

# Viva Voce

November 2024



Tosca p 11, 24



Holiday  
Concert p 3



# Edition *Viva Voce*, November 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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Nov. 13	Eastman Master Class	<a href="#"><u>Prof. Nicole Cabell</u></a>
Nov. 16	Hochstein School	<a href="#"><u>Intergenerational Choir Day</u></a>
Nov 15-17	Tri-Cities Opera	<a href="#"><u>All is Calm</u></a>
Nov 17	Roch. Acad. of Medicine	<a href="#"><u>Salon Concert</u></a>
Nov 21	Memorial Art Gallery	<a href="#"><u>Medieval Tapestry</u></a>
Nov 23	Met Live in HD	<a href="#"><u>Tosca</u></a>

## News From Your Opera Guild

Requests were made for an encore of our well-attended Meet-Up at Tinseltown, to welcome the Met Live in HD season. Coffee, cookies and conversation seemed a fitting prelude to *The Tales of Hoffman*. We will oblige!

We'll be preparing for the Annual Holiday Concert this month – it's a pleasure to look forward to seasonal festivity! Tickets are now on sale [here](#).

I have returned and am anticipating most of November, especially Third Thursday at the Mag and *Tosca*. Some good news for the future is that Pittsford Recreation has waived the \$5 Beat the Blahs registration fee for non-residents, so we can return to being as flexible as we like without penalty.

Please don't forget our donation Campaign!

Carol Crocca

## Editor's Corner

We can look forward to Third Thursday concerts at the Memorial Art Gallery, this month with vocal music presented by Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, mezzo-soprano. ([page 18](#)).

If you would like to welcome the holidays, an early harbinger is Tri-Cities' *All is Calm*, an opera about a Christmas truce during WW I, which includes carols and folk songs from England, France and Germany. ([page 20](#)).

Although best attempts were made by the editor and the technical compiler, despite travel schedules, to get the November issue to you on time, we failed, and so apologies for the lateness of the issue.

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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@operaguilddofrocheaster.org](mailto:info@operaguilddofrocheaster.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.

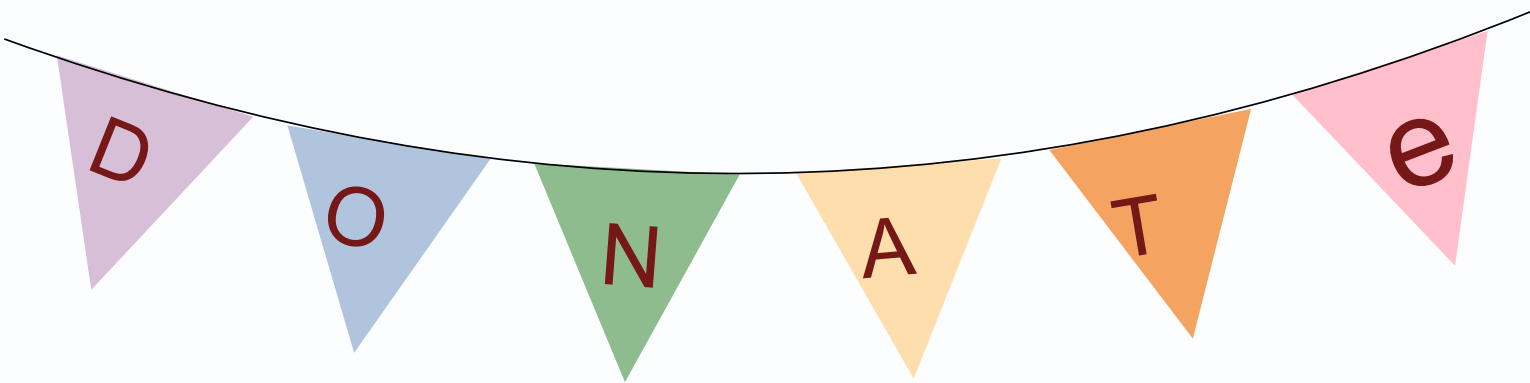
*Impresario:* \$1000 or more.

**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)



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

# Eastman School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

## **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.

### **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.

## **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**



**Dr. Lee Wright**



**Jonathan Thomas Madden**



**Dr. Philip E. Silvey**

**Join us for Rochester Intergenerational Choir Day, an inspiring, first-of-its-kind event in Hochstein Performance Hall.**

**During this event, you will get the opportunity to work with three well-known local clinicians: Dr. Lee Wright, a scholar of the American Negro Spiritual, and composer/conductors Jonathan Thomas Madden and Dr. Philip E. Silvey.**

**REGISTER HERE**





ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
NOVEMBER 17, 2024  
MARCH 16, 2025  
APRIL 6, 2025  
APRIL 27, 2025

# 2024-2025 SALON CONCERT SERIES

*Elizaveta Kopelman\**, piano  
*Mikhail Kopelman*, violin  
*Masumi Per Rostad*, viola  
*Stefan Reuss*, cello

*\*Rebecca Penneys will not be performing at the November concert*

**NOVEMBER 17, 2024**  
**2:00PM**  
**1441 EAST AVENUE**

**Brahms** Piano quartet in C minor,  
Op. 60

**Schumann** Piano quartet in E flat Major,  
Op. 47

### Ticket Information

	Single	Series
RAoM Members	\$35	\$150
General Public	\$40	\$180

VISIT [RAOM.ORG](http://RAOM.ORG) TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!



Save the  
Date!



**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 McGill**. They are accompanied as usual by coach and collaborator par excellence, **Rob Goodling**.



**Mark Daniels**



**Rachel McGill**



**Rob Goodling**



# Opera Essay : *Tosca and Napoleon*

Carol Crocca

Knowing the historical context of *Tosca* is not necessary to appreciate or understand its story. The themes of political oppression and deceit, passionate love, jealousy and abuse of power are dramatic elements which, in Puccini's masterful hands, continue to move us regardless of our distance in time from the creation of this work. But its context is worth exploring because of its connections to both the opera and the development of Italy as a nation.

Napoleon first invaded northern Italy in 1796, at which time the country was divided into ten states, ruled by different European powers: the Kingdom of Naples, which included Sicily; the Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont), the duchy of Milan (a part of the Hapsburg empire); the republics of Venice, Genoa, and Lucca; the Papal States (a large territory bisecting Italy with the Vatican as its capital); the duchies of Modena and Parma, and the grand duchy of Tuscany.

These states varied in every conceivable way and were ruled by different European nations. Some, such as Lombardy and Tuscany, had benefitted from Enlightenment-inspired absolute monarchs and some were still feudal in character. During the initial period of French domination, the conqueror installed new republics, and constitutions modeled after the French. Also inaugurated were civil liberties, including freedom of the press and of religion.

However, in early 1799, a coalition of various forces defeated the French and the old regimes were reinstated from February to September 1799.

But Napoleon needed to defeat Austria, which controlled much of northern Italy, in order to secure his grip on power in France, and so he re-invaded, engaging the Austrians at Marengo (near the city of Alessandria in Piedmont) on June 14, 1800. The Austrian general reported victory on the afternoon of that day, as relayed at the end of *Tosca*, Act I; but later in the day, the French forces returned and reversed the outcome.

That news is reported to Scarpia in Act II, immediately after Mario learns that *Tosca* has revealed the fugitive Angelotti's whereabouts. Scarpia, an officer of the police state of the Papacy, represents the old regime, while Napoleon's victory signifies the reduction of church power and the re-establishment of secular control. Angelotti is referred to spitefully by the police as a "republican" of Rome. By 1810, French rule was consolidated over all Italy except Sicily and Sardinia. When Verdi was born in 1813, his birth was recorded in Parma, a French duchy, as "Joseph Fortunin Francois Verdi." An effect of French rule pertinent to our musical interest is that the French abhorrence of

the castrato tradition was one of the several factors contributing to the gradual disappearance of those singers from the stage - in certain regions castrated boys were barred from school in order to discourage the practice.

Napoleon's many campaigns finally came to an end at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 (which he lost to the 7th coalition of European forces aggregated to oppose him), and at the Congress of Vienna, Austria was restored to power in northern Italy. But the legacy left by Napoleonic rule was a powerful one, in a country which had experienced a unified government for the first time in many hundreds of years. The legal and fiscal systems, a strong central bureaucracy, and the inspiration to Italian revolutionaries to continue their campaign for a united Italy all furthered the process toward a modern, secular, and more egalitarian state.

Still, Italy was not fully unified until 1870, when Garibaldi entered Rome and finally ended the temporal power of the papacy against token resistance. By 1861 almost all the rest of the peninsula was joined together as the Kingdom of Italy under King Vittorio Emanuele, and Verdi was a deputy in the new Parliament.

The King himself had been excommunicated by Pope Pius IX after he waged war against the Papal States. But Rome had always been, and continued to be, the home of anticlericalism in Italy. Even after unification, there were continual conflicts between church and state, not surprising in a place where the Pope had been a temporal ruler for so long and was the wielder of international religious authority.

Although there is little overt ant-clericalism in the opera, the portrayal of Scarpia, one of the chief representatives of papal power in the City, as a depraved and corrupt official was right in tune with the times. A series of bank failures had caused economic unrest that threatened the new parliamentary democracy and led to the founding of Italy's first mass political party, the Italian Socialist Party. Counter-initiatives by the church, including lay activism and a militant Catholic press, were weapons in a struggle for control of the Italian working classes.

Puccini was not particularly interested in politics, but as a dramatist he was no doubt aware that the tensions generated between absolutist papal rule and the republicans Cavaradossi and Angelotti would resonate with the Italian public. The creation of his wonderful, also apolitical, heroine La Tosca, however, with all her passion, innocence, fury, and defiance, was surely what most moved the packed houses who came to the Teatro Costanzi in 1900.

Reference: Grab, Alexander, "The Napoleonic Legacy in Italy," in Tosca's Prism, Burton, Susan, et al., editors, Northeastern University Press, Boston, 2004



# *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)



## Finger Lakes Opera

### FLO Fall Outreach Tour

One of Finger Lakes Opera's (FLO) newest initiatives is the Fall Engagement Tour.\* Every October, FLO Young Artist alumni deliver programming to local schools, elder care homes, and more throughout Monroe and Ontario counties. With simple staging and witty costumes, both created by Kasi L. Krenzer Marshall, this year's children's opera, *Billy Goats Gruff*, will be performed for up to 4,000 students, grades pre-K-4. In addition to this and recitals at local nursing homes, FLO also will present shows at The Little Theater (*Bravo Nights* on Sunday, October 20 at 7 PM) and Heroes Brewery (Friday, November 1 from 5-7 PM, all fall programs will be free to audiences.

\*[FLO has been doing outreach almost since its inception – what's new is the name. Editor.]

*The Billy Goats Gruff* is one of many children's operas that have been adapted by John Davies . If you have not seen or heard a John Davies children's opera, you are in for a treat. Davies takes well known opera arias and choruses, in this case excerpts from Mozart, Rossini, and Donizetti operas, and writes a story using his own lyrics. All of Davies's adaptations have a moral; *The Billy Goats Gruff* explores bullying and why it's important to stand up for oneself.

#### Featured in *Billy Goats Gruff* are the following artists:

- **Soprano Jessica Moss** is new to FLO audiences. She is at home on the operatic stage as well as the recital stage. After the FLO Fall Engagement tour, she will be seen as The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Genesee Symphony and be the featured soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* in concert at St. Luke's Episcopal church in Brockport, NY. Moss holds a M.M. In Vocal Performance from Peabody Conservatory and a B.S. in Music Performance from Roberts Wesleyan College.

- **Mezzo-soprano Kaswanna Kanyinda** returns to Rochester a year after she was a 2023 Young Artist. This past season, she finished her second year as a Resident artist at Fort Worth Opera and had success as a finalist and semi-finalist in competitions by Opera Ebony, Young Texas Artists. Shreveport Opera, Lorne Zachary, MIOpera. and Annapolis Opera. Kaswanna has performed at the Kennedy Center and has sung the national anthem for President Barack Obama. A North Carolina native, Kanyinda rejoins Fort Worth Opera as a principal artist in their production of *Little Women* by Mark Adamo.
- **Tenor Conor Brereton** was also a 2023 Young Artist. A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, As a Young Artist during Finger Lakes Opera's 2023 Summer Season, he performed Ken/Hobart/JFK in the first workshop of FLO's commissioned World Premiere opera *Two Corners* by B.E. Boykin. Operatic credits include Gherardo and Rinuccio (cover) in *Gianni Schicchi*, L'Imperatore in *Turandot*, and the Officer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. opera. He holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and The University of Michigan and pursued further vocal studies at Indiana University. He is currently based in New Haven, Connecticut.
- **Bass Jose Olivares** is a 2024 Young Artist and a recent M.M graduate of the University of Oklahoma, he also holds an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University in Commerce and Music Education. He has been a young artist at the Seagle Festival and Des Moines Metro Opera, and seen as a soloist with The Norman Symphony. A few notable roles include: Simone (*Gianna Schicchi*), Dulcamara (*The Elixir of Love*), Coline (*La Boheme*). In his current tenure as a resident artist at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Mr. Olivares will be covering Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Frere Laurent in *Romeo et Juliette*, as well as perform the role of Duke in *Romeo et Juliette*.
- **Collaborative pianist Erico Bezerra** is a Brazilian pianist currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music. . He studied at Rio Grande do Sul Federal University (UFRGS) in Brazil (BM) and Illinois State University (MM) , Érico has participated in the 2022 Toronto Summer Music Festival, and Music on Site, Inc (MOSI) 2022 where he served as Music Director in the opera *Suor Angelica*. In 2023 he attended Aspen Music Festival and School as a fellow in the Vocal Collaboration program. Érico is a recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship and currently holds Graduate Assistantships in Studio Accompanying and Orchestral Keyboard at Eastman.



Jessica Moss as Lucy

## FINGER LAKES { }PERA FALL OUTREACH PRESENTS



### The Billy Goats Gruff

Words and story adaptation by: John Davies  
Directed by Kasi L. Krenzer Marshall



Conor Brereton as Dandini



Kaswanna Kanyinda as Ernesto



Jose Olivares as Osmin

## 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/](https://www.utahopera.org/education/students/) also has good student materials.

**From Arizona Opera**, at [https://azopera.org/education-community/opera-home-virtual-learning-tools](https://www.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.

# 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



## November 21, *A Medieval Tapestry*

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



*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](https://www.kwf.org).**



# THE 2024-2025 SEASON



## TRICITIES OPERA

### *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



*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.**

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.





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**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.



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**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.

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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.

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