

# Viva Voce

December 2024

Our Annual Holiday Concert, p 7



Mark Daniels



Rachel Magil



Rob Goodling



Rochester Oratorio Society with the RPO, p 9



# Edition *Viva Voce*, December 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 244, Pittsford, NY 14534; [info@operaguildofrochester.org](mailto:info@operaguildofrochester.org)

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.operaguildofrochester.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 [operaguildofrochester.org](http://operaguildofrochester.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 244, Pittsford, NY 14534

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Dec 7	Met HD Encore	<a href="#">The Magic Flute</a>
Dec 6-8	Madrigalia	<a href="#">Holiday Concert</a>
Dec 8	Publick Music	<a href="#">Noels &amp; Christmas Concertos</a>
Dec 12	Roch. Oratorio Soc./RPO	<a href="#">Handel's Messiah</a>
Dec 15	OGR Holiday Concert	<a href="#">Mark Daniels &amp; Co.</a>
Dec 19	MAG Third Thursday	<a href="#">The Festive Season</a>



## Editor's Corner & News From your Opera Guild

Enjoy the holiday events, which seem to speak for themselves this month.

Please participate in our Donation Campaign, if you haven't already, and many thanks to those who have. ([page 6](#))

We at OGR are looking forward to our annual Holiday Concert - on a Sunday afternoon this year, which we hope will facilitate attendance for many of you. It is wonderful to have our own musical holiday tradition! ([page 7](#))

Beyond the holidays, there is Beat the Blahs, ([page 11](#)) a great line-up this year.

Wishing you a festive and musical holiday season and all that's best in the New Year!

*Carol Crowe*

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## Great Opera-tunities

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

**NEW** Resource for opera at [operaonvideo.com](http://operaonvideo.com)

24,000 operas available to view free. You can donate a modest amount to get screenings ad-free, and if you scroll down on the home page, will find search advice.

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See 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 2025 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 2025 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 [info@operaguil dofrocheaster.org](mailto:info@operaguil dofrocheaster.org) 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. We find ourselves with ample room at the recital; therefore donors may bring guests (with notice).**

*Chorus:* \$65 per person, \$95 per couple.

*Comprimario:* \$100-\$249.

*Primo:* \$250-\$399.

*Diva:* \$400-\$549.

*Maestro:* \$550-\$999.

*Impresario:* \$1000 or more.

**Donate  
On Line**

**You may also mail a check to Opera Guild of Rochester, P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625. Please include an email or other address for your tax receipt.**

### **A Note on Tax Receipts from the President:**

The IRS does not require a charity to give, or the donor to have, a formal acknowledgment from the charity for donations under \$250.00. Your canceled check or credit card record is sufficient evidence for your donations below this amount if you itemize them. Donations of \$250.00 and above will receive the required acknowledgment from the Opera Guild before January 31st following the end of the calendar tax year. The invitation to the Annual Recital is our way of showing our appreciation to our donors and we sincerely hope to see you there!



## OUR FALL DONATION CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY!

Your donations make possible our programs, mostly free, for opera fans of all ages and tastes. Coming up:

Our free October Bravo Night at The Little Café, with the Young Artists of the Finger Lakes Opera (this one in the afternoon).

Our Third Annual Holiday Concert with Mark Daniels.

Beat the Blahs in January. Video presentations of great opera productions, a chance for fans to enjoy opera in a casual setting, with time for refreshments and discussion. And then there are the Viva Voce you are reading, the Annual Recital, and the trip to Glimmerglass.

Most Importantly, by supporting the Opera Guild you are also supporting the opera companies and singers for whom we provide funds and opportunities for performance, one of our primary missions.

All donors receive an invitation to the Annual Recital for Donors in May.

Please donate!

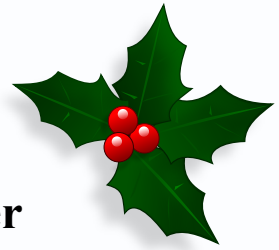


You can do so online, by clicking the donate button, in the mail (OGR, P.O.Box 244, Pittsford, NY, 14534)



# Our Annual Holiday Concert

Dec 15, 3:00 pm



The First Universalist Church, Rochester

Of course **Mark Daniels**, tenor, returns with his beautiful voice and presence, joined by accomplished soprano **Rachel Magil**. They are accompanied as usual by coach and collaborator par excellence, **Rob Goodling**.

The program includes opera selections from Rigoletto, Puccini, Gounod, Verdi, and Donizetti. Seasonal pieces from Kurt Weill's Knickerbocker Holiday and Cantique de Noël/O Holy Night will cap off this lovely recital.

Dessert reception to follow

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW: [operaguil dofrochester.org/holiday-bravo-nights](http://operaguil dofrochester.org/holiday-bravo-nights)**



**Mark Daniels**



**Rachel Magil**



**Rob Goodling**





**The Metropolitan Opera**  
**The Magic Flute Holiday Encore (2024)**

**Cinemark Tinseltown; Eastview Regal; AMC Webster.**

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Runtime 2 hr.

The Met made history in December 2006 when it presented its first Live in HD transmission to cinemas worldwide: the abridged English-language version of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Julie Taymor's whimsical production features a winning ensemble—including tenor Matthew Polenzani, baritone Nathan Gunn, and bass René Pape—and returns to select movie theaters for a special encore presentation during the holiday season.



## MADRIGALIA The Holiday Concert

Madrigalia's expansive interpretation of the December holidays, grounding us in our own traditions and opening us to the celebrations of others.

December 6, 2024 | 7:30 PM

Linehan Chapel at Nazareth University, Pittsford

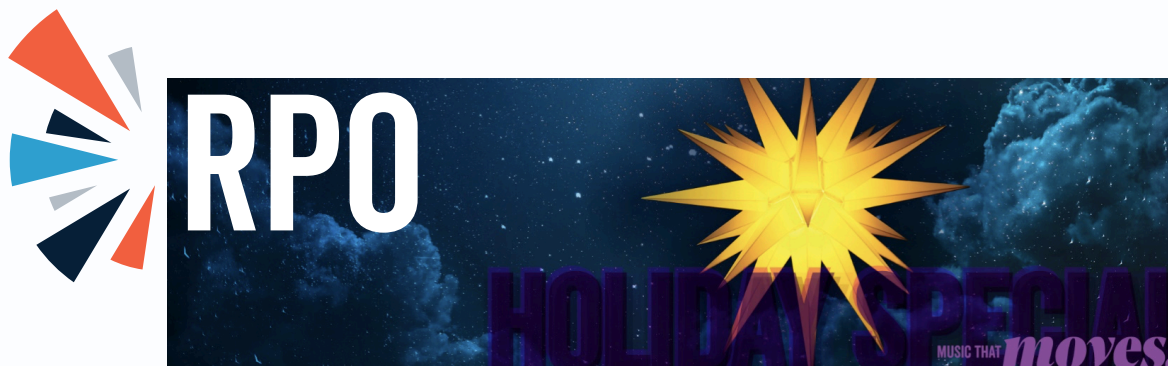
December 7, 2024 | 7:30 PM

Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester

December 8, 2024 | 3:00 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Fairport

Tickets: [madrigalia.org](https://www.madrigalia.org)



### Handel's Messiah

**Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre**

Thursday December 12, 2024, 7:30 pm

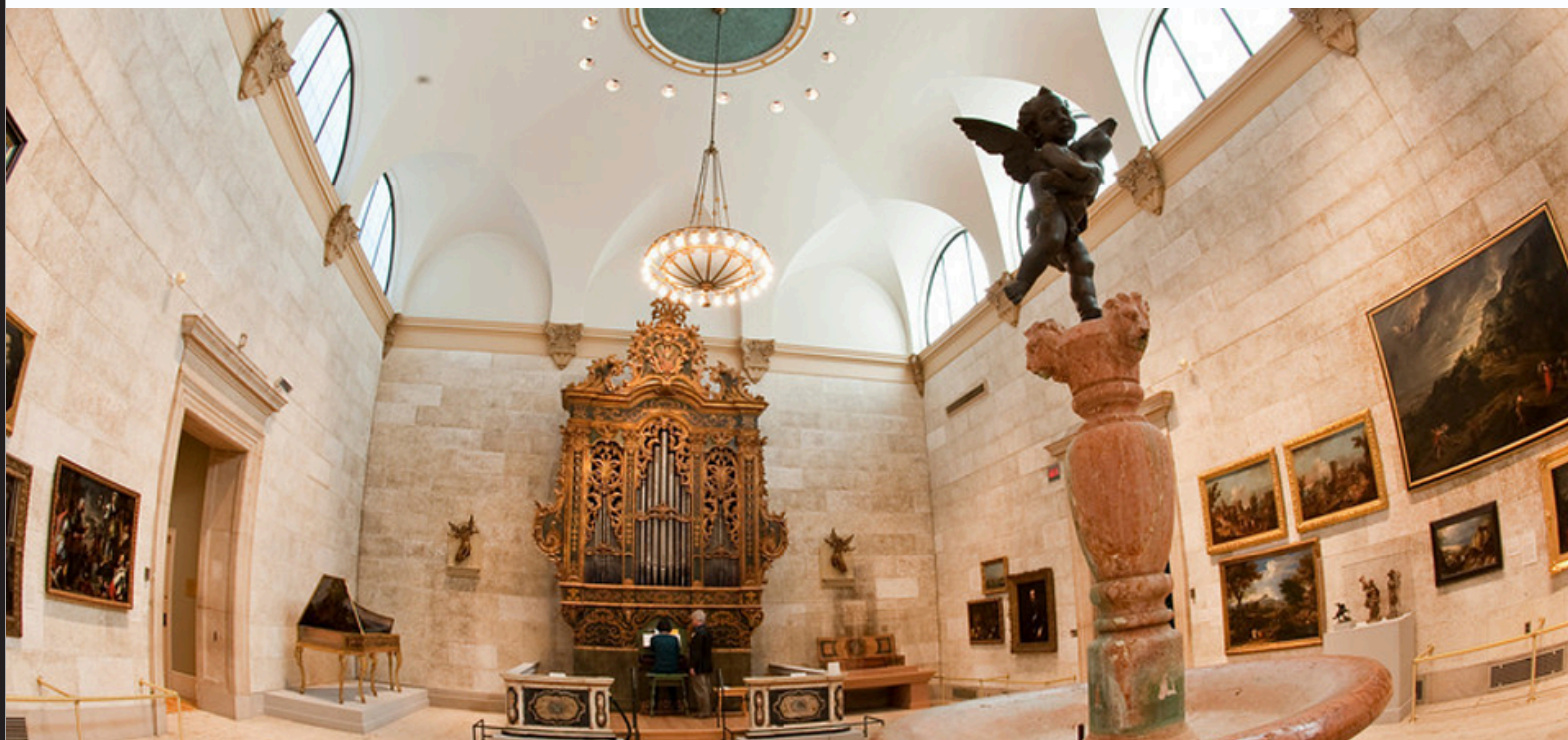
#### Cast

**Christopher Warren-Green**, conductor; **Nicole Cabell**, soprano;  
**Cody Bowers**, countertenor; **John Tessier**, tenor; **Matthew Rose**, bass.

**Rochester Oratorio Society, Michael Leopold**; theorbo and baroque guitar

# Third Thursday Concert

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



## December 19, The Festive Season

Seasonal Music and Reading: John Sheridan, organ;  
Walter Zimmerman, Reader ; While by My Sheep: A Winter Pastoral;  
A Shepherd's Life in Music and Readings

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.

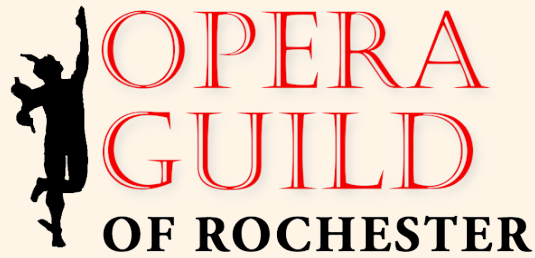
**Seating is limited and is available on a first-come basis.**

This concert is made possible by the Rippey Endowed Trust.

**Performances are 7:30pm to 8:30pm**  
**500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607**







# ***Beat the Blahs!***

Our way to cope with the winter doldrums and relax after the holidays,  
by enjoying great opera in the company of other fans

Refreshments at intermission.

**Sundays, 1-5 pm at the Pittsford Recreation Center**

All productions with English subtitles

See registration instructions below

January 12

## ***La traviata***

One of the most tuneful and popular operas in the canon, this is Verdi's masterful story of the courtesan who finds true love in spite of herself. A film version, directed and designed by Franco Zeffirelli, and starring Teresa Stratas and Placido Domingo in their prime, with the Met Orchestra and Chorus, 1995. In Italian

January 19

## ***Il Giasone***

Francesco Cavalli. The most popular opera of its time, it is ostensibly based on the legend of Jason and the Golden Fleece. It tells the story of Jason's dalliance on the isle of Colchis, enthralled by the sorceress Medea, and is a blend of the comic and the serious. A witty, tongue-in-cheek production by the Vlaamse Opera, Antwerp, directed by Marie Clement, 2010. In Italian

January 26

## ***Der fliegende Hollander (The Flying Dutchman)***

Wagner considered this to be his first masterwork. The Dutchman, Daland, is cursed to wander the seas forever and yearns for death; finally, he finds Senta, whose faithful love can be his redemption. A production from the Bayreuther Festspiele, the opera house founded by Wagner himself, 1985. In German

February 2

## ***Street Scene***

Kurt Weill's portrait of New York City tenement life in the 1930's, it features an ensemble cast of working-class people, striving to make their way in America. This "Broadway opera" draws on blues, jazz, spirituals, and even Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes, in a production by Houston Grand Opera, staged in Germany, 1995. In English

### **All registration is through the Pittsford Community Center:**

The cost is \$10/week. **There is no longer a \$5 registration fee for non-residents. Registration will begin at 12:00am (midnight) on December 2 for residents and on December 9 for non-residents.**

Register online at [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org)

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

If you receive a brochure from Pittsford Recreation,  
by using the registration form therein.

### **Pittsford Community Center**

35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY

Parking in rear.

### **Directions:**

From Route 31 coming from the direction of Pittsford Plaza, past the bridge, turn right onto Sutherland Street. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Lincoln. The Recreation Center is on your right.

Coming from the intersection of Main Street and Route 31, Pittsford, turn onto Rte 31 West, turn left onto Sutherland Street, and at the first stop sign, turn left onto Lincoln. The Recreation Center is on your right.



# Opera Essay: Mozart's Magic

Carol Crocca

*Die Zauberflöte* was written during the last year of Mozart's life, and its premiere took place just ten weeks before his death on December 5, 1791. In German, it was called a "singspiel", which generally meant a dramatic work with spoken dialogue, many popular songs, and, occasionally, more ambitious music. The opera reflects Mozart's participation in Freemasonry, an organization prominent in Viennese society at the time.

One lesson of *The Magic Flute* might be "Don't judge things by their first appearances." The story begins with Prince Tamino on a chivalric quest to slay the serpent, and ends with a moral and philosophic quest for knowledge and wisdom. The Queen of the Night is initially a distraught mother begging for the prince to rescue her abducted daughter, only to become the vengeful sorceress demanding that Pamina murder Sarastro. Pamina herself begins as a frightened child seeking guidance, and ends as the one to lead Tamino through the trials. (A definite departure from Freemasonry which was clear in its insistence that women were lesser beings; and thus Sarastro's admonishment to Pamina that she must be guided by men.) The authoritarian Sarastro himself, who has failed to protect his charge from the evil intentions of his servant, Monostatos, must give up his own desire for Pamina, and cede moral leadership to the next generation. And this ending is entirely in keeping with Mozart's belief in companionate marriage between two people who freely love and have chosen each other, celebrated in *The Marriage of Figaro*. It is also consistent with the Enlightenment view that society is well-ordered and governed by beneficent leaders.

So many transformations led some commentators to believe that after Act I had been written, the story was changed while leaving the inconsistent first act intact. But another take is that these transformations are deliberate and are an allegory of the true nature of Freemasonry, revealed against the slanders of its detractors. Of course, the more universal story, carried by these archetypal characters, is the age-old one of the successful attainment of love and wisdom through a trial of goodness and strength.



In any case, *Die Zauberflöte* was very popular, no doubt because of its magic elements, exoticism, colorful characters, and the comic relief provided by the Queen's ladies and Papageno, the Birdcatcher, which role was written by Shikaneder for himself. Much simple and tuneful music co-exists with the serious and dramatic, including some taken from music Mozart had written previously for Masonic ceremonies. The first time I heard this opera, I was put off by the chauvinism of Sarastro, and the fantastic nature of both plot and characters. At the end, however, I was deeply moved – which could only have been Mozart's musical message working its magic.

*This article is abridged from an earlier one, found in the archive on our website, [operaquidofrochester.org](http://operaquidofrochester.org). I assume that the shortened children's version to be shown by the Met in English, while keeping the bad guys and the good guys, is suitable for children.*





UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

# Eastman School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

## **FEO's Lynn Clark Voice Competition**

**Fri. Feb. 21, 2025; time TBA (7:30 or 8 pm) ;**

Kilbourn Hall

See next month's issue for  
Eastman Opera Theater productions.

### **About Eastman Opera Theatre:**

Most productions have two complete principal casts (given an equal number of performances), are fully designed, performed in the original language, and depending on the venue, use full orchestral accompaniment. Studio productions, scenes programs, and outreach events are also offered to further enhance the variety of performance opportunities. Eastman Opera Theatre utilizes both undergraduate and graduate students in all roles for all productions.

Recent and past productions include *Catán's Florencia en el Amazonas*; *Davis' Lear on the 2nd Floor*; *Sondheim's Into the Woods*; *Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea*; *Glass' Hydrogen Jukebox* and *Les Enfants Terribles*; *Guettel's The Light in the Piazza*; *Gordon's The Tibetan Book of the Dead*; *Mozart's Don Giovanni*; and *Puts' Elizabeth Cree*. EOT is committed to working with living composers and librettists. Recent production collaborators have included Anthony Davis, Adam Guettel, Jake Heggie, Gene Scheer, Ricky Ian Gordon, Kevin Puts, and Mark Campbell.



# *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.

**Monday, February 10, 7 PM**

(Valentine's Day theme with Roberts Wesleyan students)

**Monday, April 21, 7 PM**

(Eastman students)



## 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](https://www.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](https://www.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 Season

### ROS with the RPO:



### Handel's Messiah

Thursday, December 12, 2024

07:30 PM – 09:30 PM



### Mozart's Requiem

Thursday, May 08,

Saturday, May 10, 2025

07:30 PM – 09:30 PM

Performances at

**Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre 26 Gibbs St Rochester, NY 14604**

Single tickets go on sale in July through the RPO, sign up to receive an email notification when they are available.





# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



## A Grand Night for Singing

Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by  
Oscar Hammerstein II

At once a comic and loving tribute to the legendary song-writing duo, including some of the most beloved songs in Broadway history –from *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, and *The Sound of Music* – Rodgers and Hammerstein’s creative partnership both dominated and became synonymous with the Golden Age of Broadway.

**March 8, 2025, At United Presbyterian  
Church of Binghamton**

## Rigoletto

*Composed by Giuseppe Verdi*

**April 27, 2025, 3 pm**

**At the Forum Theatre**

Performed in **Italian**, with English supertitles,  
**2 hrs 20 min** with one intermission

**Broome County Forum Theatre, 236  
Washington Street, Binghamton, NY 13901**



Verdi’s classic tale of honor and revenge, fathers and daughters, and an instant success from the night of its premiere. Armed with a gripping story, a shocking twist, a blockbuster, reputation-making score, and a fabulous grand opera production style.



# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



*Pegasus*  
early music

20th season, 2024-2025!

## [Curiouser and Curiouser](#)

February 23, 2025 @ 4 pm ET

Julie Andrijeski presents her Wonder Chamber Project, exploring unusual music and musical instruments. Music for quinton and violin by Lonati, Biber, Barrière, and more.

## [Monteverdi Vespers of 1610](#)

April 6, 2025 @ 4 pm ET

The iconic masterpiece, to celebrate our 20th season! Paul O'Dette conducts twenty-five brilliant Pegasus musicians, including singers, trombones, cornettos, strings, and theorbos. **New venue!** Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue, Rochester Pre-concert talk at 3:15pm

## [Marches & Minuets](#)

May 11, 2025 @ 4 pm ET

Music at the French court and opera around 1700. Experience the unforgettable sounds of the rustic outdoor oboe band and the softer recorder music of the inner chambers.

All concerts, **EXCEPT the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610**, take place in the Sanctuary, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614. Free parking is available across the street. The church is ADA accessible.





# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



**PUBLICK  
MUSICK**

## Noëls and Christmas Concertos

**Sunday December 8, 3:00 pm**

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word  
597 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

*Admission Free (suggested donation \$20)*

## Flute Quartets

Mozart and more! Featuring Steven Zohn, classical flute

**Friday January 31, 7:00 pm**

Perry First United Methodist Church  
35 Covington St., Perry, NY

**Saturday February 1, 4:00 pm**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
21 Clara Barton St., Dansville, NY

**Sunday February 2, 3:00 pm**

Episcopal Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene (Two Saints Church)  
17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester

*Admission Free (suggested donation \$20)*

## Symphoniæ Sacrae

**Thursday April 17, 7:30 pm**

Memorial Art Gallery Fountain Court  
500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY

On the series of Third Thursday Concerts with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ.  
Free with Gallery Admission, which is half-price after 5 pm on Thursdays.



# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



## The Metropolitan Opera

### Live in HD Series

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.**

January 25

### *Aida*

Soprano Angel Blue makes her Met role debut as the Ethiopian princess torn between love and country. Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium for Michael Mayer's staging, which brings audiences inside the towering pyramids and gilded tombs of ancient Egypt with intricate projections and dazzling animations. Mezzo-soprano Judit Kutas is Aida's Egyptian rival Amneris, and tenor Piotr Beczala is the soldier Radamès—completing opera's greatest love triangle. The all-star cast also features baritone Quinn Kelsey as Amonasro and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy as Ramfis.

March 15

### *Fidelio*

Soprano Lise Davidsen stars as Leonore, who risks everything to save her husband from the clutches of tyranny. Tenor David Butt Philip is the political prisoner Florestan, sharing the stage with bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny as the villainous Don Pizarro, veteran bass René Pape as the jailer Rocco. Susanna Mälkki conducts the Met's striking production, which finds modern-day parallels in Beethoven's stirring paean to freedom.

April 26

### *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Conductor Joana Mallwitz makes her Met debut leading an extraordinary cast in Mozart's comic masterpiece. Bass-baritone Michael Sumuel stars as the clever valet Figaro, opposite soprano Olga Kulchynska as his betrothed, the wily maid Susanna. Baritone Joshua Hopkins is the skirt-chasing Count, with soprano Federica Lombardi as his anguished wife and mezzo-soprano Marianne Crebassa as the adolescent page Cherubino.





# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



May 17

## ***Salome***

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Strauss's white-hot one-act tragedy, which receives its first new production at the company in 20 years. Claus Guth, one of Europe's leading opera directors, gives the biblical story—already filtered through the beautiful and strange imagination of Oscar Wilde's play—a psychologically perceptive, Victorian-era setting rich in symbolism and subtle shades of darkness and light. Soprano Elza van den Heever is the abused and unhinged antiheroine, who demands the head of Jochanaan, sung by celebrated baritone Peter Mattei.

May 31

## ***Il Barbiere di Siviglia***



Rossini's effervescent comedy retakes the stage in Bartlett Sher's madcap production. Mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina is the feisty heroine, Rosina, alongside high-flying tenor Jack Swanson, in his Met debut, as her secret beloved, Count Almaviva. Baritone Andrey Zhilikhovsky stars as Figaro, the titular barber of Seville, with bass-baritone Peter Kálmán as Dr. Bartolo and bass Alexander Vinogradov as Don Basilio. Giacomo Sagripanti conducts.



# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



**CANADIAN  
OPERA  
COMPANY**

All Productions at the Four Seasons  
Centre for the Performing Arts.

[Learn More](#)

PUCCINI  
**MADAMA  
BUTTERFLY**

**Jan. 24 - Feb. 16, 2025**

**Jan. 24, 26, Feb 1, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 16, 2025**

A young Japanese woman faithfully awaits the return of her husband, an American naval officer. When he finally reappears years later, he brings with him the seeds of a heartbreaking tragedy. One of Puccini's greatest scores, which remains unmatched for its beauty and dramatic intensity.

BILODEAU/BOUCHARD  
**LA REINE-  
GARÇON**

**Jan. 31 - Feb. 15, 2025**

[Learn More](#)

**Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 5, 7, 9, 13, and 15, 2025**

Queen Christine of Sweden was raised as a boy by her father during a period of extraordinary change. At the height of the Scientific Revolution, she employed the philosopher René Descartes as her tutor, sparking an intellectual and spiritual transformation of massive historical significance.





# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



[Learn More](#)



**April 25, 27, May 3, 8, 10, 14, and 16, 2025**

Tormented by visions and humiliated by his superiors, the soldier Wozzeck (baritone Michael Kupfer-Radecky) discovers that his lover, Marie (soprano Ambur Braid), has entertained the advances of the Drum Major (tenor Matthew Cairns)—a revelation that will culminate in murder, madness, and self-destruction.



[Learn More](#)

**May 2, 4, 7, 9, 15, 17, and 24, 2025**

Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* is one of opera's most romantic masterpieces, an aching meditation on happiness undone. Canadian director Robert Carsen returns to the COC for the first time since 2018.



# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



[Learn More](#)



**May 23, 2025**

One of the world's most successful one-act operas, Mascagni's gripping thriller about love, jealousy, and betrayal is set in an Italian village where a simmering love triangle reaches boiling point. This special concert presentation features a roster of international artists, as well as the COC Orchestra and Chorus under the baton of COC Music Director Johannes Debus.

## CENTRE STAGE : ENSEMBLE STUDIO COMPETITION

**Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre**

Experience the thrilling power of the human voice and the potential genesis of stardom, as a new generation of brilliant singers compete in the final round of auditions for the Ensemble Studio, Canada's leading career development program for emerging opera artists. Finalists, selected through rigorous cross-country auditions, will each perform an aria in front of a live audience.

### Free Concert Series

For the latest programming information, sign up to receive email updates at [coc.ca/signup](https://coc.ca/signup)



P.O. Box 244, Pittsford, NY 14534  
eMail: [info@operaguildofrochester.org](mailto:info@operaguildofrochester.org)