



NEWS

for release in July 2015
Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

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OPERA THEATER LAUNCHES FOURTH SUMMERFEST

SET FOR FOUR WEEKS IN JULY 2015
IN OAKLAND'S MAGNIFICENT TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB

- **WORLD PREMIERE: *A NEW KIND OF FALLOUT***, inspired by pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*. Music by Gilda Lyons and libretto by Pittsburgh's Tammy Ryan.
- **SummerFest Main Stage: *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO* and *FIGARO REDUX* by Mozart, *CAPRICCIO* by Richard Strauss, and the musical *DAMN YANKEES***
- ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* provides family opera and activities on Saturday mornings**
- **Recitals, opening night festivities, late night cabaret, production forums, and much more!**

PITTSBURGH, PA (July 1, 2015) — The world premiere *A NEW KIND OF FALLOUT* is showcased in Opera Theater of Pittsburgh's fourth SummerFest season. Inspired by environmentalist Rachel Carson, the new opera features music by acclaimed New York-based composer Gilda Lyons and a libretto by award-winning Pittsburgh playwright Tammy Ryan. Operas by Strauss and Mozart sung in English, a beloved Broadway musical, family fare, recitals, late-night cabaret, and much more fill the calendar for Western Pennsylvania's only classical-music based festival, all performed in the beautiful and historic Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd, Pittsburgh (15213)

Mainstage opera tickets: \$25-75 (Art Deco Theater). Box seats \$45-75. Musical tickets \$25-\$65 (Beaux Arts Ballroom). **Groups** of 8 or more save 10%. 20 or more save 20%. **Student Rush tickets** (half price) available with a valid student ID an hour before each opera or musical performance. Students with ID are admitted to recitals at no charge. Order tickets online at otsummerfest.org or by phone at **412-386-9687**.

Jonathan Eaton, artistic director, enters his 15th season with Opera Theater.

"As we expand SummerFest from three to four weeks in 2015," says Eaton, "We aim to provide the region with more opera, musical theater, and vocal music for our broad audience. We created SummerFest to fill a void in the summer arts landscape and are thrilled that audiences and critics agreed it was a bold and valuable addition to the cultural calendar."

SummerFest returns to The Twentieth Century Club for four weeks of productions designed to appeal to all ages of music and theater lovers, in intimate spaces seating no more than 200 to 400 audience members:

A NEW KIND OF FALLOUT WORLD PREMIERE! When a young wife expecting her first child reads Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* she is faced with a life-changing choice: answer the call to action to preserve the world in which her child will live or to support her husband in his work for the very company manufacturing poisonous pesticides. This new American opera revisits the concerns of Pennsylvania's own Rachel Carson in a story about personal integrity and societal ethics. Music by noted New York-based composer Gilda Lyons (*Night Caps: Moonlight Suite* from 2012) and libretto by Pittsburgh playwright Tammy Ryan, whose works have been staged throughout the US. Lara Lynn Cottrill, Christopher Scott, and Daphne Alderson are among the artists creating lead roles. Music Director and conductor Robert Frankenberry describes the score as "beautiful,

brehtaking, moving, and powerful in a way that will simultaneously seduce and challenge, not unlike Carson's *Silent Spring* did in 1962."

Directed by Jonathan Eaton.

Sat., July 18 at 7:30 pm; Fri., July 24 at 7:30 pm; Sat., July 26 at 2 pm

DAMN YANKEES Women take over this baseball-themed all-American musical *Damn Yankees* and knock out some of Broadway's most beloved tunes out of the park. When a struggling team considers a Faustian solution for its losing streak, anything can happen as SummerFest puts a unique twist on this devilish story staged in the thick of the summer baseball season. The women of the company are "playing" the men, the men are "playing" the women, and the Washington Senators are playing those "damn Yankees" in a race for the pennant.

Audiences should expect some fun innovations, ballpark-style refreshments, and more!

Featured songs include: *Heart (You Gotta Have Heart)* and *Whatever Lola Wants*, and more.

Directed by Scott Wise

Sat., July 11 at 7:30 pm; Sun., July 12 at 2 pm; Thurs., July 16 at 7:30 pm; Fri., July 17 at 7:30 pm;

Sat., July 25 at 2 pm; Sat., August 1 at 2 pm

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Mozart's classic comic masterpiece, sung in English, conjures up *Downton Abbey* in our lively new production. This *Marriage* doesn't miss a beat – musically or emotionally. A sparkling overture, the greatest ensembles ever written, and divine arias tell a witty tale of the tensions between love and lust, servant and master, wife and lover. The Count has his eye on his valet's fiancée, who happens to be his wife's chambermaid. Meanwhile, the Countess is pursued by the charming Cherubino - a pageboy disguised as a girl! Upstairs meets downstairs in this glorious romp.

Directed by Jonathan Eaton

Sat., July 25 at 7:30 pm; Fri., July 31 at 7:30 pm; Sun., August 2 at 2 pm

FIGARO REDUX Fresh. Edgy. Mobile. Sung in English. *Figaro Redux* is our slightly shorter, modern-dress version of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Audiences will follow the cast around the Twentieth Century Club with each act set in a different space in our spectacular venue. Sit with Susanna and Figaro in their connubial bedroom. Then grab a cocktail and brush elbows with the Countess in her dayroom. End up onstage with the Count. Careful...this comedy is all about sex and class: it was banned when first written (Napoleon called it "the first canon shot of the French Revolution"). Our updated "moving" production is just as radical, subversive, and entertaining today as it was back then.

Directed by Jonathan Eaton

Thurs., July 23 at 7:30 pm; Thurs., July 30 at 7:30 pm

CAPRICCIO Love the composer or love the poet? The gorgeous countess Madeleine is courted by both a writer and a composer as her home fills with birthday party-goers and beguiling melody. What happens when the poetry meets the music? Strauss' luminous final opera contains ravishing music that belies its composition in the midst of war in October 1942. *Capriccio* takes the stage after SummerFest's acclaimed *Ariadne on Naxos* in 2014.

Directed by Gregory Lehane.

Sat., July 25 at 7:30 pm; Fri., July 31 at 7:30; Sun., August 2 at 2 pm

INTERNATIONAL RECITAL SERIES Continuing Opera Theater's tradition of sold-out recitals, SummerFest includes an expanded array of concerts, featuring world-class singers, emerging international talent, and special programs to celebrate music from around the world. We kick the season off on Sun., July 12 at 6 pm showcasing *Andrey Nemzar in Recital*: The winner of the 2012 Mildred Miller International Voice Competition, Pittsburgh's celebrated countertenor has wowed audiences regionally and at the Metropolitan Opera. Savor favorites drawn from the Russian repertoire. Wed., July 22 at 7:30 is *Daphne Alderson in Recital*: The acclaimed chanteuse and her band of accordion, cello, and guitar enchant with songs of Edith Piaf – Leonard Cohen! Young Artists recitals take a tour around the globe, making stops in the US, Wed. July 15 at 7:30 pm, Belgium, Sun. July 19 at 6pm, featuring the winners of the SummerFest Europe's International Voice Competition, Italy, Sun., July 26 at 6pm, and finally Germany, Wed., July 29 at 7:30 pm.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS Immerse the whole family in this delightful take on a classic story! So, did the wolf just get a bad rap? This musical adventure is a fast-paced, fun show and a great introduction to opera for children of all ages. With familiar characters (and some you didn't expect!), an up-close

and casual performance space, and an attention-friendly 40-minute duration, this is the perfect opportunity for families to discover the joys of music drama together. After each performance, families stay to enjoy pig-themed crafts and activities, complimentary popcorn and lemonade, and Q&As and photo opps with cast members. Composer Wallace DePue will join audience members during the performance on July 25.

Directed by Dennis Robinson

Sat., July 11 at 11 am; Sat., July 18 at 11 am; Sat., July 25 at 11 am; Sat., August 1 at 11 am

PRE SHOW TALKS AND CABARET In keeping with the festival spirit, SummerFest again features pre-show talks in the elegant Twentieth Century Club before performances, and free Late Night Cabaret after main stage productions. For each opening night, SummerFest provides a show and party package. For further details visit www.otsummerfest.org

All-Season Passports, Pick 2 or 3 packages, single tickets, and group tickets on sale NOW!

TICKETS for all events start at \$25, with *Pigs* tickets at \$5-10

GIFT CERTIFICATES are on sale for year-round gift giving.

To order, or for more information about ticket pricing and packages, VISIT www.otsummerfest.org or CALL 412-326-9687

ABOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB

The Twentieth Century Club, one of Pittsburgh's hidden jewels, features a glorious Art Deco auditorium along with its handsome ballroom and elegant dining space. It provides a singular environment for innovative and intimate performances, for which Opera Theater is known. The 121-year-old club is located in the heart of Oakland, adjacent to the University of Pittsburgh's campus near Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and convenient parking options.

THE OPERA THEATER SUMMERFEST COMPANY

SummerFest features a company of performers including top national and regional singers, and rising stars from its Young Artist Program. Members of the six-week Young Artist Program are recruited from more than 300 candidates in auditions in Pittsburgh and six cities across the US. It combines performance opportunities for emerging professionals with a comprehensive training experience including coaching, master classes, and a variety of special events. Forty-six young artists, including singers, pianists and stage directors from the United States, South Korea, Belgium, Poland, Bulgaria, Indonesia, and France took part in *SummerFest 2015*.

About Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

Over its first two seasons, SummerFest drew more than 18,000 people to operas, musicals, new works and recitals. Since its founding in 1978 by Mildred Miller Posvar, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh has served a diverse market of music drama audiences in Western Pennsylvania. Jonathan Eaton has served as artistic and general director since 1999. By presenting high-quality productions of music drama not available elsewhere, the company works at the forefront of the genre. In its 38-year history, Opera Theater has presented more than 50 Pittsburgh premieres, many of them American operas that would not have been produced by other regional companies. Opera Theater reaches out across traditional lines of demarcation in the arts, presenting works which engage diverse, new and younger audiences, bringing in supporters of music, theater, dance and the visual arts.

Opera Theater of Pittsburgh is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and at [412-326-9687](tel:412-326-9687) and otsummerfest.org.

Visit otsummerfest.org for tickets and details on all events.

SummerFest Box Office: [412-326-9687](tel:412-326-9687)

Venue: The Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, Pittsburgh PA 15213.

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For more information, contact: Yvonne Hudson, yhudson@otsummerfest.org or 412-512-0589

Interviews, photos, and art upon request.

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