

Editors: Pittsburgh Festival Opera is the new name of Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and SummerFest. Direct requests for media materials, photographs, and interviews to Yvonne Hudson, marketing director.
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The world premiere performances of *A Gathering of Sons* take place at touring venues, June 15-24.

All Pittsburgh Festival Opera performances from June 30-July 23 take place at:

Winchester Thurston School, 555 Morewood Ave. at Ellsworth, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland) 15213.

Recitals presented for the first time at **First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh**, 605 Morewood Ave., across the street.

- All mainstage operas are *sung in English* with projected English titles above the stage.
- 13 mainstage performances are at Winchester Thurston School in the 315-seat Falk Auditorium
- The children's opera is performed in the 125-seat Hilda Willis Room.
- Select mainstage performances are preceded by talks with stage directors and other artists.
- Mainstage operas feature the Pittsburgh Festival Opera Orchestra.
- All mainstage operas are suitable for children 12 and older.
- Parking is free at the venue and on nearby streets.

Events listed below in order of opening dates/first performances.

A GATHERING OF SONS - 28th World Premiere of Pittsburgh Festival Opera Seven performances
The second new work in PFO's "Music that Matters" series of commissioned works.
Visit AGatheringOfSons.org for details.

Music and conducted by Dwayne Fulton
Directed by Mark Clayton Southers

Libretto by Tameka Cage Conley

Touring performances hosted by community partners June 15 – 24 (dates and venues subject to change)

Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16 at 7:30 pm
Mount Ararat Baptist Church, 271 Paulson Ave., Pittsburgh 15206

Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 pm at Rodef Shalom Congregation
4905 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 15213

Wednesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 29 at 7:30 pm
Elsie H. Hillman Aud., Kaufmann Center, 1825 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh 15219

Friday, July 1 at 7:30 pm and Friday, July 8 at 7:30 pm
Falk Aud., Winchester Thurston School
555 Morewood Ave. (at Ellsworth), Pittsburgh 15213

Claim your humanity. Another Black man is shot by a White police officer, and we ask what comes next? How do we heal? How do we protect our children? *A Gathering of Sons* takes us on a journey through the lives of a young Black man, a white police officer, parents of a newborn child, and a collection of spirits who watch over the world. A confrontation with history and the way it breathes through the present, this poetic premiere is a conversation on our biases and how we heal after tragedy. It is an eye towards freedom and the work our communities need to do to reach it. Full of magic, fear, hope, pain, and, still, an even more powerful love.

"IF I LOVED YOU..."

Four performances

Enjoy star-spangled songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein in a new dramatic revue that explores romantic love, its joys, and its darker side. Enjoy your favorite songs (and some you may not remember!) from landmark musicals such as *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *Flower Drum Song*, and more. **If I Loved You...** features singers from our mainstage festival productions. Opens in a historic barn and moves to mainstage.

Snuggery Farm, 1551 Camp Meeting Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143

Sunday, June 25 and Sunday, July 2 at 6 pm

Tickets \$45

Enjoy a gourmet holiday barbeque before the show at this idyllic Sewickley farm!

Tickets \$35

Falk Aud., Winchester Thurston:

Sunday, July 9 and Sunday, July 16, 6:30 pm

Tickets \$25 - \$75

THE THREE (COUNTER) TENORS

One night only

Thursday, June 30 at 7:30 pm Pittsburgh Festival Opera Season Opening Night Celebration

First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, 605 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Remember "The Three Tenors"? They have nothing on our trio of countertenors who perform top hits of the Baroque period sung originally by superstar *castrati*, with additional Russian songs and other repertoire sung by **Andrey Nemzer, Cody Bowers, and Rudy Giron**.

Tickets \$35. Students admitted free with reservation online or at door. Valid student ID required.

Opening Night Party with the artists after the performance \$25, Cabaret Lounge, Winchester Thurston School.

HANSEL AND GRETEL by Engelbert Humperdinck
performances

Three

Hilda Willis Room, Winchester Thurston School

Directed by Jonathan Eaton Musical Director Joel Goodloe Pianist Agnieszka Sornek

Saturday, July 1 at 11 am

Saturday, July 8 at 11 am

Saturday, July 15 at 11 am

Intrepid siblings outwit a hungry witch in the ominous woods! A perfect first opera for the youngest music lovers, this charming classic features such beloved songs as "Brother, Come and Dance", "Evening Prayer", and more! This 50 minute production provides families with a fun outing and engaging activities following the performance. Sung in English. Tickets \$5 for children and students; \$10 for adults. General seating.

This production was experienced in March 2017 by more than 1,600 Pittsburgh-area school children during free matinees.

continued

SWEENEY TODD, *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

Five performances

Falk Aud., Winchester Thurston School

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Directed by Tomé Cousin**Book by Hugh Wheeler**
Conducted by Douglas Levine**Friday, July 7 at 7:30 pm** *Opening Night Party with light fare with the company after the performance: \$25.*
Sunday, July 9 at 2 pm
Saturday, July 15 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, July 20 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, July 22 at 2 pm

Barber Sweeney Todd returns to London after 15 years of exile and aims to take revenge on the corrupt judge who banished him. When baker Mrs. Lovett is in desperate need of fresh meat for her pies, Sweeney implements a cunningly murderous solution to boost her business. Songs include "Johanna", "By the Sea", and "Pretty Women". This Sondheim classic was Broadway's Tony-award winner for Best Musical. Andrew Cummings as Sweeney, Anna Singer as Mrs. Lovett, and Robert Frankenberry as the Beadle.

A HALLELUJAH AT LOVE CAFE: DAPHNE ALDERSON SINGS LEONARD COHEN One night only
Beloved chanteuse Daphne Alderson returns with new program of Leonard Cohen's legacy, a vintage tapestry of love, loss and rebirth.

This premiere concert features newly imagined-versions of the folk rock movement that Cohen created with Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins. Along with the haunting Famous Blue Raincoat, Joan of Arc and Suzanne, Since You Asked, California, and Mitchell's wistful Both Sides Now and bittersweet A Case of You, there are nods to Buffy Sainte Marie, conjuring Cohen's Greenwich Village concert scene. With Daphne's stellar ensemble of guitar, cello, accordion and bass.

First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 pm

Tickets \$35. Students admitted free with reservation online or at door. Valid student ID required.

XERXES

Three performances

Falk Auditorium, Winchester Thurston School

Music by George Frideric Handel
Libretto by Giovanni Bononcini
Directed by Dan Rigazzi**English Translation by Stephen Wadsworth**
Conducted by Walter Morales
With Chatham Baroque**Friday, July 14 at 7:30 pm**
Opening Night Party with light fare with the company after the performance: \$25.
Sunday, July 16 at 2 pm and Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 pm

Sibling and romantic rivalry are at play in the court of Persia where King Xerxes and his brother vie for power and affection in this comic masterpiece. Xerxes plans to marry Romilda, but his brother is also in love with her. When a former fiancée vows revenge, entertaining complications abound, all set to Handel's Baroque musical magic. Met Opera director Dan Rigazzi, who staged the company's sold-out production of Handel's *Julius Caesar*, returns with his acclaimed stars Andrey Nemzer, Met countertenor, in the title role, and Lara Lynn McGill as Romilda. Pittsburgh's celebrated Chatham Baroque ensemble is again under the baton of conductor Walter Morales. *Sung in English with projected titles in English.*

continued

MOZART BY MOONLIGHT: A Garden of Operatic Delights

One night only

Enjoy an evening of two full acts from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and scenes from other operas, all sung in English. Find yourself immersed in romantic connections and conniptions, starting out in our theater, then moving on in the intermission for wine and moonlit Mozart in beautiful private gardens just a hundred yards away. Catch Cherubino with the Countess in a leafy bower, Susanna leading Figaro up the garden path, and the Count getting his comeuppance with a splash in the ornamental pond! This program features the singers of our Young Professional Artists Program. Seating is limited - book ahead!

Wednesday, July 19 at 7:30 pm

at Falk Auditorium and in moonlit private gardens.

Tickets \$25, general admission, limited seating

ROSENKAVALIER - THE SILENT MOVIE

One night only

Richard Strauss revamped his famous score for *Der Rosenkavalier* in 1926 to accompany an otherwise silent movie of the story directed by Robert Wiene. This is a rare opportunity to see - and hear - an amazing musical-historical curiosity, rediscovered in 1974 after years of neglect.

Thursday, July 20, 8:00 pm

Hilda Willis Room, Winchester Thurston School

Admission free

SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: A LECTURE ON STRAUSS' INTERMEZZO BY DR. BRYAN GILLIAM

Bryan Gilliam, perhaps the world's leading authority on the operas of Richard Strauss, presents a lecture on *Intermezzo*, the composer's semi-autobiographical opera. Dr. Gilliam received his Ph. D. from Harvard University in 1984. He is the author of books and articles on late 19th and early 20th-century German music, specializing in the works of Richard Strauss, Anton Bruckner, Kurt Weill, and Erich Korngold, 19th and 20th-century German opera, *fin-de-siècle* Vienna, film music, and German musical aesthetics. His latest book is *Rounding Wagner's Mountain: Richard Strauss and Modern German Opera*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2014.

Friday, July 21, 2:00 pm

Hilda Willis Room, Winchester Thurston School

Tickets \$25

INTERMEZZO

Text and Music by Richard Strauss

Two performances

Falk Auditorium, Winchester Thurston School

Intermezzo is a Pennsylvania Premiere.**Libretto by Richard Strauss****English translation by Andrew Porter****Directed by Jonathan Eaton****Conducted by Brent McMunn****Friday, July 21 at 7:30 pm***Opening Night Party with light fare with the company after the performance: \$25.***Sunday, July 23 at 2:00 pm**

Comic scenes from a marriage take a conductor-husband on tour and his lonely wife to the ski slopes, where a toboggan collision brings her a new 'friend' to add to the romantic confusion. Meghan DeWald stars as the determined Christine with Ryan Milstead as her distracted conductor-husband Robert. Richard Strauss's somewhat auto-biographical 1923 opera is the fourth ravishing but lesser-known work by this 20th century master in PFO's four-year cycle of critically acclaimed Strauss operas, following the company's celebrated *Ariadne on Naxos* in 2014, *Capriccio* in 2015, and *The Silent Woman* in 2016. *Sung in English with projected titles in English.*

continued

SONGS OF RICHARD STRAUSS

One night only

Favorite and less well known Lieder by the late-romantic master, sung by our Young Professional Artists

Saturday, July 22 at 8:00 pm

First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, 605 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Tickets \$25. Students admitted free with reservation online or at door. Valid student ID required.

SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH RICHARD STRAUSS AT THE BENEDUM HOUSE

A delicious brunch followed by scherzi and skizzi performed by pianist Walter Morales in the beautiful ballroom of the historic Benedum House in Shadyside.

Sunday, July 22 at 11:00 am

Tickets \$75.

DISCOVER STRAUSS SERIES**Thursday, July 20 - Sunday, July 23**Join us for a festive long weekend of events (listed above) centered around rarely performed works of Richard Strauss—and explore America's most livable city. Tickets to *Discover Strauss* events available for individual purchase or in two packages.**Strauss Pass: \$195.** Includes best tickets to Friday's *Intermezzo* and access to all private events:**Thursday, July 20**Wine with Mildred Miller, celebrated Octavian*; Dinner with Mildred Miller (pay your own way).
Rosenkavalier Silent Movie viewing**Friday, July 21**Scenes from a Marriage: Lecture with Dr. Bryan Gilliam; Dinner with Dr. Gilliam (pay your own way).
Intermezzo, Friday evening, best seats. Includes opening night cast party**Saturday, July 22**Dinner with Brent McMunn, conductor of *Intermezzo* (pay your own way).
Songs of Strauss recital**Sunday, July 23**Sunday Brunch with Richard Strauss at the historic Benedum House, Shadyside
Brunch and piano recital by Walter Morales**Strauss Pass Plus: \$285** Includes all private *Discover Strauss* events above and best tickets to all other company events Thurs-Sun including *Sweeney Todd*, second performance of *Intermezzo* and private festival closing party on Sunday, July 23.**TICKETS ONLINE: pittsburghfestivalopera.org Box Office: 412-326-9687**

- **Season Passports for admission to all events with a party option detailed on website.**
- **Pick 2/3/4 ticket packages** provide 10/15/20% discounts on main stage productions (respectively).
- **Opening Night subscriptions** feature each of the first four mainstage operas/musical performances.
- **Opening Night Parties** are ticketed separately at \$25 per event.
- **Single tickets:** All main stage reserved tickets begin at \$25 with discounts/packages available.
- **Student tickets** for half price in advance or at door w/valid ID. Student recital admission free.
- **Groups:** Save 20% off 8 to 19 tickets; 35% off 20 or more tickets.
- **Recitals:** prices and seating vary; see above and consult web site.
- **Children's opera (*Hansel and Gretel*):** \$5 for children and students. \$10 for adults.

Accessibility: All indoor venues are handicap/wheelchair accessible. Hearing assist devices may be reserved in advance for Falk Auditorium performances.