

February 7, 2019 Contact:

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Pittsburgh Opera announces its 81st Season

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera announces its 2019-20 season, the company's 81st. The season continues Pittsburgh Opera's tradition of performing world-class productions from old favorites to exciting new works.

Along with a multitude of events, ranging from free community concerts to black-tie galas, the season will encompass four operas produced at the Benedum Center, a Baroque chamber opera at Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater and our Second Stage Project at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

Season Overview

Benedum Center Productions :

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Don Giovanni

- Sat., Oct. 12, 2019 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Oct. 15, 2019 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Oct. 18, 2019 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Oct. 20, 2019 * 2:00 PM

Daniel Catán's Florencia en el Amazonas

- Sat., Nov. 9, 2019 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Nov. 12, 2019 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Nov. 15, 2019 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Nov. 17, 2019 * 2:00 PM

Georges Bizet's Carmen

- Sat., March 28, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., March 31, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., April 3, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., April 5, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Vincenzo Bellini's Norma

- Sat., April 25, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., April 28, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., May 1, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., May 3, 2020 * 3:00 PM

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater Production: Second Stage Project:	George Frideric Handel's Alcina
Project.	 Sat., Feb 22, 2020 8:00 PM Tues., Feb 25, 2020 * 7:00 PM Fri., Feb. 28, 2020 * 7:30 PM Sun., March 1, 2020 * 2:00 PM
Special Events:	65 th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball – Saturday, September 28, 2019 Maecenas Ball XXXVI – Saturday, May 9, 2020
Free, Low Cost, and Other Events:	FREE Pre-Opera Talks- one hour before each performance FREE Meet The Artists - following each Tuesday evening performance FREE Rising Stars concert – September 22, 2019 at Pittsburgh Opera headquarters FREE Brown Bag Concerts - selected Saturdays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters Art Song Recitals - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters. Opera Up Close - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera events Pittsburgh Opera New Guard events WQED previews and broadcasts
Tickets:	 Season tickets (subscriptions) are now available. Subscriptions for the four Benedum productions range from \$45 - \$644. Single ticket sales begin in late August. Single tickets for the Benedum Center productions start at just \$14; Children and teens ages 6-18 are half-off for all Benedum Center operas. Group discounts, including student discounts, are available.



THE OPERAS

Don Giovanni (1787)

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the Benedum Center

- Last performed at Pittsburgh Opera in 2012
- Period production, owned by Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Performances of Don Giovanni

- Sat., Oct. 12, 2019 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Oct. 15, 2019 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Oct. 18, 2019 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Oct. 20, 2019 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Don Giovanni

Charming nobleman. Serial womanizer. Sexual predator. Don Giovanni is all these and more. As the list of people out to get him grows longer, eventually his misdeeds catch up with him.

Don Giovanni leaves a trail of broken hearts, and worse, wherever he goes. He has his servant, the reluctant doormat Leporello, keep a journal of Don Giovanni's many conquests. Completely without morals or a conscience, Don Giovanni sexually assaults Donna Anna, then kills her father the Commendatore, who had tried to come to her defense. He seduces young Zerlina on her wedding day. But all actions have consequences, as Don Giovanni is soon to learn.

An irresistible classic, Mozart's **Don Giovanni** seamlessly combines comedy and tragedy with one of the great musical scores of all time to create one of the world's favorite operas.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts; Kristine McIntyre directs.

OPERA

Cast and Artistic Team: Don Giovanni

Don Giovanni Donna Anna Don Ottavio Commendatore Donna Elvira Leporello Masetto Zerlina

Conductor
Stage Director
Scenic designer
Costume designer
Lighting Designer
Wig & Make-up Designer
Stage Manager

Asst Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Director

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

Pittsburgh Opera Resident ArtistPittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Craig Verm**
TBD
Kang Wang +
Brian Kontes
Corrie Stallings**
Musa Ngqungwana
Tyler Zimmerman*
Antonia Botti-Lodovico*

Antony Walker Kristine McIntyre

TBA TBA TBA

James Geier

TBA

Glenn Lewis
Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Matthew Haney*



Florencia en el Amazonas (1996)

By Daniel Catán

Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain

Sung in Spanish with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at the Benedum Center

- These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera
- Production owned by Florida Grand Opera

Performances of Florencia en el Amazonas

- Sat., Nov. 9, 2019 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Nov. 12, 2019 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Nov. 15, 2019 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Nov. 17, 2019 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Florencia en el Amazonas

Florencia Grimaldi is a famous opera singer traveling to perform at the opera house in <u>Manaus</u>, Brazil, in the early 1900s. She also hopes to find her long-lost lover Cristóbal, a butterfly hunter who has disappeared into the Amazon jungle.

Florencia journeys up the Amazon river by steamship with a cast of colorful characters including an intrepid female journalist and a couple looking to rekindle their love. As they penetrate deeper and deeper into the heart of the Amazon, the passengers and crew realize their voyage is not just a physical journey, but a mystical one.

Inspired by the magic realism of Nobel Prize-winning novelist <u>Gabriel Garcia Márquez</u> and his novel *Love in the Time of Cholera*, **Florencia en el Amazonas** features lush, melodic music and ever-changing backdrops of mysterious beauty.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts. Stephanie Havey directs a revival of Jose Maria Condemi's original production.



Cast and Artistic Team: Florencia en el Amazonas

Florencia
Rosalba
Ríolobo
Arcadio

Alexandra Loutsion**

Natasha Wilson*

Craig Verm**

TBA

Alvaro <u>Nathan Gunn</u>

Paula <u>Sandra Piques Eddy</u>+

Capitán <u>Brian Kontes</u>

Conductor <u>Antony Walker</u>

Original Concept and Director: <u>Jose Maria Condemi</u>
Revival Director <u>Stephanie Havey</u>

Scenic designer TBA
Costume Designer TBA

Lighting Designer TBA
Wig and Make-up Designer James Geier

Stage Manager TBA

Asst Conductor Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master Mark Trawka

Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Director

Associate Coach/Pianist

Matthew Haney*

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni



CAPA Theater production: Alcina

Music and libretto by George Frideric Handel Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, downtown

Performances of Alcina

- Sat., Jan. 25, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Jan. 28, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Jan. 31, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Feb. 2, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Alcina

Alcina is a baroque masterpiece by George Frideric Handel. The title character, Alcina, is a malicious sorceress who lives on an enchanted island with her sister Morgana. She uses her magic spells to trick men into falling in love with her. But once she tires of them, she turns them into animals or inanimate objects.

Alcina's current crush is Ruggiero, a chivalrous knight she has captured. Ruggiero's fiancé Bradamante and her tutor Melisso arrive to bring Ruggiero home. But Alcina and Morgana have no intention of letting him leave, setting the stage for a climatic showdown. Will Ruggiero regain his senses in time? Will Alcina's evil spell finally be broken?

Antony Walker conducts. Matthew Haney directs.

Cast and Artistic Team: Alcina

Caitlin Gotimer* **Alcina** Ruggiero Antonia Botti-Lodovico* Laurel Semerdjian ** Bradamante Natasha Wilson* Morgana Oronte Terrence Chin-Lov* Tyler Zimmerman* Melisso

Conductor Antony Walker Matthew Hanev* Stage Director Set Designer TBA Lighting Designer TBA Wig Master TBA Stage Manager TBA TBA

Asst Lighting Designer/Master Electrician Asst Stage Manager TBA

Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist



Second Stage Project: The Last American Hammer

Music by <u>Peter Hilliard</u>, libretto by <u>Matt Boresi</u>
Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters

Performances of The Last American Hammer

- Sat., Feb 22, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Feb 25, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Feb. 28, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., March 1, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Overview of The Last American Hammer

Milcom Negley, a one-man militia, rages against the tyranny of federal overreach. He is hunkered down in a rural Toby jug museum where Tink Enraught, a mannered curatrix, offers him tea and cookies. Milcom is a "Thirteenther" – a conspiracy theorist who believes an obscure, would-be Thirteenth amendment negates the authority of our government. He occupies the museum because it is the only place left in his failed town to receive federal funds – a grant for the upkeep of a rare 17th-century British pitcher known as "Sir Oswyn".

Although Milcom expects to be swarmed by military drones, attention is paid only by Agent Reyes, a young rookie FBI field specialist. Milcom explains that the town's only major source of employment – a hammer manufacturer – has gone under, leaving the residents lost. He is armed with "the Last American Hammer" to roll off the plant's line and intends to hold a proxy trial against the US government using Toby jugs as physical stand-ins for a court.

The Last American Hammer was commissioned by <u>UrbanArias</u> with very generous support from Dan and Gloria Logan; and an anonymous admirer of UrbanArias in memory of Deborah Brewer.

Cast and Artistic Team: The Last American Hammer

Tink Enraught <u>Caitlin Gotimer</u> *

Milcolm Negley TBA

DeeDee Reyes <u>Antonia Botti-Lodovico</u>*

Conductor TBA

Stage Director Matthew Haney*

Set Designer TBA
Lighting Designer TBA
Assistant Director TBA

^{*} Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist



Carmen (1875)

By Georges Bizet

Libretto by <u>Henri Meilhac</u> and <u>Ludovic Halévy</u>
Sung in French with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the Benedum Center

- Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in 2015
- Period production, owned by Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Performances of Carmen

- Sat., March 28, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., March 31, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., April 3, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., April 5, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Carmen

Set in 1830 Seville, Spain, **Carmen** is a roller-coaster of lust, deception and murder. Fiery gypsy Carmen, who lives her life to the fullest, can have any man she wants. But when she seduces naïve Corporal Don Jose, she gets more than she bargains for.

Carmen works in a cigarette factory. When a knife fight with another employee leads to her arrest, she charms Corporal Don Jose into letting her escape. Like a moth drawn to a flame, Don Jose forsakes his military career and the innocent peasant girl Micaela for a life on the lam with Carmen and a band of smugglers. Never one to settle down, the passionate Carmen gets bored with Don Jose and becomes involved with the glamourous, testosterone-filled bullfighter Escamillo. Left with nothing, Don Jose decides that if he can't have Carmen, no one can.

Full of magnetic melodies, colorful costumes, and tragic twists, you'll fall in love with George Bizet's one-and-only **Carmen**.

Timothy Myers conducts. Garnett Bruce directs.

OPERA

Cast and Artistic Team: Carmen

Carmen
Don Jose
Escamillo
Michaëla
Frasquita
Mercedes
Dancäire
Remendado
Zuniga
Morales
Lillas Pastia

Conductor
Stage Director
Scenic designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Wig and Make-up Designer
Stage Manager
Asst Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Asst Stage Director

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

Zanda Švēde+
Scott Quinn+
Michael Todd Simpson+
Danielle Pastin**
Natasha Wilson*

Antonia Botti-Lodovico*

TBA

Terrence Chin-Loy*
Tyler Zimmerman*

Yazid Gray* TBA

Timothy Myers
Garnett Bruce

TBA TBA TBA

James Geier

TBA

Glenn Lewis
Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Matthew Haney*



Norma (1831)

By Vincenzo Bellini
Libretto by Felice Romani
Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the Benedum Center

- Last performed at Pittsburgh Opera in 1997
- · Period production, owned by Cincinnati Opera

Performances of Norma

- Sat., April 25, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., April 28, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., May 1, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., May 3, 2020 * 3:00 PM

Overview of Norma

Norma is the tragic tale of a conflict between love and duty. Norma is a Druid priestess in ancient Gaul, which is being occupied by Roman invaders. Norma falls in love with, and bears two children to, the Roman leader Pollione, thereby betraying her own people and breaking her sacred vows. When Norma finds out Pollione is having an affair with another priestess, it pushes her over the edge with deadly consequences.

The role of Norma has long been considered one of the most grueling and challenging in all of opera. We are thrilled to present star soprano <u>Leah Crocetto</u>, who captivated Pittsburgh audiences as Tosca in 2017, in the role of Norma.

See why **Norma** is Bellini's ultimate masterpiece, and why this story of forbidden love has been called 'opera at its very best.'

Music Director Antony Walker conducts. Crystal Manich directs.



Cast and Artistic Team: Norma

Norma Pollione Adalgisa Oroveso Flavio Clotilde

Conductor
Stage Director
Scenic designer
Costume designer
Wig and Make-up Designer
Choreographer
Lighting Designer
Stage Manager
Asst Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Asst Stage Director

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

<u>Leah Crocetto</u> TBA

IDA ...

Jennifer Johnson Cano+
Oren Gradus

Terrence Chin-Loy*
Caitlin Gotimer*

Antony Walker Crystal Manich

TBA TBA

James Geier

TBA TBA TBA

Glenn Lewis
Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Matthew Haney*



SPECIAL EVENTS

65th annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball Saturday, September 28, 2019 Omni William Penn Hotel (530 William Penn Place)

Pittsburgh Opera special events have a reputation for elegance and excitement. The annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball is our signature season kickoff gala, when 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 a silent auction raise funds that enable Pittsburgh Opera to offer special programs such as our Opera Trunks and <a href="Opera Opera Op

Maecenas XXXVI Saturday, May 9, 2020

Pittsburgh Opera's signature fundraiser gala Maecenas is *the* social event not to be missed. It is 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.

Named for Gaius Maecenas, the wealthy Roman statesman and cultural patron, the Maecenas gala has developed a reputation for a spectacular environment and great entertainment. 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) 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.



FREE Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday opera performance are invited to join <u>General Director Christopher Hahn</u> 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 2019-20

Don Giovanni – Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Florencia en el Amazonas – Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Alcina – Tuesday, January 28, 2020 (at CAPA Theater)

The Last American Hammer – Tuesday, February 26, 2020 (at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters)

Carmen – Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Norma – Tuesday, April 28, 2020

FREE Rising Stars Concert

Sunday, September 22, 2019
George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert on Sunday, September 22, 2019 in the Opera's Strip District headquarters. *Rising Stars* is the community's first opportunity to meet the incoming Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists. 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 by 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 2019-20. Attracting approximately 200 people each month, these informal performances feature the Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera. Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays of each month, October 2019 – April 2020, 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 2019-20 October 19, 2019 November 16, 2019 December 14, 2019



January 4, 2020 February 8, 2020 March 7, 2020 April 4, 2020

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 six times per season in Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip District. Join Artistic Administrator Robert Boldin and special guests from the production for an in-depth look at our upcoming production. There is a \$5 general admission fee, but *Opera Up Close* events are free to members of <u>Friends of Pittsburgh Opera</u>, members of the <u>Pittsburgh Opera New Guard</u>, and to donors at \$50+.

Don Giovanni – September 29, 2019 Florencia en el Amazonas – October 27, 2019 Alcina – January 12, 2020 The Last American Hammer – February 9, 2020 Carmen – March 15, 2020 Norma – April 19, 2020

FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera Events

<u>Friends of Pittsburgh Opera</u> schedules events geared toward fellowship, fundraising, and opera scholarship during the year. Events for 2019-20 include a Season Kickoff Party, a Holiday party, salon-type events, and talks by opera aficionados and scholars.

FPO Events:

- September 15, 2019: Season Kickoff Party
- December 8, 2019: Holiday Party

'FPO Presents Speakers Series' Events:

These events are the education component of the FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera. Created to enlighten, engage, and inform members and their guests, this series presents various topics related to the 2019-20 Opera Season. Dates, speakers and topics to be announced.



Pittsburgh Opera New Guard Events

The Pittsburgh Opera New Guard is a community for young professionals, ages 21-40, who have a passion for Pittsburgh Opera. Membership comes with free and discounted opera tickets, pre-sales or special rates for Pittsburgh Opera Special Events, and more.

Members also get free admission to all New Guard events, such as our happy hours at locations such as Evangeline at the Distrikt Hotel and Andys at the Fairmont Pittsburgh. Visit our website or join our Facebook group for future event details.

WQED BROADCASTS/PREVIEWS

Pittsburgh Opera 2018-19 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and wqed.org/fm Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2018-19 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 7th through October 12th.

Madama Butterfly – September 7, 2019
Hansel & Gretel – September 14, 2019
afterWARds: Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined – September 21, 2019
Glory Denied – September 28, 2019
La bohème – October 5, 2019
Don Pasquale– October 12, 2019

Pittsburgh Opera 2019-20 Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and wqed.org/fm

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, 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.

Don Giovanni – Saturday, October 5, 2019 & Friday, October 11, 2019
Florencia en el Amazonas – Saturday, November 2, 2019 & Friday, November 8, 2019
Alcina – Saturday, January 18, 2020 & Friday, January 24, 2020
The Last American Hammer – Saturday, February 15, 2020 & Friday, February 21, 2020
Carmen – Saturday, March 21, 2020 & Friday, March 27, 2020
Norma – Saturday, April 18, 2020 & Friday, April 24, 2020



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 2019-20 season start at just \$14. In addition, tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are half price. Season tickets (subscriptions) for the 4 Benedum productions range from \$45 - \$644. Single ticket sales tentatively begin in late August. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit 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 Alcina
- 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! In addition, college and university students, faculty, and staff are eligible for our Cheap Seats program – see pittsburghopera.org/CheapSeats for details.

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

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