

Viva Voce

September 2024



Publick Musick p 20



Pegasus Early Music p15

Eastman Opera Fall Preview p 10

Edition *Viva Voce*, September 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

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 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

News From Your Opera Guild	3
Great Opera-tunities	4
Editor's Corner	4
Volunteer	5
Donations	5
Farcical Fantasies at Fringe Fest	8
2024 Lotte Lenya Competition	9
Friends of Eastman Opera	10
Online Opera Education for Young and Old	11
Bravo Nights	12
Rochester Oratorio Society	13
Rochester Intergenerational CHOIR DAY	14
The Cobb's Hill Festival	14
Pegasus Early Music	15
Third Thursdays at the MAG	17
The 2024-2025 Season	18
Tri-Cities Opera	18
Publick Musick	20
The Metropolitan Opera	21
Canadian Opera Company	24



Sept. 6-8	Tri-Cities Opera	<u><i>The Magic Flute</i></u>
Sept. 8, 11	Publick Musick	<u><i>Baroque Sampler</i></u>
Sept. 12	SOTA	<u><i>Farcical Fantasies</i></u>
Sept. 15	Eastman Opera Theatre	<u><i>Fall Preview</i></u>
Sept. 29	Pegasus Early Music	<u><i>The Secret Music</i></u>

News From Your Opera Guild

Our Fall Campaign is gearing up – expect our Donation Request Letter, with the usual info on our programs for the year, in the coming weeks. We don't go anywhere without you!

To all interested in the Glimmerglass Trip, we are seeking your vote for the opera selection: *Tosca* or *The Rakes's Progress*? You may have seen enough *Tosca* for a while, in which case Stavinsky's *Rake* (1951) is a 20th century opera in a neo-classical (traditional) format; a quixotic tale, pitting the excitement of city life against the traditional virtues. The libretto, predominantly by W.H. Auden, is considered one of the best ever written, with "his gift for investing verse in simple metres with rich meanings." Stephen Walsh in Holden, Amanda, ed., [The New Penguin Opera Guide](#).

Oh, if only we had a few more volunteers, we might have a fall preview of our own – a social event with fellow opera fans and some of the people who will make it all happen...

Carol Crocca

Editor's Corner

September is the leanest month... at least in regard to opera events, it seems. Maybe it's time to consider going farther afield and checking out the interesting version of *The Magic Flute* at Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton?

The Eastman Opera Theatre's Fall Preview is always worth attending, however, and Pegasus and Publick Musick also, whether you are a Baroque devotee or not

...

In any case, time to peruse the rest of the year's offerings and dream of all the things you can see! With apologies for the lateness of this issue . . .

Great Opera-tunities

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

NEW Resource for opera at 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 September Viva Voce for fall lectures at Fairport Library; February and March Viva Voce for spring lectures at Brighton Library.

\$10 - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs," opera DVD presentations. Four Sundays in January/February. Includes pre-performance talk & refreshments at intermission.

\$24; UR students \$10 with ID - The Eastman Opera Season (Eastman voice students). Pre-performance talks; see full listing in Viva Voce.

\$25 per (senior) ticket - Metropolitan Opera simulcasts in HD. These performances usually take place on Saturdays at 1 pm. An encore performance, not live, is given on the Wednesday following for \$23. Theaters are at Tinseltown, Eastview, and Webster. See full listing and essays in Viva Voce.

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

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. Look for next year in February 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@operaguilddofrocheaster.org 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. 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.

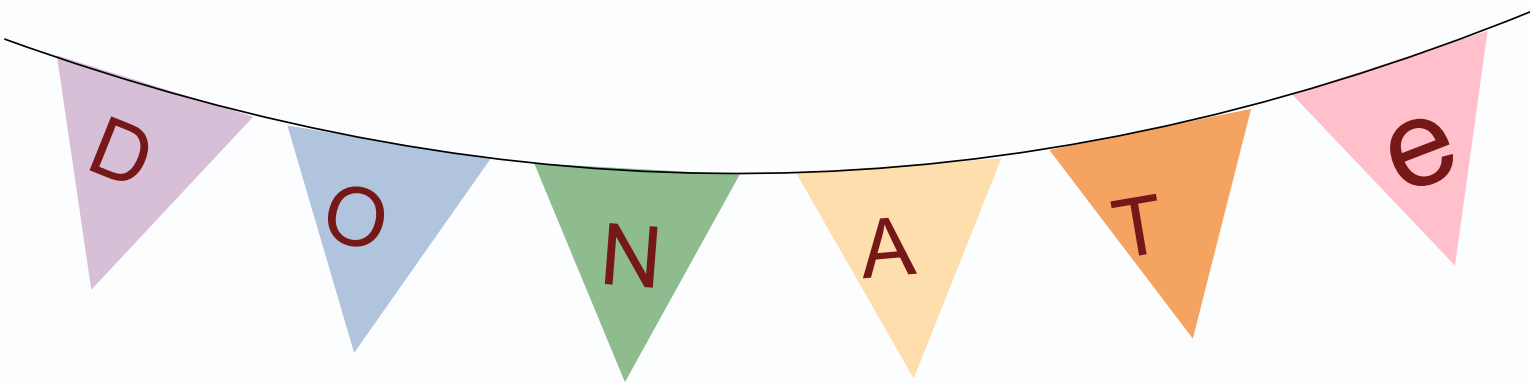
Impresario: \$1000 or more.

**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).

The free fall Lecture/Listening Series.

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)

TECH SERVICES NEEDED



THE OPERA GUILD OF ROCHESTER IS IN NEED OF A PERSON TO COMPILE ITS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

This person should have a computer with Windows 10 or 11, computer skills in formatting pages with pictures, and should know or be able to learn Serif's Affinity Publisher, which will be provided. The work will be on a contract basis, and the remuneration is negotiable. Examples of the newsletter can be found on our website at operaguildofrochester.org.

A kick-off performance of Farcical Fantasies: Episodes from a Diary

Saturday, Sept 12, 5:30-6:30PM

Ensemble Theatre at School of the Arts: 45 Prince St, Rochester, 14607

This event features a variety of vocal works by outstanding artists.

Following the performance, the audience will vote for their favorite poem and favorite composition, followed by a talk-back with the artistic team. Our selected librettist and composer will win a cash prize.



Tickets are \$10, intended for all ages, and available [here](#).

Lotte Lenya
THE LENYA COMPETITION
A program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

**Ana Karneža - First Prize In
2024 Lotte Lenya Competition**



From Left to Right : Christian Mark Gibbs, Ana Karneža, Jason Zacher.

With a commanding performance of substance and style, **Ana Karneža** took home the First Prize of \$25,000 in the final round of the twenty-sixth annual Lenya Competition, which took place Saturday 4 May at Kilbourn Hall in Rochester, New York. From her glittering entrance to her touching close, her extraordinary personifications in four selections from Offenbach to ABBA left the entire house in joyful tears. **Christian Mark Gibbs** and **Jason Zacher** each claimed the Second Prize of \$20,000. These remarkable performances, and those of the other seven outstanding finalists as well, will be available **for on-demand streaming starting Friday 10 May [on the Weill Foundation website, kwf.org](http://www.kwf.org).**



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

Eastman Opera Theatre previews the 2024-25 season

Sun. Sep 15, 2024; 5-6:30 pm ; Miller Atrium, 25 Gibbs St.

ESM opera season preview

Paolo Prestini's *Silent Light*

Libretto by Royce Vavrek

Based on the film *Stellet Licht* by Carlos Reygadas,

sung in English with supertitles.

Conducted by Timothy Long, Directed by Pat Diamond

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday to Saturday, October 31-November 2, 7:30 pm

Sunday, Nov,3, 2:30 pm

Open Master Class w. Professor Nicole Cabell

Wed. Nov. 13, 2024; 5-7 pm ; Miller Atrium, 25 Gibbs St

Prof. Cabell will present an open master class with selected ESM voice students

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.

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.



OPERA CLOAK OF THE NEW MATERIAL.



Bravo Nights

Bravo Nights are performances at The Little Café of opera and musical theater selections by talented local singers in an informal setting. They are appreciated by both seasoned opera fans and newcomers who wish to learn about the art form.

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

Sunday, October 20, 7 PM

(Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists)

Monday, February 10, 7 PM

(Valentine's Day theme with Roberts Wesleyan students)

Monday, April 21, 7 PM

(Eastman students)



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.

Rochester Intergenerational CHOIR DAY

NOVEMBER 16, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm



PRESENTED BY THE HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL & FIRST INVERSION
THE HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL 50 N. Plymouth Avenue, Rochester, NY

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The Cobb's Hill Festival

JULY 13, 2024



On a beautiful summer day at the Cobb's Hill Festival, the audience was treated to a concert by popular Rochester vocalists Mark Daniels and Amanda Perrone. It was a delightful mix of opera arias and popular songs, produced by accompanist Rob Goodling and co-sponsored by the Opera Guild. Thanks to Rob, Mark and Amanda!

The Secret Music

Sunday, September 29, 2024
@ 4 pm ET

Downtown United
Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester



Late 16th century music from the courts of northern Italy, written expressly for special groups of women singers, the concerto delle donne. These trios of women were all the rage, with virtuosic music written expressly for them, some of the first women professional musicians. Music by Luzzaschi, Marenzio, Francesca Caccini, Monteverdi, and more.



Knight Music

October 27, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

Presenting the Philadelphia-based chamber ensemble Night Music, in a special program of music of the high baroque, including Telemann's rollicking Don Quixote suite, a Quantz flute concerto, and Bach's beloved Triple Concerto for flute, violin, and harpsichord.

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.

Third Thursday Concert

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

November 21, *A Medieval Tapestry*

Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, mezzo-soprano, Keith Reas, organ

December 19, *The Festive Season*

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



October 17, *The Trumpet Shall Be Heard On High*

Barry Bauguess, Baroque trumpet; Stephen Plank, organ

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





THE 2024-2025 SEASON

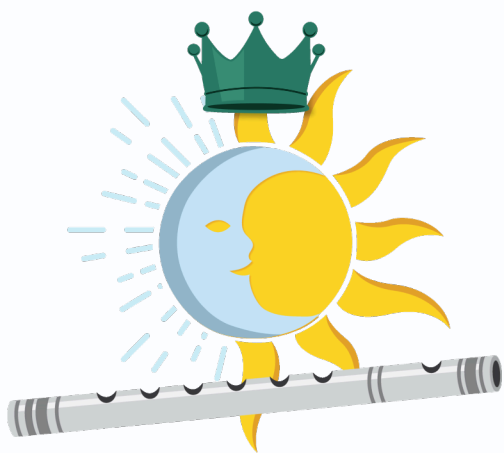


TRICITIES OPERA

Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

September 6 & 8, 2024, Forum Theatre

This fresh take on one of the greatest operas ever written will be presented as part of Binghamton's [LUMA Projection Arts Festival](#) in a new English language, 60-minute adaptation. Featuring the gorgeous visual imaginings of an international team of designers, including Stefanos Koroneos and Chara, *The Magic Flute* retains all the charm, mystery, magic, and humor of the original.



All is Calm

November 15,16, & 17, 2024

Written by Peter Rothstein
Vocal Arrangements by Erick Lichte
and Timothy C. Takach



The Western Front: Christmas 1914. Out of the violence of World War I, a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht." Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, and peace, a remarkable true story in the words and songs of the men who lived it. With stunning a cappella arrangements of carols and folk songs from France, Germany, and England, the opera will be performed primarily in English with English supertitles.

Tri-Cities Opera Center, 315 Clinton Street, Binghamton, NY 13905



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



PUBLIC MUSICK

Baroque Music Sampler

Sunday September 8 ; 4:00 pm

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

Wednesday September 11 ; 7:00 pm

The Little Theatre Cafe
240 East Avenue, Rochester, NY



L-R: Boel Gidholm, Christopher Haritatos, Molly McDonald, Deborah Fox



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.

October 5

Les Contes d'Hoffmann

Offenbach's fantastical final work, headlined by tenor Benjamin Bernheim in the title role of the tormented poet. Hoffmann's trio of lovers are sung by soprano Erin Morley as the mechanical doll Olympia, soprano Pretty Yende as the plagued diva Antonia, and mezzo-soprano Clémentine Margaine as the Venetian seductress Giulietta. Marco Armiliato conducts Bartlett Sher's evocative production.



October 19

Grounded

Jeanine Tesori's powerful new opera *Grounded* wrestles with the ethical quandaries and psychological toll of 21st-century warfare. Mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo, one of opera's most compelling young stars, portrays Jess, a hot-shot fighter pilot whose unplanned pregnancy takes her out of the cockpit and lands her in Las Vegas, operating a Reaper drone halfway around the world. As she struggles to adjust to this new way of doing battle, she fights to maintain her sanity, and her soul, as she is called to rain down death by remote control. Michael Mayer's high-tech staging, using a vast array of LED screens, presents a variety of perspectives on the action, including the drone's predatory view from high above.



November 23

Tosca

Extraordinary soprano Lise Davidsen stars as the volatile diva Floria Tosca for her first time at the Met. David McVicar's thrilling production also features tenor Freddie De Tommaso in his eagerly anticipated company debut as Tosca's revolutionary lover, Cavaradossi, and powerhouse baritone Quinn Kelsey as the sadistic chief of police Scarpia. Maestro Xian Zhang conducts the electrifying score, which features some of Puccini's most memorable melodies.

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.

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](#)

Oct 4, 6, 12, 17, 19, 23 and 25, 2024

The opera that launched Verdi's career, *Nabucco* is a sweeping saga featuring some of the most passionate music ever written, a rousing epic of the search for hope amid brutal cruelty and oppression, with a cast of over 120 performers.

[Learn More](#)



Oct. 11, 13, 16, 18, 24, 26, and Nov. 2, 2024

Disenchanted by his lifelong quest for knowledge, the aging philosopher Faust makes a pact with the devil and trades his soul for eternal youth and the love of Marguerite —to disastrous consequences. Murder and madness ensue, with demons, witches, and a chorus of celestial voices rounding out this lavish spectacle directed by **Amy Lane**.



THE 2024-2025 SEASON

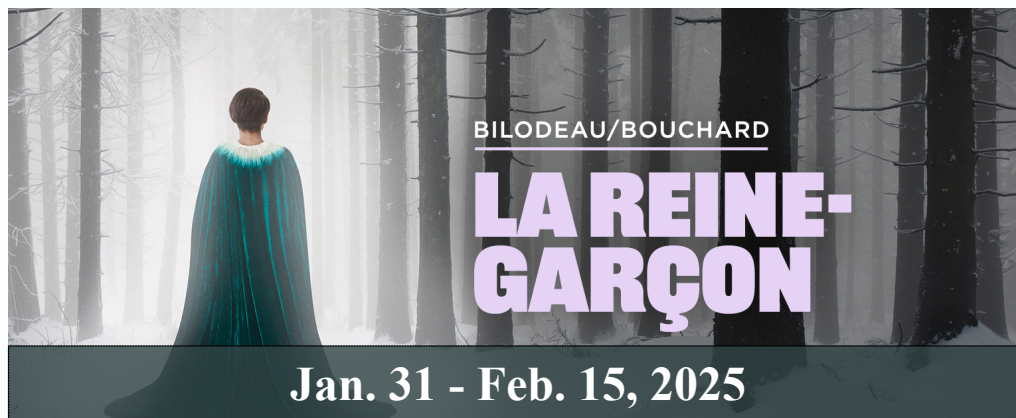


[Learn More](#)



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.



[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.

[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



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eMail: info@operaguildofrochester.org