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The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson

Play by Sandra Seaton
Original music by Carlos Simon
Text for original music by Sandra Seaton
Commissioned by the Glimmerglass Festival

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The Original music for *The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson*, Copyright © 2022 Carlos Simon
Produced by arrangement with Sandra Seaton, Carlos Simon, The Barbara Hogenson Agency, Inc., and Bill Holab Music

Marvin Mills+

CAST (in order of appearance):

Mary Cardwell Dawson Alyson Cambridge+
Frank Christian Mark Gibbs+
Phoebe Jazmine Olwalia*
Isabelle Meroë Khalia Adeeb+

THE ARTISTIC TEAM: Music Director / Pianist

Stage Director Kimille Howard+ James F. Rotondo III+ Set Designer Costume Designer Jessica Jahn Wig and Make-up Designer Izear Winfrey Todd Nonn Lighting Designer Cindy Knight Stage Manager Head of Music Glenn Lewis Director of Musical Studies Mark Trawka Associate Coach / Pianist James Lesniak Assistant Stage Director Claire Young Assistant Stage Manager Bee Anderson

Scenery designed by James F. Rotondo III. Costumes designed by Jessica Jahn. The scenery and costumes were originally created for The Glimmerglass Festival.

Original lighting design by Amith Chandrashaker Original sound design by Andrew Harper

Lobby display materials created by The Denyce Graves Foundation

- Pittsburgh Opera debut
- * Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Cast subject to change without notice.

Pittsburgh Opera presents **The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson**, first performed in 2021 at the Glimmerglass Festival.

These performances mark the first production of **The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson** at Pittsburgh Opera.

Opera in one act.

Dialogue spoken in English. Music sung in French and English, with English texts projected above the stage.

Estimated performance time: 70 mins, no intermission

Pittsburgh Opera offers an Audio Commentary service for patrons with visual impairments during Tuesday performances. To pick up an Assistive Listening Device, simply present an ID at the Education Table in the lobby. Braille and Large-Print programs are also available at each performance.

Support for this production comes from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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SYNOPSIS

THE PASSION OF MARY CARDWELL DAWSON

Summer 1943. Mary Cardwell Dawson's rehearsal studio. The National Negro Opera Company is preparing to present two operas at the outdoor Watergate Concert Barge in Washington, D.C. For the company's ambitious schedule, *La traviata* was performed on the first night with the great soprano Madame Lillian Evanti. However, the damp weather was unsuitable, and the attendance was disappointing.

Madame Mary Cardwell Dawson meets with the singers who will perform the leads in a planned performance of *Carmen*: Frank (Don José), Isabelle (Micaëla), and Phoebe (Carmen). Fearing the rain will again keep the audience away, Madame Dawson inquires about renting a concert hall. While the hall manager agrees to rent to the NNOC, he informs Madame Dawson that the venue has a policy of segregated seating.

The future of the company hangs in the balance: according to the Union agreement, the artists and other personnel must be paid, whether the concert takes place or not. An outdoor performance in the rain is sure to be a disappointment, but an indoor performance with segregated seating is unacceptable.

The young singers, eager to make their mark, urge Madame Dawson to consider the hall. She initially will not hear it, but as rehearsals continue and the weather worsens, she has moments of doubt. The Union board, expecting a breach of contract, demands she leave rehearsal for an emergency meeting. When they insult her, she fights back and is taken to jail. After Madame Dawson is bailed out, Madame Dawson returns to rehearsal, bruised but undaunted.

The young singers realize that Madame Dawson's life—her determination and struggle—is the greatest lesson she has for them. They tell her they will sing in the rain if necessary. Just as they resolve to go forward, the rain stops.

Courtesy of The Glimmerglass Festival

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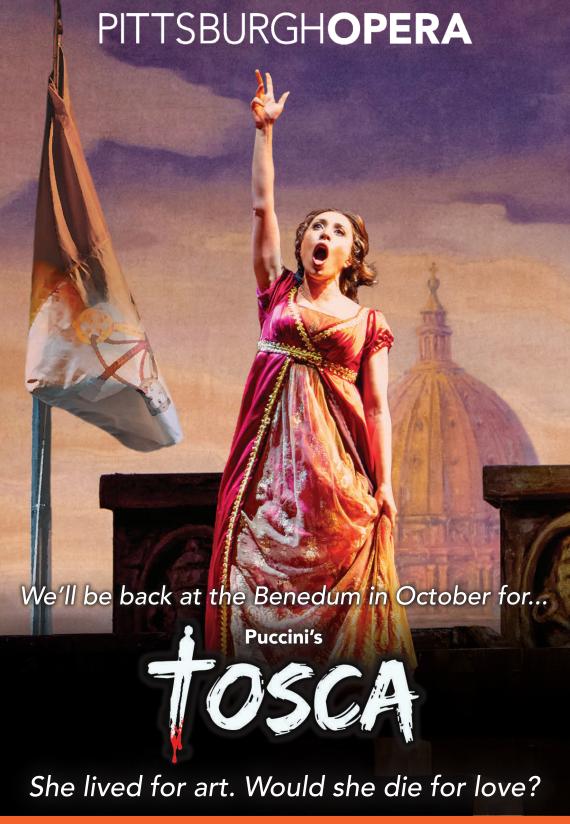






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SEASON



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BYHAM THEATER INFORMATION

LATECOMERS

To ensure the quality of our productions, ticket holders who arrive after the performance has begun will be taken to the best seats available near an entrance. The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson is performed without an intermission. Refunds or exchanges are NOT issued to latecomers.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The safety of our patrons is our top priority. With that in mind, weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited at all Pittsburgh Cultural Trust venues. Guests may enter with one bag, no larger than 16" x 16" x 8". All bags are subject to search, and theatergoers may be asked to open their jackets prior to entering. Unattended items left outside will be discarded to ensure patron safety. For more information on our security policies, visit TrustArts.org/safety.

ELEVATOR

Stops at main floor for the orchestra level, lower level for restrooms and coat check, and the very top of the balcony only.

FIRE EXITS

Located at all levels and clearly marked. Used ONLY in case of emergency.

LOST AND FOUND LINE

Call Benedum Security at 412-456-2610

RECORDING EQUIPMENT

The use of cameras, video cameras, tape recorders or other recording equipment is strictly prohibited.

REFRESHMENTS

Food and Beverage service is only on a per-show basis. No guarantee of food or beverage is available at this time.

RESTROOMS

Lounges, including accessible restrooms are located in the Lower Lobby.

SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in the Byham Theater

STAGE AREA

Limited to performers, staff and authorized visitors.

AUDIO COMMENTARY

Pittsburgh Opera offers an Audio Commentary service for patrons with visual impairments during Tuesday performances at the Byham Theater. Through Assistive Listening Devices, patrons can hear the supertitles read simultaneously with their appearances on the screen, as well as descriptions of the set, characters, and costumes. Pittsburgh Opera also offers Braille and large-print programs. Inquire at the Education table in the lobby.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- A wheelchair is available on the Orchestra Level only.
- Box seats are available on the orchestra level for physically challenged patrons. Please specify at time of purchase.
- Family Restrooms are located off the Main Floor Lobby and in the Lower Lobby.
- Guide dogs welcomed. Please inquire by phone or at the Box Office when buying tickets.
- Volunteers are available to provide assistance.
- Hearing devices are available
- in Guest Services.
- The theater is equipped with two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at the Fifth Floor elevator and next to the main floor family restroom.

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655 Penn Avenue

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412-456-6666; Monday through Saturday: 10 AM-8P M.; Sunday: 12 PM - 8 PM.

THE BYHAM THEATER BOX OFFICE

Open on performance days only two hours before curtain time through intermission.

TICKETING SERVICES

In Person: Byham Theater Box Office

Online: TRUSTARTS.ORG

Monday–Saturday, 10 AM–6 PM

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Groups: Call 412-281-0912 x213

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