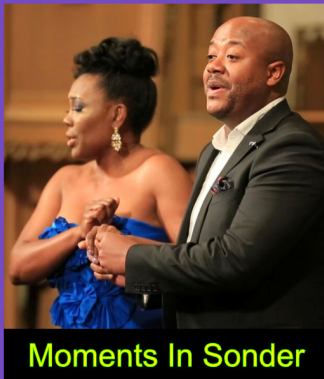


Viva Voce

August 2022

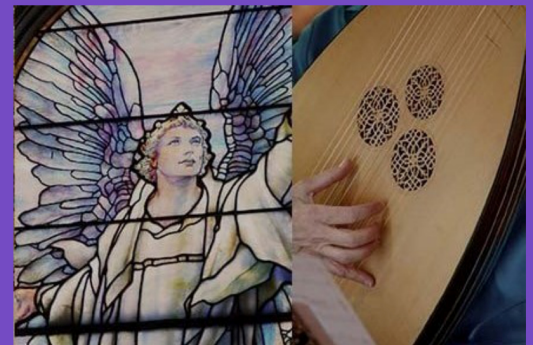


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Edition *Viva Voce*, August 2022

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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.

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 <https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce>

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 [facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester) and at our Website at <https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/>

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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Aug. 3	Met Opera Encore	<i>La Boheme</i>
Aug. 3-6	Seagle Festival	<i>Once Upon A Mattress</i>
Aug. 5	FLO Young Artists	<i>Così fan tutte</i> pastiche
Aug. 7	Finger Lakes Opera	<i>10th Anniversary Gala</i>
Aug. 10	Met Opera Encore	<i>La fille du regiment</i>
Aug. 17-19	Seagle Festival	<i>Fellow Travelers</i>
Aug. 26-28	Pegasus Early Music	<i>Monteverdi's L'Orfeo</i>
Aug. 28, 29	Rochester Summer Opera	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>

Editor's Corner

It's not a long list in [This Month](#), but full of great *local* opera choices, book-ended by Finger Lakes Opera's 10th Anniversary Gala and Pegasus Early Music's *L'Orfeo*. Also on the list, if you would like a more casual choice, is Rochester Summer Opera's *Pirates of Penzance* at the Community Center, Ontario Beach Park (Eastman School students). Kids would prefer that one! Not much in the fall season yet, but Eastman Opera Theater has announced its usual intriguing choices, great for those of us who love the old chestnuts but crave something a little more off the too-well-beaten path. The Met Live in HD season has been announced, but will appear in the September issue. For anyone who can't wait, the directions on the Met page of the newsletter will get you to the season as well as to "theaters."

It looks as though Covid, like the flu, will always be with us and we have to learn to live with it. Opera companies that plan a regular 2022-2023 season (although, understandably, conservative) may be going out on a limb, as we do not know what winter will bring. Those who can, in these times which are also economically uncertain, please support opera; our arts organizations have struggled in the past two years, and many are undoubtedly still on shaky ground financially.

Carol Crocca

News From Your Opera Guild

We made it to Glimmerglass this year. Some things changed, but we were able to sit without grass (masked) and enjoy a very good performance of *Carmen*. We will be publishing a survey soon to find out your preferences about trips; please help us to plan well by participating.

The Opera Guild is a faithful supporter of FLO and it has been most gratifying to hear the Young Artists' recitals this month. Established professional singers and the Young Artists will regale us at the 10th Anniversary Gala on August 7th. Certainly something to celebrate!

Fall means new beginnings to me, and it is, as usual, surprising how fast the last year has gone. A wonderfully operatic August will be an inspiration to embark on the new season - we look forward to seeing our opera friends often, with our usual events and maybe some surprises!

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.

\$24 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 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: \$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!



Anniversary Concert

Sunday, August 7th, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

{[get directions](#)}

This program will feature Artistic Director and Founder Gerard Floriano leading the FLO orchestra, four internationally acclaimed main-stage stars, and this year's Tomita Young Artists in a multi-media event honoring FLO's past, present, and future.

Thank you to FLO's supporting sponsor, the Opera Guild of Rochester.



Così fan tutte - An Operatic Pastiche

Friday, August 5th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Vanden Brul Pavilion - Memorial Art

Gallery {[get directions](#)}

Finger Lakes Opera presents the 2022 Tomita Young Artists in a one-act version of *Così fan tutte*, a tribute to Mozart's beloved comedy.

Call {585} 450-3880 or email info@fingerlakesopera.org
to learn more and place your order.

Finger Lakes Opera,

A Success Story

Gwen Paker and Carol Crocca

Rochester has seen several opera companies come and go, but Finger Lakes Opera (FLO), founded shortly after Mercury Opera closed its doors in March 2011), is still going strong. In the beginning, FLO focused its talent and efforts towards producing one opera each season. The inaugural production of *Carmen* at Geneseo made quite a splash in the Rochester art scene, and was followed by *The Elixir of Love*, *La boheme*, *Tosca*, *La traviata*, *The Barber of Seville*, and others. Programming also includes great concert nights with popular appeal, such as Opera Hits and Summer Scenes, children's opera and many community outreach events.



FLO secured non-profit status in 2016. The highlight of FLO's pre-pandemic work as an independent opera company was still the mainstage opera presented each summer. The establishment of a young artist program in 2018 promised great expansion in the future. With the onset of the pandemic, FLO took advantage of the sudden lack of live performances and invested time in clarifying its priorities. It returns presentation of a live mainstage production in 2023. Which opera? The announcement is sure to be exciting!

During the pandemic, FLO made the transition to digital programming in great fashion, providing many recitals with singers of excellent caliber such as Kearsten Piper Brown and Jorel Williams. And, of course, the Tomita Young Artists, whose quality has increased from year to year. A Young Artist program is one of the hallmarks of a successful opera company, and FLO has done a fine job of offering them performance and professional growth opportunities.

Another priority for FLO is to connect with the Rochester community, across any differences that divide us. For FLO, this means community engagement and educational outreach. It also means expanding the company's scope to produce performances year-round, in diverse venues, and enriching the lives of all in the Rochester area.

In October 2021, FLO produced its inaugural in-school tour by bringing opera into Rochester area schools. A group of Tomita Young Artists gathered to present *The Three Little Pigs*, a children's opera adapted by John Davies. In the fall of 2022, FLO will continue expanding this educational tour so that it can connect with even more students. These in-school performances are free to the schools, ensuring that students of all backgrounds have access to this opportunity

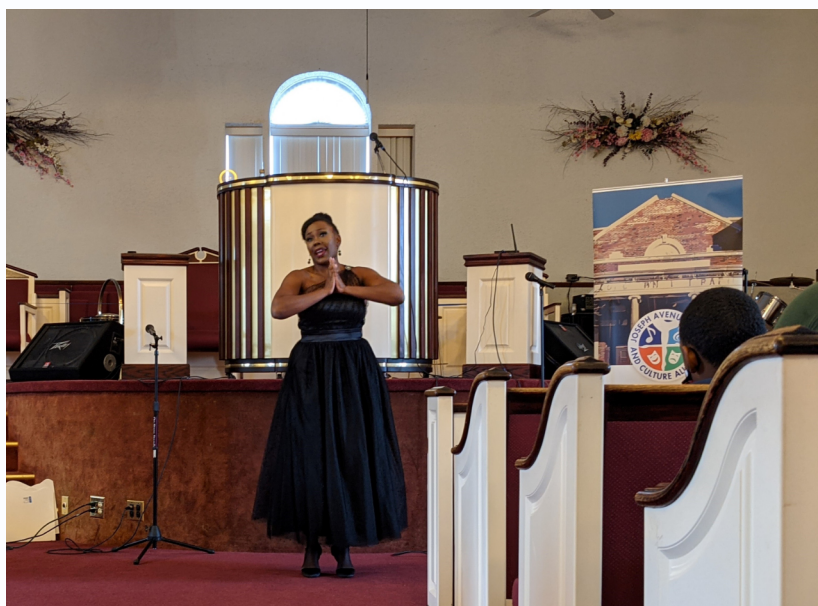


In the past, there have been presentations at Brookville Elementary School, Roberto Clemente School No. 8, and collaborative appearances at the Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Center. FLO has worked directly with senior living homes such as The Summit and Cloverwood, community centers, rotary clubs, and advocacy groups to present programming throughout the Finger Lakes region. Usually featuring one or two of our Tomita Young Artists, every

performance is uniquely tailored for the venue and audience. And, most of these events are either free or offered at an eminently affordable ticket price. *Bringing more opera to more people* – that is the goal.

Finger Lakes Opera will celebrate these 10 years of growth, from the first year's *Carmen*, to the musically-rich presentations of 2022, to the creation of a fully-developed Young Artist Program, and the various educational and community outreach activities of recent years. Artistic Director and Conductor Gerard Floriano will lead the FLO Orchestra, four mainstage singers, and this year's Tomita Young Artists in a program that celebrates FLO's past, present, and future. Mona Seghatoleslami of WXXI will serve as the program's emcee. After the concert, FLO will host a champagne reception at the Wilder Room. Come and celebrate these significant achievements, while enjoying a gorgeous and extensive program of arias and overtures from *Carmen*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Tosca*, *La traviata*, *Rigoletto*, and more.

These truly comprehensive accomplishments are expensive. If you value opera and the goals of the Finger Lakes Opera, please support the Gala and/or donate to help make it happen.



Pegasus Early Music

L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 26, 27, and 28, 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 Noulín-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 includes young emerging artists of the Pegasus Rising program.



For more information go to <https://www.pegasusearlymusic.org/opera/>

Rochester Summer Opera



Rochester Summer Opera will present Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Robach Community Center on Ontario Beach. The cast are Eastman School of Music students, directed by James Kenon Mitchell, and with musical direction by Matthew Straw.



ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Presented by The Rochester Oratorio Society

Rising Stars | Distinguished Judges | An Event Like No Other

Join us as young artists perform thrilling renditions of the most moving classics of opera, art song, and oratorio.

[Click here](#) to view the event aired on May 14, 2022
at 7:00 PM ET.



2023 Lotte Lenya Competition Finals

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC



[Here's the link](#) to the page on the Weill Foundation site that includes access to the video of the entire final round competition as well as a set of excellent videos of Lenya Competition alumni performing while the judges deliberated.

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.

From Chatauqua Opera, at chq.org/opera-video-index, 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. sfopera.com/discover-opera/education

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.

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

Summer Encore Series

August 3

Puccini's *La Bohème*

In this encore performance from 2018, soprano Sonya Yoncheva and tenor Michael Fabiano star as the young lovers Mimì and Rodolfo in Puccini's timeless love story. Rounding out the cast are soprano Susanna Phillips, baritones Lucas Meachem and Alexey Lavrov, and bass Matthew Rose as the rambunctious gang of bohemian friends in Franco Zeffirelli's classic staging, an audience favorite for more than 40 years. Marco Armiliato conducts.

August 10

Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment*

In this encore performance from 2008, madcap comedy and impeccable coloratura come together in Natalie Dessay's indelible portrayal of the feisty tomboy Marie, raised by a regiment of French soldiers. Tenor Juan Diego Flórez stars alongside her as the young Swiss villager who conquers her heart—and a slew of high Cs—in Laurent Pelly's charming staging. Marco Armiliato conducts.





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.

Sunday, October 23, The FLO Young Artists Present

Monday, February 13, Love Songs

Tuesday, April 4, watch here for further info.

Also at the Little Café :

Coffee & Conversation after a Royal Opera House Screening

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.



Summer Season



The Seagle Colony

For more information, see
seaglefestival.org

Fellow Travelers

August 3, 4, 6 at 7:30 pm;
August 5 at 2:00 pm

Music by Gregory Spears
Libretto by Greg Pierce
Based on the novel by Thomas Mallon
Premiered in 2016, this opera focuses on the love affair of two men working in the US federal government during the 'lavender scare' witch hunt of the McCarthy-era 1950's. The beautiful music of the opera compliments the deeply personal stories of the characters along with the dark situation in which they find themselves.

Once Upon a Mattress

August 17, 18, 20 at 7:30 pm;
August 19 at 2:00 pm

Music by Mary Rodgers
Lyrics by Marshall Barer
Book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer
Adapted from the fairy-tale "The Princess and the Pea"
Princess Winifred arrives in the kingdom to win the heart of Prince Dauntless, hoping to outwit Queen Aggravain's plan that no one in the kingdom shall marry until the Prince does. Hilarious machinations ensue.

Happily Ever After – the music of Stephen Sondheim

Monday, September 5 at 7:30 pm

– Oscar Seagle Memorial Theater

Also on Tour

Sunday, September 4 at 4:00 pm

– Keene Valley Community Church

Friday, September 16 at 7:00 pm

– Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts,
Blue Mountain Lake

Sunday, September 18 at 3:00 pm

– VIEW Arts Center, Old Forge

Saturday, October 1 at 7:00 pm

– Hubbard Hall, Cambridge



Summer Season



The 2022 Festival will feature productions of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, originally slated for the summer of 2020. Bizet's *Carmen* takes the stage in a new production directed by 2022 Artist in Residence Denyce Graves, followed by the new work *Tenor Overboard*, 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 *Taking Up Serpents*, paired with the world premiere one-act *Holy Ground*, by [Damien Geter](#) and [Lila Palmer](#); together with young artists' productions and other events. No calendar has been posted yet, and no tickets are available yet.

Artistic & General Director [Francesca Zambello](#) has announced the 2022 Festival will be her 12th and final season in her leadership role with the company.

Find more information on our website [here](#).





The 2022-2023 Season



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

**Tickets sold through the
Eastman Theatre Box Office**

**433 East Main Street
585-274-3000**

Pre-performance talks will take place one hour before each performance.

Please check the ESM website for additional information.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will be presenting a concert version of *Rigoletto* as part of their 2022-2023 season.



Rigoletto

June 18 & 20

Lear on the 2nd Floor (2012)

Music by Anthony Davis

Libretto by Allan Havis

November 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m.

November 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Kilbourn Hall

Opera Encounter with Nicole Cabell

November 16 at 5 p.m.

Miller Atrium Center

Alcina (1735)*

Music by George Frideric Handel

Libretto from the opera *L'isola di Alcina*

January 28 at 7:30 p.m.

January 29 at 2:00 p.m.

February 2, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m.

710 Annex

FEO Voice Competition

February 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Kilbourn Hall

Florencia en el Amazonas (1996)

Music by Daniel Catán

Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain

March 30, 31 & April 1 at 7:30 p.m.

April 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre



The 2022-2023 Season



Carmen

Georges Bizet

OCTOBER 14, 16, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30,
AND NOVEMBER 4, 2022

**Four Seasons Centre for the
Performing Arts**

Performance time is approximately three
hours and 20 minutes, including one 25-
minute intermission

The Marriage of Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

JANUARY 27, 29, FEBRUARY 2, 4, 10,
12, 16, AND 18, 2023

**Four Seasons Centre for the
Performing Arts**

Performance time is approximately three
hours and 30 minutes, including one 25-
minute intermission



**CANADIAN
OPERA
COMPANY**

Macbeth

Giuseppe Verdi

APRIL 28, 30, MAY 6, 12, 14, 17, AND
20, 2023

**Four Seasons Centre for the
Performing Arts**

Performance time is approximately two
hours and 45 minutes, including one 25-
minute intermission

Key Change

Explore the COC's new podcast, offering
a fresh take on today's opera issues. All
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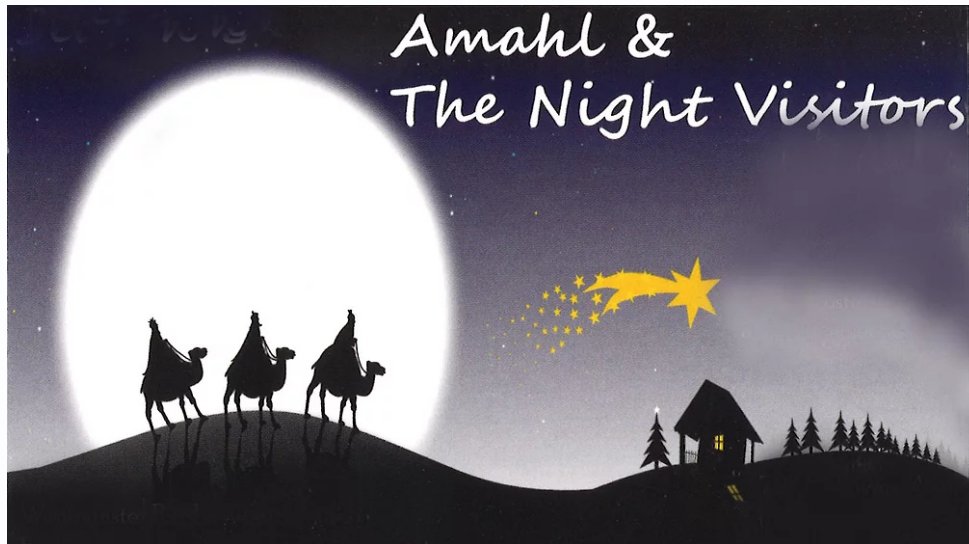
From the home page menu at coc.ca, choose "21-22 season." Scroll down to "DIGITAL OFFERINGS" and click on "WATCH NOW." There are 9 or more concerts and operas streaming to choose from.



The 2022-2023 Season



Nickel City Opera



December 2022

More info to be
announced soon!

The Barber of Seville

June 25th, 2023

Tickets on sale soon!





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eMail: OperaGuildOfRochester@gmail.com