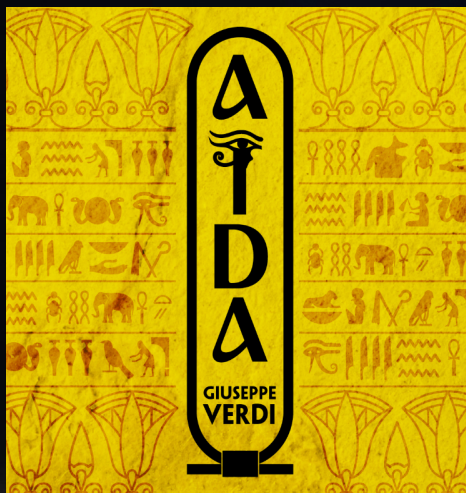


Viva Voce

August 2023



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Met Summer Encores, p 12

August 2, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

August 9, Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

August 16, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*

Edition *Viva Voce*,
August 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; operaguil dofrochester@gmail.com

The Guild presents Bravo Nights (free informal opera programs at the Little Café), free opera lectures at local libraries, trips to productions of local and regional opera companies, including the Glimmerglass Festival, the Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series of DVD presentations in January, and recitals and concerts.

This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to about 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our Website and sign up at <https://www.operaguil dofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce> The deadline for submission of articles and event announcements for the next issue is the 20th of the previous month.

Our Website and Facebook pages serve as a clearinghouse for local and regional opera, concert, and recital information, with links to other music organizations in our area. Please visit us at operaguil dofrochester.org 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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Aug 2	Met Encore	<u><i>Il Trovatore</i></u>
Aug 2, 3, 5	Seagle Colony	<u><i>With Blood With Ink</i></u>
Aug 6	Publick Musick	<u><i>Bach Cantatas</i></u>
Aug 8, 9	Chautauqua	<u><i>L'enfant et les sortileges</i></u>
Aug 9	Met Encore	<u><i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i></u>
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Aug 11	Chautauqua	<u><i>Lady in the Dark</i></u>
Aug 16	Met Encore	<u><i>Eugene Onegin</i></u>
Aug 16-19	Seagle Colony	<u><i>Fiddler on the Roof</i></u>
Aug 19	OGR Bravo Recital	<u><i>Jessica Moss</i></u>

Editor's Corner

I have not as regularly listed Publick Musick's season as other seasons because most often their presentations do not involve vocal selections. The August Concert, however, is focused on Bach Cantatas and features Laurie Heimes, soprano, who is excellent and whom I have heard often at Pegasus Concerts. If you are not familiar with this group yet, consider giving them a listen – I'm sure you will not regret it.

Jessica Moss, a very talented singer who performed our Annual Recital for donors this past May, is giving a second recital at the Pittsford Library this month. The one last summer was very well-received. The event will take place on Saturday afternoon, August 19, at 1 pm, so come and hear wonderful opera selections by a singer whom others have already enjoyed so much.

And, of course, we are very eager to relish Finger Lakes Opera's *Aida* in two weeks, the crown of the summer season.

News From Your Opera Guild

It is hard to believe that the summer is half over.

Something I find fairly consuming in July are the final preparations for the day trip to Glimmerglass. I have been responsible for the trip for two years now, and am anxiously awaiting the year when I have it truly in hand. Some comfort me by saying that something always goes wrong no matter how well prepared you think you are, but I know I can do better – I'll be perfect some day, won't I?

This year it was the lunches – they didn't arrive at the departure site. A phone call to the vendor revealed that somehow my email confirming and detailing the phone order had not been processed. Now this lady truly felt terrible and I found myself, not for the first time, comforting someone who had done me wrong.

It turned out to be a good thing that the bus was not full, for there were Mary (an invaluable vice-president) and I frantically punting in the back seats. (I was working another problem, which shall remain unreported.) The bus driver was sure that there was an Arby's along the way, but we didn't think this was the preferred solution for our guests, who were promised an enjoyable, if not necessarily elegant, lunch.

Mary contacted several purveyors of lunch fare in Cooperstown, and eventually hit pay dirt with one who was able to fill our order and deliver it to the Pavilion at Glimmerglass on time. In fact, we even learned how much our guests would appreciate having salad – not an option when you transport the lunch from Rochester. So, as they say, all's well that ends well. That we were dining in the beautifully re-furbished Pavilion certainly didn't hurt.

I don't know how many, if any, of our guests were aware of the situation, but many expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the trip, for which I will always be thankful. And isn't the third try the charm?

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.

\$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.

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 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.

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!



Finger Lakes Opera

AIDA

by Giuseppe Verdi

Friday, August 11, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 2 p.m.

RBTL's Auditorium Theatre ([885 E Main St, Rochester, NY](https://www.rbtllive.org/locations/auditorium-theatre))

Egypt and Ethiopia are at war; Egyptian Army General Radamès is chosen to lead the enemy assault and hopes, by being victorious, to win the hand of his lover, Aida, an Ethiopian enslaved to the Egyptian princess Amneris.



PUBLICK MUSICK

Founded in 1995, and under the artistic leadership of violinist Boel Gidholm and cellist Christopher Haritatos since 2011, Publick Musick is a Rochester-based period-instrument ensemble that enriches the cultural landscape of Western New York by producing and presenting vibrant, historically informed performances of music from the 17th and 18th centuries and beyond. We hope you will join us in celebrating the wonderfully rich and varied musical treasures from this era!

Bach Cantatas!

Sunday August 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Christ Episcopal Church

141 East Avenue, Rochester

We are thrilled to return to the beautiful and newly renovated sanctuary of Christ Church Rochester to perform a wonderful program of (mostly) Bach cantatas! There we will have the privilege of performing with the glorious Craighead-Saunders organ, one of the few examples in the Western Hemisphere of a full-size organ in the style of 18th-century Germany. The organ will be featured in Bach's cantata *Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust* (BWV 170), for alto solo, obbligato organ, oboe d'amore, and strings, for which we are excited to welcome back Nicholas Garza as alto soloist. We will also welcome Rochester favorite Laura Heimes as the soprano soloist in Bach's dramatic cantata *Mein Herze schwimmt in Blut* (BWV 199), which also features expressive solos for the oboe. Rounding out the program will be a cheerful duo cantata by Christoph Graupner, an extremely prolific contemporary of Bach's who turned down the job offer to be Thomaskantor in Leipzig before it was offered to Bach.

Program:

Mein Herze Schwimmt in Blut, BWV 199 Johann Sebastian Bach
Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust, BWV 170 Johann Sebastian Bach
Weg, verdammtes Sündenleben! GWV 1147/20 Christoph Graupner

Admission Free! Donations gratefully accepted (\$20 suggested).

Laura Heimes, soprano

Nicholas Garza, countertenor

Caroline Giassi, baroque oboe

Michael Unger, organ

Boel Gidholm, Patricia Ahern, Lydia Becker,

Aika Ito, James Marshall, Mary Riccardi,

baroque violin

Alissa Smith, Joshua Newburger, baroque viola

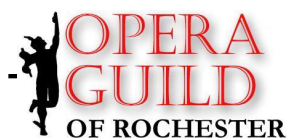
Christopher Haritatos, baroque violoncello

Beiliang Zhu, baroque violoncello and

violoncello piccolo

Michelle Wenderlich, violone





Glimmerglass Opera Tour

Monday, July 17, 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 24, 2024.



Verdi's Aida

By Art Axelrod

What do Verdi, the Suez Canal, a French Egyptologist, the Franco-Prussian War and Indiana Jones have in common?

In 1869, at the age of 56, Giuseppe Verdi was an internationally famous composer, an Italian national hero and a successful gentleman farmer. By 1853 he had already completed his most celebrated and successful “big three” operas, *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore* and *La traviata*, and then had recently enjoyed acclaim with *La forza del destino* in 1862 and *Don Carlos* in 1867. Verdi had often referred to his earlier period, when he was struggling to establish his reputation, as his “years in the galley,” churning out work after work, composing and directing, sometimes two works in one year. Now, at the height of his fame, he could afford to relax; he retired to his farm in Sant’Agata, in the Province of Parma near his childhood hometown of Le Roncole. At this point, he could concentrate on only those works that interested him.

In 1869, the ruler of Egypt, the Khedive, was named Isma'il Pasha. Egypt was part of the Ottoman Empire whose capital was Istanbul, Turkey. The title “Khedive” can be translated as “Viceroy,” that is, one who rules in place of the King. Isma'il Pasha was a westernized ruler. He had been educated in Paris and was eager to lead his country in Western ways. He was quoted as saying, “My country is no longer in Africa; we are now part of Europe. It is therefore natural for us to abandon our former ways and to adopt a new system adapted to our social conditions.” He traveled frequently to Britain and France where he cut a dashing figure. He made many influential contacts in both capitals.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened for navigation. Work on it had begun in 1859. The French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps was brought in by Said Pasha, Isma'il's predecessor. A canal, an international resource, was exactly the kind of thing that Isma'il wanted for his modern Egypt. He wanted to celebrate its opening with an opera, to be premiered in Cairo in an opera house he had just built, and he sought to have the premiere of the opera as the house's first production. Accordingly, he offered Verdi a commission to write such an opera. At first, Verdi declined.

Auguste Mariette was a French scholar, archaeologist and Egyptologist. He was born in 1821 in Boulogne-sur-Mer in northern France. He was a prodigy at languages and history and soon distinguished himself as a linguist and epigrapher (a student of inscriptions, especially ancient ones). In 1839, at the age of 19, he received a post at the Louvre and was sent to Egypt to collect manuscripts. But instead, he became infatuated with Egypt and began a career as an archeologist. Mariette was a swash-buckling figure. He firmly believed that Egyptian artifacts should remain in Egypt, and so, on one occasion, when he learned that a local chieftain had stolen some artifacts and was sailing down the Nile to sell them, he organized a group of armed men and took off on a boat in pursuit. He captured the man, recovered the artifacts and presented them to the Khedive. (It has been suggested that Mariette might have been a model for Indiana Jones.) The Khedive appointed him as the first Director of Ancient Monuments in Egypt and then head of a new National Museum of Antiquities in Cairo.

While in Egypt, Mariette wrote a short story set in Pharaonic Egypt which he entitled *La Fiancée du Nil (The Bride of the Nile)*. It was never published, but in 1869, he accompanied Isma'il Pasha to Paris; Isma'il introduced him to Camille Du Locle, a distinguished Parisian playwright and impresario. Du Locle had written several librettos for Verdi: *Simon Boccanegra*, *Forza del destino* and *Otello*, and had collaborated on the French version of *Don Carlos*. He went on to write a libretto in French based on Mariette's story and presented it to Verdi, persuading him to accept it. The French libretto was passed to another of Verdi's librettists, Antonio Ghislanzoni, who wrote the Italian libretto, and the show was on!

But things did not go as planned. *Aida* was scheduled to premiere as the first production of the new Cairo Royal Opera early in 1871. Sets and costumes were being designed by Du Locle in Paris. But along came the Franco-Prussian War, waged from July 1870 –January 1871. Paris was under siege and Du Locle's sets were trapped. The Cairo Opera House had to open with *Rigoletto*. *Aida* finally had its premiere in Cairo in December of that year.

Aida was a resounding success. Its Italian premiere was in Milan in 1872 and its US premiere in New York in 1873. It has been a staple of the opera canon ever since.

And so this unlikely conjunction of circumstance resulted in one of the most beloved operas in the repertoire. Enjoy!

Giuseppe Verdi



Isma'il Pasha



Auguste Mariette





Met Summer Encores



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, click menu icon in upper left corner, click ‘Season’, click ‘In cinemas’, click ‘Find theater.’

August 2

Verdi’s *Il Trovatore*

Soprano Sondra Radvanovsky and tenor Marcelo Álvarez star as the passionate lovers Leonora and Manrico in this gripping Met performance from 2011, alongside late baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky as the ruthless Count di Luna. Marco Armiliato conducts.

August 9

Rossini’s *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

In this 2014 Met production of Rossini’s madcap comedy, mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and baritone Christopher Maltman join forces for a delightful performance of hilarious hijinks and vocal virtuosity. Michele Mariotti conducts.

August 16

Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*

In this unforgettable Met performance from 2007, beloved American soprano Renée Fleming and Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky come together in this poetic drama of unrequited love. Valery Gergiev conducts.

The Met Live in HD 2023-24 Season

<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Oct. 21, 2023
<i>X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X</i>	Nov. 18, 2023
<i>Florencia en el Amazonas</i>	Dec. 9, 2023
<i>Nabucco</i>	Jan. 6, 2024
<i>Carmen</i>	Jan. 27, 2024
<i>La forza del Destino</i>	Mar. 9, 2024
<i>Romeo et Juliette</i>	Mar. 23, 2024
<i>La Rondine</i>	April 20, 2024
<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	May 11, 2024

Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists Program

Finger Lakes Opera is counting down the days until these incredible artists get to Rochester this summer!

After nearly 500 applications and a long audition process, you won't want to miss these emerging stars. Information about our 2023 Summer Season (including ticketing information!) is coming soon!



FINGER LAKES OPERA
2023 Young Artists



Top row:

Conor Brereton, tenor

Goitsewang Lehobye, soprano

Steven M. Warnock, baritone

Anna Donnelly, soprano

Alexandra Sanchez, mezzo-soprano

Bottom row:

Ellen Robertson, soprano

Michael Celentano, tenor

Pedro Valdez, tenor

Kaswanna Kanyinda, mezzo-soprano

Casey Germain, bass

Visit fingerlakesopera.org/yap to see video clips of the young artists introducing themselves.

The 2023 Young Artists will be showcased in a variety of performances beginning in the summer of 2023. Dates, times, locations, and ticket price information for all FLO's summer events will be released at the end of April.

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.

Rochester Oratorio Society

Listen to the Rochester Oratorio Society at rossings.org





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.

- Please note new times -

Sunday, 10/22, 7:00 PM

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

Monday, 4/22/24, 7:00 PM

Bravo Nights take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue. Refreshments may be purchased there.

Special Bravo Night

Jessica Moss will appear in a special Bravo Recital on Saturday, August 19, 1 pm, at the Pittsford Community Library



Summer Season



L'ENFANT ET LES SORTILÈGES

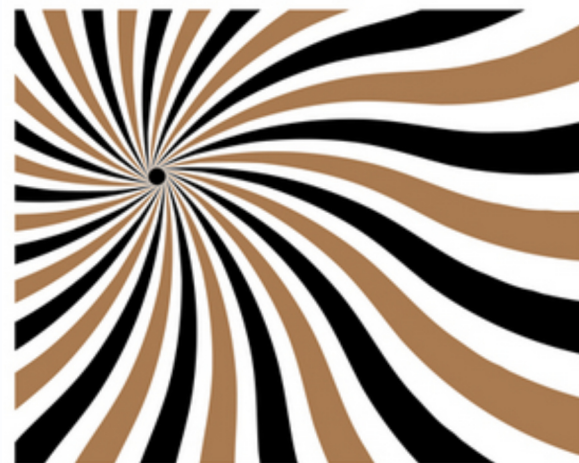
Music by Maurice Ravel
Libretto by Colette

Performance Dates:

August 8 & 9

Stage Director: Marcus Shields

In Ravel's magical score, an unruly child is confronted by all the objects in their world that have suddenly come to life: including the wallpaper, furniture, and tea set! A fantasy-meditation on our relationship to nature and the world, *L'enfant* is a musical adventure in a compact one-act.



LADY IN THE DARK

Music by Kurt Weill
Lyrics by Ira Gershwin
Book by Moss Hart

Performance Date:

August 11 in McKnight Hall

Stage Director: John Giampietro

The driven and successful Liza Elliott has one weakness: indecision. While undergoing psychoanalysis, Liza confronts her past, present, and future in three dream sequences. Will she make up her mind? The answer lies in this dreamy, stylish score by Kurt Weill, with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and book by Moss Hart.

Call or email our sales and support agents at **716-357-6250** or ticketoffice@chq.org.



Summer Season



The Seagle Colony

For more information, see seaglefestival.org

With Blood With Ink

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

Music by Daniel Crozier ; Libretto by Peter Krask

This dramatic opera is based on the extraordinary life of the 17th century Mexican nun, Juana Inés de la Cruz, poet, intellectual, and champion of women's freedom. Her life in the convent protected her brilliant creative life until she was betrayed by ecclesiastical authorities. The opera explores how an individual destiny tragically collides with the implacable forces of history and community.

Fiddler on the Roof

**August 16, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 pm;
August 18 at 2:00 pm**

Music by Jerry Bock ; Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick
Book by Joseph Stein, based on "Tevye and his Daughters" and other tales by Sholem Aleichem
This Tony Award-winning musical is one of the most well-loved in Broadway. Unforgettable tunes, a compelling and heart-felt story with a full range of emotions have made *Fiddler* a favorite around world.

Almost like Being in Love – the music of Lerner & Loewe

**Monday, September 4, 7:30 pm
Oscar Seagle Memorial Theater**

Join the 2023 Seagle Festival Fall Artists for a revue of tunes from this classic composer and lyricist duo. See the show at the Oscar Seagle Memorial Theater, or at venues across the region.



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