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Contact: Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura Gainor, (206) 295-0998, gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org

Press images: <https://seattleopera.smugmug.com/2021-Season/Don-Giovanni/>

Password: "press"

Don Giovanni offers a unique 'opera film' experience

Streaming March 19–21, 2021 for \$35
seattleopera.org/giovanni

SEATTLE—For many years, the character of Don Giovanni was celebrated as “Mozart’s bad boy”—an evil but charming anti-hero of opera. But for Stage Director **Brenna Corner** and Maestro **Lidiya Yankovskaya**—the duo behind Seattle Opera’s streaming *Don Giovanni*—there’s so much more to this masterpiece than toxic masculinity.

“The title character is a tool through which librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte speaks to the challenges and experiences of women from different social classes,” Yankovskaya said. “While Don Giovanni himself is a trope, the women in this story continually defy our expectations and assumptions.”

With a mix of tragedy and comedy, the story depicts an unrepentant sexual predator convinced of his own charm. Ultimately, he must pay for his misdeeds. Through the lens of female characters such as Donna Anna, Donna Elvira, and Zerlina, the audience sees the human impact of Don Giovanni’s abuse, violence, and narcissism.

Mozart’s immortal music for *Don Giovanni* has been enchanting audiences since its 1787 premiere. But at Seattle Opera in 2021, *Don Giovanni* will bring something new to the table—a fusion of opera and film artistry. Inspired by a 1960s film of *Hamlet* on Broadway, stage director Brenna Corner has chosen to capture this

streaming opera in black-and-white film. Because of the pandemic, it's not possible to perform in McCaw Hall. So, Corner thought, why not lean into new artistic possibilities?

"Cinematic photography has a unique theatricality of its own," Corner said. "With film, the viewer can see through the eyes of any character. You're not confined by the fourth wall. It's exciting."

Don Giovanni presents audiences with a cast of acclaimed and internationally-renowned singers including baritone **Jared Bybee** (Don Giovanni), as well as soprano **Vanessa Goikoetxea** (Donna Anna), who first earned fans for her Seattle Opera performance as Micaëla in *Carmen* ('19). Popular returning singers include **Andrew Stenson** (Don Ottavio) and **Adam Lau** (Masetto). In addition to Bybee, those making company debuts include **Laura Wilde** (Donna Elvira), **Michael Sumuel** (Leporello), **Kenneth Kellogg** (Commendatore), and **Jasmine Habersham** (Zerlina). In advance of *Don Giovanni*, Habersham and pianist **David McDade** will give [a free recital](#) for the public on Seattle Opera's website, YouTube and Facebook at 7 p.m. on February 19 (viewable until March 12).

Don Giovanni premieres on Seattle Opera's website at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 19 and can be viewed until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 21. Tickets are available online at seattleopera.org or by calling 206.389.7676 or 800.426.1619. For questions about streaming, view our [Streaming FAQs](#). This opera is rated PG-13 for sexual violence. [Read content advisories](#).

Don Giovanni

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Performed in Italian with English captions

Premiere: Oct. 29, 1787 in Prague, Czech Republic

Previous Seattle Opera Performances: 1968, 1979, 1991, 1999, 2007, 2014

In Italian with English Subtitles

Performance Time: 2 hours and 11 minutes including one intermission

Don Giovanni: Jared Bybee*
Donna Anna: Vanessa Goikoetxea
Donna Elvira: Laura Wilde*
Don Ottavio: Andrew Stenson
Leporello: Michael Sumuel*
Zerlina: Jasmine Habersham*
Commendatore: Kenneth Kellogg*
Masetto: Adam Lau

Conductor: Lidiya Yankovskaya*
Stage Director: Brenna Corner
Projection Designer: Chris Reay*
Set Designer: Doug Provost
**Hair, Makeup
& Costume Designer:** Liesl Alice Gatcheco
Lighting Designer: Connie Yun
**Audio & Sound
Designer:** Robertson Witmer
Video Director: Ken Christensen*
English Captions: Jonathan Dean

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About Seattle Opera

Established in 1963, Seattle Opera is committed to serving the people of the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber and through innovative educational and engagement programs for all. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances, and more than 400,000 people of all ages are served through school performances, radio broadcasts, and more. By drawing our communities together, and by offering opera's unique fusion of music and drama, we create life-enhancing experiences that speak deeply to people's hearts and minds. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, and on 98.1 Classical KING FM.