

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Opera Guild of Rochester. Don't forget to add operaguildofrochester@gmail.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Viva Voce

Our Fall Donation Campaign is (still) underway!

Thanks to all our donors, old and new! But we still haven't met our goal of covering our expenses for the current year. The Board of Directors has been generous, but cannot do it all. All the information you need to donate is [here](#).

Our holiday Bravo Night with Mark Daniels and Rob Goodling was very well received, and remains available on our YouTube channel. For more information and the program, go [here](#).

The Opera Guild is focusing on informing you of virtual events, producing Bravo Nights online, and supporting opera programming in our region - to assist organizations to survive the lack of direct audience contact so crucial to our enjoyment and their bottom lines.

We have already approved grants to Finger Lakes Opera, Glimmerglass, the RPO, Pegasus (for *Orfeo*, next August), and ROCopera for the Fringe Festival, and are planning to increase our support as circumstances dictate and our resources allow.

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 operaguildofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

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Edition *Viva Voce*, November 2020

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.

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This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to over 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription send your contact details, including your eMail address, to operaguildofrochester@gmail.com.

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.



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.

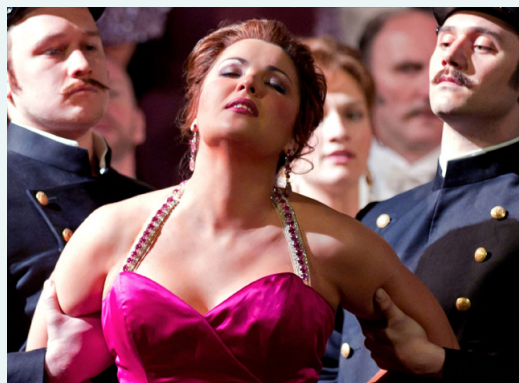
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This Month

December 31	Metropolitan Opera	Live New Year's Eve Gala
January 22	Rochester Oratorio Society	Brahms
January 23	Met Opera	Piotr Beczala, Sandra Rodvanofsky, Live in Concert
Anytime:	Pegasus	A Night at the Baroque Opera

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We are very fortunate to have a great variety of streamed opera presentations at no charge during this time. See operaguildforrochester.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. At this site may also be found the season listing of **Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts**.

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

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Live Encore: **Brahms' Schicksalslied and Nänie**

Friday, January 22 | 7:00 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](#).

[Read More](#) »

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Don't miss FLO's unique musical version of *Pinocchio*, written by John Davies and put to the music of Mozart, Offenbach and more. In collaboration with the Puppet Co., Finger Lakes Opera's 2020 Tomita Young Artists will bring to life marionette puppets in this creative, available for streaming (in December) rendition of the classic tale that emphasizes the importance of telling the truth through the eyes of a mischievous puppet, his father, a conniving wolf, and his crafty, sidekick cat. Streaming / OnLine via YouTube & Facebook.

See FingerLakesOpera.org for further details.

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Pegasus Early Music Fall 2020 Season (Virtual)

If you missed these concerts the first time, most of the fall season is available virtually, and there is also a lovely program of Baroque opera favorites. **Please check the [website](#) or newsletters closer to each date to find out how to access.**

All events will be online and free! Please note that artists will be paid their professional performance fees, and donations will be gratefully accepted.

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Online Opera Education for Young and Old



Join 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.



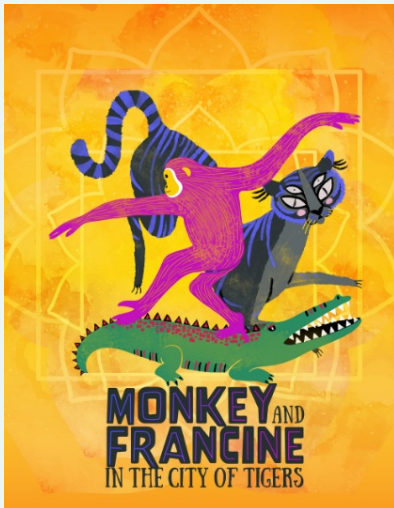
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monkey and francine in the city of tigers

music by kamala sankaram

libretto by david johnston



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.

Tri-Cities Opera has developed this year's Opera-Go-Round program as a virtual offering that will be delivered to students, whether in classrooms or home learning spaces, via a digital link. *Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers* will include a detailed study guide, providing educators the flexibility to incorporate the performance into a comprehensive teaching unit. Sung in English, it runs for approximately 45 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.

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 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 utahopera.org/education/school-from-home also has good student materials.

From Arizona Opera, at azopera.org/learn-connect-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.

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The Metropolitan Opera

[Live New Year's Eve Gala](#), 4 pm, Thursday, December 31st.
Angel Blue, Pretty Yende, Matthew Polenzani and Javier Camarena.

January 23, 1 pm, Piotr Beczala and Sondra Radvonofsky Live in Concert.

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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.

If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss our holiday edition of Bravo Nights, featuring Mark Daniels, tenor, accompanied by Rob Goodling, available now on our [YouTube channel](#). View additional details and Mark's program [here](#). And there is a feature article about Rob Goodling in this issue.

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

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 presenting 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 - Dates TBD (start of the spring semester 2021)

Eastman Opera Theatre Scene Shop

Postcard from Morocco -1971 Dominick Argento (ESM '58) & John Donahue
Steven Daigle, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor.

KODAK HALL - [APRIL 2021](#)

Silent Night-2011 Kevin Puts (ESM '94, '99) & Mark Campbell

Sung in English, German, French, Italian, and Latin, with English supertitles

Stephen Carr, Director; Timothy Long, Conductor

804 ANNEX BLACKBOX THEATER -MAY-2021

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GREAT OPERA-TUNITIES

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

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. Look for listing in February 2021 *Viva Voce*. 8 pm, Kilbourn Hall, Gibbs Street, Rochester.

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.

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures See February and March 2021 *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 usually 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 at The Little Café, live accompanied singers perform opera favorites in an informal atmosphere. See *Viva Voce* for next 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.

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Pegasus Early Music

The Pegasus season has been postponed until 2021.

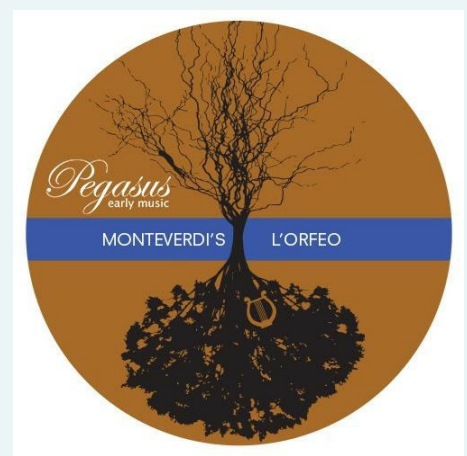
L'Orfeo

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 Noulon-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

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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](#)..

All events to follow CDC, City, County, State Health guidelines as they develop. We have a greater need than ever for the experience of live music and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

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CANADIAN OPERA

Canadian Opera has now cancelled the rest of the 20-21 season. See site for further information, coc.ca.

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Donations

As an *Amici*, your contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. All donation levels receive an invitation to the Annual Recital; 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-\$149.

Primo: \$150-\$199.

Maestro: \$200-\$299.

Impresario: \$300 or more.

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: I am sorry that I am unable to continue President Emerita Agneta Borgstedt's practice of sending a personal thank you note to each contributor. 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 cancelled 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!

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News from your Opera Guild

(Not very much) News from Your Opera Guild

I noticed yesterday that at 4:45 pm it was still light - that is the time that was my cut-off for the daily dog walk because darkness was fast descending. A small thing, but it cheered me, unlike this edition of Viva Voce, from which it seems I did little but delete after the holiday surge of offerings. And I will definitely miss Beat the Blahs. Not a huge event, but very popular with its core of attendees, and of all our events, the Board members like it best. A gathering of opera devotees who share a usually well-loved production, and can share responses with other fans, along with cookies and other goodies. On the up side, I plan to watch the Met New Year's Eve Gala and will be working on another Opera Profile feature this month.

It would be wonderful if we could have lectures this March or April at the Brighton Library. It would be wonderful if we could count on a May Donor recital. It would be wonderful if spring heralds a real end to the COVID plague and a return to LIVE music. It would be wonderful if this period were not plagued by all these uncertainties...

Oh well, it is getting brighter outside day by day. If you walk late in the afternoon you will notice and be cheered.

Carol

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Rob Goodling, Music Man

By Carol Crocca

From tuba to tenor, Rob Goodling has made music so much of his life and shared it with so many. He is now retired from 28 years as Director of Vocal Music at Churchville-Chili High School. Rob was responsible for all types of vocal music: directing choruses and other ensembles, teaching voice, and directing musicals. He spent many years adjudicating the NYSSMA competitions, and is still called upon to judge those competitions as well as others. Rob says he loved his whole tenure there - it was so satisfying to watch students mature into young adults over four years and to see the part music played in this growth. Especially gratifying has been his long-standing relationship with Renée Fleming. He was her first voice teacher (after her mother) - they both started at the high school on the same day - and Rob has had many exciting experiences at operas and premieres through her friendship.

He came to his career from a very diverse experience as an instrumentalist, conductor, singer, and musical theater whiz. As a young music student, he played the violin, his first love, and piano. He saw his task as learning as many instruments as possible, and took advantage of a scholarship at Lebanon Valley College to major in the tuba. But he was

always a music renaissance man - he was asked there as a junior to take over the direction of an original musical production when the professor in charge was taken ill. As a pianist, he also acted as accompanist for many voice students. Taking enthusiastic and competent hold of every musical opportunity is a characteristic Rob has never lost.

Upon graduation, Rob was offered a position as conductor of the Corning Youth Orchestra, and he spent four years there, also becoming first violin in the Corning Philharmonic and leading the second violin section of the Elmira Symphony. During this period, Rob estimates that he participated in over fifty musicals, as director, singer and actor. Not surprisingly, he decided eventually that he had mastered the genre and had had enough!

It was while studying for his master's degree at Eastman that Rob had the opportunity to become a voice student. He was accompanying a young soprano and she asked him to partner her as baritone in a duet for her teacher, former Met star Anna Kaskas. Ms. Kaskas expressed interest in having him as a student, and so he became. At this point, all the foundations were laid for his pursuit of the many different ways he has enriched our musical lives.

Rob's first experience with opera was accidental. At the age of nine, he took refuge from some boring adult gathering and found himself watching an opera on television. His mother found him and asked if he liked it, even though he couldn't understand the words. He tentatively assented, and she arranged for him to attend a Met performance. There he sat with a kind lady who helped him appreciate what he was seeing and hearing. As an adult he went on to serve as a board member for the Friends of Eastman Opera, writing for their newsletter among other responsibilities, and working with Susan Cotroneo at the Lyric Theater, judging competitions and promoting singers. Rob and his former student Jessica Best, a talented soprano now with an established career, presented the final fundraising recital in his home for the benefit of Mercury Opera.

He also became a friend of the Opera Guild, advising on the talent for the Annual Recital for Donors, and for many years taught music history at the Hochstein School, where his opera history course was appreciated by Opera Guild board members. His involvement in the Annual Recital resulted in his collaboration with tenor Mark Daniels, now well-known to us as a recitalist, who will be presenting our next Bravo Night, a virtual holiday concert, on December 15th. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the project make it a pleasure to work with them both. He and Mark will be the subjects of an article in the magazine "585 Rochester" coming up in January.

Finally, Rob is the benefactor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as the sponsor of the of the "Rob W. Goodling Tuba Chair, funded in perpetuity."

My last question to Rob was whether he had had any particular struggles in his very productive musical life. He answered, "Well, I have been fortunate in having had opportunities arise at each stage which offered me work I enjoyed." We agreed that it is passion for the work that leads to fulfillment, not merely the drive for success.

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Submission deadline for the next issue is the
15th of the previous month

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