

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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Lucia di Lammermoor returns to Pittsburgh Opera in acclaimed production with sterling cast

Performances to be dedicated to the late Dame Joan Sutherland

- What:** Donizetti's opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*
- Where:** Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
7th Street and Penn Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh
- When:** Saturday, November 13, 8:00 PM Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 PM
Friday, November 19, 8:00 PM Sunday, November 21, 2:00 PM
- Run time:** 2 hours, 50 minutes, with 1 intermission
- Language:** Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
- Tickets:** Start at \$10. Call 412-456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org

Discover Yourself
2010-2011
Season

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera continues its 72nd season with Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. In this *bel canto* ("beautiful singing") showpiece, loosely based on a Sir Walter Scott novel, Lucia is forced to marry a man she does not love in order to preserve the family fortune. A chain of events leads to the most famous mad scene in opera, in a work that has the mood of a modern psychological thriller. [Pittsburgh Opera](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) presents [Lucia di Lammermoor](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) November 13, 16, 19, and 21 at the Benedum Center in a production that was named one of the Top 10 arts events of the decade by the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](http://www.pittsburghpost-gazette.com). The 2002 production starred former Resident Artist Rolando Villazon and French soprano Annick Massis; the set and staging "brilliantly updated the opera" and singing was acclaimed as "masterful."

These performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor* will be dedicated to the late Dame Joan Sutherland, who helped revive the opera after World War II, and whose performances of the role of Lucia are widely considered to be definitive. "Dame Joan was an extraordinary singer who brought great joy to those of us who were lucky enough to hear her live, and to countless millions who listened to her recordings. She performed with Pittsburgh Opera in *The Daughter of the Regiment* and received our prestigious Maecenas Award. We dedicate these performances to her memory in gratitude for her

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gift, and particularly for her astonishing portrayal of Lucia." Joan Sutherland died October 11, 2010.

Pittsburgh Opera Music Director [Antony Walker](#) returns to conduct the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, having just led the Company's well-received *The Barber of Seville* and Washington Concert Opera's *Adriana Lecouvreur*; he is also scheduled to conduct Pittsburgh Opera's New Year's Eve Gala Concert, *Vienna in Pittsburgh*. Director Doug Scholz-Carlson also returns after stints as Assistant Director in *The Grapes of Wrath* (2008) and in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (2002), when he assisted James Robinson, the original director of this haunting production.

The striking set for this production was designed by [Christine Jones](#) and heavily influenced by the work of German-born American artist [Wolf Kahn](#). A visual artist working primarily in pastels and oils, Kahn brought his unique blend of Realism and Color Field painting to the discipline of set design, capturing the windswept desolation of the Scottish highlands and the stark reality of Lucia's unhappy situation. The set features, in successive scenes, a craggy outcropping, an eclipsed sun, and a castle wall that appears to have been torn from its surroundings. The set and other production elements are co-owned by Pittsburgh Opera and The Minnesota Opera.

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Laura Claycomb (*Rigoletto*, 2005; *The Capulets and the Montagues*, 2008) leads the internationally-celebrated cast as Lucia. The exciting young Mexican tenor David Lomelí debuts as Lucia's secret lover, her brother's rival, Edgardo; Bruno Caproni, who enjoyed enthusiastic reviews in the title role of *Rigoletto* in 2005 returns as Lucia's domineering brother Enrico. Denis Sedov makes his Pittsburgh Opera debut as Raimondo. [Resident Artists](#) Lindsay Ammann (*Falstaff*, 2009; *The Rape of Lucretia*, 2010) and James Flora (*Falstaff*, 2009; *Carmen*, 2010) take the roles of the Lucia's confidante Alisa, and the spurned husband Arturo, respectively.

More about the opera

The story for the opera, with a libretto by Salvatore Cammarano, is loosely based on Sir Walter Scott's novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*. The first performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor* took place in September 1835 at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Italy. Successful from the beginning, it nonetheless was not particularly well-known until it was championed by singers Maria Callas and Joan Sutherland. Now considered a staple of the operatic repertory, the work occupies a place in Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America.

The story, in brief

Set in Scotland, *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the story of a tragic feud between rival clans. Enrico worries about his family's fortunes amid changing political and religious forces. He plans to marry his sister Lucia to wealthy Arturo, not knowing that she is in love with his enemy Edgardo and has already secretly married him. Enrico pressures Lucia until she

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reluctantly agrees to the union. At the wedding feast, Lucia goes to the bridal chamber with her new husband but returns to shock the guests with her bloodied hands and unhinged behavior as she fantasizes about her happy life with Edgardo, and then collapses. Hearing of Lucia's condition, Edgardo tries to see her, but is told that Lucia has died. He kills himself, hoping to be united with Lucia in heaven. See the full synopsis at www.pittsburghopera.org

Cast and Artistic Team (cast is listed in order of vocal appearance)

Normanno	Rick Mikol	tenor
Enrico Ashton	Bruno Caproni	baritone
Raimondo Bidebent	Denis Sedov +	bass
Lucia Ashton	Laura Claycomb	soprano
Alisa	Lindsay Ammann *	mezzo-soprano
Edgardo of Ravenswood	David Lomelí +	tenor
Arturo Bucklaw	James Flora *	tenor

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Director	Doug Scholz-Carlson
Conductor	Antony Walker
Set Designer	Christine Jones
Costume Designer	Constance Hoffmann
Lighting Designer	Cindy Limauro
Hair & Makeup Designer	James Geier
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Stage Manager	Tara Kovach

Pittsburgh Opera co-production, with The Minnesota Opera

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

**Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Lucia di Lammermoor opens Saturday, November 13 and continues November 16, 19, and 21. Tickets start at just \$10 and are available at the [Pittsburgh Opera website](#) or by calling 412-456-6666.

Pittsburgh Opera's 2010-11 season is generously sponsored by [PNC Foundation](#).

Media for this production is generously sponsored by [WSHH 99.7 FM](#).

The Season Marketing Campaign

Pittsburgh Opera's 2010-11 season marketing campaign, created by MARC USA, has garnered attention and excitement for its unique approach. Continuing the "Discover

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Yourself" theme developed for 2009-10, the striking images that capture the essence of each opera feature notable Pittsburghers who are "transformed" as characters from that opera, just as audience members will find themselves transformed by the power of opera. Photographer Duane Rieder created the images from photos taken in his [studio](#) in Lawrenceville, also site of the [Roberto Clemente Museum](#) and [Engine House 25](#) winery. In the campaign images, advertising C.E.O. Michele Fabrizi brandishes a bloody knife as *Lucia di Lammermoor*; society columnist Kate Guerriero rides a chariot as Armida, the villainess from *Rinaldo*; knee surgeon Dr. Vonda Wright commands subservience as the princess *Turandot*; and Dr. Lisa Cibik "goes from scalpel to guillotine" as a nun from *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Images from the campaign and behind-the-scenes video can be found on the [Pittsburgh Opera website](#). For more information, contact Debra Bell, Director of Marketing and Communications, 412-281-0912 x 214 or dbell@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Tickets and Group Discounts

As part of Pittsburgh Opera's ongoing mission to make opera accessible to its diverse audiences, the Company offers single tickets starting at just \$10. For tickets, call 412-456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org. Discounted tickets for [groups of 6 or more](#) are available by contacting Randy Adams, at 412-281-0912 x 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

OPERAEncore for young professionals

OPERAEncore is a unique opportunity for Pittsburgh young professionals to enjoy a high-end opera experience with an affordable ticket price. For each performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, OPERAEncore offers a \$35 ticket for the best seats available at the time of purchase. Additionally, on Friday, November 19, young professionals are invited to the exclusive OPERAEncore lounge at intermission of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. To purchase OPERAEncore tickets, call 412-281-0912 or e-mail tickets@pittsburghopera.org.

Related Events

Opera Up Close: *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Sunday, October 31, 2:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue

Opera Up Close is an entertaining and insightful program introduced by Music Director Antony Walker, featuring an in-depth analysis of the opera and a panel of opera artists who share anecdotes and behind-the-scenes tidbits. Attendees can meet the artists afterward and enjoy [21st Street Coffee](#). **Opera Up Close is free and open to the public.** For more information, call 412-281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Pittsburgh Opera Previews on WQED-FM 89.3

Saturday, November 6, 1:30 PM

Friday, November 12, 7:00 PM

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Hosted by [WOED's](#) Stephen Baum, this half-hour preview of *Lucia di Lammermoor* will give listeners an in-depth introduction to the singers, music, and production of the opera. For more information, call 412-281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org

Brown Bag Concert

Saturday, November 13, 12:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue

This one-hour concert features the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists. Selections include music from *Lucia di Lammermoor*, along with other opera selections. Attendees can meet the performers after the concert and enjoy [21st Street Coffee](#). Pittsburghers of all ages are invited to bring lunch to the Brown Bag concerts, which are excellent opportunities for an informal introduction to opera. Attendees may also purchase box lunches from [Right by Nature](#), our Local and Sustainable Food & Beverage Sponsor: call 412-454-6200 to pre-order. **Brown Bag concerts are free and open to the public.** For more information, call 412-281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

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Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to attend a Pre-Opera Talk on *Lucia di Lammermoor* one hour before each performance, in the Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

Audio Commentary, Tuesday, November 16

Large-Print Programs, Braille Programs

Audio Commentary for the visually impaired is available at Tuesday evening Pittsburgh Opera performances. Via infrared headphones, the listener receives commentary on stage ambiance and action, costumes, props, set changes, and other cues. Commentary is provided by a dedicated corps of volunteers who attend multiple rehearsals and study the opera in detail. Persons wishing to use Audio Commentary pay \$10 for tickets in the Orchestra level and pick up headphones in the lobby. For more information on Audio Commentary, contact [Dr. Marilyn Michalka Egan](#) at 412-281-0912 x 242.

Large-print programs and Braille programs are available at each Pittsburgh Opera performance, at the Education table in the Benedum Lobby, free of charge.

Meet the Artists

Tuesday, November 16

Immediately following *Lucia di Lammermoor*, approx. 10:00 PM

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, November 16 performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor* are invited to enjoy refreshments and repartee after the opera. Join General Director Christopher Hahn and the cast in the Lower Lobby of the Benedum Center as he interviews singers and directors, and takes questions from the audience. **This event is free to all Tuesday performance ticketholders.**

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Pittsburgh Opera's 2010-2011 season continues a 72-year tradition of excellence in opera. As part of the Company's continued efforts to make opera accessible to all members of the community, single tickets for the 2010-2011 season will again start at just \$10, with subscriptions starting at just \$43 for four operas. Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now.

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[The Barber of Seville](#) October 9, 12, 15, 17, 2010

[Lucia di Lammermoor](#) November 13, 16, 19, 21, 2010

[Rinaldo](#) January 29; February 1, 4, 6, 2011

[Turandot](#) March 26, 29; April 1, 3, 2011

[Dialogues of the Carmelites](#) April 30; May 3, 6, 8, 2011

Single tickets for as little as \$10

Season subscriptions for as little as \$43

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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