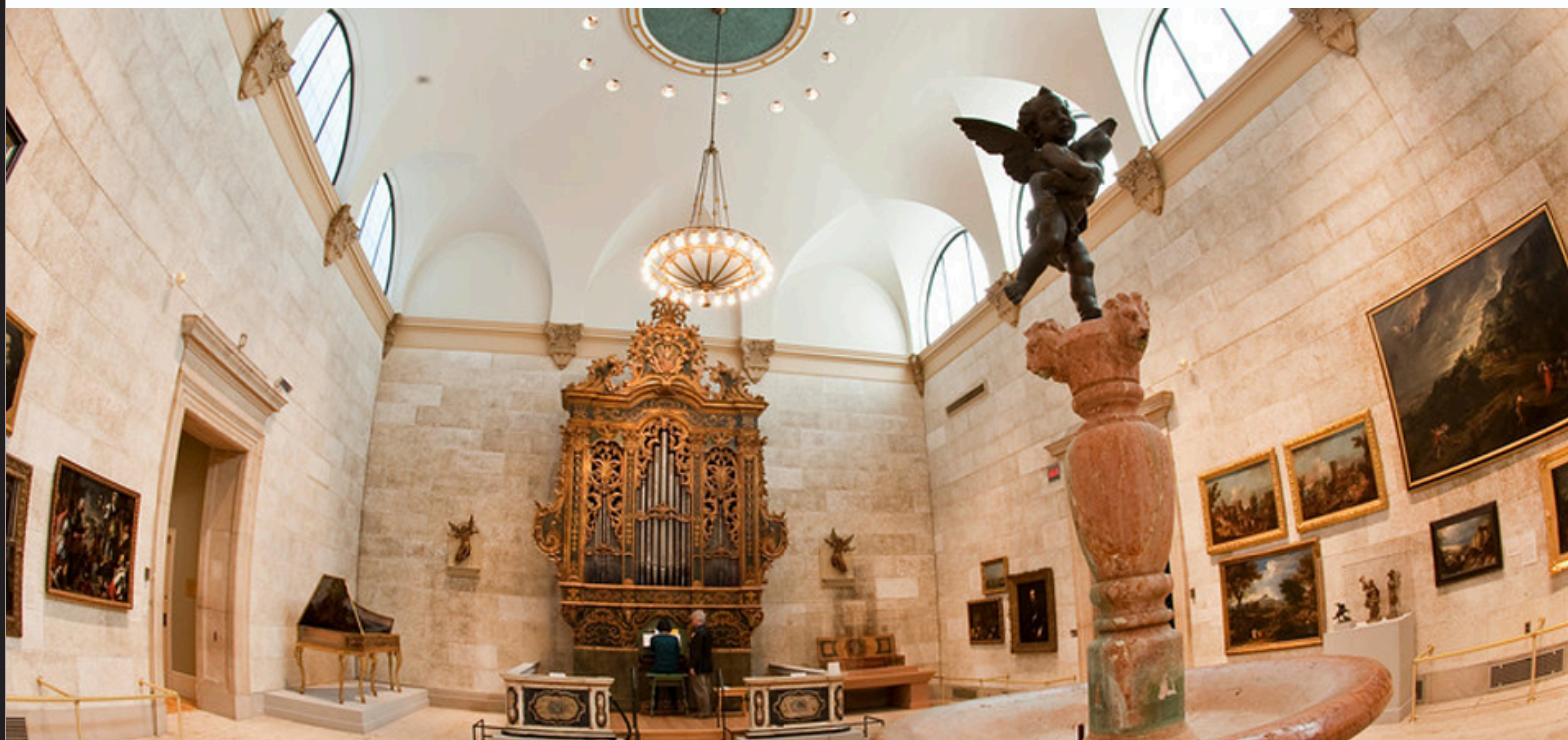


Photo by J. Adam Fenster/University of Rochester

**Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 7:30-8:30**

Join us for a program of antiphonal music that features organ and strings, and sonatas by groundbreaking composers of the early Baroque, including Fontana, Castello, and Marini! Eastman's stunning Italian Baroque organ will be juxtaposed with Rochester's early music group, [Publick Musick](#).

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

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.







## 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.”



### [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

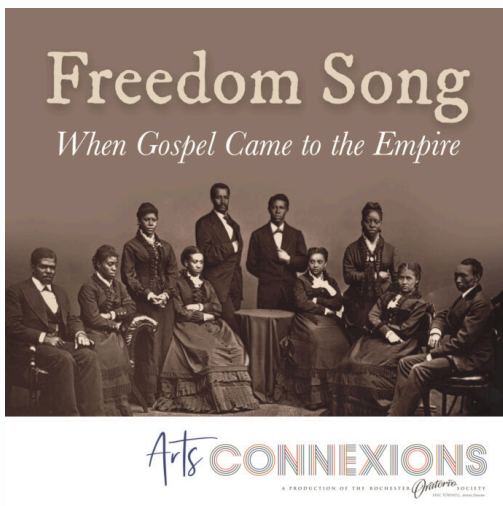
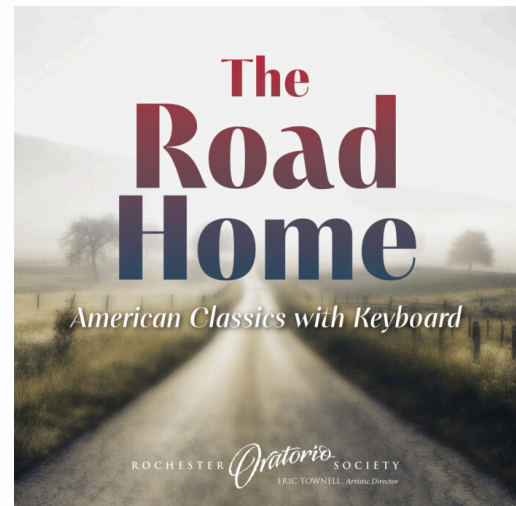
Opportunity to sing with the RPO!

See [rossings.org/membership/join-the-chorus](https://rossings.org/membership/join-the-chorus)

for audition form and more information.

## [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



# The Metropolitan Opera

## Live in HD Series

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.

**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.'



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.

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## **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**



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

Join us for another Valentine's Day Bravo Night, with songs and arias from Brahms, Beethoven, Schubert, Gounod and others, performed by voice students of Professor Constance Fee of Roberts Wesleyan University.

Local professionals Chad DeHaven and Jessica Moss will also perform selections from Puccini's Tosca, and West Side Story.



Bravo Nights are free and take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue.

Refreshments may be purchased there.





# 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.**

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

\*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.**



EASTMAN  
*Opera Theatre*  
2023-24 SEASON

**WINTER DOUBLE BILL!**  
**JANUARY 27-28 & FEBRUARY 1-4**

***Ariadne auf Naxos: Prologue***

Music by Richard Strauss  
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

***Dido and Aeneas***

Music by Henry Purcell  
Edited by Benjamin Britten and  
Imogen Holst

**Timothy Long**, conductor  
**Octavio Cardenas**, director

**ANNEX 804**  
THURSDAY-SATURDAY | 7:30 PM  
SUNDAY | 2:30 PM







# 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.

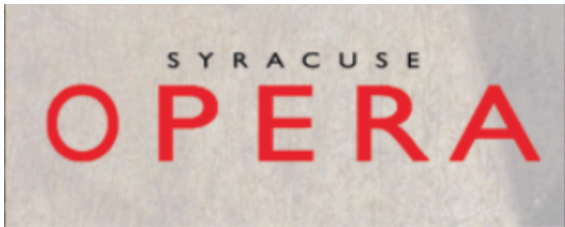


## World Premiere

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.



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



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



*The*  
**FANTASTICKS**  
TOM JONES &  
HARVEY SCHMIDT  
Feb 9 & 11, 2024



**THE**  
*Barber*  
**of Seville**  
GIOACHINO ROSSINI  
Apr 21, 2024



May 23, 2024







## 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

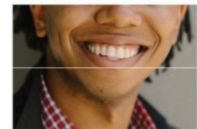
*Kurt Weill*

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

*Lotte Lenya*

THE LENYA COMPETITION

A program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music



Date of the final round of this year’s competition at Rochester, NY:

**May 4, 2024**

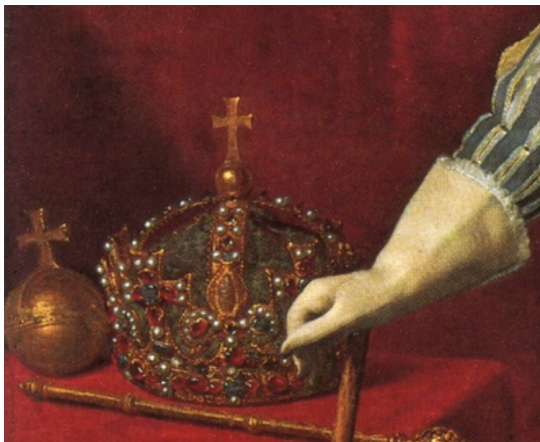




## [Humours of Whisky](#)

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](#)

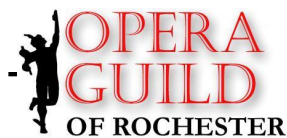
April 28, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

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.

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

Free pre-concert talks at 3:15pm.





## 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.





P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625  
eMail: [OperaGuildOfRochester@gmail.com](mailto:OperaGuildOfRochester@gmail.com)