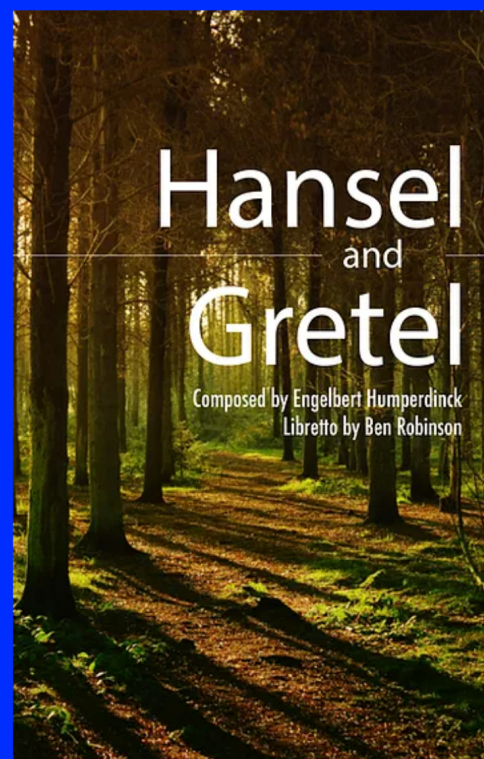


December 2021

Viva Voce



Holiday Events, p 7

Modern Opera, *Eurydice* and Matthew Aucoin, p 30

Edition *Viva Voce*, December 2021

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.

The Guild presents free opera lectures at local libraries, tours to productions of local opera companies and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and our popular Beat-the-Blahs, Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series, at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton.

This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to over 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our Website and sign up at <https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce>

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 our Website at operaguildofrochester.org.

For up-to-date information on opera-related news and events, please visit us on [facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester) and at our Website at <https://www.operaguildofrochester.org/>

Some events are now being recorded. Click the YouTube logo to visit us there.

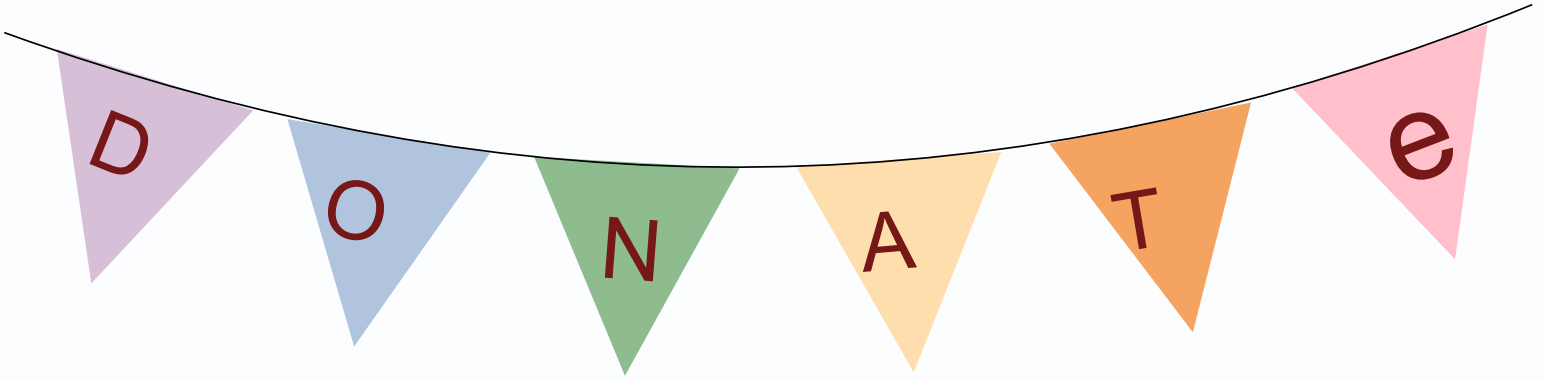


Reader Article submission deadline for the next issue is the 15th of the previous month.

Opera Guild of Rochester,
P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625

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OUR FALL DONATION CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY!

Your Opera Guild wants to share the beauty of this art form with as many as possible! The recent **Bravo Night** (afternoon, actually) at The Little Café with the Young Artists of the Finger Lakes Opera and the **Viva Voce** you are reading are perfect examples of our free programs, which nevertheless cost time, expertise and money to produce. Our recent Lecture/Listening event (more of these in the spring), Opera Duets with Art Axelrod, was greatly appreciated, and we have **Beat the Blahs** coming up in January. All donors receive an invitation to the **Annual Recital for Donors**.

We exist by virtue of volunteer time and donations. **Please donate!**

You can do so **online, by clicking the donate button** or in the **mail** (OGR, P.O.Box 25613, Rochester, NY, 14625).





Holiday	Dec.5	Tri Cities Opera, streaming	Gather Together
	Dec. 10-12	Madrigalia	Holiday Concert
	Dec. 12	Roch. Oratorio Society	A City Sings for the Season
	Dec. 12	Kodak Hall	Tuba Christmas
	Dec. 12	Syracuse Opera	The Ballad of the Brown King The Story of King Balthazar of the Magi
	Dec. 19	Eastman School	MAG Third Thursday Concert
	Dec. 19	Opera Ithaca, streaming	Hansel and Gretel
Other	Jan. 1	Met Live in HD	Cinderella
	Dec. 3	Met Live in HD	Eurydice
	Dec. 13	Nickel City Opera	Season Preview
	Dec. 15	Eastman Opera, streaming	Postcard from Morocco
	Dec. 18	Canadian Opera, streaming	In Winter

Editor's Corner

There is a new section this month with a selection of holiday events. *Tuba Christmas* has nothing to do with classical vocal music, but sounds like good fun. I'm taking my grandchildren and hope they are fascinated by this tuba choir and the audience singing along. Covid precautions will be observed; because of spacing fewer tickets are available, so it may be full as I write this. The new covid strain isn't here yet, so I hope you can attend some of these great celebrations of the holiday. If not, some are streamed.

I got an email from a reader who said that the print in the newsletter is too small. You can probably zoom in on your computer to enlarge it and navigate the pages with your mouse. I'm glad I was reminded to tell you of this, and am also reminded of the value of feedback; if you can't figure it out, someone can surely show you how, or send me an email and I can tell you how it's done on my computer.

News From Your Opera Guild

Don't forget *Cinderella* on January 1. Obviously, putting it in the January newsletter would be pointless, although you can probably get tickets at one of the theaters right up to the day. My granddaughter is now old enough to attend one of these abridged versions of kid-friendly operas sung in English, but they have not always been in the Met Live in HD series as it is this year.

The Guild is embarking on a large project: recruiting board members and volunteers. The majority of the board members are in their eighties and some are struggling with health problems, so this is essential to the continuance of the Opera Guild. It will be ongoing until we reach our goals. Please put on your thinking caps to help us out -there will be a summary of our needs available next month.

To those who celebrated Hanukah, belated wishes for a good holiday. And a great holiday season to all, with spiritual, social and material blessings!

Carol Crocca

Great Opera-tunities

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

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See February and March 2022 Viva Voce for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.

\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs," opera DVD presentations. In normal times, four Sundays in January at 1 pm. Pre-performance talk, refreshments at intermission, children and students always FREE.

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

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

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

\$18 Opera performances from the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden are screened several times a year at The Little Theatre, as listed in Viva Voce. There are no Royal Opera House presentations currently scheduled.

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. 2021 was online. Look for next year in February 2022 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 more information about the 2021 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 operaguilddofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

We are seeking a volunteer to work with Mary Bonaccio, our Communications Chair, making updates to content and calendar on our existing website using the Wix platform, and to load monthly issue of Viva Voce to the site in advance of publication. This should take about 2-3 hours/month, and can be done completely from home. Mary is a great person to work with and will help someone to learn the job.

We are also in need of an accountant to help once per year, in August/September with the Guild's tax return. Since tax season is upon us, when you see your preparer, it would be greatly appreciated if you ask if he or she knows of a willing person.

Donations

As an *Amici*, your contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. All donation levels receive an invitation to the Annual Recital; those listed below will be given priority until a date specified on the invitation, and at the *Comprimario* level and above may request extra tickets.

Chorus: \$50 per person, \$80 per couple.
Comprimario: \$100-\$199.
Primo: \$200-\$299.
Maestro: \$300-\$399.
Impresario: \$400 or more.

**Donate
On Line**

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

NEW! A Note on Tax Receipts from the President: Due to the help of a generous volunteer, we are now able to send a personal thank you to all contributors.

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!

Holiday Events

TRCITIES
OPERA

Gather Together: A Musical Potluck

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Available online at 3:00 pm EST until
December 31st.

RUN TIME: 60 minutes

In the spirit of beloved holiday specials, **Gather Together: A Musical Potluck** is a joyful reminder that across all cultures and most holidays, we celebrate by assembling with friends and family over delicious meals. This streaming event features resident artist alums **Tesia Kwarteng** and **Jake Stamatis** hosting as they return to the togetherness of a traditional holiday meal. They are joined by a smorgasbord of celebrated TCO performers, each offering up a musical “dish-to-pass” by **performing your favorites** (and soon-to-be favorites) **from opera, Broadway, and pop**. Family-oriented and available to stream for free, we hope you’ll make this special a part of your festivities as you **“Gather Together”** and celebrate this year.

FREE REGISTRATION [HERE](#)



Holiday Events



Your holiday favorite returns! Join us to celebrate the delights of the season with songs of hope, love, and joy.

With Emily Hart, oboe, Melanie Mashner, harp, and Eric Polenik, bass.

December 10-12: The Holiday Concert

Friday, December 10- 7:30PM

First Presbyterian Church
21 Church St, Pittsford

Saturday, December 11 - 7:30PM

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1040 East Ave, Rochester

Sunday, December 12 - 4PM

St. Pius X Church
3010 Chili Ave, Rochester



***Please Note:** For everyone's health and safety, masking and proof of vaccination will be required for everyone attending our concerts.*

Tickets: \$20 General Admission; \$18 Senior; \$5 Student

Holiday Events



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

38th Annual Tuba Christmas



FREE Sunday, December 12, 2021, 3-4 pm
Eastman Kodak Hall

[BOOK HERE](#)

Holiday Events



[A City Sings for the Season](#)

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 3 pm |

Hochstein Performance Hall

50 Plymouth Ave. North, Rochester, NY 14614

The Oratorio Society hosts its sixth annual afternoon of holiday music and dance with A City Sings for the Season. Special guests include the Hochstein Youth Singers, ROCmusic Collaborative orchestra and drum ensemble, Gospel choirs, and young dancers from the Rochester Dance Theatre.

New this year:

Messiah for One and All

During A City Sings for the Season, we'll hold an open-sing performance of selections from Handel's "Messiah," a December tradition for Rochester.



Free of Charge | Visit [Hochstein.org](https://hochstein.org) for current safety protocols

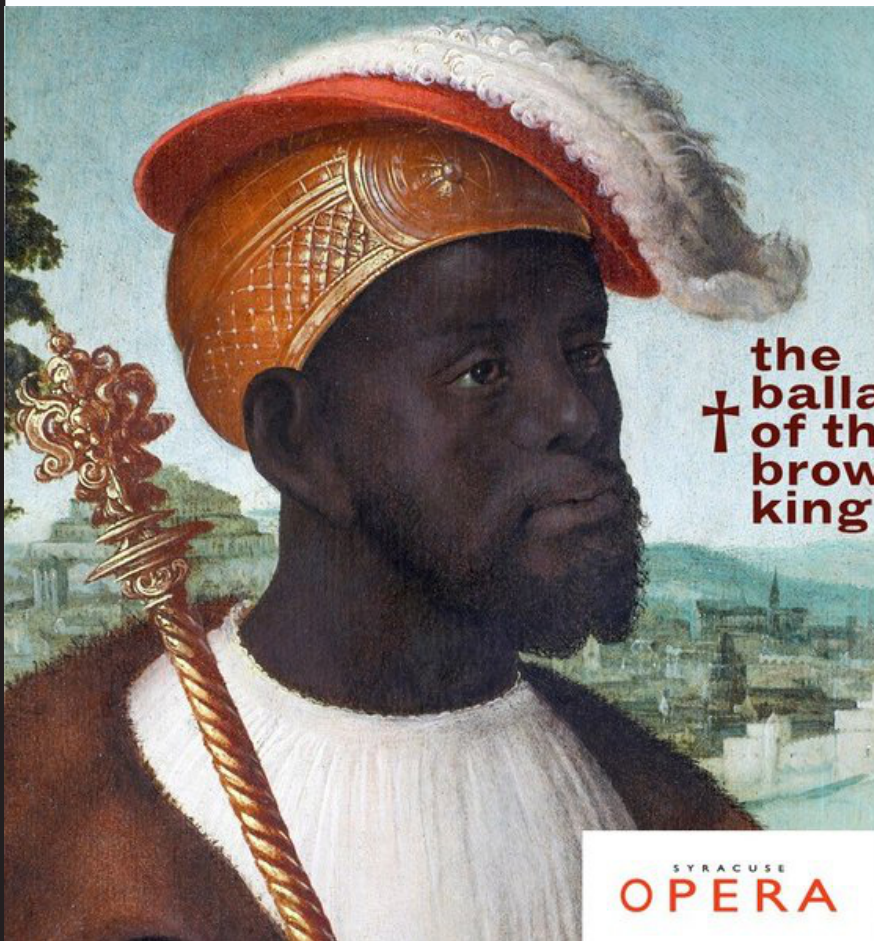
Holiday Events

Syracuse Opera presents Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes'

The Ballad of The Brown King The story of King Balthazar of the Magi

This performance is free with
reservations

Learn more about "The Ballad of the Brown King" and reserve your tickets [here](#)



sunday december 12, 2021, 3pm,
at tucker missionary baptist
church, 515 oakwood avenue.
syracuse opera presents

by Margaret Bonds, text by Langston Hughes.

Kearstin Piper Brown, soprano
Danan Tsan, mezzo-soprano
Jeremiah Abiah, tenor
Theresa Chen, piano
with the Syracuse Opera Chorus

Christian Capocaccia, general and artistic director
DeCarto Draper, sr.pastor

Live performance is made possible by



Council on
the Arts



COVID-19 AUDIENCE POLICY: Syracuse Opera follows all the COVID safety precautions required by the Church leadership, which includes: Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and masks required for all.

Holiday Events



Third Thursdays: With Nature Marveling ~ Advent Past and Present

Thursday, December 19 at 7:30

The December concert of the Third Thursdays with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ at the Memorial Art Gallery concert series will feature a program of hymns, chants, and carols sung and played to celebrate the holiday season. Featuring Eastman's Italian Baroque organ, "With Nature Marveling: Advent Music from Long Ago" will include performances by Eastman School of Music students, faculty, and guests. The program is organized and conducted by Associate Professor of Musicology, Michael Alan Anderson, an early music specialist at Eastman.



Holiday Events

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

Cinderella : Live in HD

Buy tickets for *Cinderella* live in the opera house [here](#).

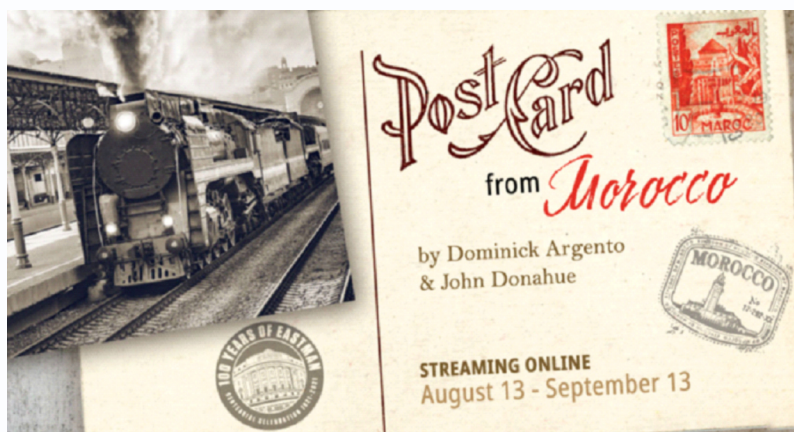
Sung In English - Estimated Run Time 1 hr. 35 mins



In this New Year's Day performance, Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's *Cendrillon*, a hit of the 2017–18 season, is presented with an all-new **English translation in an abridged 90-minute adaptation**, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess. Maestro Emmanuel Villaume leads a delightful cast, which includes mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as Cinderella's Prince Charming, soprano Jessica Pratt as her Fairy Godmother, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and bass-baritone Laurent Naouri as her feuding guardians.

Eastman Opera Theatre

The Eastman Opera Theatre has postponed the on-demand streaming of *Postcard from Morocco*. The production will now be available beginning December 15. [Click here](#) for more information.



WINTER PRODUCTION - available beginning December 15

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

Postcard from Morocco, with music by Dominick Argento ('58E) and a libretto by John Donahue.

Steven Daigle, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor.

Productions will be available on Eastman School of Music's YouTube channel.



Eastman Opera Theatre: Kurt Weill's Street Scene, April 2013



Beat the Blahs is back!

The Opera Guild's popular presentation of 4 excellent DVD opera productions at 1 p.m. on 4 Sunday afternoons in January.

We have a **new venue**: **The Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Avenue.** **Covid precautions will be in place.** The auditorium allows for spaced seating.

Masks and proof of vaccination will be required.
The usual refreshments will be served at intermission, and packaged refreshments will also be available.

January 9. Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammmoor*, Metropolitan Opera, 2008, with a sterling cast of Anna Netrebko, Piotr Beczala, and Marius Kwiecen. Classic *bel canto* and a gripping plot, based on Sir Walter Scott's novel. Pre-performance talk by Art Axelrod.

January 16. A change of pace, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Metropolitan Opera, 1996, with Carol Vaness, Susanne Mentzer, Cecilia Bartoli, Jerry Hadley and Dwayne Croft. The master's final comedy for connoisseurs. Pre-performance talk by Peter Dundas.

January 23. Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*, Metropolitan Opera, 1986. Another *bel canto* gem, with the incomparable Marilyn Horne as the clever heroine, Paolo Montarsolo as the hilarious Mustafa, and Douglas Ahlstadt as her handsome rescuer. Pre-performance talk by Carol Crocca.

January 30. Massenet's *Manon*, Staatsoper Unter Den Linden, 2007, with Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazon. A classic 19th century romantic tragedy, this is the French version of the story of the glamorous Manon and her struggle over true love versus the easy life. Pre-performance talk by Carol Crocca.



Rochester Oratorio Society

Special Events and Appearances

Live Encore: Brahms's Schicksalslied and Nänie

Friday, January 22, 2021 | 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm |

|Join ROS for a Live Encore broadcast of the Rochester Oratorio Society's performance of Schicksalslied and Nänie by Johannes Brahms. RSVP and view the live broadcast on Facebook Live.

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.

In normal times, Bravo Nights take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue. Performances are 7-9 pm, and refreshments may be purchased there.

**Watch here for our next scheduled
Bravo Night.**

Kurt Weill

The Lotte Lenya Competition

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

Final Round Competition Judges: Victoria Clark, Andy Einhorn, and Mary Beth Pell



The 2021 Competition will be telecast on Opera Vision.eu from September 10 to March 10 2022. See kwf.org for program and other information.

The 23rd Annual Lotte Lenya Competition Finals

A singing competition unlike any other — in which acting counts as much as vocal talent. The Finals of the 23rd annual Lotte Lenya Competition brings 15 exceptional singing actors to New York City to vie for a top prize of \$20,000. Emerging from a pool of 500 contestants from around the globe, Lenya Competition finalists will show they can "do it all" by bringing to life four contrasting theatrical selections. The finals presentation will also be broadcast on OperaVision beginning in September 2021.

To access the 2021 Competition online, go to operavision.eu, click on performances, then competitions.

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.

From Chatauqua Opera, at chq.org/opera-video-index, you will find a listing of all the features that were part of the 9-week summer video opera events, which are archived on the website's Virtual Front Porch platform. These include conversations with artists, vocal events, master classes, the Opera Song Cycle, new compositions, and more.

San Francisco Opera has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. sfopera.com/discover-opera/education

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.

The Metropolitan Opera



The Met has announced its season for Live in HD transmissions. The dates for these are as listed in This Month and below. **Essays on the opera appear in Viva Voce in appropriate months.**

For theater directions, see metopera.org, click menu icon in upper left corner, click 'Season', click 'In cinemas', click 'Find theater.'

Matthew Aucoin / Sarah Ruhl

Eurydice

Sat, Dec 04, 2021 12:55 PM

The ancient Greek myth of Orpheus, who attempts to harness the power of music to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the underworld, has inspired composers since opera's earliest days. Rising American composer Matthew Aucoin now carries that tradition into the 21st century with a captivating new take on the story—a product of the Met's commissioning program. The opera reimagines the familiar tale from Eurydice's point of view. Yannick Nézet-Séguin is on the podium; there is a new staging by Mary Zimmerman. Soprano Erin Morley sings the title role, opposite baritone Joshua Hopkins as Orpheus and countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński as his otherworldly alter-ego. Bass-baritone Nathan Berg is Eurydice's father and fellow resident of the underworld, with tenor Barry Banks as Hades himself.

Jules Massenet

Cinderella—Holiday Presentation

Sat, Jan 01, 2022 12:55 PM

Continuing a treasured holiday tradition, the Met presents a new installment in its series of abridged opera adaptations for family audiences. Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's Cendrillon, a hit of the 2017–18 season, is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90 minutes, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess. Maestro Emmanuel Villaume leads a delightful cast, which includes mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as Cinderella's Prince Charming, soprano Jessica Pratt as her Fairy Godmother, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and bass-baritone Laurent Naouri as her feuding guardians.

Giuseppe Verdi

Rigoletto

Sat, Jan 29, 2022 12:55 PM

The Met rings in the new year with the gala premiere of a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy from Bartlett Sher. The Tony Award-winning director resets the opera's action in 1920s Europe, with Art Deco sets by Michael Yeagan and elegant costumes by Catherine Zuber, themselves boasting a combined eight Tony Awards. Baritone Quinn Kelsey, a commanding artist at the height of his powers, brings his searing portrayal of the title role to the Met for the first time, starring alongside soprano Rosa Feola as Gilda and tenor Piotr Beczala as the Duke of Mantua, with leading maestro Daniele Rustioni on the podium.

Richard Strauss

Ariadne auf Naxos

Sat, Mar 12 2022 12:55 PM

The exhilarating soprano Lise Davidsen brings one of her signature roles to the Met for the first time as the mythological Greek heroine of Strauss's enchanting masterpiece. The outstanding cast also features mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as the Composer of the opera-within-an-opera around which the plot revolves, with soprano Brenda Rae as the spirited Zerbinetta, tenor Brandon Jovanovich as Ariadne's lover, the god Bacchus, and Sir Thomas Allen as the Major-Domo. Marek Janowski conducts.

[Read Synopsis](#)

Giuseppe Verdi

Don Carlos

Sat, Mar 26, 2022 12:55 PM

The Met presents the original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera of doomed love among royalty, set against the backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition. Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads a world-beating cast including tenor Matthew Polenzani in the title role, soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Élisabeth de Valois, and mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča as Eboli. Bass Günther Groissböck and bass-baritone John Relyea are Philippe II and the Grand Inquisitor, and baritone Étienne Dupuis rounds out the cast as Rodrigue. Verdi's masterpiece receives a monumental new staging by Sir David McVicar that marks his 11th Met production, placing him among the most prolific and popular directors in recent Met memory.

Giacomo Puccini

Turandot

Sat, May 07, 2022 12:55 PM

The title role of the legendary cold-hearted princess is taken by superstar Anna Netrebko, making her long-awaited Met role debut after providing a hair-raising preview in 2019's New Year's Eve Gala. Tenor Yusif Eyvazov is the bold prince determined to win Turandot's love, alongside soprano Michelle Bradley as the devoted servant Liù and bass Ferruccio Furlanetto as the blind king Timur. Marco Armiliato conducts Puccini's stirring score.

Donizetti

Lucia di Lammermoor

Sat, May 21, 2022 12:55 PM

Soprano Nadine Sierra, who has brought down the house at the Met with virtuosic vocalism and captivating stage presence, takes on one of the repertory's most formidable and storied roles, the haunted heroine of Lucia di Lammermoor, in an electrifying new staging by in-demand Australian theater and film director Simon Stone, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. Show-stopping tenor Javier Camarena adds to the bel canto fireworks as Lucia's beloved, Edgardo, with baritone Artur Ruciński as her overbearing brother, Enrico, and bass Matthew Rose as her tutor, Raimondo.

[Read Synopsis](#)

Brett Dean / Matthew Jocelyn

Hamlet

Sat, Jun 04, 2022 12:55 PM

When Australian composer Brett Dean's *Hamlet* had its world premiere at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2017, The Guardian declared, "New opera doesn't often get to sound this good ... Shakespeare offers a gauntlet to composers that shouldn't always be picked up, but Dean's Hamlet rises to the challenge." Now, this riveting contemporary masterpiece arrives at the Met, with Neil Armfield, who directed the work's premiere, bringing his acclaimed staging to New York. Many of the original cast members have followed, including tenor Allan Clayton in the title role. Nicholas Carter makes his Met debut conducting a remarkable ensemble, which also features soprano Brenda Rae as Ophelia, mezzo-soprano Dame Sarah Connolly as Gertrude, baritone Rod Gilfry as Claudius, and legendary bass Sir John Tomlinson as the ghost of Hamlet's father.



The 2021-2022 Season



[Reginald Mobley, Countertenor](#)

March 27, 2022 @ 4 pm ET

We are thrilled to present this remarkable singer and Handel specialist. Sunday March 27, 2022 4:00pm
Ticket information available in January 2022.

[A Grand Sound](#)

May 1, 2022 @ 4 pm ET

Celebratory German and Italian 17th century music for voices and trombones Music of Buxtehude, Schein, Schutz, Rosenmüller, and more. Sunday May 1, 2022 4:00pm
Ticket information available in January 2022



[Diderot Quartet with baritone Jesse Blumberg](#)

May 22, 2022 @ 4 pm ET

Haydn & Mendelssohn quartets
plus song arrangements of Clara
Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn.
Sunday May 22, 2022 4:00pm
Ticket information available in
January 2022



The 2021-2022 Season



Eastman Opera Theatre

LA CALISTO

Francesco Cavalli and Giovanni Faustini

A 17th-century opera based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, with contemporary relevance

January 27-30, February 3-6, 804 Annex or EOT Opera Scene Shop

INTO THE WOODS

Steven Sondheim and James Lapine

Familiar fairy tales fractured and put back together again, with the moral, "Be careful what you wish for!"

April 7-10, Kilbourn Hall

L'AMANT ANONYME

by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a Gusadeloupe-born 18th-century composer known in Paris as *le Mozart noir*

May 2022



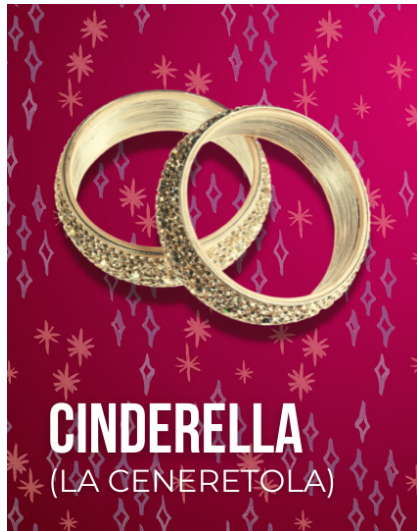
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman
School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021



The 2021-2022 Season



La Cenerentola (Cinderella)

April 10, 2022

Forum Theatre

Music by Gioachino Rossini | Libretto by Jacopo Ferretti

[More info](#)

Stone Soup

A Children's Opera

May 2022

Various Locations

Music by Joe Illick | Libretto by Mark Campbell

[More info](#)



A Musical Holiday Feast

January 29, 2022

TCO Next

December 5, 2021

Ariagrams

February 14, 2022

Opera & Beer

May 26, 2022



The 2021-2022 Season



OPERA ITHACA



Hansel and Gretel

Composed by Engelbert Humperdinck
Libretto by Ben Robinson



we WEAR the SEA like a COAT

World Premiere
Music by Sally Lamb McCune
Libretto by Rachel Lampert and Yvonne



Le nozze di Figaro

Composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Original Film
December 10-12, 2021
Cinemapolis

Streaming Dec. 19

World Premiere
March 3-6, 2022

Hoerner Theater
Ithaca College

New Production
April 8 & 10, 2022

Hamblin Hall
CSMA, Ithaca

Find out more at <https://www.operaitthaca.org/>



The 2021-2022 Season



NCO 2021-2022 Season

Opera Marathon!

Nickel City Opera and Buffalo
Philharmonic Orchestra

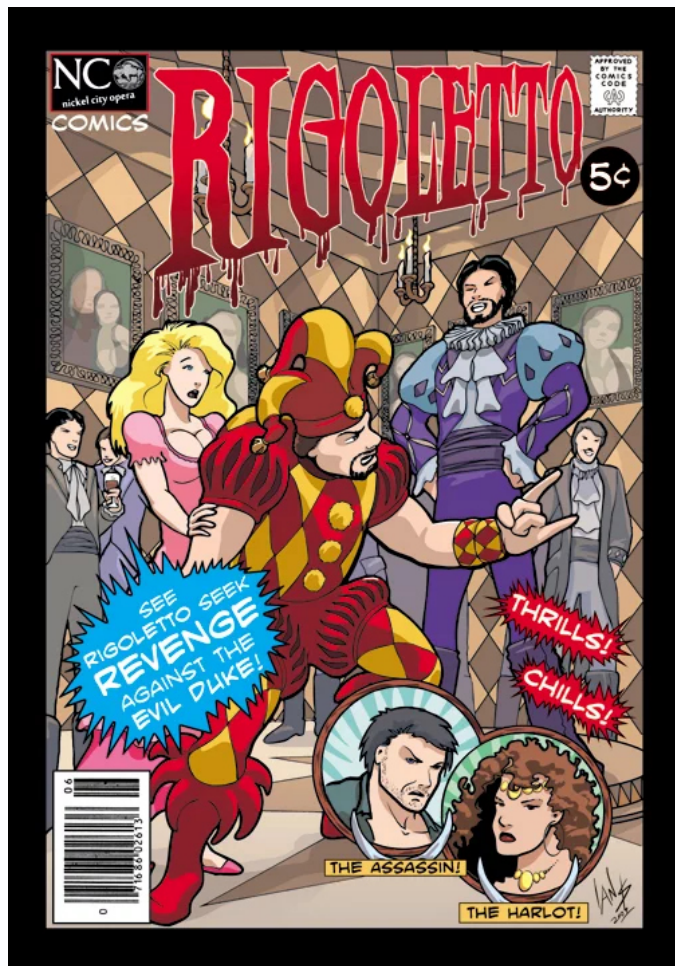
Opera Marathon! Season Preview

December 13th 7:00pm

The Saturn Club

977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

NCO will present singers from '*Rigoletto*' and '*The Magic Flute*' which will be presented January 22 and 23, 2022. Hear arias and duets from both opera plus a few extras!



Opera Marathon!

NCO presents a full staged opera with orchestra of the Verdi classic '*Rigoletto*'. See the court jester defend his daughter's honor against the evil Duke. Features a full orchestra, set, chorus, costumes and props. Local Buffalo Music Hall of Fame opera bass Valerian Ruminski sings the role of the assassin Sparafucile and NCO welcomes back the phenomenal Eric Fennell who sang the role of the Duke for the last NCO *Rigoletto* production. Conducted by Matt Marco. Directed by Giorgio Lalov.

January 22nd, 2pm

& January 23rd, 7:30pm

Nichols Flickinger Performing Arts Center
1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo



The 2021-2022 Season

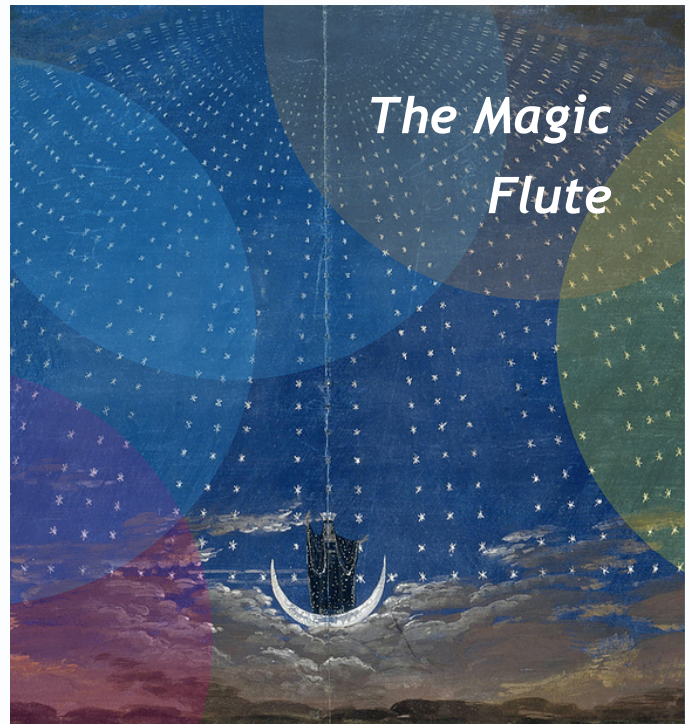


W.A. Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'

A Semi-Staged Concert in
Association with **Hillman Opera**
Directed by **Julie Newell**
Conducted by **JoAnn Falletta**

**January 22nd, 7:30pm
& January 23rd, 2:30pm**

Kleinhans Music Hall
3 Symphony Circle, Buffalo



Valerian Ruminski in Concert

April 10th, 4:00pm

**The Nichols Flickinger Performing Arts Center
1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo**

For the first time in many years Valerian Ruminski, Metropolitan Opera bass, is going to perform a solo concert full of classics and gems including music by Victor Herbert, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Ambroise Thomas and Brahms. Don't miss this unique event. Mr. Ruminski will be accompanied on the piano by the highly acclaimed Elizabeth Rodgers

Lucky 13th Annual Gala Dinner & Auction

NCO's 13th Annual Dinner Gala featuring a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, plus fantastic singing and a delicious dinner.

June 13th. 6:00pm

The Saturn Club
977 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo



The 2021-2022 Season



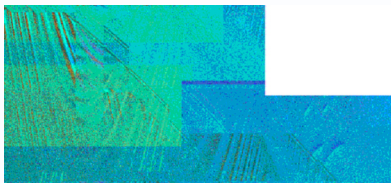
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Connecting artists and audiences through a COC first: free digital streaming, from coast to coast to coast. Captured at the magnificent Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, enjoy new releases of purpose-produced concerts and performances every month with extraordinary Canadian and international artists. [FREE DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP](#)

To celebrate this new era, we're introducing a Free Digital Membership program, inviting all Canadians to explore the rich world of opera. Become a part of our community as we work to support our artists and creators in their return to the stage—[you'll be guided through our offerings by the creative teams bringing the season to life.](#)

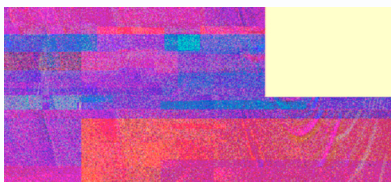
OUR FALL OFFERINGS



IN WINTER

Supporter Opening Night: Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. ET
General Public Streaming: Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. ET

Classic holiday favourites, an exciting new commission by composer Ian Cusson, and the COC's entire artistic community come together for a musical celebration as we look ahead to winter.



FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE CITY SESSIONS

Coming this October

A globally inspired, locally focused array of Toronto-based artists showcase their craft through short, intimate performances in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, one of the city's most breathtaking spaces.



The 2022 Festival will feature productions of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*, originally slated for the summer of 2020. Bizet's *Carmen* takes the stage in a new production directed by 2022 Artist in Residence Denyce Graves, followed by the new work *Tenor Overboard*, weaving some of Rossini's most spectacular music together in a new comic opera with a book by the famed playwright Ken Ludwig. The next installment of *Common Ground*, the Festival's multi-year initiative of new, commissioned works, is a double bill of Kamala Sankaram and Jerre Dye's *Taking Up Serpents*, paired with the world premiere one-act *Holy Ground*, by [Damien Geter](#) and [Lila Palmer](#); together with young artists' productions and other events. No calendar has been posted yet, and no tickets are available yet.

Artistic & General Director [Francesca Zambello](#) has announced the 2022 Festival will be her 12th and final season in her leadership role with the company.



Pegasus Early Music

L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 2022

Pre-concert talks 1 hour before each performance

Hart Theater at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center
1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester

Because of the uncertainties in planning most aspects of the production this year, Pegasus has decided to postpone production of *Orfeo* until next summer season. (Everything [good] comes to he or she who waits.)

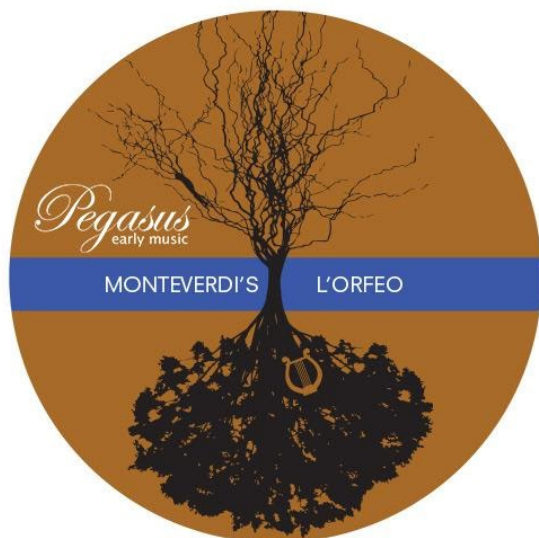
This ground-breaking opera, written in 1607 and considered the first "real" opera, still has the power to captivate audiences over 400 years later, with its universal story, virtuosic expressive music, and colorful orchestration. Its themes of love and loss, human weakness and strength, redemption and the power of music, remain relevant today and will resonate profoundly with our audiences.

As Orfeo, famous for his musical prowess, joyfully celebrates his marriage to Euridice, a messenger brings the news that she has died. Orfeo travels the treacherous path to the Underworld to win her back-with his seductively entrancing music -only to lose her again because of his own doubt. Eventually escorted by the god Apollo, he ascends to the heavens where he can be reunited in the stars with his Euridice. A cast of shepherds, nymphs, spirits, and gods support the flow of the drama with dance, heartfelt solos, and dynamic choruses, that comment on and interpret the action.

We are thrilled to present tenor Colin Balzer in the virtuosic and dramatically expressive role of Orfeo, the singer who must travel to Hell and back to regain his beloved Euridice.

Michael Beattie, music director
Emily Cuk, stage director
Julia Noulín-Merat, scenic designer
Peggy Murray, choreographer
Whitney Locher, costume designer
John Cuff, lighting designer

Orfeo: Colin Balzer, tenor
Musica & Proserpina: Laura Heimes, soprano
Apollo: Sumner Thompson, tenor
Messenger & Speranza: Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano
Caronte: Steven Hrycelak, bass
Euridice: Madeline Healey, soprano
Plutone: Mischa Bouvier, baritone
Pastori, Spiriti: Andrew Fuchs, Jonas Budris, tenors;
Douglas Dodson, countertenor; and a chorus that includes young emerging artists of the Pegasus Rising program.



For more information go to <https://www.pegasusearlymusic.org/opera/>

Modern Opera, *Eurydice* and Matthew Aucoin

By Carol Crocca

I have not been a fan of contemporary opera. I was dismayed to find three in the current Met Live in HD season: *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, *Eurydice*, and Brett Dean's *Hamlet*. Aside from music that is often jarring and unmelodic (it may be appropriately expressive, but an entire evening of it just makes one anxious), my main dislike of the modern is the prosy vocal lines, which I find monotonous and boring. I admit that contemporary themes can be compelling and sometimes the orchestral music is engaging. However, I love beautiful melody and the voices that embody it, and I have made my peace with the often-unsatisfying plots of the traditional canon.

So I was pleasantly surprised to find that I loved *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. Although the vocal line was at times still unsatisfactory, *Fire* has arias, melody, and a coherent theme effectively dramatized. It used elements of the traditional such as the chorus, musical and dramatic contrast in the scene structure, and emotional intensity. It seemed a bridge between the old (and for 21st century audiences, escapist) and an invigorated and relevant genre for our times.

I have hopes for *Eurydice*. According to Met conductor Yannick Neget-Seguin, Matthew Aucoin (pronounced "oh coin") has composed an opera combining tradition and innovation. While the Met may have a vested interest in saying so, reviewers have expressed similar opinions.

From operawire.com:

If Sarah Ruhl [librettist], Mary Zimmerman [director], and Matthew Aucoin are seeking to present a completely new operatic experience, they have effectively done so, *while maintaining old integrities* [emphasis added].

Feb. 24, 2020, Ryan Isao Shiotsuki

And from bachtrack.com:

It is remarkable how focused the piece is, moving tautly through the narrative while lingering on emotional exposition sufficiently. Built around the words, the vocal writing is less melodic than dramatic. Yet the results were very persuasive.

Feb. 2, 2020, Matthew Richard Martinez

The Orpheus myth has been presented in many versions over the centuries, beginning with the first complete extant opera, Jacopo Peri's *Euridice* in 1600. This version, based on Sarah Ruhl's prize-winning play (2003), tells the story from Eurydice's point of view. New plot elements are introduced to elucidate her thoughts, emotions and motivations. Mary Zimmerman directs the production, universally praised, as are the singers: Erin Morley, Joshua

Hopkins, Barry Banks, and Jakob Jozef Orlinski. The last, a counter-tenor, shadows Orpheus, portraying the divine side of his dual nature, his musical genius; also explored is the established opera trope of the relationship of language and music. The myth has a timeless quality - according to Aucoin, everyone can relate to the plot element of "You do the thing you know you shouldn't do." Namely, Orpheus' look back at his wife during the journey from the Underworld, the forbidden action that dooms his mission.



As for Matthew Aucoin, one cannot help but be impressed by his talent and accomplishments. At 31, he has written three operas, one of which, a chamber opera called *Second Nature* (2015), has been performed all over North America. He is also a virtuosic pianist, composer of many other works, a poet, conductor and founder of the American Modern Opera Company, an ensemble of singers, dancers and instrumentalists in residence at the Park Avenue Armory and Harvard University.

A true child prodigy, he wrote his first opera at the age of four, using his own notation; he learned fluent Italian entirely from listening to Italian opera as a child, which resulted in a “hilarious” antiquated vocabulary, corrected later. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard with a degree in English, his senior thesis being a volume of poetry, and went on to Juilliard for a master’s degree in composition. He auditioned for a place in the Met’s Lindeman Young Artist’s program as a coach-pianist, during which he sang two different roles from a Wagner opera, while accompanying them on the piano. The auditors were so impressed with his dramatic and musical ability that they refused him a place, saying that after a few weeks he would be “suffocated.” Instead, they offered him a position as Assistant Conductor at the Met. The position of Artist in Residence, for both composing and conducting, was created for him at LA Opera, and he received a MacArthur genius fellowship in 2018. His schedule of performing, composing, conducting and coaching is so full that his agent and other advisors think he may be over-extended.

Aucoin seems a composer of great promise and it will be interesting to watch his development. Will he spread his talent too thinly, or develop into a major contributor whose work will remain in the repertoire? Assuming *Eurydice* is truly an opera with appeal to a general audience, his debut at the Met will give his career as an opera composer great impetus. I would be thrilled to know that we have another modern composer, besides Terence Blanchard (composer of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*) who can make a worthy transition from the classic canon to a new era.

References: matthewaucoin.com; metopera.org (click season, in cinemas, *Euridice* on the listing, 2 excellent articles)



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