

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

February 14, 2016

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## Pittsburgh Opera announces its 78th Season

**Pittsburgh, PA...** [Pittsburgh Opera](#) announces its 2016-2017 season. **The season includes the very first world premiere in our 78 year history and two Pennsylvania premieres.** The season will encompass four operas produced at the Benedum Center and two Resident Artist operas- the annual production at Pittsburgh CAPA Theater and the Second Stage Project at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

### Season Overview

<p><b>Benedum Center Productions :</b></p>	<p>Giuseppe Verdi's <a href="#">La traviata</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Oct. 8, 2016 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Oct. 11, 2016 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Oct. 14, 2016 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Oct. 16, 2016 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul> <p>Richard Strauss' <a href="#">Salome</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Nov. 5, 2016 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Nov. 8, 2016 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Nov. 11, 2016 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Nov. 13, 2016 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul> <p>Giacomo Puccini's <a href="#">Turandot</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Mar 25, 2017 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Mar 28, 2017 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Mar 31, 2017 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Apr 2, 2017 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul> <p><b>World premiere</b> of Daniel Sonenberg's <a href="#">The Summer King</a> – The Josh Gibson Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Apr 29, 2017 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, May 2, 2017 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, May 5, 2017 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, May 7, 2017 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul>
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<b>CAPA Theater Production:</b>	<p><b><i>Pennsylvania premiere</i></b> of George Frideric Handel's <a href="#">Richard the Lionheart</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Jan 21, 2017 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Jan 24, 2017 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Jan 27, 2017 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Jan 29, 2017 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul>
<b>Second Stage Project:</b>	<p><b><i>Pennsylvania premiere</i></b> of Laura Kaminsky's <a href="#">As One</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Feb 18, 2017 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Feb 21, 2017 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Feb 24, 2017 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Feb 26, 2017 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul>
<b>Special Events:</b>	<p>63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball – Friday., Sept. 30th, 2016</p> <p>New Year's Eve Celebration at Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland – Sat., Dec. 31, 2016</p> <p>Maecenas Ball XXXIII – Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017</p>
<b>Free, Low Cost and Other Events:</b>	<p>FREE <a href="#">Pre-Opera Talks</a>- One hour before each performance</p> <p>FREE <a href="#">Meet The Artists</a> - Following each Tuesday evening performance</p> <p>FREE <a href="#">Rising Stars concert</a> – Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Pittsburgh Opera headquarters</p> <p>FREE <a href="#">Brown Bag Concerts</a> - selected Saturdays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters</p> <p><a href="#">Art Song Recitals</a> - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.</p> <p><a href="#">Opera Up Close</a> - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters</p> <p><a href="#">Friends of Pittsburgh Opera</a> events</p> <p>WQED previews and broadcasts</p>
<b>Tickets:</b>	<p>Single tickets for the Benedum Center productions will again start at just \$12. Season tickets (subscriptions) for the four Benedum productions range from \$43 - \$639. Single ticket sales tentatively begin August 29, 2016. Group Discounts available.</p>

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## THE OPERAS

### [La traviata \(1853\)](#)

By Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at the Benedum Center

- *Last performed at Pittsburgh Opera in 2011*
- *Period production, from Boston Lyric Opera*

### Performances of [La traviata](#)

- Sat, Oct. 8, 2016 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, Oct. 11, 2016 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, Oct. 14, 2016 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, Oct. 16, 2016 \* 2:00 PM

### Overview of [La traviata](#)

Giuseppe Verdi's **La traviata** – the fallen woman- is a compelling tale of love, intrigue, money and power in 19th century France.

**La traviata** tells the heart wrenching story of courtesan Violetta Valéry, played by Pittsburgh favorite Danielle Pastin, last seen here in 2015's **Così fan tutte**.

Like so many of Verdi's works, **La traviata** explores grand themes through intimate family drama. Alfredo Germont – played by Cody Austin in his Pittsburgh Opera debut – wins Violetta's love and his father's displeasure. His father, going behind Alfredo's back, coerces Violetta into breaking up with Alfredo because their relationship threatens his daughter's engagement and his family's reputation.

Violetta will not disclose his father's role in their breakup, so Alfredo erroneously believes she loves someone else. He publicly denounces her, leaving them both grief-stricken. Will they reconcile before it's too late?

From the rousing "Brindisi" drinking song to touching arias, **La traviata's** singing and music are sure to delight.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Chas Rader-Shieber directs.

### Cast and Artistic Team: [La traviata](#)

Violetta Valery  
Alfredo Germont  
Giorgio Germont

[Danielle Pastin](#)\*\*  
[Cody Austin](#)+  
TBA

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Flora Bervoix  
Baron Douphol  
Doctor Grenvil  
Gastone de Letorieres  
Annina

[Leah de Gruyl\\*](#)  
[Brian Vu\\*](#)  
[Matt Scollin\\*](#)  
[Eric Ferring\\*](#)  
[Claudia Rosenthal\\*](#)

Conductor  
Stage Director  
Set Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Asst. Conductor  
Chorus Master  
Associate Coach/Pianist

[Antony Walker](#)  
[Chas Rader-Shieber](#)  
[Julia Noulin-Mérat](#)  
TBA  
[Glenn Lewis](#)  
[Mark Trawka](#)  
[James Lesniak](#)

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

## [Salome](#) (1905)

Composition and libretto By Richard Strauss  
Sung in German with English texts projected above the stage  
Four performances at the Benedum Center

- *Last performed at Pittsburgh Opera in 2001*
- *Period production, owned by Pittsburgh Opera*

### Performances of [Salome](#)

- Sat, Nov. 5, 2016 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, Nov. 8, 2016 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, Nov. 11, 2016 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, Nov. 13, 2016 \* 2:00 PM

### Overview of [Salome](#)

Originally censored in Vienna, banned in London, and even protested in New York, **Salome** is now considered a classic. **Salome** helped reinforce Strauss's reputation as "the greatest genius of the age".

Based on the play by the one and only Oscar Wilde, Salome recreates the biblical story of King Herod, his daughter Salome and John the Baptist (called Jochanaan).

Princess Salome is obsessed with Jochanaan, who is being held prisoner in her father King Herod's dungeon. She is filled with an overwhelming desire for him and wants to kiss him, but he rejects her. King Herod, meanwhile, fancies his own daughter Salome, much to his wife Herodias' disgust. Herod implores Salome to dance for him, promising to reward her with her heart's desire – even if it were one half of his kingdom.

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Sensing an opportunity, Salome agrees and performs the seductive “Dance of the Seven Veils”. This dance, a sort of biblical strip tease, has her slowly removing her seven veils until she lies naked at her father’s feet. Having danced for her father, Salome intends to make good on Herod’s promise to give her whatever she wants. What she wants is the head of the prophet Jochanaan, presented on a silver platter. Herod tries to no avail to change her mind, and ultimately he is forced to accede to her demands.

Salome holds her trophy triumphantly. Jochanaan had prevented her from kissing his lips before- now she mocks him and passionately kisses his severed head. Disgusted and terrified, Herod has his guards kill Salome as the curtain falls.

We are thrilled to have Patricia Racette playing the title role of Salome, who sang the role to critical acclaim last year, Robert Brubaker as King Herod, and Michael Martens as Herodias.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts.

## Cast and Artistic Team: [Salome](#)

Salome	<a href="#">Patricia Racette</a> <sup>+</sup>
King Herod	<a href="#">Robert Brubaker</a> <sup>+</sup>
Herodias	<a href="#">Micaela Martens</a> <sup>+</sup>
Jochanaan	TBA
Narraboth	<a href="#">Jonathan Boyd</a>
Page of Herodias	<a href="#">Leah de Gruyl</a> <sup>*</sup>
Conductor	<a href="#">Antony Walker</a>
Stage Director	TBA
Set Designer	<a href="#">Boyd Ostroff</a>
Lighting Designer	TBA
Asst. Conductor	<a href="#">Glenn Lewis</a>
Chorus Master	<a href="#">Mark Trawka</a>
Associate Coach/Pianist	<a href="#">James Lesniak</a>

<sup>+</sup> Pittsburgh Opera debut

<sup>\*</sup> Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

<sup>\*\*</sup> Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

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## CAPA Theater production: Handel's [Richard the Lionheart](#) (1727) - *Pennsylvania premiere*

By George Frideric Handel

Libretto by Paolo Antonio Rolli

Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at CAPA Theater, 111 Ninth Street, Downtown

- *Never before performed by Pittsburgh Opera*
- *New production*

### Performances of [Richard the Lionheart](#)

- Sat, Jan 21, 2017 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, Jan 24, 2017 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, Jan 27, 2017 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, Jan 29, 2017 \* 2:00 PM

### Overview of [Richard the Lionheart](#)

In **Richard the Lionheart**, Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists will perform an opera that has never before been seen in Pennsylvania.

Before he wrote his famous **Messiah**, George Frideric Handel composed a number of beautiful operas. He wrote **Richard the Lionheart** (Riccardo Primo) for the Royal Academy's 1726–27 opera season in London. It was neglected for a considerable amount of time before being resurrected in the mid 1960's. However, this will only be the second time **Richard the Lionheart** has been performed in the United States (the first was by Opera Theatre of St. Louis in 2015).

The story takes place in Cyprus in the late 1100's, and is about King Richard the First of England's pending marriage to the Spanish princess Costanza.

On her journey to be married to King Richard, Costanza and her party are shipwrecked off the coast of Cyprus. She finds shelter at the court of the local governor, Isacio. Isacio's daughter Pulcheria is engaged to Oronte, Prince of Syria, but Oronte is quickly attracted to the beautiful Costanza, as is Isacio himself.

King Richard arrives in Cyprus to collect Costanza, who Isacio promises to deliver. However, Isacio is up to no good. He intends to send his daughter Pulcheria to King Richard in place of Costanza, and keep Costanza for himself. Costanza and her servant Berardo suspect treachery, and Berardo promises to investigate.

When Isacio informs Pulcheria of his plot she is conflicted. She does not want to be party to a fraud, but she sees an opportunity to punish her unfaithful lover Oronte.

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King Richard arrives, disguised as his kingdom's ambassador. Pulcheria presents herself to him as Costanza. Berardo has discovered and relayed the plot to Oronte, who reveals the treachery to a now angry King Richard. Richard vows to either return with the real Costanza or avenge himself by force of arms.

King Richard offers Isacio the choice of either peace or war. Isacio chooses war, with Costanza as the proposed prize. The armies battle, and Richard's army captures Isacio. Isacio must renounce his power, but is allowed to live. Pulcheria, now reconciled with Oronte as her husband, shall reign in place of her father. Richard and Costanza sail off into the sunset where, "gentle, sweet affection will set their hearts aglow."

Pittsburgh Opera is pleased to partner with [Chatham Baroque](#) for **Richard the Lionheart**. Founded in 1990, [Chatham Baroque](#) continues to excite local, national and international audiences with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>- century music played on authentic instruments of the period.

Pittsburgh Opera is also pleased to be partnering with Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama to create custom sets for these performances.

Our CAPA Theater productions showcase Pittsburgh Opera's talented, dedicated Resident Artists, and provide a rare opportunity to see tomorrow's big league opera stars today.

## Cast and Artistic Team: [Richard the Lionheart](#)

King Richard I of England	<a href="#">Leah de Gruyl</a> *
Costanza	TBA
Isacio	TBA
Pulcheria	<a href="#">Claudia Rosenthal</a> *
Oronte	TBA
Berardo	<a href="#">Taylor Raven</a> *
Conductor	<a href="#">Michael Beattie</a>
Stage Director	<a href="#">Crystal Manich</a>
Set Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

\*\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

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## Second Stage Project: [As One](#) (2014) - *Pennsylvania premiere*

By [Laura Kaminsky](#)

Libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed

Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, 2425 Liberty Ave., in the Strip

- *Never before performed by Pittsburgh Opera*
- *New production*

### Performances of [As One](#)

- Sat, Feb 18, 2017 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, Feb 21, 2017 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, Feb 24, 2017 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, Feb 26, 2017 \* 2:00 PM

### Overview of [As One](#)

Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters has become the home of our Second Stage Project, focusing on new works in the opera canon. We are very proud to bring Laura Kaminsky's contemporary opera **As One** to our Second Stage beginning February 18, 2017.

As explained more fully in the [libretto available for free download](#), **As One** tells the story and struggle of the transgender protagonist, Hannah, as she tries to reconcile the discord between herself and the outside world. **As One** traces Hannah's experiences from her youth in a small town to her college years on the West Coast, and finally to Norway where she is surprised at what she learns about herself.

Hannah faces youthful challenges conforming to gender norms, before discovering that she is not alone in the world. During her college years, Hannah struggles with her bifurcated existence and begins to grow apart from her family. Hannah escapes a harrowing assault that prompts her to find a link to the larger trans community and end her self-imposed alienation. Eventually, Hannah finds, in nature, solitude, and self-reflection, the simple yet surprising equation that will help her achieve happiness.

Commissioned and developed by [American Opera Project](#), **As One** received generous funding from [OPERA America's Opera Discovery Grants for Female Composers Program](#), supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works, Dr. Coco Lazaroff, Lynn Loacker and Judith O. Rubin.

**As One** premiered at [BAM Fisher Center](#) in Brooklyn, NY in September, 2014. This will be one of the first times it's been performed since its world premiere.



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Like our CAPA Theater productions, our Second Stage productions showcase Pittsburgh Opera's talented, dedicated Resident Artists, and provide a rare opportunity to witness performances of this caliber in such a private setting.

## Cast and Artistic Team: [As One](#)

Hannah before

[Brian Vu](#)\*

Hannah after

[Taylor Raven](#)\*

Conductor

TBA

Stage Director

TBA

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

\*\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

## [Turandot \(1926\)](#)

By Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni

Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at the Benedum Center

- *Last performed at Pittsburgh Opera in 2011*
- *Period production, Pittsburgh Opera co-production with Minnesota Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Utah Opera and Cincinnati Opera*

## Performances of [Turandot](#)

- Sat, March 25, 2017 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, March 28, 2017 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, March 31, 2017 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, April 2, 2017 \* 2:00 PM

## Overview of [Turandot](#)

Set in ancient China, **Turandot** is an all-time favorite - a lavish production full of dazzling sets and costumes. The opera's story involves Prince Calaf, who falls in love with the icy Princess Turandot, played by Alexandra Loutsion.

To obtain permission to marry Turandot, a suitor has to solve three riddles; a single wrong answer results in death. Prince Calaf is dazzled by Turandot's beauty and wants to attempt to solve her three riddles. His father Timur, and Timur's servant Liù- who is secretly in love with the Prince- plead with him in vain not to attempt the riddles.

Calaf correctly solves the riddles, but Turandot still refuses to marry him. Calaf offers her a way out: learn his name before dawn, and he will die after all. Believing that no one will reveal his name, the Prince waits for dawn and anticipates his victory, singing his famous aria "Nessun dorma".

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Turandot realizes that Liù knows Calaf's name, and attempts to torture it out of her. Liù withstands the torturing, declares that she will not reveal his name, then seizes a dagger from a soldier's belt and stabs herself.

The Prince reproaches Turandot for her cruelty, then takes her in his arms and kisses her. Turandot feels herself falling for him and is conflicted. She admits that, ever since he came, she has both hated and loved him. She asks him to leave, taking his secret name with him. The Prince however, reveals his name and places his life in Turandot's hands. Ultimately, she realizes she loves him too, and spares his life. The lovers embrace while the crowd rejoices.

Renaud Doucet directs. Antony Walker conducts.

## Cast and Artistic Team: [Turandot](#)

Princess Turandot	<a href="#">Alexandra Loutsion</a> **
Prince Calaf	<a href="#">Stefano La Colla</a> +
Liù	<a href="#">Maria Luigia Borsi</a>
Timur	<a href="#">Wei Wu</a> +
Emperor Altoum	<a href="#">Joseph Frank</a>
Ping	<a href="#">Craig Verm</a> **
Pang	<a href="#">Julius Ahn</a> +
Pong	<a href="#">Joseph Hu</a> +
Conductor	<a href="#">Antony Walker</a>
Stage Director	<a href="#">Renaud Doucet</a>
Set Designer	<a href="#">Andre Barbe</a>
Lighting Designer	<a href="#">Guy Simard</a>
Asst. Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

\*\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

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## [The Summer King](#) – *World Premiere*

by [Daniel Sonenberg](#)

Libretto by [Daniel Sonenberg](#) and [Daniel Nester](#)

Based on the life of baseball Hall of Famer Josh Gibson

Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at the Benedum Center

### Performances of [The Summer King](#)

- Sat, Apr 29, 2017 \* 8:00 PM
- Tue, May 2, 2017 \* 7:00 PM
- Fri, May 5, 2017 \* 7:30 PM
- Sun, May 7, 2017 \* 2:00 PM

*ALSO: Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Student Matinee performance at 10:00 AM*

### Overview of [The Summer King](#)

Pittsburgh Opera's 2016-2017 season concludes with the first world premiere in our illustrious 78 year history. Opera lovers, baseball fans, and Pittsburghers of all stripes will be dazzled by Daniel Sonenberg's **The Summer King**, the Josh Gibson story.

**The Summer King** was commissioned by [Portland Ovations](#), with development by [American Opera Projects](#) and deeply appreciated continuing support for the Pittsburgh Opera world premiere from the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#). **The Summer King** has received major support from [American Opera Projects](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), [Bob Crewe Foundation](#), [Maine Arts Commission](#) and [University of Southern Maine](#). **The Summer King** received its first public presentation as a concert performance on May 8, 2014 at Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine under the auspices of [Portland Ovations](#) in collaboration with the [University of Southern Maine](#). Pittsburgh Opera is turning it into a full stage production, with lighting, costumes, sets, a full orchestra in the pit, and so forth for its world premiere in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh Opera is also working with the composer to continue to develop material for the world premiere.

As baseball fans and proud Pittsburgh history enthusiasts know, Josh went from the sandlots of Pittsburgh's North Side to the pinnacle of greatness on the baseball diamond in the Negro Leagues, before ultimately being enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

The opera begins with a father and son debating about great baseball players. When the father mentions Josh Gibson, the son thinks his father is living in the past. But as his father retorts, "Who's got those numbers today?"

**The Summer King** follows Josh at key points in his life, including his playing days in the Negro Leagues as well as in Mexico, where he was awarded the MVP award while playing

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for the Veracruz Azules. The robust supporting characters include his wife Helen, who dies in childbirth, his girlfriend Grace (sung by the amazing [Denyce Graves](#)), and teammates such as Sam Bankhead and Cool Papa Bell.

Also featured in prominent roles are the gregarious Gus Greenlee, who owned not just the Pittsburgh Crawfords but also the legendary Crawford Grill in Pittsburgh's Hill District, and Wendell Smith, an intrepid reporter for the celebrated African American newspaper The Pittsburgh Courier.

Like all African Americans at the time, Josh was prohibited from playing in the Major Leagues by what was disingenuously referred to as a "gentlemen's agreement" among the Major League clubs. Sadly, Josh died at the age of 35, felled by a stroke shortly before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Pittsburgh Opera is proud and privileged to premiere **The Summer King**, Josh Gibson's story. Josh Gibson™ used with permission of Josh Gibson Enterprise, Inc., c/o Luminary Group LLC, [www.JoshGibson.org](http://www.JoshGibson.org)

Pittsburgh Opera's annual Student Matinee will introduce 2,000+ school children grades 3-12 to this lively, colorful opera on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Benedum Center. The Resident Artists take lead roles in the Student Matinee, and are accompanied by the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, in yet another opportunity to hone performance skills.

## Cast and Artistic Team: [The Summer King](#)

Josh Gibson	TBA
Sam Bankhead	<a href="#">Kenneth Kellogg</a> +
Gus Greenlee	<a href="#">Norman Shankle</a> +
Cool Papa Bell	<a href="#">Phillip Gay</a> **
Grace	<a href="#">Denyce Graves</a> +
Wendell Smith	TBA
Hattie	<a href="#">Jasmine Muhammad</a> **
Conductor	<a href="#">Antony Walker</a>
Stage Director	<a href="#">Sam Helfrich</a>
Set Designer	<a href="#">Andrew Lieberman</a>
Costume Designer	<a href="#">Kay Voyce</a>
Lighting Designer	TBA
Asst. Conductor	<a href="#">Glenn Lewis</a>
Chorus Master	<a href="#">Mark Trawka</a>
Associate Coach/Pianist	<a href="#">James Lesniak</a>

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

\*\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **62<sup>nd</sup> annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball**

**Friday, September 30, 2016**

**Location TBA**

Pittsburgh Opera special events have a reputation for elegance and excitement. The annual [Diamond Horseshoe Ball](#) is its signature season kickoff gala, where guests enjoy an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, and special entertainment. Each year, one lucky Diamond Horseshoe Ball guest is selected at random to receive a diamond-encrusted pendant in the shape of a horseshoe. A live and silent auction raises funds which enable Pittsburgh Opera to offer special programs such as [Opera Connections](#) and [Opera Opportunity](#). The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016, at a location to be announced.

### ***New Year's Eve***

**Saturday, December 31, 2016**

**Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland**

Back by popular demand! Named by NEXTpittsburgh as one of the 10 Pittsburgh Events Not to Miss, [this glittery event](#) returns to Carnegie Music Hall for dinner, entertainment and a stellar party to ring in 2017. The only event of its kind in Pittsburgh, it includes entertainment by members of the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and our Resident Artists, a DJ and live music.

### ***Maecenas XXXIII***

**Saturday, May 13, 2017**

**Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters in the Strip**

Hailed by SEEN as one “of the best black tie galas in town” and by the Tribune Review as one of Pittsburgh’s top parties of the year, Pittsburgh Opera’s signature fundraiser gala [Maecenas](#) is the social event not to be missed! Named for Gaius Maecenas, the wealthy Roman statesman and cultural patron, Maecenas has developed a reputation for a spectacular environment and great entertainment. [Maecenas XXXIII](#) will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Specific details will be released at a later date.

## **FREE, LOW COST & OTHER EVENTS**

### **FREE Pre-Opera Talks**

Ticketholders are invited to attend a Pre-Opera Talk one hour before each performance’s curtain (*except the Second Stage Project “As One”*) in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center or in the Black Box for CAPA performances. Learn about the composer, the story and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

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## FREE Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday opera performance are invited to join [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free to all Tuesday opera ticketholders, and is held in the Lower Lobby for Benedum performances, in the Black Box for CAPA performances, and in the performance space at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

### Meet the Artists Dates 2016-'17

*La Traviata* – Tuesday, October 11, 2016

*Salome* – Tuesday, November 8, 2016

*Richard the Lionheart* – Tuesday, January 24, 2017 (at CAPA Theater)

*As One* – Tuesday, February 24, 2017 (at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters)

*Turandot* – Tuesday, March 28, 2017

*The Summer King* – Tuesday, May 2, 2017

## FREE Rising Stars

**Sunday, September 18, 2016, 6:00 PM**

**George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)**

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Opera's Strip District headquarters. *Rising Stars* is the community's first opportunity to meet the incoming [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists](#), using the opera audition process to introduce the singers. This performance is free and open to everyone. At *Rising Stars*, each Resident Artist first performs a selection of his or her own choosing, followed with one chosen by [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) and [Music Director Antony Walker](#). A final aria to conclude the concert is selected by the audience.

## FREE Brown Bag Concerts

**Selected Saturdays during the season, 12:00 PM**

**George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)**

Pittsburgh Opera continues its popular and free [Brown Bag Concerts](#) in 2014-'15. Attracting an average of 157 each month, these informal performances feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#). Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays of each month, October 2015 – April 2016, these one-hour performances are free and open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to bring a friend and bring a lunch. [Friends of Pittsburgh Opera](#) provide a reception after each Brown Bag concert.

### Brown Bag Concert Dates 2016-'17

October 15, 2016

November 12, 2016

December 10, 2016

January 7, 2017

February 11, 2017

March 11, 2017

April 1, 2017

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## ***Opera Up Close***

**Selected Sundays during the season, 2:00 PM**

**Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)**

Pittsburgh Opera hosts another season of its popular *Opera Up Close* presentations. These entertaining and insightful programs are offered five times per season in Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip District. Each *Opera Up Close* begins with an in-depth musical analysis of the opera with [Maestro Antony Walker](#) or a guest conductor and members of the cast and the production team, which is followed by a lively panel discussion. There is a \$5 general admission fee, but Opera Up Close events are free to members of [Friends of Pittsburgh Opera](#) and to donors at \$50+.

***La Traviata*** – Sunday, Sep. 25, 2016

***Salome*** – Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016

***Richard the Lionheart*** – Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017

***As One*** – Sunday, February 12, 2017

***Turandot*** – Sunday, March 12, 2017

***The Summer King*** – Sunday, April 9, 2017

## **Art Song Recitals**

**Selected Sundays during the season, 2:00 PM**

**George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)**

In the 2015-'16 season, Pittsburgh Opera continues to present [Art Song Recitals](#). Each recital offers one-hour performances of art song literature from a variety of composers and styles, featuring [Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists](#). Art Song Recitals will be held on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 and Sunday, March 5, 2017. Additional recital dates, performers and selections will be released at a later date. There is a \$5 general admission fee, but Art Song Recitals are free to members of [Friends of Pittsburgh Opera](#) and to donors at \$50+.

## **FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera Events**

[Friends of Pittsburgh Opera](#) schedules events geared toward fellowship, fundraising, and opera scholarship during the year. Events for 2016-'17 included a Holiday party, a Valentine's Day dinner/dance party, salon-type events, and talks by opera aficionados and scholars. The schedule of 2016-'17 [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) events will be announced at a later time.



# PITTSBURGH OPERA

## WQED BROADCASTS/PREVIEWES

### **Pittsburgh Opera 2015-'16 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](http://wqed.org/fm)**

Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2015-2016 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again. The broadcasts are at 1:00 PM on consecutive Saturdays from September 3rd through October 8<sup>th</sup>.

***Nabucco*** – September 3, 2016

***Così fan tutte*** – September 10, 2016

***Little Women*** – September 17, 2016

***27*** – September 24, 2016

***The Barber of Seville*** – October 1, 2016

***The Rake's Progress*** – October 8, 2016

### **Pittsburgh Opera Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](http://wqed.org/fm)**

Hosted by WQED's Jim Cunningham, these half-hour previews of each upcoming opera are broadcast twice before each production opens, giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music and production.

***La Traviata*** – Sat., Oct. 1 and Fri., Oct. 7, 2016

***Salome*** – Sat., Oct. 29 and Fri., Nov. 4, 2016

***Richard the Lionheart*** – Sat., Jan. 14 and Fri., Jan. 20, 2017

***As One*** – Sat., Feb. 11 and Fri., Feb. 17, 2017

***Turandot*** – Sat., Mar. 18 and Fri., Mar. 24, 2017

***The Summer King*** – Sat., Apr. 22 and Fri., Apr. 28, 2017



# PITTSBURGH OPERA

## TICKETS, SEASON TICKETS & GROUP DISCOUNTS

As part of Pittsburgh Opera's continued efforts to make opera accessible to all members of the community, [single tickets](#) for the 2016-'17 season will again start at just \$12. Season tickets (subscriptions) for the 4 Benedum productions range from \$43 - \$639. Single ticket sales tentatively begin August 29, 2016. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

Subscribers enjoy the benefits of:

- The best seats at the best prices
- Easy, flexible, free ticket exchanges
- Split-Pay Plan for Early Birds: up to 5 months to pay for the subscription
- Reserved parking at Theater Square Garage
- 15% subscriber discount on additional single tickets to mainstage operas
- 20% subscriber discount on the Resident Artist opera **Richard the Lionheart**
- Invitations to exclusive events throughout the year
- Money-Back Guarantee: – if subscribers are not satisfied with their first opera, Pittsburgh Opera will refund the balance of the subscription

Pittsburgh Opera is committed to making opera accessible to all groups in the Pittsburgh area by providing great discounts and special services to group ticketholders. 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](mailto:groups@pittsburghopera.org).

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