

February 6, 2020 Contact:

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Pittsburgh Opera announces its 82nd Season

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera announces its 2020-21 season, the company's 82nd. The season continues Pittsburgh Opera's tradition of performing world-class productions from old favorites to exciting new works.

Along with a multitude of events, ranging from free community concerts to black-tie galas, the season will encompass three operas produced at the Benedum Center, one at Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, the Second Stage Project at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, and a Pittsburgh premiere at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center.

Season Overview

Benedum	Rusalka [Pittsburgh Opera premiere]
Center	Sat., Oct. 10, 2020 * 8:00 PM
Productions :	 Tues., Oct. 13, 2020 * 7:00 PM
	• Fri., Oct. 16, 2020 * 7:30 PM
	• Sun., Oct. 18, 2020 * 2:00 PM
	The Magic Flute
	 Sat., Nov. 7, 2020 * 8:00 PM
	 Tues., Nov. 10, 2020 * 7:00 PM
	• Fri., Nov. 13, 2020 * 7:30 PM
	• Sun., Nov. 15, 2020 * 2:00 PM
	Aida
	 Sat., March 20, 2021 * 8:00 PM
	 Tues., March 23, 2021 * 7:00 PM
	 Fri., March 26, 2021 * 7:30 PM
	Sun., March 28, 2021 * 2:00 PM
August Wilson	Charlie Parker's Yardbird [Pittsburgh premiere]
African	• Sat., May 8, 2021 * 8:00 PM
American	 Tues., May 11, 2021 * 7:00 PM
Cultural Center	• Fri., May 14, 2021 * 7:30 PM
Production:	Sun., May 16, 2021 * 2:00 PM



Pittsburgh	Emmeline [Pittsburgh premiere]
CAPA School	Sat., Jan. 23, 2021 * 8:00 PM
Theater	• Tues., Jan. 26, 2021 * 7:00 PM
Production:	F. I 00 0004 + 7 00 PM
1 Toddottotti	
	• Sun., Jan. 31, 2021 * 2:00 PM
Second Stage	Soldier Songs [Pittsburgh Opera premiere]
Project:	Sat., Feb 20, 2021 * 8:00 PM
1 10,000	• Tues., Feb 23, 2021 * 7:00 PM
	F: F 00 0004 + 7 00 PM
	• Sun., Feb. 28, 2021 * 2:00 PM
Special	66 th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball – September 25, 2020
Events:	
	Maecenas Ball XXXVII – Spring 2021
Free, Low	FREE Pre-Opera Talks one hour before each performance
Cost, and	EDEE Most The Artists following cook Treaders are not recovered
Other Events:	FREE Meet The Artists - following each Tuesday evening performance
	FREE Rising Stars concert – September 2020 at Pittsburgh Opera
	headquarters
	FREE Brown Bag Concerts - selected Saturdays during the season at
	Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters
	Art Song Recitals - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh
	Opera Headquarters.
	Opera Up Close - selected Sundays during the season at Pittsburgh
	Opera Headquarters
	FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera events
	Pittsburgh Opera New Guard events
	WQED previews and broadcasts
Tickets:	Season tickets (subscriptions) are now available. Prices range from
	\$40 - \$700, depending on the number of operas included and
	seating location.
	Single ticket sales begin in late August.
	Single tickets for the Benedum Center productions start at just \$15;
	Children and teens ages 6-18 are half-off for all operas.
	Group discounts, including student discounts, are available.



THE OPERAS

Rusalka (1901)

Music by Antonín Dvořák Libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil Sung in Czech with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at the Benedum Center

- These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera
- Period production, owned by Minnesota Opera

Performances of Rusalka

- Sat., Oct. 10, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Oct. 13, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Oct. 16, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Oct. 18, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Rusalka

Rusalka is the Czech version of the popular fairy tale The Little Mermaid. While it has many similarities to the familiar Disney® movie, they are not exactly the same. First of all, her name is not Ariel, it's Rusalka. Secondly, Rusalka is not a mermaid per se, but a water sprite, also called a water nymph. However, like the Little Mermaid, Rusalka falls in love with a human Prince. She has a witch turn her into a human in exchange for her voice. Rusalka must win and keep the Prince's love, or else there will be disastrous consequences for them both.

Will a jealous Princess ruin Rusalka's plan? Will Rusalka's father be able to bail her out if things go awry? Will true love triumph?

Rusalka premiered in 1901 and has become one of the most beloved lyric fairy tales of all time. We are proud to be producing **Rusalka** for the first time in our 82-year history.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts; Kristine McIntyre directs.



Cast and Artistic Team: Rusalka

Rusalka, a water nymph Ježibaba, a witch Vodník, the water goblin The Prince Foreign Princess First Wood Sprite Second Wood Sprite Thrid Wood Sprite Hunter

Conductor
Stage Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Projection Designer
Lighting Designer
Wig & Make-up Designer
Stage Manager
Asst Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Director

- + Pittsburgh Opera debut
- * Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
- ** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Ekaterina Siurina
Marianne Cornetti*
Hao Jiang Tian
Evan LeRoy Johnson
Julianna di Giacomo
Natasha Wilson*
Madeline Ehlinger*
Maire Therese Carmack*
Yazid Gray*

Antony Walker
Kristine McIntyre
Erhard Rom
Karin Kopischke
Wendall Harrington
Marcus Dilliard
James Geier
TBA
Glenn Lewis
Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Kaley Karis Smith*



The Magic Flute (1791)

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at the Benedum Center

- Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in 2013
- Production owned by Utah Opera

Performances of The Magic Flute

- Sat., Nov. 7, 2020 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Nov. 10, 2020 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Nov. 13, 2020 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Nov. 15, 2020 * 2:00 PM

Overview of The Magic Flute

Mozart's final and most-celebrated opera is the mystical adventure **The Magic Flute**.

Young Prince Tamino embarks on a hero's quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Pamina from Sarastro's clutches. Along the way, he learns that things aren't always as they seem. Aided by a magic flute, and accompanied by his trusty sidekick Papageno the bird catcher, Tamino pursues truth and reason, love and enlightenment.

Full of beautiful melodies and enchanting characters, this timeless tale of light battling darkness will delight adults and children alike.

OPERA

Cast and Artistic Team: The Magic Flute

Tamino
Queen of the Night
Pamina

Three Ladies, attendants to the Queen

First Lady
Second Lady
Third Lady

Papageno Papagena Sarastro Monostatos Speaker

First Armored Man Second Armored Man

Conductor Stage Director Set Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer

Wig and Make-up Designer

Stage Manager Chorus Master

Associate Coach/Pianist Assistant Stage Director

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Eric Ferring**
Kathryn Bowden+
Adelaide Boedecker**

Madeline Ehlinger*

TBA

Maire Therese Carmack*

Benjamin Taylor**
Natasha Wilson*
Tom McNichols

TBA

Jeremy Harr*

<u>Angel Romero</u>*

Jeremy Harr*

Glenn Lewis

TBA

Thaddeus Strassberger Susan Memmott Allred Andrew Ostrowski James Geier

TBA

Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Kaley Karis Smith*



CAPA Theater production: Emmeline (1996)

Music by Tobias Picker Libretto by J.D. McClatchy Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, downtown

These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera

Performances of Emmeline

- Sat., Jan. 23, 2021 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Jan. 26, 2021 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Jan. 29, 2021 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Jan. 31, 2021 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Emmeline

Inspired by a heart-wrenching true story, **Emmeline** is the tale of a young Maine teenager sent to work in a Massachusetts textile mill in the 1820s to provide for her family. The mill owner's son-in-law, who is also the factory supervisor, seduces and impregnates her. Emmeline is fired, and forced to give her illegitimate child up for adoption before she even sees it or learns whether it's a boy or a girl.

Twenty years later, while caring for her elderly parents back in Maine, Emmeline falls in love with and marries a mysterious young stranger, Matthew Gurney. They realize too late that Matthew is Emmeline's long-lost son. Matthew abandons Emmeline and skips town. Emmeline, though completely ostracized, steadfastly refuses to leave her home town, and lives as an outcast the rest of her life.

A powerful story of betrayal and perseverance, **Emmeline** evokes both empathy and admiration.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts. Crystal Manich directs.



Cast and Artistic Team: Emmeline

Emmeline Mosher Mr. Maguire Matthew Gurney Aunt Hannah Watkins Henry Mosher

Conductor
Stage Director
Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Wig Master
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Director
Asst Lighting Designer/Master Electrician
Asst Stage Manager

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Natasha Wilson*
Yazid Gray*
Angel Romero*
Maire Therese Carmack*
Jeremy Harr*

Antony Walker
Crystal Manich
TBA
Tlaloc Lopez-Watermann
TBA
TBA
Kaley Karis Smith*
TBA

TBA



Second Stage Project: Soldier Songs (2006/2011)

Music and libretto by <u>David T. Little</u>
Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage
Four performances at the George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters

• These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera

Performances of Soldier Songs

- Sat., Feb 20, 2021 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Feb 23, 2021 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Feb. 26, 2021 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Feb. 28, 2021 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Soldier Songs

Soldier Songs combines elements of theater, opera, rock-infused-concert music, and animation to explore the perceptions versus the realities of the Soldier, the loss and exploitation of innocence, and the difficulty of expressing the truth of war.

The libretto was adapted from recorded interviews with veterans of five wars. **Soldier Songs** traces the shift in perception of war from the age of 6 to the age of 66. We follow the abstract character through the three phases of life: Youth (playing war games) Warrior (time served in the military) and Elder (aged, wise, reflective).

Each of the eleven songs in the production explores a different aspect of the soldier's experience, ranging from rage, to fear, to joy, to grief. Multi-media is employed as a critique of the media's ability to both glamorize and falsify the truth of combat.

Soldier Songs asks tough questions and tells tough stories through its poignant libretto, driving and devastating music, and surprising visual counterpoint. The tension between the visual and aural experience works to dispel any potential numbness felt by those lucky enough to only experience war through the comfort of their living rooms.

Originally commissioned by the <u>Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble</u>, which premiered the work in 2006, **Soldier Songs** received its workshop premiere in New York on 2008 by <u>Beth Morrison Projects</u>, and directed by <u>Yuval Sharon</u>. The full world premiere production took place in 2011 at the <u>International Festival of Arts & Ideas</u> in New Haven, CT. Pittsburgh Opera's performances are by arrangement with Hendon Music, Inc., a <u>Boosey & Hawkes</u> company, publisher and copyright owner.

Cast and Artistic Team: Soldier Songs

Soldier
Conductor
Stage Director
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Yazid Gray* TBA Kaley Karis Smith*



Aida (1871)

Music by Giuseppe Verdi Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at the Benedum Center

- Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in 2013
- Period production, co-created by Pittsburgh Opera, Opera dé Montréal, and Utah Opera

Performances of Aida

- Sat., March 20, 2021 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., March 23, 2021 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., March 26, 2021 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., March 28, 2021 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Aida

Aida is an epic story of love and heroics in ancient Egypt. **Aida** is a high-stakes love triangle between a brave military commander, a jealous pharaoh's daughter, and a conflicted prisoner of war. **Aida** is the grandest of the grand operas, visually stunning and musically magnificent.

Aida is an Ethiopian princess being held captive by the Egyptians. Amneris is the Egyptian pharaoh's daughter. Both are in love with Egyptian warrior Radamès. Radamès loves Aida, but the wily Amneris is determined to have him for herself. Aida must eventually choose between betraying the man she loves and betraying her father and country.

This passionate drama pits love against duty, father against daughter, and nation against nation.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts; Crystal Manich directs.



Cast and Artistic Team: Aida

Aida, an Ethiopian princess

Radamès

II Re, the King of Egypt

Amneris, daughter of the King of Egypt Marianne Cornetti**

Ramfis, High Priest

Amonasro, King of Ethiopia

High Priestess Messenger

Conductor Stage Director Set Design Costume Designer Lighting Designer

Wig and Make-up Designer

Stage Manager **Asst Conductor** Chorus Master

Associate Coach/Pianist Asst Stage Director

- Pittsburgh Opera debut
- Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
- ** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Alexandra Loutsion**

TBA

Jeremy Harr*

Ricardo Lugo

Musa Ngqungwana

Natasha Wilson*

Angel Romero*

Antony Walker Crystal Manich

Claude Girard & Bernard Uzan

Claude Girard Cindy Limauro James Geier

TBA

Glenn Lewis Mark Trawka James Lesniak Kaley Karis Smith*



Charlie Parker's Yardbird (2016)

Music by Daniel Schnyder Libretto by Bridgette A. Wimberly Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage Four performances at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center

• These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera

Performances of Charlie Parker's Yardbird

- Sat., May 8, 2021 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., May 11, 2021 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., May 14, 2021 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., May 16, 2021 * 2:00 PM

Overview of Charlie Parker's Yardbird

While the body of the legendary tormented saxophonist Charlie "Yardbird" Parker lies unidentified in a New York City morgue, his ghost travels back to Birdland, the famed New York City jazz club named after him. As he struggles to complete his final masterpiece, the great bebop innovator revisits the demons, inspirations, and women who have both fueled and hindered his creative genius.

With the aid of his strong mother Addie, three of his four wives, and his partner in the bebop jazz revolution, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie will struggle to calm his demons and write his new masterpiece before his body is identified in the morgue and this gig is up forever. Can he do it, or will the demons of his past rear their ugly heads?

Join us on a freeform expedition into the mind, heart, and personal purgatory of the man they called Yardbird.

Music Director Antony Walker conducts; Ron Daniels directs.



Cast and Artistic Team: Charlie Parker's Yardbird

Charlie Parker Addie Parker Dizzy Gillespie Chan Parker Baroness Nica Doris Parker Rebecca Parker

Conductor
Stage Director
Set Designer
Costume designer
Wig and Make-up Designer
Lighting Designer
Stage Manager
Asst Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Asst Stage Director

- + Pittsburgh Opera debut
- * Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
- ** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Martin Bakari
TBA
Yazid Gray*
Natasha Wilson*
Maire Therese Carmack*

Maire Therese Carmack'
Madeline Ehlinger*

TBA

Antony Walker
Ron Daniels
Riccardo Hernandez
Emily Rebholz
James Geier
TBA
TBA
Glenn Lewis
Mark Trawka
James Lesniak
Kaley Karis Smith*



SPECIAL EVENTS

66th annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball September 25, 2020 Omni William Penn Hotel (530 William Penn Place)

Pittsburgh Opera special events have a reputation for elegance and excitement. The annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball is our signature season kickoff gala, when guests enjoy an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, and special entertainment.

Each year, one lucky Diamond Horseshoe Ball guest is selected at random to receive a diamond-encrusted pendant in the shape of a horseshoe.

A live and a silent auction raise funds that enable Pittsburgh Opera to offer special programs such as our Opera Trunks and <a href="Opera Opera Op

Maecenas XXXVII Spring 2021

Pittsburgh Opera's signature fundraiser gala Maecenas is *the* social event not to be missed. It is hailed by SEEN as "one of the best black tie galas in town" and by the Tribune Review as one of Pittsburgh's top parties of the year.

Named for Gaius Maecenas, the wealthy Roman statesman and cultural patron, the Maecenas gala has developed a reputation for a spectacular environment and great entertainment. Specific details will be released at a later date.

FREE, LOW COST, & OTHER EVENTS

FREE Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to attend a Pre-Opera Talk one hour before each performance's curtain (except the Second Stage Project) in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center or in the Black Box for CAPA performances. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.



FREE Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday opera performance are invited to join <u>General Director Christopher Hahn</u> immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free to all Tuesday opera ticketholders, and is held in the Lower Lobby for Benedum performances, in the Black Box for CAPA performances, in a TBD location for August Wilson African American Cultural Center performances, and in the performance space at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

Meet the Artists Dates 2020-21

Rusalka – Tuesday, October 13, 2020

The Magic Flute – Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Emmeline – Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Soldier Songs – Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Aida – Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Charlie Parker's Yardbird – Tuesday, May 11, 2021

FREE Rising Stars Concert

September 2020 George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert in the Opera's Strip District headquarters. *Rising Stars* is the community's first opportunity to meet the incoming Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists. This performance is free and open to everyone.

At *Rising Stars*, each Resident Artist first performs a selection of his or her own choosing, followed by one chosen by General Director Christopher Hahn and Music Director Antony Walker. A final aria to conclude the concert is selected by the audience.

FREE Brown Bag Concerts

Selected Saturdays during the season, 12:00 PM George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Pittsburgh Opera continues its popular and free Brown Bag Concerts in 2020-21. Attracting approximately 200 people each month, these informal performances feature the Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera. Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays of each month, October 2020 – May 2021, these one-hour performances are free and open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to bring a friend and bring a lunch. Friends of Pittsburgh Opera provide a reception after each Brown Bag concert.



Opera Up Close

Selected Sundays during the season, 2:00 PM
Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) unless otherwise noted

Pittsburgh Opera hosts another season of its popular *Opera Up Close* presentations. These entertaining and insightful programs are offered six times per season in Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip District, unless otherwise noted. Join Artistic Administrator Robert Boldin and special guests from the production for an in-depth look at our upcoming production. There is a \$5 general admission fee, but *Opera Up Close* events are free to members of <u>Friends of Pittsburgh Opera</u>, members of the <u>Pittsburgh Opera New Guard</u>, and to donors at \$50+.

FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera Events

<u>Friends of Pittsburgh Opera</u> schedules events geared toward fellowship, fundraising, and opera scholarship during the year. Events for 2020-21 include a Season Kickoff Party, a Holiday party, salon-type events, and talks by opera aficionados and scholars.

FPO Events (dates to be confirmed):

- Season Kickoff Party
- Holiday Party

'FPO Presents Speakers Series' Events:

These events are the education component of the FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera. Created to enlighten, engage, and inform members and their guests, this series presents various topics related to the 2020-21 Opera Season. Dates, speakers and topics to be announced.



Pittsburgh Opera New Guard Events

The Pittsburgh Opera New Guard is a community for young professionals, ages 21-40, who have a passion for Pittsburgh Opera. Membership comes with free and discounted opera tickets, pre-sales or special rates for Pittsburgh Opera Special Events, and more.

Members also get free admission to all New Guard events, such as our happy hours at locations such as Evangeline at the Distrikt Hotel and Andys at the Fairmont Pittsburgh. Visit our website or join our Facebook group for future event details.

WQED BROADCASTS & PREVIEWS

Pittsburgh Opera 2019-20 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and wqed.org/fm Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2019-20 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again. The broadcasts are at 1:00 PM on consecutive Saturdays from September 5th through October 10th.

Don Giovanni – September 5, 2020 Florencia en el Amazonas – September 12, 2020 Alcina – September 19, 2020 The Last American Hammer – September 26, 2020 Carmen – October 3, 2020 Norma – October 10, 2020

Pittsburgh Opera 2020-21 Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and wqed.org/fm

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, these half-hour previews of each upcoming opera are broadcast twice before each production opens (the Saturday before opening night, and again the night before opening night), giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music and production.

Rusalka- Saturday, October 3, 2020 & Friday, October 9, 2020
The Magic Flute - Saturday, October 31, 2020 & Friday, November 6, 2020
Emmeline - Saturday, January 16, 2020 & Friday, January 22, 2021
Soldier Songs - Saturday, February 13, 2021 & Friday, February 19, 2021
Aida - Saturday, March 13, 2021 & Friday, March 19, 2021
Charlie Parker's Yardbird - Saturday, May 1, 2021 & Friday, May 7, 2021



TICKETS, SEASON TICKETS, & GROUP DISCOUNTS

As part of Pittsburgh Opera's continued efforts to make opera accessible to all members of the community, single tickets for the 2020-21 season start at just \$15. In addition, tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are half price.

Season tickets (subscriptions) are now on sale. Prices range from \$40 - \$700, depending on the number of operas included and seating location. See pittsburghopera.org/subscribe for more information.

Single ticket sales tentatively begin in late August. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

Subscribers enjoy the benefits of:

- The best seats at the best prices
- Easy, flexible, free ticket exchanges
- Split-Pay Plan for Early Birds: up to 5 months to pay for the subscription
- Reserved parking at Theater Square Garage
- 15% subscriber discount on additional single tickets to mainstage operas
- 20% subscriber discount on the Resident Artist opera Emmeline
- Money-Back Guarantee if subscribers are not satisfied with their first opera,
 Pittsburgh Opera will refund the balance of the subscription

Pittsburgh Opera is committed to making opera accessible to all groups in the Pittsburgh area by providing great discounts and special services to group ticketholders. A group at Pittsburgh Opera can be as few as 6 people! In addition, college and university students, faculty, and staff are eligible for our Cheap Seats program – see pittsburghopera.org/CheapSeats for details.

For more information about group ticket services and discounts, contact Regina Connolly at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

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