

PITTSBURGH OPERA

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Pittsburgh Opera – A History of Excellence

Celebrating its 71st season in 2009-10, [Pittsburgh Opera](#) began in 1939 as the Pittsburgh Opera Society and is the eighth oldest company in the United States. Drawing on a rich legacy of music-making, this season the Opera presents Tchaikovsky's [Eugene Onegin](#), Verdi's [Falstaff](#), Britten's [The Rape of Lucretia](#), Bizet's [Carmen](#) and Mozart's [The Marriage of Figaro](#).

In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally renowned [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program](#) is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars and the company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 140-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert recitals by world-class opera singers.

Among the many luminaries who have sung at Pittsburgh Opera are Luciano Pavarotti, Beverly Sills, Joan Sutherland, Sherrill Milnes, and Stephanie Blythe. The company's first conductor, Richard Karp of Vienna, led Pittsburgh Opera for nearly 40 years and oversaw the company's move to Heinz Hall in 1971.

In 1977, Tito Capobianco, a world-famous stage director and prominent figure at New York City Opera, became Pittsburgh Opera's General Director. Capobianco molded the Opera into an influential national company and a steward of cultural life in Pittsburgh. Under his direction, the Opera established its own orchestra, pioneered the use of supertitles, formed the Resident Artists Program and dramatically increased the regions audience for opera.

Mark Weinstein's appointment as General Director in 1997 marked another milestone in the company's growth. Weinstein, also from New York City Opera, pursued rigorous financial management and long-range strategic planning. He increased the company's assets threefold and cemented the Opera's reputation as a leader in financial management in the industry.

(more)

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Weinstein also initiated the Artistic Excellence Project, raising major funds to bring world-class singing and directing talent to Pittsburgh Opera. The 2000-2001 appointments of Christopher Hahn as Artistic Director and John Mauceri as Music Director were the first results of this ambitious project.

In 2008, [Christopher Hahn](#) was unanimously appointed General Director and has vigorously upheld Pittsburgh Opera's high standards of management and artistic excellence, while spearheading the move to [Pittsburgh Opera's new headquarters](#) in the historic George Westinghouse Air Brake Factory at 2425 Liberty Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Strip District.

The new facility has provided Pittsburgh Opera with the space to house the resources needed to better prepare for performances at the Benedum, while opening up a whole new way for the community to experience all the artistry that is part of opera. In an effort to maintain the Company's mission to enrich Pittsburgh and the tri-state area, the Opera has committed to the use of sustainable methods in the renovation and maintenance of the new headquarters, striving to obtain a [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) Operations and Maintenance Certification by the end of 2009.

Pittsburgh Opera's long-standing commitment to artistic excellence, responsible financial management and good neighborhood will continue to prove a valuable asset to the city of Pittsburgh and the surrounding region for years to come.

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Beginning in August 2009, single tickets for as little as \$10

2009-2010 season subscriptions now for as little as \$21

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

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