

SEATTLE OPERA.

A man with a beard, wearing a dark jacket, holds a black and white mask over his face. The background is dark red with several white masks floating around, some with colorful makeup.

Photo © Phillip Newton

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA HIGHLIGHTS RECITAL

PREMIERES SEPT. 25, 7 PM

PAGLIACCI HIGHLIGHTS RECITAL

PREMIERES OCT. 16, 7 PM

PLUS RECITALS BY

FREDERICK BALLENTINE
OCT. 2

MARCY STONIKAS
OCT. 9

JORELL WILLIAMS
OCT. 23

FALL 2020 SEASON PROGRAM GUIDE

FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR



Thank you for subscribing to the 2020/21 season and welcome to Seattle Opera's Fall Season. We hope these virtual performances entertain you, lift your spirits, and keep you connected to the music and artists you know and love.

Our online fall season certainly is not business as usual, and we appreciate your decision to stay with us. Your dedication to Seattle Opera is outstanding. I cannot express our gratitude enough. Your passion energizes the entire company, inspiring us to create and to share art that heals and entertains. We value your opinion, so let us know how we are doing. We want to hear from you.

These are challenging times for everyone; no one is immune to the impacts of COVID-19. However, because I strongly believe we will get through this, I invite your continued support. If, we remain committed to each other and the music, I know life will get better for all of us.

—Christina Scheppelmann, General Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina Scheppelmann".

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I join Christina in warmly welcoming you to Seattle Opera's 57th season. It is my absolute pleasure to assume the Presidency of the Board of Directors this season. Stepping into leadership at a time of crisis is challenging. It is also tremendously exciting! And I am confident that Seattle Opera will not just weather this episode, but use it to flourish.

First, the art form is durable. Opera has a 500-year history. It has endured plagues, wars, and disasters. Seattle Opera, too, has faced its share of hardships and emerged stronger. Opera abides because it tells big stories, needed stories, stories elevated by soul-stirring music. This is especially important in, and for, big times. Like the ones we are living in now.

Seattle Opera has superlative leadership. At every point in these unprecedented times, Christina Scheppelmann and her team have exceeded expectations, re-imaging artistic products and business approaches. We have an engaged and thoughtful Board of Directors, with deep experience across many sectors. And we have you: subscribers, donors, and friends. All of us—board, staff, and artists—are humbled by your loyalty, generosity, and patience, especially as we pivot to a new kind of artistic offering for this autumn. Thank you.

We pledge to provide you with the maximum opera experience possible within the restrictions that will keep us safe during these challenging times. This has led to some delightful new approaches. I can't wait!

To state the obvious, this promises to be a season like no other. Thanks for adventuring with us!

—Lesley Chapin Wyckoff, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lesley Wyckoff".

2020/21 SEASON SPONSORS

BARBARA STEPHANUS
JAMES AND SHERRY RAISBECK

RECITAL SPONSOR

KREIELSHEIMER FOUNDATION



We are deeply grateful to you,
Seattle Opera's supporters.
Your love for opera inspires
great performances—both in
person and online.

Thank you!

SCENES FROM CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

PREMIERES FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 7 PM
AVAILABLE UNTIL OCT. 16

SCENES FROM PAGLIACCI

PREMIERES FRIDAY, OCT. 16, 7 PM
AVAILABLE UNTIL NOV. 6



Photo © Philip Newton

Composed by Pietro Mascagni
Libretto by Giovanni Targioni and Guido Menasci

Turiddu Gregory Kunde
Santuzza Alexandra LoBianco
Mamma Lucia Nerys Jones
Lola Sarah Larsen
Piano John Keene

The story takes place outside the church on Easter morning in a small Sicilian village.

“O Lola ch’ai di latti la cammisa” **Turiddu**
Turiddu serenades his old flame Lola while her teamster husband Alfio is out of town.

“Voi lo sapete, o mamma” **Santuzza, Mamma Lucia**
After everyone in the village has entered the church for Easter mass, Santuzza tells Turiddu’s mother why she is unwelcome in the house of God: she has sinned with Turiddu. But now, Santuzza fears, Turiddu is returning to Lola.

“Tu qui, Santuzza?” **Turiddu, Santuzza, Lola**
Santuzza confronts Turiddu. Incensed by Lola’s mockery and Turiddu’s indifference, Santuzza curses Turiddu.

Santuzza tells Lola’s husband Alfio that Turiddu is sleeping with his wife. Alfio vows to be avenged, and Santuzza immediately regrets what she has done.

Intermezzo **John Keene**

“Mamma, quel vino è generoso” **Turiddu, Mamma Lucia, Santuzza**
Alfio has challenged Turiddu to a duel; but Turiddu wants to put his affairs in order before confronting his enemy.

Music and Libretto by Ruggero Leoncavallo

Tonio Michael Mayes
Nedda Vanessa Goikoetxea
Silvia Will Liverman
Canio Gregory Kunde
Piano John Keene

The story takes place in a small Italian village where a traveling troupe of actors has come to perform.

“Si può?... Si può?” **Tonio**
The Prologue announces that this opera will attempt to depict the truth of human passion.

“Qual fiamma avea nel guardo...Stridono lassù” **Nedda**
Nedda, who plays the flirtatious Columbina onstage, wonders whether her jealous husband Canio knows she is cheating on him.

Nedda’s lover Silvio hopes she’ll leave Canio and commit to him instead.

“Decidi il mio destin” **Silvio, Nedda**
Nedda and Silvio enjoy an illicit encounter.

“Recitar! Mentre presso...Vesti la giubba” **Canio**
Canio has caught Nedda and Silvio in the act—but it’s showtime, the audience is waiting and his job is to make them laugh. “Laugh, clown...laugh over your broken heart.”

FREDERICK BALLENTINE IN RECITAL

PREMIERES FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 7 PM
AVAILABLE UNTIL OCT. 23



Photo © Philip Newton

“DELICIOUSLY SASSY!”

—THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

“THE MOST REAL, MOST
CONVINCING JOSÉ I’VE EVER SEEN.”

—SEATTLE MAGAZINE

DOWNLOAD THE CONCERT PROGRAM AT WWW.SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/BALLENTINE

MARCY STONIKAS IN RECITAL

PREMIERES FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 7 PM
AVAILABLE UNTIL OCT. 30



Photo © Philip Newton

“SECURE VOCAL BEAUTY.”

—BACHTRACK

DOWNLOAD THE CONCERT PROGRAM AT WWW.SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/STONIKAS

JORELL WILLIAMS IN RECITAL

PREMIERES FRIDAY, OCT. 23, 7 PM
AVAILABLE UNTIL NOV. 13



Photo © Philip Newton

“A MASSIVE VOICE.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

“HE STOLE THE SHOW WITH HIS EASY
CHARM AND STUNNING VOCALS.”

—THE SEATTLE TIMES

DOWNLOAD THE CONCERT PROGRAM AT WWW.SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/WILLIAMS

SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



Photo © Sunny Martini

YOU HEARD OUR CALL

And answered in full voice! Over the past nine months you contributed \$1 million dollars to meet the \$1 million challenge set forth by our anonymous donor in December 2019. Your generosity met this challenge five months before the deadline! In opera, and in life, timing is everything: we are deeply thankful to the more than 1,600 contributors who made first time or increased donations so that opera can be created. You support our fall season, the Songs of Summer recital series, and future performances. You keep us singing!

**ADD YOUR VOICE TODAY,
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ARTIST BIOS

FREDERICK BALLENTINE

Tenor (Norfolk, VA)

Seattle Opera Debut: First Armored Man, *The Magic Flute* ('17)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Charlie Parker, *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* ('20); Don José, *Carmen* ('19)

Engagements: Sportin' Life, *Porgy and Bess* (English National Opera, Dutch National Opera, and Metropolitan Opera); Steersman, *The Flying Dutchman* (Cincinnati Opera); High Priest of Amon, *Akhenaten* (Los Angeles Opera); Willy, *Impressario* (Houston Grand Opera); Hoffmann, *The Tales of Hoffmann* (Opera Louisiana); Rodolfo, *La bohème* (Opera Florentine); Judah, *Castor and Patience* (Cincinnati Opera)

VANESSA GOIKOETXEA

Nedda, *Pagliacci*

Soprano (Burango, Bizkaia, Spain)

Seattle Opera Debut: Micaela, *Carmen* ('19)

Engagements: Giselda, *I Lombardi* (ABAO Bilbao Opera); Jenny Smith, *Rise and Fall of the City Mahagonny* (Korea National Opera); Mimi, *La bohème* (ABAO Bilbao Opera)

NERYS JONES

Mamma Lucia, *Cavalleria rusticana*

Mezzo-Soprano (Llanfair Caereinion, Wales)

Seattle Opera Debut: Inez, *Il trovatore* ('19)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Songs of Summer recital ('20); Giovanna, *Rigoletto* ('19)

Engagements: Second Lady, *The Magic Flute* (Vashon Opera); Prince Orlofsky, *Die Fledermaus* and *Marcellina*, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Tacoma Opera)

JOHN KEENE

Piano (Lancaster, PA)

John Keene joined Seattle Opera as Guest Chorus Master for *Fidelio* in 2012, and subsequently became the company's Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master. The Seattle Times regularly describes his work with the Seattle Opera Chorus with such superlatives as “absolutely riveting” (*Mary Stuart*) and “essential to the success of the opera” (*Aida*). In addition to preparing the chorus and overseeing all the company's musical activities, Keene regularly accompanies singers in recital and concert and conducted Seattle Opera's *As One*. Before joining Seattle Opera he was Head of Music and Chorus Master at Florida Grand Opera, taught at Louisiana State University, and worked with many other companies including San Francisco Opera.

GREGORY KUNDE

Turiddu, *Cavalleria rusticana* | **Canio**, *Pagliacci*

Tenor (Kankakee, IL)

Seattle Opera Debut: Tamino, *The Magic Flute* ('88)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Don Ramiro, *Cinderella* ('96); Romeo, *Romeo and Juliet* ('88)

Engagements: Otello, *Otello* (Royal Opera House Covent Garden); Samson, *Samson et Dalila* (Teatro de la Maestranza, Seville); Calaf, *Turandot* (Gran Teatre del Liceu)

SARAH LARSEN

Lola, *Cavalleria rusticana*

Mezzo-Soprano (Minneapolis, MN)

Seattle Opera Young Artists 2011/12, 2012/13

Seattle Opera Debut: Mercédès, *Carmen* ('11)

Previously at Seattle Opera: The Composer, *Ariadne auf Naxos* ('15); The Secretary, *The Consul* ('14); Maddalena, *Rigoletto* ('14)

Engagements: Dorabella, *Così fan tutte* (Mill City Summer Orchestra); Donna Elvira, *Don Giovanni* (Virginia Opera); Jan, *Everest* (Calgary Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas)

WILL LIVERMAN

Silvio, *Pagliacci*

Baritone (Virginia Beach, VA)

Seattle Opera Debut: Raimbaud, *Count Ory* ('16)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Figaro, *The Barber of Seville* ('17)

Engagements: Papageno, *The Magic Flute* (Metropolitan Opera); Silvio, *Pagliacci* (Opera Colorado); Pantaloon, *The Love for Three Oranges* (Opera Philadelphia); Silvio, *Pagliacci* (Portland Opera); Count Almaviva, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Austin Opera); Leporello, *Don Giovanni* (Los Angeles Opera)

ALEXANDRA LOBIANCO

Santuzza, *Cavalleria rusticana*

Soprano (St. Petersburg, FL)

Seattle Opera Debut: Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni* ('14)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Aida, *Aida* ('18)

Engagements: Chrysothemis, *Elektra* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Prima Donna/Ariadne, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Austin Opera); Helmwig, *Die Walküre* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Tosca, *Tosca* (Portland Opera); Aida, *Aida* (Opera Carolina); Leonore, *Fidelio* (North Carolina Opera)

MICHAEL MAYES

Tonio, *Pagliacci*

Baritone (Cut-n-Shoot, TX)

Seattle Opera Debut: Di Luna, *Il trovatore* ('19)

Engagements: Rigoletto, *Rigoletto* (Houston Grand Opera); Joseph de Rocher, *Dead Man Walking* (The Israeli Opera); Richard Nixon, *Nixon In China* (Staatsoper Stuttgart)

MARCY STONIKAS

Soprano (Elmhurst, IL)

Seattle Opera Debut: Second Lady, *The Magic Flute* ('11)

Previously at Seattle Opera: Miss Jessel, *The Turn of the Screw* ('18); High Priestess, *Aida* ('18); Mother, *Hansel and Gretel* ('17)

Engagements: Mother, *Hansel and Gretel* (San Diego Opera); Chrysothemis, *Elektra* (Minnesota Opera); Tosca, *Tosca* (Arizona Opera)

JORELL WILLIAMS

Baritone (Brentwood, NY)

Seattle Opera Debut: Hannah Before, *As One* ('16)

Engagements: Schaunard, *La bohème* (Finger Lakes Opera); Hannah Before, *As One* (New York City Opera); Jake, *Porgy and Bess* (Budapesti Nyári Fesztivál); Don Giovanni, *Don Giovanni* (Opera Columbus); Marcello, *La bohème* (Kentucky Opera)

SEATTLE OPERA.

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WAYS TO VIEW:

Thank you for subscribing to our 2020/21 season!

There are two ways to access your subscriber-only fall performances:

- Visit www.seattleopera.org/myaccount and log in to your account.
- A link to a private YouTube URL will be emailed to you.

Haven't logged in before, or not on our email list? No problem.

Email at tickets@seattleopera.org or call 206.389.7676.

**DON'T MISS OUT!
YOUR 2020 FALL SEASON
STARTS ONLINE SEPT. 25.**

