

Viva Voce

April 2024



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Edition *Viva Voce*, April 2024

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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; info@operaguil dofrochester.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.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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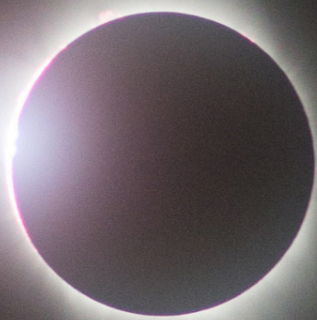


April 4, 5, 6	Eastman Opera Theatre	<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i>
April 8	The Solar System	Eclipse
April 12, 13	Publick Musick	Concerto Grosso
April 18	Memorial Art Gallery	Third Thursday Concert
April 20	Met Live in HD	<i>La rondine</i>
April 21	Tri-Cities Opera	<i>The Barber of Seville</i>
April 22	Opera Guild	Eastman Bravo Night
April 26, 28	Roberts Wesleyan Voice	<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>
April 26 et. al.	Canadian Opera	<i>Don Pasquale</i>
April 27	Roch. Oratorio Society	Freedom Song
April 28	Pegasus Early Music	Music for Kings
May 4	The Kurt Weill Found.	Lotte Lenya Competition

*On April 8th, Rochester, NY will
experience a rare Total Solar Eclipse*

Inspired by this, we have created an

Eclipse Playlist



Come enjoy video clips of opera pieces
celebrating the Sun, Moon and Stars!

Click Here

*to visit the Opera Guild of Rochester's
YouTube channel*

Editor's Corner

We can welcome spring with a rich variety of music this month – opera early and late, baroque, instrumental, a Bravo Night at the Little Theater Café and even gospel. Included is a head's up: the Lotte Lenya competition on May 4th. Hearing these young singing actors perform is amazing every year.

Of course, there is a *really* special event on April 8; you can link to the eclipse playlist directly. We are here to make opera relevant, no matter how rare the occasion.

An early Easter and the advent of some spring weather (dare I say spring itself?) should help us enjoy this time, before the onslaught of graduation and wedding season!

News From Your Opera Guild

We've just finished another lecture series, and are currently finalizing details of the Annual Recital and the Glimmerglass trip.

We are also starting to look forward to next year. Forgive me if I remind our fans and supporters again – there are additional programs we would like to put in place, but we don't have enough personnel. Some of these involve outreach to those who do not have easy access to programming. Please consider whether you have the time and interest to volunteer. Every bit helps!

See the volunteer info on the web site, operaguil dofrochester.org.

Thanks.

- 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.

\$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 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: \$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!

Roberts Opera Theater

presents:

Dido and Aeneas

HENRY PURCELL

Friday

April 26, 2024 - 7:30pm

Sunday

April 28, 2024 - 3:00pm

Hale Auditorium: Cultural Life Center

2301 Westside Dr. Rochester, NY 14624

free and open to the public



ROBERTS
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



Eastman Opera Theater Season

Dialogues des Carmélites (1957)*

Music and Libretto by Francis Poulenc

April 4, 5, 6 at 7:30 p.m.

April 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

*Tickets sold through the Eastman Theatre Box Office

433 East Main Street, Rochester, NY

585-274-3000

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

Please check the ESM website for additional information.

Lotte Lenya THE LENYA COMPETITION

A program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

Ten Exceptional Singing Actors Selected as Finalists

2024 Lenya Competition



From Left to Right,

Top Row: Joseph Sacchi, Kendra Dyck, Christian Mark Gibbs, Kaileigh Riess, Queen Hezumuryango;

Bottom Row: Ana Karneža, Logan Wagner, Ta'Nika Gibson, Rebekah Howell, Jason Zacher.

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music has named the ten exceptional singing actors who will compete for a top prize of \$25,000 in the final round of the twenty-sixth annual **Lenya Competition**, the internationally renowned theatrical singing contest. The finals are set to take place **Saturday, 4 May at Kilbourn Hall in Rochester, New York**. The group of finalists represents a remarkable array of talent, including contestants with Broadway and Metropolitan Opera credits. Kim Kowalke, President of the Kurt Weill Foundation and Founder of the Competition, said of the finalists: “The amazing level of talent and the diversity of these ten young artists promise an intensely competitive contest this year.”

The final round will be judged by a panel of esteemed artists whose careers mirror the values of the Competition: world-renowned soprano **Nicole Cabell**, two-time Tony Award-winning composer **Jeanine Tesori**, and internationally acclaimed director-writer **Tazewell Thompson**. Tesori and Thompson’s emotionally compelling opera *Blue* has just been nominated for a 2024 Olivier Award in the New Opera Production category. Cabell, an award winner in the 2002 Competition, went on to win the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and now commands a broad repertoire ranging from Baroque to contemporary, performing on opera and concert stages worldwide. All events are free and open to the public, as well as being streamed live and available for on-demand viewing afterwards on kwf.org.



FINGER LAKES OPERA ANNOUNCES 2024 SUMMER YOUNG ARTIST ROSTER

Out of over 500 applicants, six exceptional singers were selected as the 2024 Finger Lakes Opera Young Artists:

- **Soprano Kristen Marie Gillis** was a Studio Artist with Central City Opera last year and is currently an Apprentice Artist with Opera Ithaca. Gillis grew up in Round Rock, TX.
- **Soprano Kira Kaplan**, a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, is currently based in London as a Global Talent Young Artist with the National Opera Studio of the United Kingdom.
- **Mezzo-soprano Hailey Cohen** is a Madison Opera Studio Artist based in Chicago, IL. Cohen grew up in Edgemont, NY.
- **Tenor Nathaniel Schafer**, a Dallas, TX native, will sing lead roles in Shreveport Opera's upcoming productions of *La bohème* and *Così fan tutte*.
- **Baritone Yonathan Astatke**, an Ethiopian-American Kansas City, MO native, was recently named an Arkansas District winner of Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. Astatke went on to take second prize at the Midwest Regional Competition.
- **Bass Jose Olivares** is a resident artist at Lyric Opera of Kansas City, where he will sing the role of Duke in *Romeo and Juliette*. Olivares is a native of Fort Worth, TX.

These remarkably talented singers will be featured in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, as well as several other FLO productions this June and July (Summer Festival announcement coming in April). FLO's 2024 Summer Young Artists also will deliver community engagement programming throughout the months of June and July.

FLO's Young Artist Program has grown into one of the company's greatest strengths with applications to its 4-week summer session increasing over 500% since 2019. This has been the catalyst for FLO's expanding community engagement programming and in-school presence.

Third Thursday Concert : Synnet

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

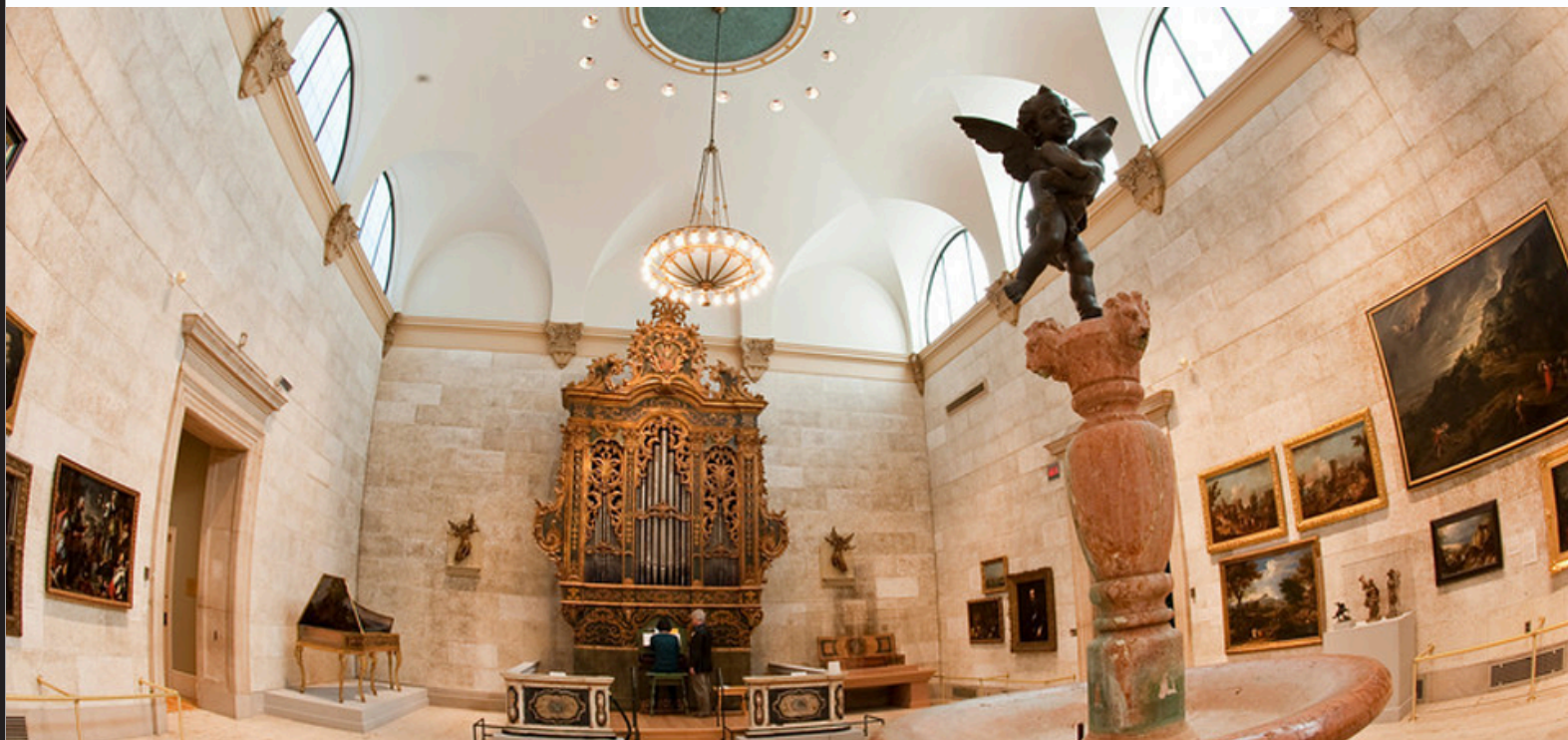


Photo by J. Adam Fenster/University of Rochester

Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 7:30-8:30 pm

Join us for a program of the distinctive sound of Baroque and Renaissance music, performed by Synnet (formerly Washington Cornett & Sackbutt Ensemble), an ensemble of sackbuts and cornetti, Elizabeth Fields on violin, and Bozena Brown on Eastman's stunning Italian Baroque organ. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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.





Special Events & Appearances

For more information and to buy tickets, go to rossings.org, click on Events, Upcoming Events, and “read more.”



ROS w/ the RPO : Ode to Joy

Thursday, May 30, 2024

| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater

Join the Chorus

Apply Today | Monday Night Rehearsals | Scholarships Available

The 2023-2024 season includes:

Choral masterworks and modern classics with full orchestra

Tour of France and Switzerland with the chorus in June 2024

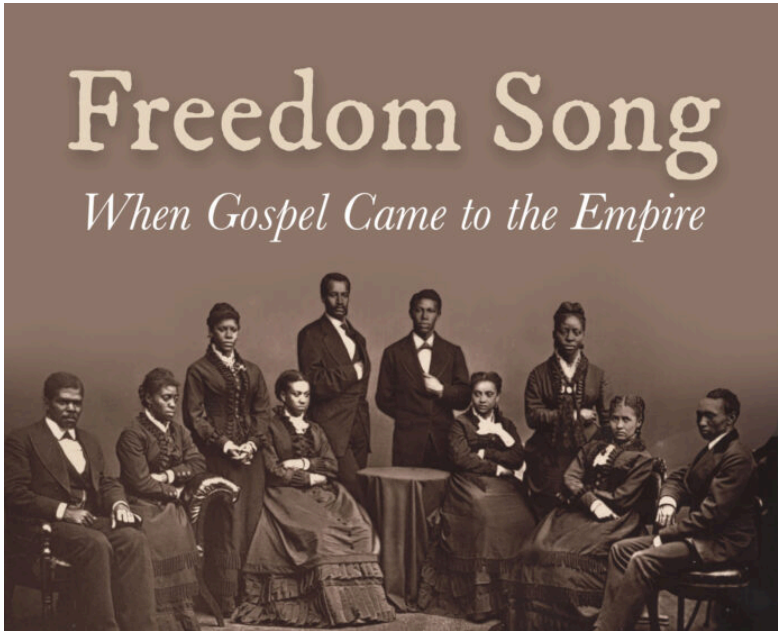
Solo and small ensemble opportunities

Annual holiday community concert

Opportunity to sing with the RPO!

See rossings.org/membership/join-the-chorus

for audition form and more information.



**Arts Connexions : Freedom Song :
When Gospel Came to the Empire**

Saturday, April 27, 2024
| 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |
Fort Hill Performing Arts Center



**2024 Rochester
International Vocal
Competition Celebration**

Saturday, May 18, 2024
| 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
First Unitarian Church of Rochester



Puccini's *La rondine*

Carol Crocca

After the success of *La fanciulla del West*, which premiered in New York City in 1910, Puccini spent several years, as he usually did, casting about for a new subject. Finally, in 1913, he accepted a proposal from a Viennese theater to write an operetta, although he insisted that it be composed in Italian and without the customary spoken dialogue. Based on a German libretto translated into Italian by librettist Giuseppe Adami. *La rondine* was written in 1914-15, but the outbreak of World War I, in which Italy and Austria were on opposing sides, delayed the premiere. In addition, Puccini's Italian publisher Ricordi rejected the opera and it was some time before the rival publishing house, Sonzogno, could arrange for publication and a production in neutral Monte Carlo. There it successfully premiered in 1917. In accordance with another of Puccini's habits, it was revised in 1919 and 1920, although the final version performed today is very close to the original.

La rondine is the least performed of Puccini's mature operas. It is neither a typical comic operetta nor does it have the dramatic heft of a full-blown opera. Judged on its own terms, however, "It is a light romantic opera, whose music has sufficient melodic interest, charm, and subtle orchestration..." (Osborne, Charles, The Complete Operas of Puccini, Da Capo, New York, 1981, p. 208.)



The plot is similar to Verdi's *La traviata* in that Magda is a courtesan and the obstacle to the lovers' happiness is the inevitable withholding of parental consent to the marriage because of her past. As in *Boheme*, there is also a contrasting pair of lovers: the cynical poet Prunier and Magda's maid, Lisette. The title derives from the prediction of Prumier in the first act that Magda, like the swallow, will fly across the sea toward a bright land of dreams and find true love.

There are several well-known extracts, especially Magda's Act I aria, "Che il bel sogno di Doretta" ("Doretta's dream") and the ensemble in Act II which begins with her lover Ruggero's "Bevo al tuo fresco sorriso" ("I drink to your fresh smile").

For more on Puccini, see [Giacomo Puccini and Giulio Ricordi: An Opera Partnership](#) at operaguildofrochester.org, Learn About Opera, Opera Performance Essays, No. 47, and others there.

The Metropolitan Opera

Live in HD Series



April 20

La Rondine

In Puccini's bittersweet love story, soprano Angel Blue stars as the French courtesan Magda, opposite tenor Jonathan Tetelman as Ruggero, an idealistic young man who offers her an alternative to her life of excess. Maestro Speranza Scappucci conducts Nicolas Joël's Art Deco-inspired staging, which transports audiences from the heart of Parisian nightlife to a dreamy vision of the French Riviera.

May 11

Madama Butterfly

Extraordinary soprano Asmik Grigorian tackles the demanding role of Cio-Cio-San, the loyal geisha at the heart of Puccini's devastating tragedy. Tenor Jonathan Tetelman stars as the callous American naval officer Pinkerton, whose betrayal destroys her. Mezzo-soprano Elizabeth DeShong reprises the role of the steadfast maid Suzuki, and baritone Lucas Meachem is the American consul Sharpless. Acclaimed maestro Xian Zhang takes the podium to conduct Anthony Minghella's vivid production.

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

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.

- Please note new times -

Monday, April 22, 7:00 PM

Eastman Voice Students and Wilson Sutherland

PUBLICK MUSICK

2023-24 Season Concerto Grosso!



Friday April 12, 2024 7:30 pm
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word,
597 East Avenue, Rochester

Saturday April 13, 2024 4:00 pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
21 Clara Barton St., Dansville



**CANADIAN
OPERA
COMPANY**

Canadian Opera Season

All except *Apartia Chryptych* at The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Go to the home page at coc.ca and click on 'next season' to access video clips, specific dates, and more production info.



The aging Pasquale refuses to let his love-struck nephew Ernesto marry, and decides to get married himself. The only snag is that the woman he's chosen as his bride-to-be, the fiery Norina, is secretly his nephew's beloved, which sets up a riotous clash between generations.

Never before seen on the COC stage and seldom performed anywhere in the world, *Medea* is an exquisite rarity, featuring one of the most challenging roles in opera history.

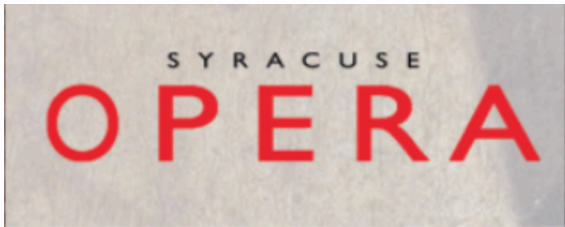
As the culmination of our season, world-renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky will tackle the role, reuniting with director Sir David McVicar for this brand-new production.



Canadian Opera Company Theater,
227 Front St. E., Toronto

World Premiere

Nova Scotian contralto Portia White was the first Black Canadian concert performer to achieve international fame in the mid- 20th century, touring North America and performing in Europe while being hailed as the best classical voice of her generation. Yet despite such artistic accomplishments, her story has been erased from Canadians' collective memory.



Here is the unfortunate news from Syracuse Opera:

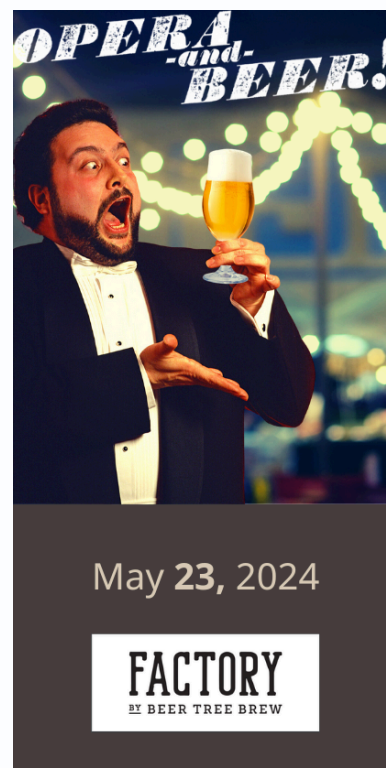
“After a beautiful year of fulfilling and powerful operatic experiences, it is with deep disappointment that we **announce the cancellation of the remainder of Syracuse Opera’s 2023-2024 Season**. While our recent productions have been artistically excellent and impactful, like many opera companies across the country, ticket sales have been considerably lower than projected, and we do not have the financial ability to continue the season. Consequently, we will be unable to produce the remaining operas: *ALL IS CALM*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, and *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*.”

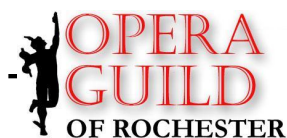
For further information, and instructions to ticket holders, see syracuseopera.org



Tri-Cities Opera has announced the postponement of *All Is Calm* to the 24-25 season. Ticket holders will be contacted by the box office for options.

[See their website.](#)





Glimmerglass Opera Tour

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 Matinee at 1 pm.

Our annual trip to the Glimmerglass Festival is a day in which you can relax and enjoy good company, great meals, comfortable transportation, and a terrific production of *Pirates of Penzance*. All the planning has been done – you have only to show up at the appointed hour. Watch this page for additional details to follow.



The Pirates of Penzance

MUSIC | Sir Arthur Sullivan

LIBRETTO | W.S. Gilbert

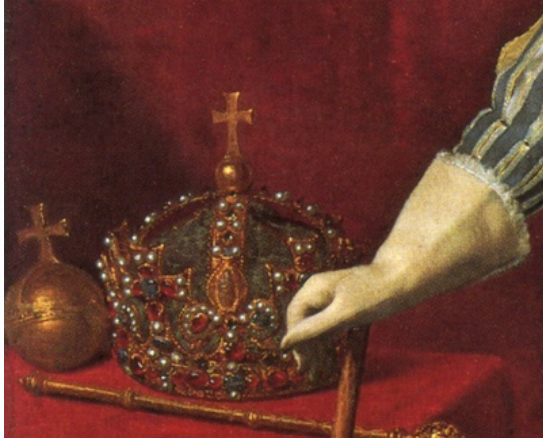
SUNG IN | English

PROJECTED LYRICS | English

RUN TIME | 2 hours and 25 minutes

A Gilbert & Sullivan classic combining soaring vocal lines and slapstick comedy. This colorful, family-friendly musical features elegant Victorian ladies, an aristocratic band of pirates stuck in perpetual adolescence, and a modern major general. Curran's hit production from Opera Theatre of Saint Louis kicks it up a notch at Glimmerglass with the addition of a corps of professional dancers.





Music for Kings

April 28, 2024 @ 4 pm ET

The exquisite Royal Consorts of William Lawes for pairs of theorbos, violins, and violas da gamba, plus songs and music from the English 17th century courts.

All series concerts are Sundays at 4:00pm,
Downtown United Presbyterian Church,
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester.

Free pre-concert talks at 3:15pm.



P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625
eMail: OperaGuildOfRochester@gmail.com