

Thursday, May 28, 2015

## Opera Saratoga's 2016 Summer Festival Program

Company: OPERA SARATOGA

Venue: Opera Saratoga

Location: SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

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OPERA SARATOGA

ANNOUNCES ITS 2016 SUMMER FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Le nozze di Figaro

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Libretto by Lorenzo DaPonte

Directed by David Paul, Conducted by Andrew Bisantz

Featuring Katherine Whyte, Chelsea Basler, Keith Phares and Peixin Chen

June 24 – July 15, 2016

The Witches of Venice – American Premiere

Music by Philip Glass, Libretto by Beni Montresor

Directed and Choreographed by Karole Armitage, Conducted by Viswa Subbaraman

Featuring members of Armitage Gone! Dance, and the Capital District Youth Chorale

July 1 – July 17, 2016

Il Postino

Music by Daniel Catán

Libretto by the composer, based on the novel by Antonio Skármeta,

and the film by Michael Radford

Directed by Lawrence Edelson, Conducted by James Lowe

Featuring Sandra López, Daniel Montenegro and Richard Troxell

July 6 – July 16, 2016

Plus Seven Weeks of Recitals, Concerts and Master Classes

from May 28th – July 17th, 2016

Saratoga Springs, NY - Lawrence Edelson, Artistic and General Director of Opera Saratoga, announced today the program for the 2016 Summer Festival, which will run from May 28th through July 17, 2016. The season will feature three new productions, along with a diverse slate of recitals, concerts and master classes at multiple locations in Saratoga Springs, New York.

"I was thrilled to see the response to the diversity of Opera Saratoga's programming this past summer, as well as the expanded scope of our Festival," Edelson said. "Once again, I have worked to put together a season that reflects the incredible power of opera to tell vivid and compelling stories through music in very different ways. The season will open with Mozart's masterpiece, *Le nozze di Figaro*, which has not been produced by the company in 20 years. Building on both our commitment to presenting contemporary American work as well as operas in which dance plays a significant role, I'm thrilled to announce the American premiere of *The Witches of Venice* – a brilliant, but little known opera-ballet by Philip Glass. Finally, I am very excited to introduce our audiences to the music of Daniel Catán with our new production of *Il Postino*. Based on the beloved Academy Award winning film of the same name, *Il Postino* will be the first Spanish opera we have ever presented. To compliment the three operas, we will once again present an extensive series of events including a Mozart *Liederabend*, a concert of Spanish opera and song; and a Broadway Celebration featuring the Opera Saratoga Orchestra and members of our nationally acclaimed Young Artist Program."

The complete season schedule, including the full calendar and details for all concerts and special events, will be announced in October.

Subscriptions will go on sale October 31st, 2015, including special packages for out of town guests. Single tickets will go on sale February 1st, 2016.

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO (The Marriage of Figaro)

Composer – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Librettist – Lorenzo Da Ponte

A cornerstone of the operatic repertoire and one of the most frequently performed operas around the globe, *Le nozze di Figaro* returns to Opera Saratoga for the first time in twenty years. Beaumarchais' play, upon which the opera is based, serves as the sequel to *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville). In an already volatile political climate, the play created a stir by pitting witty servants against their masters. The opera adaptation was originally banned in Vienna because of the licentiousness of the play, but Mozart's librettist Da Ponte managed to get official approval, after which the opera was written and became a tremendous success. It was the first collaboration between Mozart and Da Ponte, the partnership, which later brought us *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*.

*Le nozze di Figaro* continues the plot of *The Barber of Seville* several years later. The Count has married Rosina and made her the Countess, but their marriage has gone sour because of his philandering. Figaro has quit barbering and is now the Count's major-domo. He is engaged to Susanna, who is Countess Rosina's maid - and the Count's intended conquest. Bartolo is back to seek revenge on Figaro for taking Rosina away from him, with the help of the conniving music-master, Basilio. Adding to the fun are an amorous teenager, a scheming old maid, a drunken gardener and his daughter. Much happens over the course a single "day of madness" in this beloved masterpiece.

From the first tremors of the overture, Mozart's score is brilliantly meshed with Da Ponte's libretto to become the true engine of the drama that unfolds. In the words of the great composer Johannes Brahms, "In my opinion, each number in *Figaro* is a miracle; it is totally beyond me how anyone could create anything so perfect; nothing like it was ever done again, not even by Beethoven."

Chinese bass Peixin Chen makes his Opera Saratoga debut as Figaro, and soprano Chelsea Basler - an alumna of Opera Saratoga's Young Artist Program previously seen as Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* - returns as Susanna, his bride to be. The production also features the company debuts of soprano Katherine Whyte as the Countess and baritone Keith Phares as the Count. Andrew Bisantz makes his conducting debut with the company, along with director David Paul who helms this new production.

The production will run from June 24 to July 15, 2016.

#### THE WITCHES OF VENICE – AMERICAN PREMIERE

Composer - Philip Glass; Librettist - Beni Montresor

The second production of the season will be the American premiere of Philip Glass' *The Witches of Venice* - an opera-ballet originally written for Teatro alla Scala in Milan that premiered in 1995. This whimsical opera that incorporates dance throughout was composed in collaboration with illustrator and stage designer Beni Montresor, who adapted the libretto from his children's book of the same name.

Based in the historical Venice of Carnival, *The Witches of Venice* is a whimsical tale about a boy grown from a plant in the King's garden, who is looking for a little girl like him. He soon finds himself escaping captors, wandering dark hallways, fleeing monsters, and ultimately finding a friend. It is a heartfelt story, with underlying themes of self-acceptance and finding one's place in the world. *The Witches of Venice* is one of Glass' most creative scores - a family-friendly opera featuring inventive songs, exhilarating dances, fantastical music portraying monsters and fairies, and savvy scoring that carries the story along. Opera Saratoga is thrilled to introduce American audiences to an important and little known work by one of America's most important composers, and to continue its commitment to presenting contemporary American work as well as operas in which dance plays an integral role.

Internationally renowned director and choreographer Karole Armitage, who made her debut with Opera Saratoga this past summer creating the company's critically acclaimed production of *Dido and Aeneas*, returns to direct and choreograph this American premiere production. Viswa Subbaraman, Artistic Director of Skylight Music Theater and former Artistic Director of the innovative contemporary opera company Opera Vista in Houston will conduct. Principal roles will be sung by members of Opera Saratoga's Young Artist Program, the second oldest mentorship program for emerging professional singers in the country. Applications for the program, directed by Laurie Rogers, are being accepted through September 12, 2015. Auditions will be held in Houston, Cincinnati and New York City in November. Last season, Opera Saratoga received over 1,000 applications for the program.

As with last season's production of *Dido and Aeneas*, members of the New York City based Armitage Gone! Dance Company will also be featured prominently in the production. In addition *The Witches of Venice* provides important opportunities for collaborations with other organizations in the region. Opera Saratoga will collaborate with The Capital District Youth Chorale, upstate New York's premiere children's chorus under the direction of Diane Warner, as well The School of the Arts at The National Museum of Dance under the direction of Raul Martinez, to provide opportunities for local children to perform alongside professional artists in the opera, which includes a children's chorus and extensive use of both child and adult dancers.

*The Witches of Venice* will run from July 1 to July 17, 2016.

#### IL POSTINO

Composer - Daniel Catán; Libretto by the composer, based on the novel by Antonio Skármeta, and the film by Michael Radford

Based on the Academy Award-winning 1994 Italian film that became a surprise hit with audiences around the world, and also on the 1985 novel *Ardiente Paciencia* by Antonio Skármeta, *Il Postino* tells the story of a shy young postman in a tiny Italian fishing village, who discovers the courage to pursue his dreams through his daily deliveries to his only customer, the esteemed Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. The role of Neruda was originally written for Plácido Domingo, who sang the role at the opera's premiere in 2010 at Los Angeles Opera - just months before composer Daniel Catán's tragic death at the age of 62.

Catán is known for a neo-romantic style that has been compared variously to Puccini, Ravel and Debussy, with lush orchestrations and lyrical melodic lines. Tonal and accessible, his work has proven immensely popular with audiences.

*Il Postino* will be the first Spanish opera performed in Opera Saratoga's history. The cast will feature the company debuts of four international singers: tenor Daniel Montenegro will sing the title role of Mario Ruoppolo - the postman - a role he recently sang in Paris at the Théâtre du Châtelet; tenor Richard Troxell sings the role of Pablo Neruda; and soprano Sandra López sings the role of Matilde Neruda, the poet's third wife. James Lowe also makes his company debut conducting the production, which will be directed by Opera Saratoga's Artistic and General Director Lawrence Edelson.

The production will run from July 5 to July 16, 2016.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF FEATURED ARTISTS

### LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Katherine Whyte has performed on opera and concert stages across her native Canada, the United States and Europe, most recently returning to the Canadian Opera Company as Iris in *Semele* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Metropolitan Opera as Brigitta in *Iolanta*, and as a recitalist with their Rising Star Recital series. She sang the Countess in The Princeton Festival's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, and appeared with the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional in Beethoven's 9th Symphony. The 2015-2016 season brings a debut with the Dallas Opera and a return to the Metropolitan Opera Company for their production of *Rigoletto*. Ms. Whyte made her debut with Canadian Opera Company in the 2011-2012 season in the title role of *Iphigénie en Tauride* and returned the same season as Iris in *Semele*. Following her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2007 in Strauss' *Die ägyptische Helena*, she has returned for *The Gambler*, *The Enchanted Island*, *Two Boys*, and *Parsifal*. Other highlights include her Vancouver Opera debut as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Beethoven's *Mass in C Major* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with the Houston Symphony, *Carmina Burana* with the National Chorale, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, *Gilda* in *Rigoletto* with English National Opera, *Pamina* in *Die Zauberflöte* with Michigan Opera Theatre, *Euridice* in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Atlanta Opera, and *Iphis* in Handel's *Jephtha* with Opéra National de Bordeaux.

American soprano Chelsea Basler has been praised for her "luminous voice," "easy soaring range," and "wonderful acting." Critics have hailed her as "golden-voiced" and "simply superb." Her recent portrayal of Isolt in Boston Lyric Opera's production of *The Love Potion* was described as "lovely, passionate, and clear" (Opera News). Additional highlights of the 2014/15 season included return engagements as an Emerging Artist with the BLO performing the roles of Flora in *La Traviata*, Glasha in *Katya Kabanova*, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Recital and oratorio engagements included a recital at the National Opera Center in New York City, Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate* with the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Clearlakes Chorale. Basler has championed multiple roles in the American opera repertoire, including Margaret (Lizzie Borden) with BLO, and *Guardian of the Dawn* (Little Nemo in *Slumberland*) and *Curley's Wife* (Of Mice and Men) with Sarasota Opera. Most recently she was seen performing the role of Sara in the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain* at The Santa Fe Opera. She will be joining BLO again this season in their production of *The Merry Widow* as Valencienne, and is thrilled to be returning to Opera Saratoga, where she previously sang the role of Josephine in H.M.S. Pinafore as an Apprentice Artist, as a Principal Artist in the role of Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. Equally comfortable on the concert stage, Basler will also be performing Mahler's 4th Symphony and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Atlantic Symphony this season.

A noted interpreter of Mozart and bel canto repertoire as well as today's composers, baritone Keith Phares is regarded as one of his generation's most versatile artists. Recent engagements have included Zurga in *Les pêcheurs de perles*, and Marcello in *La bohème* with Seattle Opera; Charlie in *Three Decembers* with Florentine Opera; John Sorel in *The Consul*, and Orin Mannion in *Mourning Becomes Electra* with Florida Grand Opera; the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro* with New Orleans Opera; the title role in *Elmer Gantry* with Tulsa Opera; the title role in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* in a joint production with Central City Opera and Colorado Symphony; the premiere of *Paul's Case* with UrbanArias; and the premiere of *The Scarlet Ibis* with the Prototype Festival. Future engagements include Elder Tull in the world premiere of *Riders of the Purple Sage* with Arizona Opera. For his debut with Florentine Opera, he portrayed the title role in *Elmer Gantry*. A live recording of this performance is now available from Naxos records. Mr. Phares made his Houston Grand Opera debut in the premiere of Jake Heggie's *Last Acts* (Three Decembers); and returned to the stage of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in a new production of *Martin y Soler's Una cosa rara*. A graduate of the Juilliard Opera Center, he was a national winner of the 1998 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a finalist in the 1999 Eleanor McCollum Competition of the Houston Grand Opera.

Bass Peixin Chen is a recent graduate of the internationally renowned Houston Grand Opera Studio, and a student of Dr. Stephen King. His roles with the Company have included Ferrando in *Il trovatore* (2013), 2nd SS Officer in *The Passenger*, Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*, and Montano in *Otello* (2014), and Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* as well as Hunding in *Die Walküre* (2015). During the 2015-16 season, Peixin assays the title role of *Le nozze di Figaro* for Opera Saratoga and returns to Houston Grand Opera as Bartolo in the same work. On the concert stage, he joins Andrés Orozco-Estrada and the Houston Symphony for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Recent performances have featured the Chinese bass as Sparafucile in a company debut at the Santa Fe Opera in a new production of *Rigoletto* directed by Lee Blakeley and conducted by Jader Bignamini, as well as at the Washington National Opera as Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore*. Mr. Chen has bowed as the King in *Aida* under the baton of Zubin Mehta as well as both Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Basilio in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing, and in *The Passenger* at the Lincoln Center Festival at the Park Armory. As a member of the Merola Program under the auspices of San Francisco Opera, Peixin Chen has sung Basilio in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. On the international stage, Peixin Chen has worked with an illustrious list of conductors and directors including Lorin Maazel, Giancarlo del Monaco, Michel Plasson, David Pountney, James Robinson, Evan Rogister, Patrick Summers, and Francesca Zambello.

A versatile musician acknowledged for his passionate and commanding leadership from the podium, conductor Andrew Bisantz is quickly building an impressive roster of credits at leading national orchestras and opera companies throughout the country. For his début with Boston Lyric Opera leading *The Turn of the Screw*, the Boston Globe selected it as one of the ten top Boston classical music events of 2010, and The Boston Musical Intelligencer noted that "Conductor Andrew Bisantz led the small group of instrumentalists with skill and an impeccable ear for balance...in those instances when the players were the focal point, especially the interludes that fall between each scene, the musicianship was

effective and inspired." He subsequently returned for productions of *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*. This season, he conducts *Le nozze di Figaro* at Opera San Jose and Opera Saratoga, *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Eugene Opera, *La fanciulla del West* at Opera Omaha, *Eugene Onegin* at Eugene Opera, and *Don Giovanni* at Savannah Voice Festival. Notable engagements from the past few seasons include returns to Florida Grand Opera for *Rigoletto*, Menotti's *The Consul*, and *Die Zauberflöte*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at McGill University; *Rigoletto* at Opera Coeur d'Alene and Tri-Cities Opera; Verdi's *La traviata* for Virginia Opera; and his début with Wolf Trap Opera conducting *Don Giovanni*. He also conducted Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and *Rhapsody in Blue* with Buffalo Philharmonic.

David Paul has worked as a stage director on operatic and theatrical stages throughout the United States and abroad. Equally at home in opera and theater, Mr. Paul's productions have been praised by critics and audiences for their ingenuity, attention to musical and dramatic detail, and the powerful, nuanced performances he draws from his performers. He is affiliated with the Metropolitan Opera's Lindeman Young Artist Program and The Juilliard School, where he recently directed their critically acclaimed coproduction of *Iphigenie en Aulide*. Other recent highlights include Chekov's *The Seagull* and Sarah Ruhl's *Euridice* at Columbia University; *Le nozze di Figaro* for Wolf Trap Opera; *American Soldier* by David Henry Hwang and Huang Ruo at Washington National Opera; *Il Trovatore* and *Aida* at North Carolina Opera; and *La Cenerentola*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Carmen* for Music Academy of the West. In 2008, he was invited to serve on the artistic staff of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington. Under the leadership of Michael Kahn, he adapted and directed Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and assistant directed productions of *King Lear*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and Euripides' *Ion*. He previously served on the artistic staff of Perseverance Theater, Alaska's flagship theater. While in Alaska, he adapted and directed Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, and served as music director on productions of *Twelfth Night*, *King Island Christmas* and *Hair*.

## THE WITCHES OF VENICE

Internationally acclaimed American conductor, Viswa Subbaraman, is currently the Artistic Director/Music Director of The Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee, WI. In his inaugural season at the Skylight, highlights included a number of critically and audience acclaimed productions including Beethoven's *Fidelio*, which he both stage directed and conducted, Hans Werner Henze's *El Cimarrón*, and Philip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox*. Subbaraman recently conducted the world premiere of Somtow Sucharitkul's *The Snow Dragon*, which became the Skylight Music Theatre's first touring production to Thailand. Most recently, Subbaraman was selected by INKTalks in India as a 2014 INK Fellow, named by On Milwaukee magazine's Dave Begel as one of Milwaukee's 14 most influential people, and selected by the Milwaukee Business Journal as one of Milwaukee's most influential 40 Under 40 for 2015. Equally comfortable in the orchestral realm as with opera, Mr. Subbaraman served as Assistant Conductor of the Orchestre National de France where he assisted Kurt Masur and such distinguished artists as Bernard Haitink, Riccardo Muti, and Colin Davis. Highlights of his tenure with the ONF include the world premiere of the *Overture du Roi Lear* by Paul Dukas and the French premiere of the *Symphony for Trombone and Orchestra* by Ernst Bloch, which has been recorded and released under the title *Tranquille* through the districlassic label.

Karole Armitage, director of the New York-based Armitage Gone! Dance Company, was rigorously trained in classical ballet. As a professional dancer she performed in Balanchine's Grand Théâtre de Genève Company and in the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Armitage is renowned for pushing the boundaries to create contemporary works that blend dance, music and art to engage in philosophical questions about the search for meaning. She joins a legacy of process-focused experimental dance that embraces the ballet and modern dance heritage as well. She directed the Ballet of Florence, Italy (1995 - 99) and the Biennale of Contemporary Dance in Venice (2004), and served as resident choreographer for the Ballet de Lorraine in France (1999 - 2004). She has created works for many companies, from The Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow to the Tasmanian Dance Company in Australia. She has choreographed two productions for the New York Philharmonic, directed opera at important European Opera Houses including Teatro di San Carlo in Naples and Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, two Broadway productions (*Passing Strange* and *Hair*, the latter earning her a Tony nomination), videos for Madonna and Michael Jackson, several films for Merchant Ivory productions and the Cirque du Soleil production *Amaluna* (2012). Ms. Armitage, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, was awarded Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France's most prestigious award in 2009, and an honorary Doctorate of the Arts from the University of Kansas in 2013.

## IL POSTINO

A graduate of San Francisco's prestigious Merola Opera Program, recent seasons for tenor Daniel Montenegro have included his European opera debut at the Théâtre du Châtelet as Mario in Daniel Catán's *Il Postino* alongside Plácido Domingo, as well as a number of significant role and company debuts including Roderigo (*Otello*) with San Francisco Opera under Nicola Luisotti, Alfredo (*La traviata*) with Minnesota Opera, Nemorino (*L'elisir d'amore*) with Washington National Opera, Pang (*Turandot*) at the Hollywood Bowl under Dudamel and most recently Romeo (*Roméo et Juliette*) for Tulsa Opera and at the Castleton Festival. This season Daniel makes his role and company debut as the Prince in John Adams' *A Flowering Tree* with Teatro Nacional de São Carlos and reprises the role of Mario with Opera Saratoga. As a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and former Resident Artist of the Minnesota Opera, Daniel has sung a wealth of roles including Liverotto and Rustighello (*Lucrezia Borgia*), Pong (*Turandot*), Remendado (*Carmen*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Nick (*The Handmaid's Tale*) and Flavio (*Norma*). He has also sung *Steuermann* (*Der fliegende Holländer*) with both Portland and Arizona Operas and the Shepherd in Peter Sellars' production of *Oedipus Rex* at the Sydney Festival under Joana Carneiro. An ongoing collaboration with Los Angeles Opera has brought appearances in several productions including the world premiere of Lee Holdridge's *Concierto para Mendez*, *La Traviata* (released on DVD), *Carmen*, *Luisa Fernanda* and *Il tabarro*.

Tenor Richard Troxell has thrilled audiences in leading roles at opera houses and concert halls around the world, including Los Angeles Opera, Washington Opera, Sydney Opera, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Boston Lyric Opera, L'Opéra Comique in Paris, Monte Carlo, and Toulouse. Mr. Troxell's star turn as Pinkerton in Frederic Mitterand's critically acclaimed film *Madame Butterfly* received high praise from both film and music critics alike following its 1995 Paris and 1996 New York premieres. Recent career highlights include *Roméo* with the Palm Beach Opera; *Des Grieux* in Massenet's *Manon* with L'Opéra de Montréal; Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* with Opera Australia; Rodolfo in *La Bohème* with Opera Colorado; Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Opera Hamilton; the title role in Philip Glass' *Galileo Galilei* with Cincinnati Opera and Portland Opera; and Don José in *Carmen* for his Italian debut at the Teatro Petruzzelli, as well as at the Castleton Festival with Maestro Maazel, and for Opera Australia, in Beijing and at Vancouver Opera. Equally at home on the concert stage, Mr. Troxell has been seen with the San Francisco Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Saint Louis Symphony as Tenor Soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Other concert engagements of note include Handel's *Messiah* with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Mahler's *Die Lied von der Erde* with the Detroit Symphony, and Mendelssohn's *Walpurgisnacht* with the Denver Symphony. Future engagements include a return to Vancouver as Pinkerton, a return to the Metropolitan Opera for *Die Fledermaus* and *Lulu*, and his debut at

Soprano Sandra López captivates audiences around the world with critically acclaimed performances in a wide variety of roles including the title roles of *Tosca* and *Suor Angelica*, *Cio-Cio San* (*Madama Butterfly*), *Nedda* (*I Pagliacci*), *Catherine* (*A View from the Bridge*), *Liù* (*Turandot*), *Micaela* (*Carmen*), *Mimi* (*La Bohème*), *Tatiana* (*Eugene Onegin*), *Marguerite* (*Faust*), *Violetta* (*La Traviata*), with companies including the Metropolitan Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Opera de Oviedo, Palm Beach Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and Virginia Opera.

Recently, Ms. López appeared with the Finnish National Opera for her role debut as *Elisabetta* (*Don Carlo*) and with Teatro la Fenice as *Mimi* (*La Bohème*). She debuted with the Nuremberg Symphony and the Lithuanian National Opera and Orchestra, and she portrayed Juana Ines de la Cruz in the world premiere of *With Blood, With Ink* for Fort Worth Opera (released commercially on Albany Records in the fall of 2014). After winning the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award, Ms. López joined The Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program where she covered and performed roles such as *Catherine* (*A View from the Bridge*), *Marguerite* (*Faust*), *Liù* (*Turandot*), *Roberta Alden* (*An American Tragedy* – world premiere), *Frasquita* (*Carmen*), *Tebaldo* (*Don Carlo*), *Fourth Maid* (*Elektra*), and *Flowermaiden* (*Parsifal*). Highlights of 2015-16 include her debut with the Boston Symphony as the *Fourth Maid* in *Elektra* and two operas by Daniel Catán: the title role of *Florencia en el Amazonas* with Arizona Opera, and *Matilde* in *Il Postino* with Opera Saratoga.

A leading conductor of Opera and Musical Theater, Grammy nominated musician James Lowe is the Music Director and Conductor of the Broadway production of *Les Misérables* playing now at the Imperial Theater. He will make his San Francisco Opera debut conducting *Sweeney Todd* having conducted the same production at Houston Grand Opera. Mr. Lowe recently made his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut leading a new production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *Oklahoma* and his Glimmerglass Festival debut leading *Lerner and Loewe's Camelot*. Mr. Lowe also appeared with the Jacksonville Symphony, Memphis Symphony and the Modesto Symphony. Mr. Lowe served as the Music Director and Conductor of the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, starring Sutton Foster and Joel Grey, and was Music Supervisor for the First National Tour of this production. He recently made conducting debuts with Utah Opera (Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men* and Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*) and the Jacksonville Symphony. He also returned to the Houston Ballet for *The Nutcracker*. At Houston Grand Opera he conducted the world premiere production and subsequent revival of *The Little Prince*, an opera by Academy Award-winning composer Rachel Portman. At HGO he has also led *Carmen*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Jake Heggie's *The End of the Affair* (world premiere production), as well as the HGO Studio production of Copland's *The Tender Land*. Mr. Lowe made his Pittsburgh Opera Center debut with Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, and has led *Sweeney Todd* at Wolf Trap Opera.

Lawrence Edelson is highly respected not only as a critically acclaimed stage director, but also as a visionary company leader who has created programs in the areas of artist mentorship and new works development that have served as models of innovation for opera companies around the country. Lawrence is the Artistic and General Director of Opera Saratoga, and the Producing Artistic Director of American Lyric Theater in New York City. As a stage director, Lawrence's critically acclaimed productions include Philip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox* (Fort Worth Opera); the American Premiere of Telemann's *Orpheus* (Wolf Trap Opera); the World Premiere of Jeff Myers' *Buried Alive* (Fargo Moorhead Opera and Fort Worth Opera); the New York premiere of Fauré's *Pénélope* (Manhattan School of Music); *La Traviata* (Minnesota Opera); *Carmen* (Toledo Opera); *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Hawaii Opera Theater); H.M.S. Pinafore and *La Cenerentola* (Opera Saratoga); *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Little Women*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Werther*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (IVAI Tel Aviv); and the world premiere of *The ToyMaker* Off-Broadway. Lawrence is perhaps best known in the opera field as the founder of American Lyric Theater and the creator of the Composer Librettist Development Program, the only full-time mentorship initiative for emerging operatic writers in the country. A tireless advocate for emerging artists and the diversification of audiences for opera, Edelson also serves on the Strategy Committee for OPERA America, and continues to forge collaborations with opera companies across the country.

## ABOUT OPERA SARATOGA

Opera Saratoga, formerly known as Lake George Opera, began with a production of *Die Fledermaus* at the Diamond Point Theatre on July 5, 1962, playing to an audience of 230. The Company now calls Saratoga Springs home and performs for more than 25,000 people annually. Opera Saratoga serves the communities of Saratoga Springs, the Lower Adirondack and New York State Capital areas by providing access to world-class opera through the production of an annual Summer Festival, as well as year-round activities including extensive educational programs, mentorship of emerging operatic artists, and unique opportunities for the public to experience opera in both our home theater and non-traditional venues that leverage and embrace the unique cultural, historic, and natural resources of the area. To date, the Company has performed over ninety different fully staged works by over fifty different composers, including thirty-four works by American composers and six world-premiere productions. Throughout its history, the Company's success has been shaped by visionary leaders, talented artists, and critically acclaimed productions. In 2014, the Board of Directors appointed Lawrence Edelson as the new Artistic and General Director. Edelson's leadership marks a new chapter in the company's history, with increased emphasis on community partnerships throughout the year, diversification of the company's repertoire, and a reaffirmed commitment to both the presentation of American opera and the mentorship of emerging artists as core activities in the company's programs each season. The 2016 Summer Festival marks the second season under his leadership. For more information, visit [www.operasaratoga.org](http://www.operasaratoga.org).

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Schedule  
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