

# Víva Voce

**April 2022** 



Tomita Young Artists, p 10
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#### Edition Viva Voce,

#### **April 2022**

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.

The Guild presents free opera lectures at local libraries, tours to productions of local opera companies and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and our popular Beat-the-Blahs, Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series, at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton.

This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to over 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our Website and sign up at <a href="https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce">https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce</a>

Our Website and Facebook pages serve as a clearinghouse for local and regional opera, concert, and recital information, with links to other music organizations in our area. Please visit our Website at operaguildofrochester.org.

For up-to-date information on opera-related news and events, please visit us on <u>facebook.com/</u>
<u>OperaGuildofRochester</u> and at our Website at <a href="https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/">https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/</a>

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



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

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

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A sincere thank you to all the donors who made our fall giving campaign a success! Now, are you willing to become more involved in the Opera Guild of Rochester?

As I noted last month in *News from Your Opera Guild*, in order to continue as an organization the Guild needs some new board members and volunteers. Unfortunately the COVID pandemic has taken its toll on our ability to recruit.

We are looking for board members who can serve as directors and work on a committee. Our committees are Communications, Events, Technology and Volunteers. The average time commitment for a board member will vary with the season, but in most cases would be no more than 10 hours per month. The board meets about 6 times a year and can do so virtually if necessary or advisable. A lot of the work we require assistance with can be done from home by telephone or computer.

We are also looking for volunteers to work on these committees. In some cases, even a small commitment of time would be very helpful.

These two positions can be filled by a person who is or is not a board member. They are Donor-Database Manager and Trip Co-coordinator.

PLEASE give these needs your serious consideration. If you are unable yourself to help in any of these ways, think about those you know with an interest in opera, and let us know about them. We will approach them with discretion. Contact us at <a href="mailto:operaguildofrochester@gmail.com">operaguildofrochester@gmail.com</a>, or phone, 585-385-6971.



April 2	The Little Theatre	ROH <i>Rigoletto</i> (Meet-up after)
April 7-10	Eastman Opera	Sondheim's Into the Woods
April 8-10	Opera Ithaca	<u>Le nozze di Figaro</u>
April 10	Nickel City	Valerian Ruminski in Concert
April 10	Tri-Cities Opera	<u>La Cenerentola</u>
April 23 (starting)	Canadian Opera	<u>La Traviata</u>
April 29, May 1	Roberts Weslyan	<u>Cosi fan tutte</u>
May 1	Syracuse Opera	Rossini's Cenerentola
May 2	The Little Theatre	Opera Guild Bravo Night with Gwen Paker
Streaming	Canadian Opera Company	Gianni Schicci and more
Streaming	Opera Ithaca (tickets required)	Hansel & Gretel adaptation
Streaming	Syracuse Opera	Coffee House, Episodes 1-4

## **News From Your Opera Guild**

It has been great to get back to our usual activities this year and seeing many of you in person again. And we are looking forward to being able to have an inperson Donor Recital and a trip to Glimmerglass. I loved giving my lecture on "Bad Girls" again, although I'm sorry the occasion was Rosalba Pisaturo's illness. Best wishes for a happy spring!

#### **Editor's Corner**

It has been interesting and satisfying to witness the growth of the Young Artists' program at Finger Lakes Opera. Thanks to a generous sponsor, the program now offers a full creative and learning experience to a group of young singers. These performers then share their talent and enthusiasm with the community in a variety of ways, with concerts, a children's opera, Guild Bravo Nights, and other events. See the new crop and read more on p. 10.

And speaking of young singers, Eastman Opera Theatre is staging its major production for the year this month, Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* (see p. 9). We are fortunate to have several excellent student productions to look forward to every year from this terrific group. If you love music theater, Rochester is the place to be.

On a more mundane note, directions for magnifying the text of the newsletter may now be found on the web site, thanks to my husband, Bill, my computer specialist.

Carol Crocca

## **Great Opera-tunities**

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

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See February and March 2023 Viva Voce for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.

\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs," opera DVD presentations. In normal times, four Sundays in January at 1 pm. 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, Webster and Henrietta. See full listing and essays in Viva Voce.

FREE - Opera Guild Bravo Nights, in normal times at The Little Café. Live accompanied singers perform opera favorites in an informal atmosphere. See Viva Voce for next date.

\$18 Opera performances from the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden are screened several times a year at The Little Theatre, as listed in Viva Voce.

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. Look for next year in February 2023 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 2022 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 <a href="mailto:operaguildofrochester@gmail.com">operaguildofrochester@gmail.com</a> and the appropriate person will contact you.

We are in need of an accountant to help once per year, in August/September with the Guild's tax return. Since tax season is upon us, when you see your preparer, it would be greatly appreciated if you ask if he or she knows of a willing person.

#### **Donations**

As an *Amici*, your contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. All donation levels receive an invitation to the Annual Recital; those listed below will be given priority until a date specified on the invitation, and at the *Comprimario* level and above may request extra tickets.

Chorus: \$50 per person, \$80 per couple.

Comprimario: \$100-\$199.

Primo: \$200-\$299. Maestro: \$300-\$399.

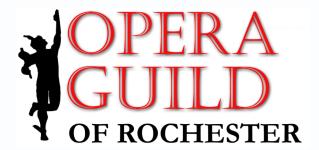
Impresario: \$400 or more.

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.

NEW! A Note on Tax Receipts from the President: Due to the help of a generous volunteer, we are now able to send a personal thank you to all contributors.

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!



#### Meet-Up

Sunday. April 2
After the 12 pm screening of the ROH performance of *Rigoletto*.

## coffee and conversation

Meet-ups are informal gatherings following Royal Opera House productions at The Little Theatre. The Guild has reserved the Little Café for approximately 90 minutes after the show so that operagoers can meet for coffee and conversation afterwards. **The screenings begin at 12**pm. (Even if you don't go to the film, you're still welcome to join us!).

We'll have light refreshments on hand for all.





# OGR Annual Recital for Donors

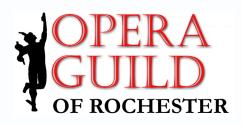
Sunday, May 15, at 2 pm Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Avenue, 14610 More details to follow.



Our recitalist this year is baritone Samson McCrady, a rising star who recently won the Illinois District competition in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.

Samson graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in December 2015; he won first place in the Rochester Lyric Opera recital competition and gave a recital there in March 2016. He also won first place in the Classical Singer Competition at the Boston Convention in May, 2016.

While a student at Cincinnati College Conservatory, he was invited to be a Young Artist at Opera Theatre of St. Louis in the summer of 2018. He then studied as a Young Artist in the Domingo-Caffritz program at Washington National Opera for the 2018-2019 season, where he sang the role of Wagner in *Faust*. Samson spent the summer of 2019 as a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival where he sang the lead baritone role in the Missy Mazzoli 2018 opera, *Proving Up.* Since then, he has placed third in the 2021 Monserrat Caballe International Singing Competition, and most recently, sang the role of Germont in the 2022 South Bend Lyric Opera production of *La Traviata*. Hear him at https://www.samsonmccrady.com/.



#### **Eastman Opera Theatre**



# INTO THE WOODS by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

Lindsay Warren Baker, Director • Timothy Long, Music Director

Kodak Hall • April 7, 8, 9 at 7:30PM • April 10 at 2PM

From Carol Crocca: Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, which has been nominated for literally scores of awards and won many, intertwines several of Grimm's fairy tales, but not in their standard plots or characters. The title itself is susceptible to more than one interpretation, and this is underscored by the fact that the original basis of the play is a book, <u>The Uses of Enchantment</u> by Bruno Bettelheim, famous child psychoanalyst of a previous generation. Exploring the themes of parenthood, wishing, and the consequences of wish fulfillment, the tone is indicated by the witch's pronouncement, "I'm not good. I'm not nice. I'm just right." A fairy tale for grown-ups, as only Sondheim can do it.





## **Finger Lakes Opera**

In 2018, Finger Lakes Opera created a Young Artist Program to feature up-and-coming musicians around the Finger Lakes region and beyond. The Young Artists performed in community outreach events and in the chorus of FLO's main-stage productions. The excellence of FLO's Young Artist Program caught the attention of a local benefactor, who pledged to support the program and facilitate its expansion. Named after one of the donor's dear friends, the Grandmaster Mutsuo Tomita Young Artist Program was transformed; due to this generous support, Finger Lakes Opera was able to begin providing weekly stipends, travel allowances, and housing to all the Young Artists. Today, the Tomita Young Artist Program has flourished into one of Finger Lakes Opera's greatest strengths as a company. Chosen from an increasingly competitive audition process, the Tomita Young Artists come to Rochester for a month-long summer residency program with numerous training and performing opportunities. As the program continues to grow, Finger Lakes Opera is proud to be a launching point for these amazing musicians' careers.

The 2022 Tomita Young Artists were selected from a pool of nearly 450 applicants and will be featured in Finger Lakes Opera's 2022 Summer Season:



Top: Erika Vasallo, mezzo-soprano; Robert Hartfield, tenor; Geoffrey Schmelzer, baritone; Jenny Choo Kirby, piano Bottom: Kayla Oderah, soprano; Jeremy Harr, bass;

Danielle Beckvermit, soprano

## Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition Winners

Congratulations to Finger Lakes Opera's (FLO) very own Gwen Paker for winning first prize at the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition on Friday, February 18th.

Currently getting her Master's degree from Eastman, Gwen became a part of the Finger Lakes Opera family as the administrative coordinator last year and has supported FLO behind the scenes ever since. FLO couldn't be more proud of her and all of her accomplishments!





left to right:
Gwen Paker (1st place)
Anna Thompson (2nd place)
Ed Bland (3rd place)
Jazmine Saunders (honorable mention)

The adjudicator was Darren Keith Woods.



# 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. Performances are 7-9 pm, and refreshments may be purchased there.

Our next Bravo Night is **May 2 at 7pm** and features Gwen Paker, winner of the 2022 Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. For more about Gwen, see the Finger lakes Opera page.

#### Also at the Little Café

On Saturday, **April 2** at 12 pm there will be a showing at the Little of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden's production of *Rigoletto*. Join us in the Café afterwards for coffee, cookies and conversation!



#### Third Thursday Concert: In Memory of James Weaver

By <u>Eastman School of Music</u>, <u>Memorial Art Gallery</u> Thursday, April 21, 2022 7:30pm to 8:30pm



500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

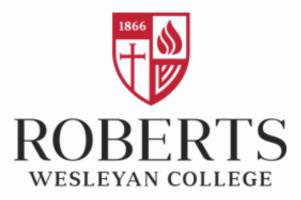
The Third Thursdays with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ at the Memorial Art Gallery concert series presents Kenneth Slowik on the Baroque cello and viola da gamba, and William Porter on the organ.

Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

Bach: Sarabanda con partite in C Major, BWV 990

Bach: Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Keyboard in G Major, BWV 1027

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.



#### **Cultural Enrichment**

Roberts Wesleyan College Opera Workshop will present Mozart's Così fan tutte on Friday, April 29th and Sunday, May 1st in the RWC Cultural Life Center. This abridged version of the opera featuring Roberts students is staged by Cecile Saine, produced by Constance Fee, and will feature arias in Italian, ensembles in English, and updated sets and costumes. Admission is free and open to the public. Masks are optional.

Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm Roberts Wesleyan College Hale Auditorium/RWC Cultural Life Center 2301 Westside Drive Rochester, NY 14624





#### **Listen to the Rochester Oratorio Society**

Take a moment to listen to the sound of the Rochester Oratorio Society, the leading choral/orchestral ensemble in Rochester, New York, and the surrounding seven-county region. Click on "listen now" on the home page for selections from *Missa Luba*, *Missa Criolla*, Handel and Mozart.

https://rossings.org/

**The Lotte Lenya Competition** 

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

For the announcement of the judges and semi-finalists, and, soon, the finalists, for the 2022 competition, go to kwf.org/lotte-lenya-competition/

## 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 <a href="mailto:metopera.org">metopera.org</a> and click on 'discover.' This leads to another menu of all kinds of educational features from podcasts and articles to more formal educational materials for students.

**From Chatauqua Opera**, at <a href="mailto:chq.org/opera-video-index">chq.org/opera-video-index</a>, you will find a listing of all the features that were part of the 9-week summer video opera events, which are archived on the website's Virtual Front Porch platform. These include conversations with artists, vocal events, master classes, the Opera Song Cycle, new compositions, and more.

**San Francisco Opera** has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. <a href="style="color: blue;">sfopera.com/discover-opera/education</a>

Los Angeles Opera has programs for both adults and children at laopera.org/community

**Utah Opera** at <a href="https://utahopera.org/education/students">https://utahopera.org/education/students</a>/ also has good student materials.

**From Arizona Opera**, at <a href="https://azopera.org/education-community/opera-home-virtual-learning-tools">https://azopera.org/education-community/opera-home-virtual-learning-tools</a>, 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.

## The Metropolitan Opera

The Met has announced its season for Live in HD transmissions. The dates for these are as listed in This Month and below. **Essays on the opera appear in Viva Voce in appropriate months.** 

For theater directions, see <u>metopera.org</u>, click menu icon in upper left corner, click 'Season', click 'In cinemas', click 'Find theater.'

## Giacomo Puccini *Turandot*

Sat, May 07, 2022 12:55 PM

The title role of the legendary cold-hearted princess is taken by superstar Anna Netrebko, making her long-awaited Met role debut after providing a hair-raising preview in 2019's New Year's Eve Gala. Tenor Yusif Eyvazov is the bold prince determined to win Turandot's love, alongside soprano Michelle Bradley as the devoted servant Liù and bass Ferruccio Furlanetto as the blind king Timur. Marco Armiliato conducts Puccini's stirring score.

## Donizetti <u>Lucia di Lammermoor</u> Sat, May 21, 2022 12:55 PM

Soprano Nadine Sierra, who has brought down the house at the Met with virtuosic vocalism and captivating stage presence, takes on one of the repertory's most formidable and storied roles, the haunted heroine of Lucia di Lammermoor, in an electrifying new staging by in-demand Australian theater and film director Simon Stone, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. Show-stopping tenor Javier Camarena adds to the bel canto fireworks as Lucia's beloved, Edgardo, with baritone Artur Ruciński as her overbearing brother, Enrico, and bass Matthew Rose as her tutor, Raimondo.

#### Read Synopsis

#### Brett Dean / Matthew Jocelyn <u>Hamlet</u> Sat, Jun 04, 2022 12:55 PM

When Australian composer Brett Dean's *Hamlet* had its world premiere at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2017, The Guardian declared, "New opera doesn't often get to sound this good ... Shakespeare offers a gauntlet to composers that shouldn't always be picked up, but Dean's Hamlet rises to the challenge." Now, this riveting contemporary masterpiece arrives at the Met, with Neil Armfield, who directed the work's premiere, bringing his acclaimed staging to New York. Many of the original cast members have followed, including tenor Allan Clayton in the title role. Nicholas Carter makes his Met debut conducting a remarkable ensemble, which also features soprano Brenda Rae as Ophelia, mezzo-soprano Dame Sarah Connolly as Gertrude, baritone Rod Gilfry as Claudius, and legendary bass Sir John Tomlinson as the ghost of Hamlet's father.











#### **A Grand Sound**

May 1, 2022 @ 4 pm ET

Celebratory German and Italian 17th century music for voices and trombones Music of Buxtehude, Schein, Schutz, Rosenmüller, and more. Sunday May 1, 2022 4:00pm

Ticket information available in January 2022



**Diderot Quartet with baritone Jesse Blumberg** 

May 22, 2022 @ 4 pm ET

Haydn & Mendelssohn quartets plus song arrangements of Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn. Sunday May 22, 2022 4:00pm Ticket information available in January 2022





### Eastman Opera Theatre

Click above for more information.

#### INTO THE WOODS

Steven Sondheim and James Lapine
Familiar fairy tales fractured and put back together again, with the moral, "Be careful what you wish for!"

April 7-10; Kilbourn Hall

#### L'AMANT ANONYYME

by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a Gusadeloupe-born 18<sup>th</sup>-century composer known in Paris as *le Mozart noir* 

May 2022







#### Rossini's Cinderella



#### Do dreams really come true?

Can love conquer greed and cruelty? Find out in Rossini's timeless classic, Cinderella! In this touching and hilarious Italian version of the classic fairytale, the kind-hearted Angelina (Cinderella) is forced to work for her wicked stepfather and cruel stepsisters. Meanwhile, Prince Ramiro trades places with his valet to go door to door in disguise and find a maiden who is true of heart. As romance blossoms and Angelina's step-family plots to win the prince, mistaken identities, hilarious hijinks, chaos and — of course — a ball ensue. Set against a mid-century modern backdrop (think Sabrina, with Audrey Hepburn), Rossini's lively melodies prove that forgiveness, kindness, and love really can conquer all!

TIME: May 1

**LOCATION:** The Oncenter Crouse Hinds Theater, 411

Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 13202

RUN TIME: Approximately 2 hrs 45 mins with one

intermission.

LANGUAGE: Performed in Italian with English supertitles.

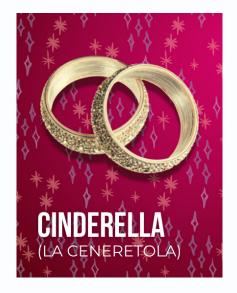
More information coming soon!











La Cenerentola (Cinderella)

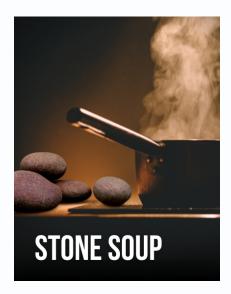
April 10, 2022 Forum Theatre Music by Gioachino Rossini | Libretto by Jacopo Ferretti

More info

A Children's Opera May 2022 Various Locations

Music by Joe Illick | Libretto by Mark Campbell

More info



**Ariagrams** 

February 14, 2022

**Opera & Beer** 

May 26, 2022





## OPERA ITHACA



New Production
April 8 & 10, 2022

Hamblin Hall CSMA, Ithaca

Find out more at <a href="https://www.operaithaca.org/">https://www.operaithaca.org/</a>









January 2022 RIGOLETTO POSTPONED to June 2022

As we are all too familiar with the news, Covid-19 and Omicron cases in New York State and nationwide have been rising. Numerous Broadway shows including Broadway Tours in Buffalo have canceled performances due to Covid-19 cases within the cast and crews. Airlines have canceled thousands of flights due to staffing shortages and forced cancellations. The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra has postponed 'The Magic Flute'; half of our Opera Marathon! Weekend due to concerns among the musicians with unmasked opera singers. Ensuring cast, musicians and crew arrive safely and timely in these uncertain travel times, to a potential positive Covid test that would immediately shut the production down, is a sobering potential outcome in these unprecedented times. As these issues present extreme uncertainty ahead plus increased challenges from the pandemic and many factors outside of our control, we are postponing our January 22nd and January 23rd, 2022 production of Rigoletto to summer performances Saturday, June 25th at 7:00pm and Sunday, June 26th at 4pm at Nichols Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts, 1250 Amherst St, Buffalo. We are reaching out to everyone who purchased tickets which can be exchanged for the June performances, donated or fully refunded. Exchanges, refunds and tickets for the June 25th & 26th performances are also available at the BPO Box Office, 3 Symphony Circle, 716-885-5000.







#### Valerian Ruminski in Concert

#### **April 10th, 4:00pm**

The Nichols Flickinger Performing Arts Center 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo

For the first time in many years Valerian Ruminski, Metropolitan Opera bass, is going to perform a solo concert full of classics and gems including music by Victor Herbert, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Ambroise Thomas and Brahms. Don't miss this unique event. Mr. Ruminski will be accompanied on the piano by the highly acclaimed Elizabeth Rodgers



#### Lucky 13th Annual Gala Dinner & Auction

NCO's 13th Annual Dinner Gala featuring a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, plus fantastic singing and a delicious dinner.

June 13th. 6:00pm

The Saturn Club 977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo







## **IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES**

#### FOUR SEASONS CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



## VERDI LA TRAVIATA

Verdi's celebrated opera brings 1850s Paris to lavish life in a tale of love and heartbreak.

April 23, May 1, 3, 7, 12, 18, AND 20, 2022



One of the most famous operas of all time, Mozart's whimsical comedy is filled with familiar melodies that will delight fans of all ages.

May 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 19, AND 21, 2022

Join our Free Digital Membership program and be part of the Canadian Opera Company community.

**SIGN UP** 





#### The Queen In Me

June 2, 3, and 4, 2022

Teiya Kasahara

Performed at the Canadian Opera Company Theatre
227 Front St. E., Toronto, Ontario

Combining comedy, drama, and plenty of opera, this exuberant show by interdisciplinary artist Teiya Kasahara 笠原②野 (they/them) explores the many ways that race, gender, and sexuality are policed in the opera industry. Featuring music from *La Bohème*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Macbeth*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Rigoletto*, *Salome*, and *The Magic Flute*.



Connecting artists and audiences through a COC first: free digital streaming, from coast to coast to coast. Captured at the magnificent Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, enjoy new releases of purpose-produced concerts and performances every month with extraordinary Canadian and international artists.

Join our Free Digital Membership program and be part of the Canadian Opera Company community.

#### **SIGN UP**

From the home page menu at coc.ca, choose "21-22 season." Scroll down to "DIGITAL OFFERINGS" and click on "WATCH NOW." There are 9 or more concerts and operas streaming to choose from.



The 2022 Festival will feature productions of Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music, originally slated for the summer of 2020. <u>Bizet's Carmen</u> takes the stage in a new production directed by 2022 Artist in Residence Denyce Graves, followed by the new work <u>Tenor Overboard</u>, weaving some of Rossini's most spectacular music together in a new comic opera with a book by the famed playwright Ken Ludwig. The next installment of Common Ground, the Festival's multi-year initiative of new, commissioned works, is a double bill of Kamala Sankaram and Jerre Dye's <u>Taking Up Serpents</u>, paired with the world premiere oneact <u>Holy Ground</u>, by <u>Damien Geter</u> and <u>Lila Palmer</u>; together with young artists' productions and other events. No calendar has been posted yet, and no tickets are available yet.

Artistic & General Director <u>Francesca Zambello</u> has announced the 2022 Festival will be her 12th and final season in her leadership role with the company.

There is now a season calendar on the website. Tickets go on sale in January.



## **Pegasus Early Music**

L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 2022
Pre-concert talks 1 hour before each performance

Hart Theater at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish
Community Center
1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester

This ground-breaking opera, written in 1607 and considered the first "real" opera, still has the power to captivate audiences over 400 years later, with its universal story, virtuosic expressive music, and colorful orchestration. Its themes of love and loss, human weakness and strength, redemption and the power of music, remain relevant today and will resonate profoundly with our audiences.

As Orfeo, famous for his musical prowess, joyfully celebrates his marriage to Euridice, a messenger brings the news that she has died. Orfeo travels the treacherous path to the Underworld to win her back - with his seductively entrancing music - only to lose her again because of his own doubt. Eventually escorted by the god Apollo, he ascends to the heavens where he can be reunited in the stars with his Euridice. A cast of shepherds, nymphs, spirits, and gods support the flow of the drama with dance, heartfelt solos, and dynamic choruses, that comment on and interpret the action.

We are thrilled to present tenor Colin Balzer in the virtuosic and dramatically expressive role of Orfeo, the singer who must travel to Hell and back to regain his beloved Euridice.

Michael Beattie, music director
Emily Cuk, stage director
Julia Noulin-Merat, scenic designer
Peggy Murray, choreographer
Whitney Locher, costume designer
John Cuff, lighting designer

Orfeo: Colin Balzer, tenor

Musica & Proserpina: Laura Heimes, soprano

**Apollo:** Sumner Thompson, tenor

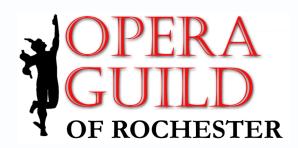
Messenger & Speranza: Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano

Caronte: Steven Hrycelak, bass Euridice: Madeline Healey, soprano Plutone: Mischa Bouvier, baritone

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



For more information go to <a href="https://www.pegasusearlymusic.org/opera/">https://www.pegasusearlymusic.org/opera/</a>



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