Pittsburgh Opera to perform fairy tale opera *The Rose Elf* and world premiere of *In a Grove* at Bitz Opera Factory this winter

Pittsburgh Opera will be performing two operas this winter at its Bitz Opera Factory headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District.

The first opera is *The Rose Elf*, based on the fairy tale *The Elf of the Rose* by Hans Christian Andersen. Demonstrating that not all fairy tales have happy endings, a carefree Elf loses its innocence after witnessing a despicable crime, and resolves to give closure to the victim’s Beloved.

*The Rose Elf’s* performance dates are:

- Sat., Jan. 22, 2022 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Jan. 25, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Jan. 28, 2022 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Jan. 30, 2022 * 2:00 PM

The second opera is the world premiere of *In a Grove*. *In a Grove* is based on the short story by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, which inspired Kurosawa’s renowned film *Rashomon*. Set in 1920s rural Oregon, *In a Grove* is an innovative murder mystery which shows the elusive nature of truth.

*In a Grove’s* performance dates are:

- Sat., Feb. 19, 2022 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Feb. 22, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Feb. 25, 2022 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Feb. 27, 2022 * 2:00 PM
- Tues., March 1, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Thurs., March 3, 2022 * 7:30 PM

Each opera’s run time is approximately 60 minutes. Additional details about each opera can be found on the pages below.

Pittsburgh Opera is requiring both mask-wearing and proof of COVID vaccination for all audience members. Full details on Pittsburgh Opera’s robust safety measures, along with protocols for medical/religious exemptions, are online at [pittsburghopera.org/covid](http://pittsburghopera.org/covid).

Tickets to each opera are $50. Tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are $25. Group, student, and other discounts are available. See [pittsburghopera.org/tickets](http://pittsburghopera.org/tickets) for details.
The Rose Elf

Words and music by David Hertzberg, based on the fairy tale The Elf of the Rose by Hans Christian Andersen
Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the George R. White Opera Studio in the Bitz Opera Factory (the new name for Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue)
- Run time: 1hr (approx.)
- These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera

Overview of The Rose Elf

A carefree Elf witnesses a despicable crime. Forever changed, he resolves to give closure to the victim’s Beloved.

Based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, The Rose Elf takes you to a world where a tiny elf lives happily and contently in the protective petals of a beautiful rose. When the flower closes one night before the Elf returns home, the Elf seeks shelter in some nearby honeysuckle.

There, the Elf overhears the Girl and her Beloved exchange tender goodbyes, as the Beloved prepares for a lengthy journey. After the Beloved embarks, the Elf watches in horror as the Brother brutally murders the Beloved and buries him beneath a linden tree. The Elf whispers the truth to the Girl while she sleeps, leaving her a leaf from the linden tree to convince her that his message was not a dream. When she awakens, the Girl pursues the terrible truth, even though it could destroy her.

Join us for the Pittsburgh premiere of David Hertzberg’s hauntingly beautiful opera The Rose Elf. The New Yorker says its music “blooms with warmth and depth”, and OperaWire praises Hertzberg as “masterful at using a minimal number of instrumentalists to create gargantuan sound.”

The Rose Elf is sponsored in part by a gift from Peter S. Greer. Developed through Opera Philadelphia’s Double Exposure program in 2016 and 2018, The Rose Elf premiered on June 6, 2018 in the catacombs of Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, in a production by R.B. Schlather. These will be the opera’s second-ever performances.

Cast and Artistic Team: The Rose Elf

The Elf  Madeline Ehlinger*
The Beloved (Horus)  Andrew Turner*
The Girl (Luna)  Véronique Filloux*
The Brother  Jeremy Harr*

Conductor  James Lesniak
Stage Director  Kaley Karis Smith*

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 83rd season in 2021-22. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn’s leadership.
In A Grove - World Premiere

Music by Christopher Cerrone, libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann, based on the short story by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa
Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage
Six performances at the George R. White Opera Studio in the Bitz Opera Factory (the new name for Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue)
- Run time: 1hr (approx.)

Performances of In A Grove

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Overview of In A Grove

A silent, expectant grove. A violent encounter between a man, a woman, and a notorious brigand.

Seven testimonies, each proposing a different perspective on the crime. Akutagawa’s classic short story “In a Grove,” which inspired the plot of Kurosawa’s renowned film Rashomon, offers a searing investigation into the impossibility and elusiveness of truth.

Epic and intimate, timeless and devastatingly timely, the story’s structure lends itself powerfully to music’s ability to conjure—via repetition and variation—how human perception, memory, and desire are fallible, imprecise, and subject to interference.

Join us for this unique world-premiere experience in a place where the ground shifts beneath your feet—a space of ambiguity and clarity, of beauty and menace, and of fragility and strength.

This production is sponsored in part by the Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera.

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Cast and Artistic Team: In A Grove

Woodcutter / The Outlaw (Luther Harlow)  Yazid Gray*
Priest / Medium  Chuanyuan Liu+
Policeman / The Man (Ambrose Raines)  Andrew Turner*
Leona Raines / Leona’s Mother  Madeline Ehlinger*

Conductor  Antony Walker
Stage Director  Mary Birnbaum+
Assistant Stage Director  Kaley Karis Smith*
Set Designer  Mimi Lien
Costume Designer  Oana Botez
Lighting Designer  Yuki Nakase
Stage Manager  Alex W. Seidel
Assistant Stage Manager  Hannah Nathan

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

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