

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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The Barber of Seville opens Pittsburgh Opera's 72nd season

*Pittsburgh Opera Association welcomes opera season with 56th annual
Diamond Horseshoe Ball, "A Night in Seville"*

- What:** Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville (Il barbiere di Siviglia)*
- Where:** Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
7th Street and Penn Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh
- When:** Saturday, October 9, 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 PM
Friday, October 15, 8:00 PM Sunday, October 17, 2:00 PM
- Run time:** 3 hours, 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
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Season

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera launches its 72nd season with Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville (Il barbiere di Siviglia)*. In what is widely considered the composer's comic masterpiece, local Figaro makes mischief as he plays matchmaker for Rosina and Count Almaviva. [Pittsburgh Opera](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) presents *The Barber of Seville* October 9, 12, 15, and 17 at the Benedum Center in a production with an intricately beautiful set, extravagant costumes, and a stellar cast of newcomers and veterans.

Pittsburgh Opera Music Director [Antony Walker](#), fresh from successful engagements at Canadian Opera Company (*Maria Stuarda*), English National Opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), and Santa Fe Opera (*Madama Butterfly*) returns to conduct the Pittsburgh Opera orchestra. Director [A. Scott Parry](#) debuts with the Company, enjoying acclaim for his "witty," "clever," and "nimble" handling of comic operas *La Cenerentola* and others. Leading the exciting ensemble cast are baritone Matthew Worth as Figaro, soprano Daniela Mack as Rosina, and tenor David Portillo as Almaviva, all in Pittsburgh Opera debuts. Pittsburgh favorite Kevin Glavin (*Falstaff*, 2009; *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2010) squares off with fellow funnyman Paolo Pecchioli (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*, 2009) in the roles of Bartolo and Basilio, respectively. [Resident Artists](#) Dan Kempson (*Carmen*, 2010) and Alexandra Loutsion take the roles of Fiorello and Berta. The production was designed and built at Minnesota Opera, with costumes from Washington National Opera.

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Pittsburgh Opera's annual Student Matinee takes place this year during the run of *The Barber of Seville*. On Thursday, October 14 at 10:30 AM at the Benedum Center, the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists will star in the principal roles of *The Barber of Seville*, and engage more than 2400 students from public and private schools, grades 3-12. Before the Student Matinee, educators who wish to bring their students to this fully-staged performance with full orchestra are required to attend the Workshop for Educators on *The Barber of Seville*, and receive Act 48 hours along with numerous resources to integrate opera into existing lesson plans. Teachers and students receive \$10 tickets to the Student Matinee. The 2010-11 Student Matinee of *The Barber of Seville* is sponsored by the [H. J. Heinz Company Foundation](#).

Diamond Horseshoe Ball: A Night in Seville

The Pittsburgh Opera Association continues a 56-year tradition of welcoming the season with the [Diamond Horseshoe Ball](#), this year themed "A Night in Seville." This splashy event begins at 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 9, and continues after the opera and into the wee hours at the Westin Convention Center Ballroom. The gala features cocktails, dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and entertainment by [Puerto Flamenco](#) and CityScape. Every year, Diamond Horseshoe Ball ticketholders are also entered into a drawing for a diamond horseshoe-shaped pendant, styled after the very exclusive "Diamond Horseshoe" seating section at the Metropolitan Opera House. Tickets for "A Night in Seville" begin at \$150 for the post-opera party OPERA BLAST only; \$300 includes all pre- and post-opera events. To receive an invitation, or purchase tickets, contact Samuel Badger at 412-281-0912, x 225.

More about the opera

The story for the opera is taken from the Beaumarchais play *Le Barbier de Séville*, part of the famous trilogy that also includes *Le Mariage de Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*). It is rumored that Rossini composed the opera in under three weeks, although themes from the very famous Overture were borrowed from two previous operas, *Aureliano in Palmira* and *Elisabetta, regina d'Inghilterra* (*Elizabeth, Queen of England*). The first performance of *The Barber of Seville* in 1816 was a disaster, the hall having been filled with Rossini's rival composer's supporters; by the second performance, it was a great success. The opera presently occupies one of the top spots in Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America.

The story, in brief

Wealthy Dr. Bartolo intends to marry his young ward Rosina; however, Count Almaviva falls in love with her and enlists Figaro, a barber and man about town, to help him win her heart. Dr. Bartolo and music teacher Basilio attempt to keep Rosina out of Almaviva's arms, but after many twists, turns, and disguises, Rosina and the Count are united, and Figaro takes full credit. See the full synopsis at www.pittsburghopera.org

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

Fiorello	Dan Kempson *	baritone
Almaviva	David Portillo +	tenor
Rosina	Daniela Mack +	soprano
Figaro	Matthew Worth +	baritone
Dr. Bartolo	Kevin Glavin **	bass
Berta	Alexandra Loutsion *	mezzo-soprano
Ambrogio	James Flora *	tenor
Basilio	Paolo Pecchioli	bass
An Officer	Robert Kurth	

Director	A. Scott Parry +
Conductor	Antony Walker
Set Designer	Allen Moyer
Costume Designer	James Scott
Lighting Designer	Andrew Ostrowski
Hair & Makeup Designer	James Geier
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Continuo	Glenn Lewis
Stage Manager	Tara Kovach

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Sets constructed by and leased from Minnesota Opera
Costumes from Washington National Opera

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

**Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

The Barber of Seville opens Saturday, October 9 and continues October 12, 15, and 17. 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](#). This production is generously sponsored by the [H. J. Heinz Company Foundation](#). Media for this production is generously sponsored by [Lamar Outdoor Advertising](#) and [WSHH 99.7](#).

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 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

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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, mentor Jeremiah Jackson and sportscaster Tim Benz portray Figaro and Dr. Bartolo in the shaving scene in *The Barber of Seville*; 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.

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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 *The Barber of Seville*, OPERAEncore offers a \$35 ticket for the best seats available at the time of purchase. To purchase OPERAEncore tickets, call 412-281-0912 or e-mail tickets@pittsburghopera.org.

Related Events

***Italia: Life in “I” Style* at Footloose Shadyside**

Friday, September 24, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

736 Bellefonte St., Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Selected by the Italian Trade Commission to sponsor a benefit event, [Footloose Shadyside](#) presents *Italia: Life in “I” Style* to benefit Pittsburgh Opera. This celebration of the Italian food and wine lifestyle features wine tasting, food from local restaurants, opera selections by Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists, and trunk shows from four designers. Tickets are \$50; VIP tickets are \$100 and include a private reception at 5:00 PM, plus a goodie bag that includes gift certificates to Footloose and to Pittsburgh Opera productions. The trunk show continues through September 25. Tickets are available by calling Samuel Badger at 412-281-0912 x 225 or sbadger@pittsburghopera.org. All proceeds benefit Pittsburgh Opera.

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Rising Stars: Meet the Resident Artists **SOLD OUT**

Saturday, September 25, 6:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue

Meet the 2010-11 Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists as they introduce themselves through their favorite arias - then the audience chooses the final aria via texting technology. Texting instructions will be given at the event. A [RADical Days](#) event, **Rising Stars is free and open to the public.** Capacity is limited; presently, only waiting list reservations are available. To reserve a place on the waiting list, contact Mark Marston, 412-281-0912 x 216 or tickets@pittsburghopera.org.

Opera Up Close: *The Barber of Seville*

Sunday, September 26, 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.

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Pittsburgh Opera performances at Farmers@Firehouse

Saturday, October 2; Saturday, October 9, approx. 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Penn Avenue, beside Firehouse Lounge, between 22nd and 23rd streets

Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists perform for farmers' market shoppers at Farmers@Firehouse on Saturday, October 2 and Saturday, October 9, sponsored by [Slow Food Pittsburgh](#). Opera favorites will be offered alongside fresh vegetables, meats, and flowers. **Free and open to the public.**

Pittsburgh Opera Previews on WQED-FM 89.3

Saturday, October 2, 1:30 PM

Friday, October 8, 7:00 PM

Hosted by [WQED's](#) Stephen Baum, this half-hour preview of *The Barber of Seville* 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, October 9, 12:00 PM

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue

This one-hour concert features the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists, along with members of [Attack Theatre](#). Selections include music from *The Barber of Seville*, along with other performances by Attack Theatre, in collaboration as part of RADical Days. 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. **Brown Bag concerts are**

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free and open to the public. For more information, call 412-281-0912 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Pittsburgh Opera RADical Day at the Zoo

Sunday, October 10, 12:00 PM

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Highland Park

National City Pavilion (weather permitting) or Water's Edge Bldg.

Bring the kids to hear opera amid the sounds of nature. Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists perform opera favorites at the National City Pavilion (weather permitting) or the Water's Edge building. **A RADical Days event, it is free and open to the public.**

Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to attend a Pre-Opera Talk on *The Barber of Seville* 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.

Meet the Artists

Tuesday, October 12

Immediately following *The Barber of Seville*, approx. 10:00 PM

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, October 12 performance of *The Barber of Seville* 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.**

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.

2010-2011 Season

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

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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