

Viva Voce

April 2021



MONKEY AND FRANCINE
IN THE CITY OF TIGERS

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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April 1-8	Tri-Cities Opera	Children's Opera, Monkey & Francine
April 2	Finger Lakes Opera	Jonathan Michie Recital
April 16, 18	Pegasus	From a Hall of Mirrors
April 29, May 1	Pegasus	Exile and Connection
May 1	Roch. Oratorio Society	Competition Showcase
Anytime	Finger Lakes Opera	Pinocchio, podcasts, recitals
Anytime	Pegasus	A Night at the Baroque opera
Anytime	Roch. Oratorio Society	Various

EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear subscribers and other readers of Viva Voce,

There is yet another innovation in the newsletter – a magazine format in which you will see a two-page spread with more viewing options, depending on what your computer affords. We would very much like your feedback! I am still imagining a new feature:

Letters to the Editor YOUR INPUT HERE

Let us know your ideas about what you would like to see, and what you don't care for. As we expand our offerings we can always use new, well-written content, so if you have a pet subject you would like to share in print, let us know that, too. Our new pagination, which may require fillers, has inspired me to finally produce a quiz feature, so imagine

Top Quiz Marks YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE

We have received no feedback on the Quiz. Too easy? Too long? Too hard? Just not interested? I know knowledgeable fans are out there!

News From Your Opera Guild

Coming Next Month: A feature with Curt Long, President and CEO of the Rochester Philharmonic. Former *Behind the Scenes* articles are available on the website and through a Face Book link.

We think that subscribers may have had trouble opening last month's issue, so we are repeating some articles. Hope you enjoy them, if you haven't already!

I note with regret the closing of the Lyric Theater, promising project of Susan and Anthony Cotroneo, which will revert to being a church. Victim of the pandemic, the theater had not yet attained its goal of being refitted as a full-fledged theater and opera venue. Nevertheless, classical music and opera fans were periodically able to enjoy concerts, scenes and recitals there.

We are looking forward to our Annual Recital for Donors (see article in this issue), and hope to have a special viewing for those donors who cannot access a computer.

I again wish to thank my husband, Bill Crocca, for his diligence in bringing our new newsletter format to fruition. Many thanks again also to Mary Bonaccio, Chair of the Communications Committee, who allows us to function in the twenty-first century and who has borne the burden of our increased virtual presence.

Carol Crocca

Great Opera-tunities

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

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See August 2021 for lectures at Fairport Library, February and March 2022 Viva Voce for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.

\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs." Opera DVD presentations at Temple B'rith Kodesh. In normal times, four Sundays in January at 1 pm. Pre-performance talk, refreshments at intermission, children and students always FREE. This year's presentations may be rescheduled later in 2021.

\$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. The 20-21 simulcasts have been canceled. 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.

Great Opera-tunities (cont.)

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 also 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: \$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!

Finger Lakes Opera



FINGER LAKES OPERA
Gerard Floriano, Artistic Director

FLO's recital series closes out at the beginning of April with audience favorite Jonathan Michie.

Friday, April 2, 2021, 7 pm

Streaming on YouTube & Facebook



Jonathan Michie

Michie, who last appeared with FLO in the 2018 production of *Die Fledermaus*, has been praised for his “vocal mastery and theatrical panache” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). In the 2019-20 season he made his Seattle Opera debut as Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, debuts with Israeli Opera as Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and his Münchner Rundfunkorchester debut as Graf. Rochester in Lortzing’s *Zum Großadmiral*. Jonathan is one of four mainstage stars scheduled to appear onstage this summer with FLO.

PAULO ALMEIDA, PIANO

Brazilian pianist Paulo Almeida studied at the University of São Paulo and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow as both a solo and collaborative pianist. As a répétiteur he has worked as a guest at the Teatro São Pedro, the opera festival in Manaus and the Teatro Nacional in Panama. From 2011 - 2016 he was a coach at the “Teatro Municipal” in São Paulo. Since 2016 Almeida has been a coach at the Leipzig Opera and, since 2020, teaches at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” in Leipzig.



FLO Website: <https://www.fingerlakesopera.org/>

MONKEY AND FRANCINE IN THE CITY OF TIGERS

STREAMING ON DEMAND
APRIL 1-11, 2021

Music by Kamala Sankaram

Libretto by David Johnston

Streaming on-demand April 1-11 for \$8.

Fusing stories and music from India, China, and West Africa, this original children's opera tells the story of Monkey and his brainy sister Francine. They must learn to work together and use their smarts to escape the hungry Crocodile and outwit the greedy Lord of the Tigers. Combining musical styles from Bollywood, to Latin, to Jazz, and featuring relatable, contemporary language and characters, the opera conveys a timely message of unity—that together, respecting individual differences and strengths, we can accomplish anything.

Sung in **English** with closed captioning available.

Approximately **40 minutes**.

MONKEY AND FRANCINE IN THE CITY OF TIGERS was commissioned by Houston Grand Opera and developed in partnership with American Lyric Theater. Premiered by Houston Grand Opera at the Heinen Theater on February 2, 2018.

[Learn More](#)

Tricitiesopera.com
[Tri-Cities Opera](#)

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TR | CITIES
O | P | ERA



From a Hall of Mirrors

April 16, 2021 @ 7:30 pm ET

April 18, 2021 @ 4 pm ET

[Geoffrey Burgess](#), oboe

[Leon Schelhase](#), harpsichord



Pegasus Rising: The New Consort: O Stars, Conspiring Against Me

May 27, 2021 @ 7:30 pm ET

May 30, 2021 @ 4 pm ET

[The New Consort](#), Singers

Brian Mummert, director



Exile and Connection

April 29, 2021 @ 7:30 pm ET

May 2, 2021 @ 4 pm ET

[Incantare](#), violins, sackbut & organ

[Rebecca Cypess](#),

[Liza Malamut](#),

Stories of Jewish Musicians and their Contemporaries in Early Modern Europe

**Musicians and musicologists Liza
Malamut and Rebecca Cypess, and
Incantare**



Rising Stars | Distinguished Judges | An Event Like No Other

Young artists perform thrilling renditions of the most moving classics of opera, art song, and oratorio. Participate in this one-of-a-kind evening of music by voting for your favorite performance.

Save the Date – RIVC Showcase

May 1, 2021 | 7:00 PM ET

Facebook Live

RSVP [here](#)

The 2020-2021 Winners have been announced! For 2020 first, Kara Dugan, mezzo; second, Mary Beth Nelson, mezzo; third, Kyle Sanchez Tingzon, counter tenor. For 2021, first, Allison Gish, mezzo; second, Keymon Murrah, counter tenor; third, David Walton, tenor.



Rochester's new Opera Collective

ROCopera is the brainchild of three professional opera singers: Elisabeth Halliday-Quan, Heather Holmquest and Kerri Lynn Slominski (Our own 'Three Sopranos'?). It was created to broaden opera's reach in the Rochester area by reimagining and reinterpreting existing classical vocal music through a contemporary lens. It also promotes new works for the classical voice; and seeks to bring opera out of the concert hall and into everyday spaces (although right now, that would be the internet).

The principles have assembled a growing team of local professional opera singers and instrumentalists into a regional opera collective, both a producing organization and a mechanism for promoting and supporting the work of local artists. When they launched their Face Book page, the response was great and the women were very thankful for free social media to get them started!

The company made its public debut at the *2020 KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival* with their virtual audience-interactive engagement **Total Request Live: OPERA EDITION!** In October, they performed at the **ImageOut Transgender Day of Remembrance**. **ROCopera** recently wrapped up their virtual **Song Cycle Festival** for which performers produced their own interpretations of composers works through audio/video digital presentation.

Kerri Lynn Slominski relates, "My colleagues and I were originally developing as a chapter of OOT (Opera On Tap*) for Rochester. In light of recent events, we have elected to go in a more independent direction in order to create effective socially-distanced performance opportunities as well as anticipated future stage performances.

Kerri Lynn is a local Rochesterian from a musical family who performed at one of the first Bravo Nights. She and Elizabeth Halliday-Quan both attended Peabody Conservatory, where they met. Elizabeth, like many singers, has a dual presence, here and in New York City, where she works with companies to commission and premier new repertoire, and is a co-founder and artist of the ensemble Rhymes With Opera. Heather Holmquist, an early music specialist, wears hats as soprano choral scholar at Third Presbyterian Church, teacher of music theory at Nazareth College, and private piano and voice teacher. She received both master's and doctoral degrees in Musical Arts from Oregon University.

If you haven't already encountered the talented members of this group, watch for ROCopera's virtual Bravo Night, scheduled for June.

*Opera On Tap is a national and international network which produces, as its name suggests, opera in community venues such as bars. Its programs promote young singers, local composers and new music.



Halliday-Quan



Holmquest



Slominski



Syracuse Opera Coffee House: *Episode 1*

Featuring mezzo-soprano [Jessica Ann Best](#), pianist Dan Sato, and host, [Christian Capocaccia](#).

**Video filmed and edited
by Rebecca Martin.**



Syracuse Opera Coffee House: *Episode 2*

Featuring baritone Michael Aiello, pianist Dan Sato, and host, [Christian Capocaccia](#).

**Video filmed and edited
by Rebecca Martin.**

*If you like what you see, please consider
making a donation to Syracuse Opera!*



We are very fortunate to have a great variety of streamed opera presentations at no charge during this time. See operaguilddforochester.org for weekly listings of Metropolitan Opera offerings, among others. For a purportedly **complete listing of streamed opera showings, including European and other international houses**, go to operawire.com.

Another great site for all kinds of listings, including opera streaming schedules, is bachtrack.com.

NEW: The Canadian Opera Company has announced a new program of streamed offerings called *Opera Everywhere* - see coc.ca for details.



Divinely Inspired: The Masses of Franz Peter Schubert A Virtual Singing Opportunity

Learn and sing along at home with the Rochester Oratorio Society!

[Register Now](#)



The prolific Austrian composer, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828), wrote six Latin Masses and one German Mass, among numerous sacred choral works. These are some of the most admired of all choral music for their sublime beauty, directness of expression, innovative harmony and structure and progressive orchestration. From relatively simple, functional works of modest duration, the works grow longer and more complex through his output, while remaining always beautifully gratifying to sing and to hear. By the end of the series, with Mass No. 6, the musical sophistication is of the highest order, requiring a secure technique and a good understanding of choral ensemble.

Online Opera Education for Young and Old



Join Glimmerglass Music Director Joseph Colaneri at on Saturday nights 6:30 p.m. EDT for a six-episode series offering insights on the operatic art form.



Created with the support of the Glimmerglass Festival Guild, the series will offer a brief episode Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. Each episode can be viewed on the [Glimmerglass Festival website](#) or our [YouTube channel](#). Can't make it at 6:30 p.m.? Check back to view the episodes on your own time.

Other learning opportunities:

Of course, 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 Chataqua Opera, at chg.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.

COCOA AND CAROLS: How did they do it?

Reprinted with permission of Tri-Cities Opera, John Rozzini, General Director

Please consider supporting Tri-Cities Opera: click [here](#) for the Website.



While TCO was unable to produce live & in-person events this fall, we wanted to share something special with all of you for the holidays. The artists pictured above helped the company produce its first online alumni event ever, Cocoa & Carols.

While each artist was offered a stipend for participation, they had to record themselves using whatever technology they had... largely their phones. They recorded their lines in separate takes and recorded their singing while wearing headphones and singing along to a track provided by TCO. They then sent their individual audio and video clips to TCO's Assistant Conductor John Cockerill who worked it all into the magic sauce seen and heard during the concert. BRAVI TUTTI!

As we plan for the return on Cocoa & Carols in December of 2021, TCO hopes to be able to raise some money to purchase microphones & ring lights to lend to singers as professional "in-home studio" production resources. We think this will help us raise the bar for another cozy, festive, and fun holiday event.

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

THE LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION



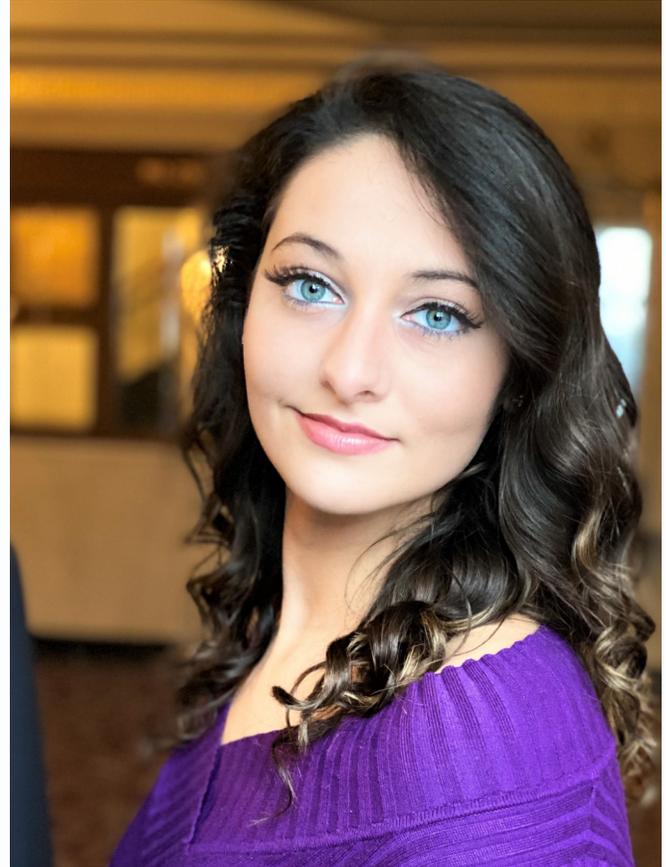
Final Round Competition Judges: Victoria Clark, Andy Einhorn, and Mary Beth Pell

The Final Round will take place in person, with or without an audience, on Saturday, 29 May 2021 in either Rochester, NY or New York City. If travel restrictions prevent an in-person final round on this date, it will be rescheduled for a date after 15 August 2021. See kwf.org for details.

Annual Recital for Donors

Our Annual Recital for Donors will be a premiere Zoom virtual presentation in June, limited to donors, and featuring Lauren Silberstein, who performed at a wintry Bravo Night before the pandemic, when she immediately came to our attention as a future Recitalist. Donors will receive a special invitation and information on the link to connect them to the recital.

Praised for being “winsome and fiery” on stage with a “powerful, deliriously gorgeous voice, (Nippertown Magazine)” **Lauren Nash Silberstein, soprano**, was most recently seen as a Young Artist with The Ohio Light Opera in 2019 and 2020 as Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, Lavinia in *Perchance to Dream*, Cinderella’s Mother in *Into the Woods*, and Leontine (cover) in *The Devil’s Rider*. Lauren is a recent graduate of The Eastman School of Music with a Master’s Degree in Vocal Performance and Literature.



In Fall 2019, she portrayed Little Red in “*Little Red’s Most Unusual Day*” with Rochester Fringe Festival. Performances with Eastman include the academic premiere as Soprano 1 in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* and Franca Naccarelli in *The Light in the Piazza*. Both of these roles were coached with the composers themselves. She portrayed the Dew Fairy in Tri-Cities Opera’s production of *Hansel and Gretel*. With Tri-Cities Opera Lauren has also been seen as a member of the ensemble of *Sweeney Todd* and *La Traviata*. She portrayed Yum-Yum in Binghamton University’s production of *The Mikado*. With Opera Saratoga, Lauren has been seen as second spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* and ensemble for *The Mighty Casey* and *HMS Pinafore*. Awards include prizes from The Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition in 2020, The Mendelssohn Club (Albany) Joel Dolven Scholarship Award in the Intermediate Division (2018) and First Place of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Eastern Region Conference in 2017 and 2014. She has been the soprano soloist with orchestra for Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, and both Fauré and Rutter Requiems. She holds both a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Science in Business Management concentrating in Marketing from undergraduate studies at Binghamton University. During coronavirus quarantine months, with the troupe *Where the Good Songs Go* Lauren made the first-ever recordings (virtually) of four forgotten early musicals. Lauren cannot wait to return to the stage in person!



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, featuring ROCopera, sometime in June.

Eastman School of Music - Eastman Opera Theatre 2020 -2021 Season ANNOUNCEMENT SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Eastman Opera Theatre Statement Regarding Covid-19:

Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19, Eastman Opera Theatre is committed to representing a full, varied, and artistically fulfilling 2020-21 season. Our primary focus, as always, remains on the growth of our students. While the specific performance parameters of each work may change as we all adapt to an unpredictable pandemic, we have chosen titles and performance projects that may be adapted to whatever performance guidelines are dictated by changing circumstances.

In celebration of Eastman's 2021 Centennial, we have chosen to present titles during the 2021 calendar year by Eastman alumni. We will also offer an all-Mozart program in May 2021 to complement the contemporary nature of a season featuring Eastman composers.

WINTER PRODUCTION - (June 2021)

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

Postcard from Morocco -1971 Dominick Argento (ESM '58) & John Donahue

Steven Daigle, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor.

KODAK HALL - JUNE 2021

Elizabeth Cree, Kevin Puts (ESM '94, '99) & Mark Campbell

Stephen Carr, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor

Chautauqua to Return to Its Tent Roots in 2021

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA COMPANY

Opera, theater open to all to be presented in an outdoor venue on Pratt Avenue.

Following analysis of the potential use of Norton Hall as the primary venue for Chautauqua Theater Company and Chautauqua Opera Company performances in 2021, Institution officials have opted instead to construct a temporary performance pavilion on Pratt Avenue for the presentation of performances with lawn seating open to all gate pass holders. The plan includes the presentation of approximately 40 theater, opera and selected other programs over the nine-week Summer Assembly. In addition to lawn space open for self-seating and requiring no additional ticket, a limited number of reserved seats under the cover of the pavilion will be sold for each performance at \$25 per person. Recognizing the Pratt Avenue location is normally used informally and in limited ways during a typical Summer Assembly, programs at the pavilion will be scheduled to take place during the day and early evening hours only, and all public events will occur on a pre-published schedule. For more information, [go here](#).



**START PLANNING YOUR
2021 CHAUTAUQUA
EXPERIENCE!**

Click or tap here for more information on accommodations, tickets and passes, 2021 themes and everything else you need to craft a safe and memorable stay.

Sales for long-term gate passes, parking and docks begin [Feb. 9](#)

Chautauqua does not appear to have scheduled any opera presentations yet. If that changes, we will let you know.

Glimmerglass Festival

Glimmerglass will be different this summer. There will be live performances (Yay!), but several productions will be adaptations, as they will be limited to 90 minutes in length. See glimmerglassfestival.org for full details. Tickets go on sale March 31.

ON STAGE THIS SUMMER:

THE MAGIC FLUTE, July 15 through August 17

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is directed by NJ Agwuna and conducted by Music Director Joseph Colaneri with costume design by Christelle Matou.

In this new storybook English adaptation by Kelley Rourke, Eric Owens stars in an expanded role of Sarastro, guiding audiences through the story with wisdom and wit.

IL TROVATORE, August 1 through August 14

Co-directed by Francesca Zambello and Eric Sean Fogel, conducted by Joseph Colaneri, and with costume design by Christelle Matou, this 90-minute adaptation foregrounds the plight of Azucena, a woman living on the fringes of society. Latonia Moore and Gregory Kunde star as Leonora and Manrico, the fated lovers, alongside Raehann Bryce-Davis as Azucena and Michael Mayes as Count di Luna.

SONGBIRD, July 30 through August 13

Songbird, a new adaptation of Offenbach's *La Périchole* created by Eric Sean Fogel, James Lowe and Kelley Rourke, moves the comedy's action to New Orleans with new musical arrangement and orchestration by James Lowe in the style of 1920s jazz bands.

Isabel Leonard and William Burden star as a couple of hard-working musicians who have fallen on hard times. Conducted by James Lowe, co-directed by Francesca Zambello and Eric Sean Fogel, and with costume design by Christelle Matou, the 90-minute adaptation will be performed in English and French with translation by Kelley Rourke.

GODS AND MORTALS, August 3 through August 16

Gods and Mortals celebrates the work of Richard Wagner with selections from some of his most popular operas, including *The Ring Cycle* and *Tannhäuser*, as well as some of his lesser-known works like *Die Feen* (*The Fairies*).

The staged concert will star Eric Owens, Alexandria Shiner and Ian Koziara. Owens is acclaimed for his performances in several Wagner roles. Shiner, a winner of the 2020 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, was set to perform the role of Ada in The Glimmerglass Festival's 2020 production of Wagner's *Die Feen*, and was scheduled to make her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2021. Koziara, a former member of the Festival's Young Artists Program and the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, made his Met debut in 2017 as Enrique in Thomas Adès' *The Exterminating Angel*.

TO THE WORLD, July 16 through August 8.

To the World, a journey around the globe through popular musical theater hits, stars Isabel Leonard, William Burden, Alexandria Shiner, Michael Mayes and members of the Young Artists Program. Eric Sean Fogel directs and James Lowe conducts.

THE PASSION OF MARY CARDWELL DAWSON, August 5 through August 13

The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson is a new play with music, by Sandra Seaton, celebrating the founder of the historic and groundbreaking National Negro Opera Company and starring acclaimed mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves in the title role. The work includes selections from the repertory of the National Negro Opera Company, as well as original music by Carlos Simon to a text by playwright Sandra Seaton.

The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson is directed by Tazewell Thompson, who wrote and directed the 2019 world premiere of *Blue* at Glimmerglass, with music direction by Kevin Miller and costume design by Jessica Jahn.





Nickel City Opera

MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDARS

Sotto Voce and Nickel City Opera present

The Second Sight

RESCHEDULED to June 26th & 27th 2021

An original opera by Jessie Downs

Unitarian Universalist Church

695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo More Info [Here](#)

Pegasus Early Music

L'Orfeo

by Claudio Monteverdi

August 19, 20 and 22, 2021

Pre-concert talks 1 hour before each performance

Hart Theater at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center

1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester

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 Noulin-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/>

The Metropolitan Opera :

Live in HD

The Met has announced its new season for Live in HD transmissions, but there is no sign of them in the theaters yet.



2021-22 Season

[Modest Mussorgsky](#)

[Boris Godunov](#)

Sat, Oct 09, 2021 12:55 PM

Bass René Pape, the world's reigning Boris, reprises his overwhelming portrayal of the tortured tsar caught between grasping ambition and crippling paranoia. Conductor Sebastian Weigle leads Mussorgsky's masterwork, a pillar of the Russian repertoire, in its original 1869 version, which runs two-and-a-quarter hours with no intermission. Stephen Wadsworth's affecting production poignantly captures the hope and suffering of the Russian people as well as the tsar himself.

[Terence Blanchard / Kasi Lemmons](#)

[Fire Shut Up in My Bones](#)

Sat, Oct 23, 2021 12:55 PM

The Met's first performance of an opera by a Black composer. Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Grammy Award-winning jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard's adaptation of Charles M. Blow's moving memoir, which The New York Times praised after its 2019 world premiere at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as "bold and affecting" and "subtly powerful." The opera tells a poignant and profound story about a young man's journey to overcome a life of trauma and hardship. Baritone Will Liverman, one of opera's most exciting young artists, stars as Charles, alongside sopranos Angel Blue as Destiny/Loneliness/Greta and Latonia Moore as Billie.

[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 Yeargan 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 Beczała 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.

Opera Quiz

(1) In recent years, Met sopranos have accepted the challenge of singing all three of these operas about queens in one season. Name the operas and the composer.

Name at least three other operas that have a queen as a character.

(2) The same name. List two operas in which characters with the following names appear: Elvira, Leonora, Arturo, Lindoro, Marie, Tonio, Sophie, Rodolfo.

(3) What do the following operas have in common? *La traviata*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Carmen*.

(4) The following are choruses from Italian operas. Name the opera and its composer:

- O, Pastorelle addio*
- Trema, Banco*
- Regina Coeli*
- Guerra, Guerra*
- Va pensiero*

(5) In which operas do the following "Don's" appear? Don Fernando, Don Ramiro, Don Diego, Don Magnifico, Don Ottavio, Don Alvaro, Don Jose, Don Alfonso?

EXPERT:

(1) Which two Italian composers were contemporaries of Mozart but much more popular in their day? Name one opera by each.

(2) Name the composers of the following operas: *Dardanus*, *Giulio Cesare*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Giasone*.

(3) Which librettist had the following name at birth? Emmanuele Conigliano.

Want to submit your answers? Send them to OperaGuildOfRochester@gmail.com.



Chuck Lundeen, 1943-2019, Teacher & Philanthropist

By Carol Crocca

Chuck Lundeen died at the beginning of the pandemic and those of us who knew him were denied the opportunity to formally grieve and acknowledge his contributions to the musical life of Rochester. We remember him as a warm and knowledgeable friend and patron of the arts. Chuck had long had health challenges although they rarely prevented “the bravest person I know” (John Williams) from active and joyful participation in his interests.

Chuck was born in northern Minnesota, the first of three children. According to John, his husband, he was the first up in his household and spent this morning time with a large book of stories and pictures of opera. His mother was a singer, a participant in the noted St. Olaf Choir, and also a music teacher, and Chuck himself always sang in school and church choirs. All kinds of music were part of his life, from classical to Elvis Presley, facilitated by the gift in his youth of a record player. He really developed his interest in opera because of a high school teacher who regularly took students to the Twin Cities to attend the touring Metropolitan Opera productions.

Chuck attended the University of Minnesota at Duluth, where he studied English and French, partly satisfying his interest in music by doing tech for college musical theater productions. He spent his career at the Canandaigua Junior Academy teaching middle schoolers English and occasionally French. In Rochester, he was a strong supporter and member of the Gay Men’s Chorus; it was there that he met John, his future partner of 32 years, who was a lawyer and editor at the then Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company. During their time together, he and John traveled to many cities to enjoy opera –

San Francisco, Miami, Toronto, Sarasota, and of course, the NYC Met. In summer, they were regulars at the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown and Chuck also traveled on his own (his last trip was to the Met Ring Cycle in 2019), always bringing back stories of these sojourns to his friends and students.



Most importantly for the music community, Chuck was a teacher and philanthropist. For many years, he taught a course at Oasis (a continuing education organization for older adults) based on the Met Opera’s simulcasts in local theaters on Saturday afternoons. His class was always full, as Chuck’s enthusiasm and relaxed style appealed to aficionados and novice opera fans alike. His friend Deena

Ambush describes it thus: “Chuck was a master teacher, who not only shared his love of opera with the class, but built a community of knowledgeable opera lovers.” Chuck was almost always at the Saturday Met operas and could be counted on to enliven the experience with his commentary.

As for philanthropy, it would be difficult to list all the ways Chuck and John have manifested their generosity. They have been contributors, board members, and/or fundraisers for the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus, Friends of Eastman Opera, and Nazareth Arts Center, among others. In 2017 they were honored by the Rochester Area Community Foundation for their community philanthropy. Chuck and John also established the Williams-Lundeen LGBTQ Scholarship at Nazareth College and recently John created the John C. Williams Scholarship in memory of Chuck Lundeen, to be awarded annually to an Eastman School of Music voice student.



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