

# **SEASON AT A GLANCE**

SEP 2023	22 & 24	Spanish Nights	
OCT 2023	27 & 28	The Witching Hour	
JAN 2024	14	D'Angelo Young Artist Vocal Competition	
	20	Impresario Society Dinner	
	24	Don Giovanni open rehearsal	
	31	Student Invited Dress Rehearsal – <b>Don Giovanni*</b>	
FEB 2024	2	Don Giovanni performance and pre-show lecture	
	2	Bel Canto Society Reception	
	4	Don Giovanni performance and pre-show lecture	
	28	Hansel and Gretel open rehearsal	
MAR 2024	2	Carnevale: Opera Tampa Grand Gala	
	6	Student Invited Dress Rehearsal – Hansel and Gretel*	
	8	Hansel and Gretel performance and pre-show lecture	
	10	Hansel and Gretel performance and pre-show lecture	
APR 2024	10	<b>La Traviata</b> Open Rehearsal	
	17	Student Invited Dress Rehearsal – <i>La Traviata</i> *	
	19	La Traviata performance and pre-show lecture	
	19	Opera Tampa League Donor Appreciation Reception	
	21	La Traviata performance and pre-show lecture	
IUN 2024	1	OUTloud	

\*For more information about invited dress rehearsals for students, contact communityprograms@strazcenter.org.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

One of the greatest rewards for all of us at Opera Tampa is seeing young and first-time opera-goers fall in love with this art form that brings us so much joy.

The productions that make up our 2024 season are excellent introductions for the young and curious. We'll present a family-friendly show featuring a work that's often called the perfect first opera for children. Bookending this production are two of the most beloved operas ever performed.

The season opens with **Don Giovanni**. If you're wondering why you should see this for the first time, ask someone who's seeing it for the third or fifth or twentieth time. It's a spectacular work that is simply timeless. Playwright George Bernard Shaw called it the greatest of all operas, noting "its uncommon share of wisdom, beauty and humor," which is possibly not what you'd expect from the story of a selfish, integrity-free libertine out to conquer Europe's female population or die trying.

Audiences can revel in the protagonist's misdeeds secure in the knowledge that a final and complete comeuppance awaits him. Audiences also can revel in Mozart's magnificent music. It captures the story's shifts from charming to comic to chilling, sealing **Don Giovanni's** place among the greatest operas.

Next up is *Hansel and Gretel*, composer Engelbert Humperdinck's operatic rendition of the Grimm Brothers' tale. A storyline concerning a brother and sister stumbling upon a witch whose favorite food is them could be as, "grim" as anything from last season's mayhem-rich schedule. But the tale is leavened greatly with melodies drawn ford German folk music and

by the plucky protagonists who are determined to stay off the witch's dinner plate. It's an ideal introduction to opera for young audiences of all ages.

> Our final production of the season is Verdi's *La Traviata*, a work that exemplifies opera's emotional power. This is one of the best loved and most performed operas, perhaps because the story, a heartbreaking tale of true love found and lost, is so ideal for opera. Those overwhelming sensations of love and loss and jealousy and anger and grief were made to be expressed through song on stage.

> As always, Opera Tampa's season includes several events along with our main productions. *Spanish Nights* will light up Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 22 and 24. Our annual Halloween concert, *The Witching Hour*, Oct. 27-28, features a lively mix of operatic classics and spooky tunes.

*Carnevale:* Opera Tampa Grand Gala is March 2. And we'll celebrate Pride again next summer with *OUTloud* on June 1.

As always, our sincere gratitude and thanks go to our wonderful season ticket holders and Opera Tampa League donors.

All the best,

Johin andrew Stomper

Robin Andrew Stamper Opera Tampa Artistic Director

OPERA TA

OPERA TAMPA GRAND GALA

SAT • MAR 2

**MORSANI HALL** 





Florido ARTS & CULTURE

The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts and its programs are funded in part by the City of Tampa; the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners; the Tourist Development Council/Hillsborough County; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SAVE

THE

DATE





Michael Francis, Conductor

#### FRI • FEB 2 • 8pm | SUN • FEB 4 • 2pm FERGUSON HALL

The famed seducer, philanderer and man with no moral compass is headed for a tragic downfall in this comedic masterpiece filled with glamour, power, romantic intrigue and tragedy. Amadeus Mozart's wonderfully tuned music is part of the allure along with the spell cast by our lothario. He moves from conquest to conquest, with some murder on the side, until his last seduction is thwarted and severely punished. The final act contains the famed composer's most innovative and alarming music, while librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte helped devise a protagonist who is overwhelmingly handsome yet profoundly loathsome. George Bernard Shaw observed that *Don Giovanni* is the greatest of all operas and singled it out for "its uncommon share of wisdom, beauty and humor" – maybe you'll agree.

> Don Giovanni is sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.





Javier Arrey\* Pame Don Giovanni Do

Pamela ArmstrongRDonna ElviraD

**Robyn Lamp**+ Donna Anna **Minghao Liu**+ Don Otavio

**OPEN REHEARSAL – WED • JAN 17 • 7PM** Space is limited. Secure your seating at OPERATAMPA.ORG.

**PRE-SHOW LECTURE** Free with show ticket; Ferguson Lobby one hour before show.

\*Dr. Zena Lansky Endowed Principal Artist \*Past first-place winner of the D'Angelo Young Artist Vocal Competition





Noam Aviel, Conductor

#### FRI • MAR 8 • 8pm | SUN • MAR 10 • 2pm FERGUSON HALL

Follow the breadcrumbs to composer Engelbert Humperdinck's re-telling of the popular Brothers Grimm fairytale that features a libretto by Adelheid Wette. Steeped in the world of folk songs, including dance, idyllic forest scenes and supernatural goings on, the opera is rooted in German traditional music. It's proven so popular, especially as the perfect first opera for children, Hansel and Gretel has been performed consistently since its 1893 creation. You'll find yourself on the edge of your seat as you root for the young duo who find an irresistible gingerbread house inhabited by a witch who sees the lost children as tasty treats. This presentation, which includes Patel Conservatory Youth Ballet and vocal students, is a family-friendly adventure filled with sweet melodies, mystery and magic.

> Hansel and Gretel will be sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.



Gretel

Sarah Coit\* Hansel



**Avery Boettcher Christina Major** Witch



Jordan Blair Mother

Sean Christopher Stork Father

OPEN REHEARSAL - WED • FEB 28 • 7PM Space is limited. Secure your seating at OPERATAMPA.ORG.

**PRE-SHOW LECTURE** 

Free with show ticket; Ferguson Lobby one hour before show.

\*Dr. Zena Lansky Endowed Principal Artist





Robin Stamper, Conductor

#### FRI • APR 19 • 8PM | SUN • APR 21 • 2PM FERGUSON HALL

The world's most performed opera is Verdi's twisted love story of familial strife that explores class, reputation and hopeless devotion with heartbreaking consequences. Inspired by Alexander Dumas' novel *La Dame aux Camelias* (*The Lady of Camelias*), it's the tragic story of Paris courtesan Violetta Valery, ill with a fatal disease, who is consumed by the love she finds with nobleman Alfredo. When their love threatens to bring shame on Alfredo's family, an act of self-sacrifice brings an end to the couple's happiness. Known for its soaring arias, including the well-known "Sempre libera," and heartwrenching finale, this production will have you contemplating "how much would you sacrifice for love?"

*La Traviata* is sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.







Hanna Brammer\*+ Violetta

Edward Graves Alfredo Jean Carlos Rodriguez Germont

**OPEN REHEARSAL – WED • APR 10 • 7PM** Space is limited. Secure your seating at OPERATAMPA.ORG.

PRE-SHOW LECTURE

Free with show ticket; Ferguson Lobby one hour before show.

\*Dr. Zena Lansky Endowed Principal Artist \*Past first-place winner of the D'Angelo Young Artist Vocal Competition

# CONDUCTORS



#### Michael Francis, Don Giovanni

Michael Francis has developed an international reputation for sharing the power of music through his conducting and engaging speaking. Music director of The Florida Orchestra since 2015, he is now entering his ninth season with a contract extension through the 2024-25 season. Music director of the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego since 2014, Francis and Mainly Mozart have recently completed an ambitious multi-year exploration of Mozart's life. Entering his fifth season, Francis continues as Chief Conductor of Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz.

This past season Francis returned to the Cincinnati Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Philharmonia and the Minnesota Orchestra. Previous highlights include North American performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, the symphony orchestras of St. Louis, San Diego, Houston, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Montreal, and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. In Europe, he has conducted the Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Radio, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, MDR Leipzig, the Orquesta Sinfónica de RTVE Madrid and the Mariinsky Orchestra, amongst others. He has worked with the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

Francis is passionate about sharing the hidden truths in music with audiences worldwide through his acclaimed podium talks. His "Inside the Music" series and pre-concert talks in Florida have greatly helped develop new audiences. An exciting new series of "Keynote" presentations (explaining the music, alongside performances) with Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz has just been released on Naxos.



#### Noam Aviel, Hansel and Gretel

Noam Aviel has emerged on the international scene as one of the most dynamic young conductors. Former Associate Conductor of the San Antonio Symphony and Assistant Conductor at Opera San Antonio, Noam Aviel worked on numerous opera productions including La Traviata, La Bohème, Macbeth, Carmen, II Barbiere di Siviglia, and Lennox Berkeley's A Dinner Engagement at the Illinois Festival Opera. In 2022 she made successful debut at Opera Orlando conducting contemporary opera Lizbeth and at Mobile Opera Alabama with L'elisir d'amore. Her recent and future engagements include Return to the Iceland

Symphony Orchestra, debut with the Norrkoping Symphony Orchestra in Sweden, KwaZulu Natal Philharmonic and Johannesburg Philharmonic orchestras in South Africa, first appearance with the Symphony In C, concerts with the San Antonio Philharmonic, German debut with Dortmund Philharmoniker, debut at Opera Tampa conducting *Hansel and Gretel* as well as a return to Opera Orlando in Massenet's *Cendrillon*.



#### Robin Stamper, La Traviata

Currently the artistic director and chorus master for Opera Tampa, Robin Andrew Stamper continues a versatile career as a coach-accompanist, chorus master and opera conductor. Credits include director of music for the Kentucky Opera where he made his conducting debut for *The Mikado*.

Subsequently, he became artistic director for the Nevada Opera where he conducted the mainstage productions of *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Rigoletto*, *Suor Angelica* and *Pagliacci*. Following his tenure at Nevada Opera, Stamper became the music director for the Orlando Opera where he conducted L'elisir

d'armore, The Pirates of Penzance, The Marriage of Figaro and Die Fledermaus. Also notable during his tenure at Orlando Opera was the growth of the Orlando Opera Chorus, which culminated in highly acclaimed performances of Turandot, Il Trovatore and Cavalleria Rusticana.

In addition, he conducted *La Traviata* and *Camelot* for the Augusta Opera and, as artistic director for the Florida Opera Theatre, *Cosi fan tutte* and *The Barber of Seville*. Having received his degrees in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School, Stamper is a frequent performer as recital pianist and accompanist.

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Book a group of 10 or more and save! Student group tickets start as low as \$10\*

CALL 813.222.1016 OR 813.222.1047 or email groups@strazcenter.org for details. \*Handling fees will apply. Events, dates, days, times, performances and pricing are subject to change without notice.

## THE **BENEFITS** OF BEING A SEASON TICKET HOLDER ARE **BETTER THAN EVER!**

**Receive the best seats** – Season ticket holders are seated first. Get the lowest price – Save money when you buy the whole package vs. single tickets. Also, single ticket prices increase based on demand.

> **Replace lost tickets** – Misplaced your tickets? No worries. Call us and we'll replace them.

Local offers – Season ticket holders receive offers at Straz Recommends Preferred Restaurant and Hotel Partners.

#### 2024 THREE-SHOW SEASON TICKET PACKAGE PRICES

SEATING AREA	FRI 8pm	SUN 2pm	FERGUSON HALL
A	\$ 336.09	\$ 349.59	Orchestra front; Orchestra boxes
В	\$ 295.59	\$ 309.09	Orchestra rear; Mezzanine
с	\$ 246.99	\$ 260.49	Balcony
Crescendo Club I	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	Orchestra rear sides*; Mezzanine rear sides*
Crescendo Club 2	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	Balcony rear sides*

\*Select limited seating available

Level A season ticket holders may enjoy a complimentary glass of champagne during the first intermission of **Don Giovanni, Hansel and Gretel** and **La Traviata.**  FERGUSON HALL





FEB 4 | MAR 10 | APR 21

12:00pm Sunday brunch featuring a decadent spread plus bottomless mimosas and Bloody Marys.



For more information or to secure your spot, call 813.229.STAR (7827) or visit OPERATAMPA.ORG.

# NEED MORE OPERA IN YOUR LIFE?

#### Don't miss these exciting Opera Tampa events.



FRI • SEP 22 • 8PM SUN • SEP 24 • 2PM JAEB THEATER

Join Opera Tampa for a lively concert in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Featuring selections inspired by Hispanic culture from opera and beyond, this performance is sure to dazzle music lovers of all kinds.



#### OCT 27 & 28 • 7:30pm RIVERWALK STAGE

One-part spooky and one-part fun, this annual performance features a drop-dead funny combination of operatic and pop-culture classics. Perfect for the whole family, get ready to do "The Monster Mash" with some of Opera Tampa's most talented vocalists. Funded in part by Publix Super Markets Charities.



#### SAT • JUN 1 • 8PM JAEB THEATER

Come as you are for an outlandishly good time as Opera Tampa celebrates Pride. Featuring selections from opera, the queen of the performing arts, and beyond, this performance is sure to leave you ready to sing outloud.

D'Angelo Young Artist

# **VOCAL COMPETITION**

FINALIST PERFORMANCE SUN • JAN 14 • 4PM TECO THEATER

Launched by Opera Tampa League past board chair Gina d'Angelo as a living legacy to her parents, this vocal competition shapes the opera artists of tomorrow, culminating in a free public performance by the finalists.

The 2024 Opera Tampa mainstage season features past first place winners, Hannah Brammer (2019), Robyn Lamp (2021) and Minghao Liu (2022).

OPERA TAMPA GRAND GALA

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Hosted By OPERATAMPA LEAGUE Saturday, March 2, 2024 Morsani Hall

> Enjoy an evening in our enchanted forest, with cocktails on the set of *Hansel and Gretel*, followed by a sumptuous dinner on Carol Morsani Hall stage. Delight in live performances by Opera Tampa and bid on exciting auction items.

Event Chair: Kelley Cato Juneau

All proceeds benefit Opera Tampa and its education programs.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and tickets, contact 813.222.1037 or rsvp@strazcenter.org.



# YOUR GIFT MATTERS

When you give to Opera Tampa, you're supporting the artists you see on stage as well as meaningful arts education and community engagement experiences for children and adults all season long.

Designate a gift to Opera Tampa and you will be included in the Opera Tampa League, which offers pre-sale access to all Straz Center presentations and other benefits to enhance your theater experience.

Give today at STRAZCENTER.ORG or contact the Development Office at 813.222.1036 or belong@strazcenter.org for assistance.



## **OPERATAMPALEAGUE**

To thank our generous Opera Tampa League donors, we are pleased to host a series of special receptions.

#### **Impresario Society Dinner**

For donors at the \$5,500 giving level and above

**SAT • JAN 20** 

Enjoy an elegant, seated dinner while toasting the exciting, upcoming Opera Tampa season.

#### **Bel Canto Society Reception**

For donors at the \$1,500 giving level and above

#### FRI • FEB 2 • Following the performance

Lift your spirits high at an exclusive cocktail reception lauding Opera Tampa's opening night of *Don Giovanni*.

#### Opera Tampa League Donor Appreciation Reception

For donors at the \$250 giving level and above

#### FRI • APR 19 • Following the performance

Celebrate Opera Tampa's final production of the season at an exclusive cocktail reception.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Opera Tampa provides **meaningful arts education** and community engagement experiences for children and adults throughout the year.

During the last decade, the Opera Tampa Singers have engaged more than **70,000** students, teachers, families and seniors in the joy of opera at **300+ locations** throughout Tampa Bay. This comprehensive outreach program includes opera school assemblies, pop-up performances, artist residencies and special projects, such as helping students write their own opera.

Every year, **hundreds** of students – many experiencing opera for the first time – attend dress rehearsals of Opera Tampa mainstage performances. From sound check to orchestra tuning to lights down, they get a peek behind the curtain as the productions unfold before their eyes.

### BRING THE BEAUTY OF OPERA TO YOUR NEXT EVENT

OPERATA

The Opera Tampa Singers are a talented group of classically trained vocalists able to perform a wide variety of repertoire for you and your guests.

Performances can be customized for your event – including the number of singers, program length and content choice: opera, musical theater, a combination of both or holiday favorites.

Quartet performances can be mixed (men and women), four women (Le Dive Divine) or four men (Gli Uomini dell'Opera) depending on availability of singers.

For date availability and more information, please contact Opera Tampa artistic administrator at melissa.misener@strazcenter.org or call 813.202.1515.

#### Credits: Rob/Harris Productions, Inc, DreamTeam Artistry (hair and makeup), Dawn Rivard (wig designer), Mad Muffin Happy Cupcake (gingerbread house): Front cover, pages, 4,6,8,11 back cover; page 2, Fotoset, pages 14 and 23; Will Staples Photography; *La Traviata* scenery designed by Peter Dean Beck, Scenery produced and provided by Utah Symphony | Utah Opera.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parking is free in the Arrival Plaza while making your purchase. The Ticket Sales Office accepts major credit cards, checks (two weeks before the show) and cash. Tickets also may be purchased 24 hours a day at STRAZCENTER.ORG. All patrons regardless of age, must have a ticket to be admitted to any performance.

#### TICKET SALES OFFICE

Monday-Saturday 12-7 p.m. Sunday 12-6 p.m. 813.229.STAR (7827) • STRAZCENTER.ORG 800.955.1045 outside Tampa Bay

Events, dates, times, performances and prices are subject to change without notice. Ticket prices will increase based on demand. Handling fees will apply.

### TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING



- Arrive early. Parking is first-come, first serve.
- Visit the Plan Your Visit/Parking page at STRAZCENTER.ORG for transportation and parking options.
- Explore all available parking options in advance, including pre-paid parking for select events.

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STRAZ

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#### **RUSH! THE STRAZ**

Those on the front lines deserve to be front-of-the-line for special Straz Center rush tickets. The day of the show, if you're an educator, student, senior, military personnel or first responder, you may purchase discounted, "last-minute" tickets for select shows. We appreciate you racing the clock, but for this special discount, it is available all day.

# **BRAVI! BRAVI! BRAVISSIMO!**

Please join us in thanking our sponsors, whose leadership support helps us sustain Opera Tampa at The Straz.

As of Aug. 15, 2023

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