

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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Wedding-Day Madness: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* opens April 24 at Pittsburgh Opera

- What:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*
- Where:** Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
7th Street and Penn Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh
- When:** Saturday, April 24, 8:00 PM Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 PM
Friday, April 30, 8:00 PM Sunday, May 2, 2:00 PM
- Run Time:** 3 hours, 15 minutes, including 1 intermission
- Language:** Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
- Tickets:** Start at \$10. Call 412-456-6666 for more information
or visit www.pittsburghopera.org

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Pittsburgh, PA... [Pittsburgh Opera](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) presents Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's comic masterpiece *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts April 24 – May 2, 2010. This delightful opera twists and turns through the chaotic wedding day of Figaro and Susanna with hijinx and trickery around every corner.

Former Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist and current Metropolitan Opera bass Oren Gradus stars as Figaro, with soprano [Sari Gruber](#) as Susanna; Pamela Armstrong and [Michael Todd Simpson](#) return to Pittsburgh Opera as the Count and Countess. All the artists in this sterling ensemble currently enjoy active international careers. Zheng Cao also returns to Pittsburgh Opera, marking her first operatic performance since her diagnosis and treatment of stage four cancer. Kristine McIntyre returns to direct. Gary Thor Wedow will conduct.

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Facts About The Opera and Composer

- The opera *The Marriage of Figaro* is a comic opera composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with an Italian libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte.
- *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Le nozze di Figaro*) is also known as *ossia la folle giornata* (*the Day of Madness*).
- *The Marriage of Figaro* is based on a stage comedy by Pierre Beaumarchais, *La folle journée, ou le Mariage de Figaro* written in 1784. The play was banned in Vienna because the satire of the aristocracy was considered dangerous in pre-Revolution France.
- *The Marriage of Figaro* premiered at the Burgtheater in Vienna on May 1, 1786.
- The initial run of *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1786 consisted of nine performances, with Mozart himself conducting the first two performances.
- *The Marriage of Figaro* is considered one of Mozart's most successful works.
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in present-day Austria on January 27, 1756. His full baptismal name was Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart.
- Composing his first work at the age of 5, Mozart's prolific career includes over 600 works, many of which are considered triumphs of musical composition even today.
- Mozart died on December 5, 1791, after an illness that confined him to his bed for several weeks before his death.

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The Story

As they prepare for their wedding at their master's country estate outside Seville, the valet Figaro learns from the maid Susanna that their philandering employer, Count Almaviva, has designs on her. At this the servant vows to outwit his master. Before long the scheming Bartolo enters the servants' quarters with his housekeeper, Marcellina, who wants Figaro to marry her to cancel a debt he cannot pay. Marcellina and Susanna trade insults, and the amorous page Cherubino arrives, reveling in his infatuation with all women. He hides when the Count shows up, furious because he caught Cherubino flirting with Barbarina, the gardener's daughter. The Count pursues Susanna but conceals himself when the gossiping music master Don Basilio approaches. The Count steps forward, however, when Basilio suggests that Cherubino has a crush on the Countess, and is enraged further when he

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discovers Cherubino in the room. Figaro returns with fellow servants, who praise the Count's progressive reform in abolishing the *droit du seigneur* — the right of a noble to take a manservant's place on his wedding night. Almaviva assigns Cherubino to his regiment in Seville and leaves Figaro to cheer up the unhappy adolescent.

In her boudoir, the Countess laments her husband's waning love, but plots to chasten him, encouraged by Figaro and Susanna. They will send Cherubino, disguised as Susanna, to a romantic assignation with the Count. Cherubino, smitten with the Countess, appears, and the two women dress the page for his rendezvous. While Susanna goes out to find a ribbon, the Count knocks at the door, furious to find it locked. Cherubino quickly hides, and the Countess admits her husband, who, when he hears a noise, is skeptical of her story that Susanna is inside the wardrobe. He takes his wife to fetch some tools with which to force the closet door. Meanwhile, Susanna, who has observed everything from behind a screen, helps Cherubino out a window, then takes his hiding place. Both Count and Countess are amazed to find her there. All seems well until the gardener, Antonio, storms in with crushed flowers from a bed below the window. Figaro, who has run in to announce that the wedding is ready, pretends it was he who jumped from the window, faking a sprained ankle. Marcellina, Bartolo and Basilio burst into the room waving a court summons for Figaro, which delights the Count, as this gives him an excuse to delay the wedding.

In the room where the wedding is to take place, Susanna leads the Count on with promises of a rendezvous in the garden. The nobleman, however, grows doubtful when he spies her conspiring with Figaro; he vows revenge. Marcellina is astonished but thrilled to discover that Figaro is in fact her long-lost natural son by Bartolo. Mother and son embrace, provoking Susanna's anger until she too learns the truth. Finding a quiet moment, the Countess recalls her past happiness, then joins Susanna in composing a letter that invites the Count to the garden that night. Later, during the marriage ceremony of Figaro and Susanna, the bride manages to slip the note, sealed with a hatpin, to the Count, who pricks his finger, dropping the pin, which Figaro retrieves.

In the moonlit garden, Barbarina, after unsuccessfully trying to find the lost hatpin, tells Figaro and Marcellina about the coming assignation between the Count and Susanna. Basilio counsels that it is wise to play the fool. Figaro rails against women and leaves, missing Susanna and the Countess, ready for their masquerade. Alone, Susanna rhapsodizes on her love for Figaro, but he, overhearing, thinks she means the Count. Susanna hides in time to see Cherubino woo the Countess — now disguised in Susanna's dress — until Almaviva chases him away and sends his wife, who he thinks is Susanna, to an arbor. By now Figaro understands the joke and, joining the fun, makes exaggerated love to Susanna in her Countess disguise. The Count returns, seeing, or so he thinks, Figaro with his wife. Outraged, he calls everyone to witness his judgment, but now the real

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Countess appears and reveals the ruse. Grasping the truth at last, the Count begs her pardon. All are reunited, and so ends this chaotic wedding day at the court of the Almavivas.

The Marriage of Figaro opens Saturday, April 24 and continues through Sunday, May 2. For tickets starting at just \$10, call 412-456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

The Pittsburgh Opera 2009-2010 season is generously sponsored by [PNC Foundation](#). This production is generously sponsored by [EQT](#). Media for this production is generously sponsored by [WSSH](#).

Cast and Artistic Team

(cast is listed in order of vocal appearance)

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Figaro	Oren Gradus**	bass
Susanna	Sari Gruber	soprano
Countess Almaviva	Pamela Armstrong	soprano
Count Almaviva	Michael Todd Simpson	baritone
Cherubino	Zheng Cao	mezzo-soprano
Dr. Bartolo	Kevin Glavin**	bass
Marcellina	Lindsay Ammann*	mezzo-soprano
Don Basilio/Curzio	Joseph Gaines	tenor
Antonio	Liam Moran*	bass

Director	Kristine McIntyre
Conductor	Gary Thor Wedow
Set Designer	Benoit Dugardyn+
Costume Designer	Johann Stegmeir+
Lighting Designer	Andrew Ostrowski
Hair & Makeup Designer	James Geier
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Continuo	James Lesniak
Stage Manager	Christine Annette Schott

Sets from Glimmerglass Opera
Costumes from Glimmerglass Opera

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

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Oren Gradus returns to Pittsburgh Opera performing the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Mr. Gradus is a former Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist and performed with the Company most recently as Prince Gremin in this season's production of *Eugene Onegin*. He made his Pittsburgh Opera debut as the Duke in *Romeo & Juliet* in March 1998 and has since also performed as the Commissioner in *Madame Butterfly*, Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Schmidt in *Andrea Chenier*, Colline in *La bohème* and Mephistopheles in *Faust*. Mr. Gradus made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2002 and his roles there include Garibaldi in *Rodelinda*, Giorgio in *I Puritani*, Timur in *Turandot*, and Colline in *La bohème*. Some of his other roles include Ulysses S. Grant in Thomson's *The Mother of Us All*, Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* and Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*. He has been seen and heard at San Francisco Opera, Bologna Opera, L'Opéra de Marseilles, Dallas Opera, Rome Opera and Seattle Opera, among others.

Playing the role of Susanna is soprano [Sari Gruber](#), who returns to Pittsburgh Opera, having made her company debut in 2006 as Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Ms. Gruber's most recent operatic credits include Musetta in *La bohème* with Austin Lyric Opera and Opera East Texas, her Arizona Opera debut as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the North Carolina Symphony under the baton of Grant Llewellyn, Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* with Opera Carolina, and her role debut as the title character in *The Cunning Little Vixen* with Chautauqua Opera. Ms. Gruber's roles include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress* and Rose in *Street Scene*; and she has performed in opera houses around the world including Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Netherlands Opera, Maggio Musicale di Firenze, Saito Kinen Festival, Seiji Ozawa's Ongaku-Juku Opera Project, Opera Pacific, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Boston Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Portland Opera, Connecticut Opera and Madison Opera.

Soprano Pamela Armstrong returns as Countess Almaviva, having most recently performed with the Company as Mimi in the 2009 production of *La bohème*. Ms. Armstrong has also performed with Pittsburgh Opera as Donna Elvira in the 2001 production of *Don Giovanni*. She has been seen and heard in leading roles such as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, the title role in *Susannah*, and Micaëla in *Carmen*. Opera houses around the world where Ms. Armstrong has sung major roles include The Metropolitan Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Opéra de la Bastille in Paris, Teatro Regio in Turin, Grand Theatre de Bordeaux, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Utah Opera, Portland (Maine) Opera Theater and Michigan Opera Theater.

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[Michael Todd Simpson](#) returns to Pittsburgh Opera as Count Almaviva, having most recently performed with the Company as Marcello in *La bohème* – stepping in at the last minute for the Tuesday and Friday performances. He also performed with the Company as Silvio in the 2006 production of *I Pagliacci*. In February of this year, Mr. Simpson performed with the Dallas Opera as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. In 2009 he made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Hermann in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and his Portland Opera debut as Marcello in *La bohème*. Other recent opera engagements include *Don Giovanni* at the Nashville Opera and the Eugene Opera, Silvio in *I Pagliacci* with New York City Opera, Palm Beach Opera and Virginia Opera; Escamillo in *Carmen* at Opera Australia (both in Sydney and on tour in Taiwan), Guglielmo at *Florida Grand Opera*, Escamillo in *Le Tragédie de Carmen* at Chicago Opera Theater and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Fort Worth Opera.

Zheng Cao returns for her fourth performance with Pittsburgh Opera, as Cherubino, having previously performed as Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* in 2002 and 2007, as well as Sesto in the 2004 production of *Julius Caesar*. This will be Ms. Cao's first operatic performance since her diagnosis and treatment of stage four cancer. Her other operatic credits include Varvara in *Katya Kabanova* with Houston Grand Opera, Marguerite in a concert presentation of *La Damnation de Faust* at the Saito Kinen Festival and Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* for her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Cao was also featured as mezzo-soprano soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

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Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alum basso buffo Kevin Glavin returns for his second appearance as Dr. Bartolo and his 38th appearance with Pittsburgh Opera. Having made his Company debut in 1974, Mr. Glavin has most recently performed with Pittsburgh Opera as Pistola in *Falstaff*, Benoit and Alcindoro in *La bohème*, Dr. Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*, the Motorcycle Cop in *Dead Man Walking*, Dr. Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Don Magnifico in *Cinderella*. Mr. Glavin has also performed as Brighella in the American premiere of Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot* at Glimmerglass Opera; Dr. Bartolo with Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Washington Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Vancouver Opera, the Teatro Colón (Buenos Aires) and the Teatro Teresa Carreño (Caracas); Don Magnifico with San Francisco Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, L'Opéra de Montréal and the Teatro Municipal de Santiago; and the title role in *Don Pasquale* with Glimmerglass Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia and L'Opéra de Montréal.

First-year Resident Artist [Lindsay Ammann](#) will perform the role of Marcellina, her fourth appearance this season. She previously performed as Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff* and Lucretia in *The Rape of Lucretia*, as well as covered the title role in *Carmen*. Ms. Ammann's repertoire also includes the roles of the Page of Herodias in *Salome*, Samira in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Antonia's

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Mother in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Dame Doleful in *Too Many Sopranos*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* and Nettie Sloan and Aunt Bea in *A Wedding*. Her awards include National Semi-Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2007, Finalist in the HGO Eleanor McCollum Competition 2009 and an Encouragement Award in the Lissner Foundation Competition 2009.

Returning for his second appearance this season, [Joseph Gaines](#) joins the cast as Don Basilio/Curzio. Mr. Gaines's operatic experience includes roles from *Madama Butterfly*, *The Magic Flute*, *Falstaff*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *I Pagliacci*, *The Abduction From the Seraglio*, *The Dangerous Liaisons*, *Euridice*, *The Ballad Of Baby Doe* and *Eugene Onegin*. He also performed as Pontio Pilato in the American premiere of *Das Liebesverbot* at Glimmerglass Opera. Mr. Gaines has been a featured soloist with The Detroit Symphony, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and a number of chamber and baroque ensembles in the United States and abroad. His concert repertoire includes Mozart, Britten, Handel, Bach, Rameau, Scarlatti, Schoenberg and Stravinsky, as well as contemporary works.

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Making his eleventh appearance with Pittsburgh Opera is third-year Resident Artist [Liam Moran](#). He was most recently seen as Zuniga in *Carmen*, as well as Collatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*, Colline in *La bohème*, the title role in *Don Pasquale*, The Old Hebrew in *Samson & Dalila*, Capellio in *The Capulets & the Montagues* Student Matinee, the King in *Aida*, the Immigration Officer in *Flight*, Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love* Behind the Curtain and The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Moran will perform as Figaro in the Student Matinee performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* on April 29. He also reprised his role as Colline in *La bohème* with Austin Lyric Opera in 2009.

Having most recently worked with the Company on the 2008 Resident Artist production of *Flight*, Kristine McIntyre also directed the 2004 Resident Artist production of *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* and the 2002 Resident Artist production of *La Clemenza di Tito*. This production marks her Pittsburgh Opera mainstage directorial debut. Ms. McIntyre has staged numerous operas and theater works, several ballets and has assisted in the direction of scores of productions principally in the United States. She has worked with The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Portland Opera, Dallas Opera, Long Beach Opera and Sugar Creek Symphony & Song.

Gary Thor Wedow returns to the podium, having previously conducted Pittsburgh Opera's 2006 production of *Xerxes* and its 2002 production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. He has also conducted *Serse* for New York City Opera and Wolf Trap Opera, as well as *Rinaldo* for Berkshire Opera, and *Alcina* and *Ariodante* for Toronto's Opera in Concert. Other credits include *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Patience* at New York City Opera; *Il*

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Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria at Wolf Trap Opera; *The Pirates of Penzance* at Glimmerglass Opera; *L'elisir d'amore* and *La bohème* at Chautauqua Opera; and the North American premiere of Sartorio's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* and the world premiere of Kulesha's *Red Emma* at Canadian Opera Company.

Tickets and Group Discounts

As part of Pittsburgh Opera's ongoing mission to make opera intellectually and financially accessible to a diverse audience, the Opera is proud to announce single tickets starting at just \$10. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Pittsburgh Opera is committed to making opera accessible to all groups in the Pittsburgh area by providing good discounts and special services to group ticketholders. Unlike the large number of people required by many other organizations, a group at Pittsburgh Opera can be as few as 6 people!

For more information about group ticket services and discounts, contact Randy Adams at (412) 281-0912 ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

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OPERA *Encore*

Friday, April 30 – 8:00 PM

Benedum Center

OPERA Encore is a unique opportunity for young professional Pittsburghers to enjoy a high-end opera experience with a manageable price tag. For each performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*, *OPERA Encore* offers a \$35 ticket for the best seats available. During the Friday, April 30 performance, *OPERA Encore* also provides an exclusive intermission lounge for young professionals to meet and socialize. To purchase *OPERA Encore* tickets, call (412) 281-0912 or email tickets@pittsburghopera.org.

Related Events

Oren Gradus Recital

Sunday, April 11 – 5:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to host an evening with renowned opera bass and former Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Oren Gradus. On Sunday, April 11 the evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:00 PM, followed by the recital at 6:00 PM and a dinner at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$100 per person with all proceeds benefiting Pittsburgh Opera.

Oren Gradus charmed us as Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin* and returns as Figaro in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Mr. Gradus is a former Resident Artist who now enjoys engagements all over the world in such roles as Colline, Figaro, Timur, Don Basilio and more. He has been
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seen and heard at San Francisco Opera, Bologna Opera, L'Opéra de Marseilles, Dallas Opera, Rome Opera, Seattle Opera and The Metropolitan Opera, among others.

Reservations are required by Thursday, April 8. To make a reservation, contact Liz Labacz at (412) 281-0912 ext. 231 or llabacz@pittsburghopera.org.

Free Brown Bag Concert

Saturday, April 10 – 12:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

The one-hour, Saturday, April 10 concert will begin at 12:00 PM and feature a preview of *The Marriage of Figaro* by the Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera. In the cozy new performance space at Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip District, friends, families and Pittsburghers of all ages are invited to enjoy these diverse concerts. This is a wonderful opportunity for an informal introduction to opera and guests can even meet the performers after the show!

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Brown Bag Concerts are free and open to the public. Complimentary coffee provided by [21st Street Coffee and Tea](#). Guests are encouraged to bring a lunch or pre-order a gourmet boxed lunch from [Right By Nature Natural Foods Market](#), Pittsburgh Opera's Local and Sustainable Food and Beverage Sponsor. Gourmet lunches start at \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Ingredients are local, organic and sustainable. A boxed [lunch menu](#) can be found in the [Community Initiative](#) section of the Pittsburgh Opera website, www.pittsburghopera.org. To pre-order a boxed lunch, call (412) 454-6200.

The Marriage of Figaro Previews on WQED-FM 89.3

Saturday, April 17 – 1:30 PM

Friday, April 23 – 7:00 PM

Hosted by WQED's Stephen Baum, the *The Marriage of Figaro* preview 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.

Opera Up Close: The Marriage of Figaro

Sunday, April 18 – 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Opera Up Close: The Marriage of Figaro is an entertaining and insightful program held on Sunday, April 18, in the performance space of Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip. *Opera Up Close* begins with an in-depth musical analysis of the opera *The Marriage of Figaro* with Maestro Gary Thor Wedow.

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After a short intermission where guests can enjoy light hospitality and chat with the Maestro, a moderated discussion panel will conclude the afternoon's events. The panel, which includes the director and star performers, will give guests an up-close and intimate behind-the-scenes peek into the world of opera ranging from deep, insightful analysis of each character to the light-hearted comic stories of their personal experiences. There will be opportunities to ask questions of the panel and meet the artists afterward.

Opera Up Close is free and open to the public. For more information, call (412) 281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org

Pre-Opera Talk

Ticketholders are invited to attend a [Pre-Opera Talk](#) on *The Marriage of Figaro* one hour before each performance's curtain in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Learn about the composer, the story and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

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Meet the Artists

Tuesday, April 27

Immediately following the opera in the Benedum Lower Lobby

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, April 27 performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* are invited to join Pittsburgh Opera in the Lower Lobby of the Benedum Center immediately following the performance for light refreshments and interviews with [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) and the stars of the opera. This event is free to all Tuesday performance ticketholders.

Sari Gruber Master Class

Wednesday, April 14 – 7:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Expert instruction is an integral part of the training Resident Artists receive as part of the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program. While most coaching is given in private, Pittsburgh Opera hosts public [Master Classes](#) throughout the season to give the community an opportunity to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the instruction of the Resident Artists.

Internationally-renowned soprano [Sari Gruber](#), who is performing as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, will host a Master Class with Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 PM in the Strip District headquarters at [2425 Liberty Avenue](#).

Free and open to the public, observers will have the opportunity to enjoy Ms. Gruber's expert instruction of the Resident Artists, with musical and dramatic critiques of their singing. For more information call (412) 281-0912.

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POA Resident Artists Farewell Luncheon

Thursday, April 29 – 1:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera Association bids a fond farewell to the 2009-2010 Resident Artists by applauding them in *The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee (10:00 AM) and then lunch at Pittsburgh Opera (1:00 PM). The luncheon is \$40 per person.

For additional information or to make a reservation, contact John Federico at (412) 281-0912 ext. 228 or jfederico@pittsburghopera.org.

Maecenas XXVI

Saturday, May 8 – 6:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera's 26th annual *Maecenas Gala* will be held on Saturday, May 8 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Company's Strip District headquarters at [2425 Liberty Avenue](#). This year's theme, *Maecenas Unmask'd*, is a Bob Sendall extravaganza that will transform the headquarters into an elegant and vibrant masquerade.

Maecenas XXVI is chaired by Dr. Lisa Cibik and Mr. Bernie Kabosky. This year's Maecenas Award recipients are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Massaro, Jr. The Renaissance Award will be presented to renowned mezzo-soprano Mildred Miller Posvar.

The evening includes cocktails, an elegant dinner, a performance by the Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera and dancing to the music of Cityscape. Pittsburgh's young professionals are invited to join in the celebration with a special 10:00 PM entrance for *Unmask'd @ Knight* with signature drinks from five South Side bars, dessert and dancing.

Tickets for the entire evening are \$500 for individuals with sponsorships beginning at \$2500. Tickets for *Unmask'd @ Knight* beginning at 10:00 PM are \$75. For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact John Federico at (412) 281-0912 ext. 228 or jfederico@pittsburghopera.org.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 71st season in 2009-10 with Eugene Onegin, Falstaff, The Rape of Lucretia, Carmen and 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 training programs for rising opera stars, and the company's newly-designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old Air Brake Factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert and recitals by world-class opera singers.

Single tickets for as little as \$10

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 456-6666

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