



NEWS *for immediate release* **Opera Theater of Pittsburgh**

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Digital images available upon request

Opera Theater SummerFest presents Mozart: A Family Affair

MOZART CAMP: A five-day program for adult enthusiasts in Pittsburgh, July 16-20

- Performances by world class musicians and rising stars
 - Lectures and discussions with top Mozart scholars
 - Dinner with Opera Theater's founder, Mildred Miller
- Performance of Mozart's *The Secret Gardener (La finta giardiniera)*

(Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 28, 2013) - Mozart Camp, an initiative of Opera Theater SummerFest, is a five-day immersion into the life and works of this great composer. Mozart Camp brings Mozart devotees together to explore the work of this singular genius through lectures, films, discussions, chamber music concerts, vocal recitals, dinners and museum visits. The program centers around the theme "Mozart: A family affair" which investigates music written not just by the master Wolfgang, but also by his father Leopold and son Franz Xaver, and music played by sister Nannerl and his wife Constanze. Mozart Camp will take place July 16-20 at the historic Twentieth Century Club in the heart of the Oakland neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

Mozart camp participants experience daily live performances of some of the composer's art songs, and as part of the Mozart in Concert series, enjoy chamber music by the Freya String Quartet, SummerFest's quartet in residence, and singers from the young and resident artist programs.

The program also features lectures and discussions with experts including resident scholar **Dr. David Buch** of Chicago University and **James P. Cassaro** of University of Pittsburgh. A gourmet dinner with Opera Theater's founder, Mildred Miller, will be included as well as a trip to Phipps Conservatory and the Frick Art & Historical Center.

Participants will be immersed in Mozart's music, discovering some relatively unknown and rarely-performed works. Mozart Campers will be encouraged to share their own experiences and insights with other participants. The camp culminates with a performance of Mozart's *The Secret Gardener (La finta giardiniera)*, sung in English in a charming new production on July 20.

LECTURES

- **Mozart's Early Operas and "La finta giardiniera"**: Follow the progression of Mozart's early operas and pastorals to the mature operas, concentrating on his vocal compositions in the teenage years. Dr. David Buch (University of Chicago) helps place Finta in its historical and musicological place among Mozart's works.
- **Mozart's Women**: Wolfgang's sister was a gifted composer and musician, and he married a skilled singer who sang in many of his operas. Learn more about Nannerl and Constanze, and their impact on Mozart's musical life, as Daniel John Carroll introduces us to the less well-known Mozarts.

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- **Highborn in Low Places: Mozart's "La finta giardiniera" in Its Cultural Context:** A look at class distinctions in Mozart's opera, as well as in an earlier setting by Pasquale Anfossi, and how it all connects to Samuel Richardson's epistolary novel Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded. Presented by Professor James Cassaro (Finney Music Library, University of Pittsburgh).
- **The Controversies Surrounding Mozart's Death:** Popularized in stage plays and movies, the conspiracy theories surrounding Mozart's alleged poisoning by rival Antonio Salieri live on. Dr. Eugene Myers (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) brings a physician's keen eye to the physical evidence and offers a diagnosis.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

- **Chamber Music:** The Mozart in Concert series brings together, in three programs of instrumental and vocal music, works composed by Leopold, Wolfgang, and Franz Xaver. Concerts feature the **Freya String Quartet**, SummerFest's quartet-in-residence, and singers from the Young and Resident Artist Programs. Post-concert discussions offer an opportunity for participants and musicians to share observations and impressions of the selections. The concerts take place at 7:30 pm on July 16, 17 and 18.
- **Vocal Music:** Mozart Camp offers participants a chance to experience rare live performances of many of the composer's art songs. With themes touching on the beauty of spring, love, loss, and regret, the songs display Mozart's ability to craft small "mini operas," full of feeling and pathos. Each day offers a short program of these songs, performed by members of SummerFest's Young and Resident Artist programs.

Opera Theater SummerFest presents its second summer season—three weeks of opera and musicals sung in English, Mozart chamber and vocal recitals, and four new miniature comic operas, from July 6-21. The venues are the intimate art deco spaces of The Twentieth Century Club in the heart of Pittsburgh's original cultural corridor —Oakland. Opera Theater of Pittsburgh is celebrating its 35th year in 2013.

Contact: SummerFest Box Office: 412-326-9687
Opera Theater of Pittsburgh Office: 286 Main St., Third Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.
Phone: 412-621-1499 **TICKETS & DETAILS:** otsummerfest.org

ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS AND SPEAKERS

- **David J. Buch** is currently professor emeritus at the University of Northern Iowa, formerly professor of Music at Wayne State University, and most recently visiting professor at the University of Chicago, and has published numerous scholarly articles and books on a wide range of topics in music. His most recent book is *Magic Flutes and Enchanted Forests: The Supernatural in the Eighteenth-Century Musical Theater* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). His edition of the opera *Der Stein der Weisen* with newly discovered music attributed to Mozart, was published by A-R Editions (2007) and four more operas are in preparation in this series. His research has received international attention owing to the discovery of new attributions to Mozart. His next book is *Representations of Jews in the Musical Theater of the Habsburg Empire 1788-1807* (Jerusalem: The Jewish Music Research Centre, 2012).

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- **James P. Cassaro** is adjunct assistant professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh, and head of the Theodore M. Finney Music Library and Frick Fine Arts Library at Pitt. His main area of research focuses on, but is not limited to, seventeenth-century French music, in particular Jean Baptiste Lully's *ballet de cour*. His critical edition of Lully's *Ballet des Saisons* is in the composer's collected works series published by Georg Olms. In addition, he has produced several other monographs, specifically *Music, Libraries, and the Academy: Essays in Honor of Lenore Coral* (A-R Editions, 2007); *Gaetano Donizetti: A Research and Information Guide*. 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2009); as well as articles in *Notes*, *Fontes Artis Musicae*, *Quellenstudien zu Lully*, and in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd ed., and the 2nd ed. of the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music* [forthcoming];
- Founded in 2009, the **Freya String Quartet** (Jason Neukom, Ashley Buckley, Jason Hohn, Katya Janpoladyan) is dedicated to performing a wide range of music, advocating artistic evolution, and teaching the importance of classical music in the Pittsburgh area. Freya gives many performances in a variety of venues, using a vast array of repertoire that spans from Vivaldi to Glass and Cole Porter to Radiohead. Upcoming albums include a set of new songs for quartet and drums entitled *Freya Plugged In*, and a studio version of *The Ghost & Mister Able*, which is set to be released in the summer of 2013. Freya will also be the quartet in residence this summer for Opera Theater's SummerFest and at the Charlotte New Music Festival.
- **Dr. Eugene Myers** has served as Opera Theater's Board President since 2011. He is Distinguished Professor and Emeritus Chair in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He has published hundreds of articles, book chapters, as well as many books on this subject, including *Cancer of the Head and Neck*, considered a classic in the field.
- **Daniel John Carroll** is a lecturer in residence at the Boston Metro Opera and has done research and projects pertaining to musical aesthetics, Hutchesonian and Cartesian implications of the ontology of opera, and the phenomenological motivations of the artistic tenets of Richard Wagner.

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