

Feb. 20, 2024

Contact:

Chris Cox, Director of Marketing and Communications

Office: (412) 281-0912, ext. 217; ccox@pittsburghopera.org

Pittsburgh Opera announces its 86th Season

Pittsburgh, PA... [Pittsburgh Opera](#) announces its 2024–25 season, the company's 86th. The season showcases Pittsburgh Opera's commitment to performing world-class productions encompassing both the classical and modern eras.

Pittsburgh Opera will be producing five operas, which will be performed across a total of three different venues—the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, and Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters the Bitz Opera Factory. The different venues give audiences a chance to experience opera on both a grand and intimate scale.

Season Overview

[Tosca](#)

Music by Giacomo Puccini; libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

October 5, 8, 11, 13, 2024

[Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci](#)

Music by Pietro Mascagni with a libretto by Guido Menasci and Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti (Cavalleria)

Music and libretto by Ruggero Leoncavallo (Pagliacci)

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

November 9, 12, 15, 17, 2024

[Armida](#)

Music by Joseph Haydn, with a libretto taken from Antonio Tozzi's 1775 opera *Rinaldo*, as amended by Nunziato Porta

Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, downtown Pittsburgh

January 25, 28, 31, February 2, 2025

[Madama Butterfly](#)

Music by Giacomo Puccini, with a libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

March 22, 25, 28, 30, 2025

[Woman With Eyes Closed](#) – World Premiere!

Music by Jennifer Higdon, with a libretto by Jerre Dye

Bitz Opera Factory, in Pittsburgh's Strip District

Commissioned by Opera Philadelphia

April 26, 29, May 2, 4, 2025

<p>Special Events:</p>	<p>Bravo Academy (summer camp for rising 6th-9th graders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1: Monday, July 15 – Friday, July 19, 2024 • Week 2: Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26, 2024 <p>69th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Celebration – September 28, 2024</p> <p>Fashion Show – April 7, 2025</p> <p>Maecenas XL – May 17, 2025</p>
<p>Free, Low Cost, and Other Events:</p>	<p>FREE Pre-Opera Talks- one hour before each performance</p> <p>FREE Meet The Artists - following each Tuesday evening performance</p> <p>FREE Rising Stars concert - at the Bitz Opera Factory</p> <p>FREE Song Shop concerts - selected Saturdays during the season at the Bitz Opera Factory</p> <p>FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera events</p> <p>Pittsburgh Opera New Guard events</p> <p>WQED previews and broadcasts</p>
<p>Tickets:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season tickets (subscriptions) are now available. Subscription packages range from \$30 - \$544. • Pittsburgh Opera’s Opus Pass lets patrons see as many live opera performances as they want all season. For one low monthly price, passholders get a year’s worth of unlimited admission to every performance of every opera, subject to availability. • Single ticket sales begin in 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.
<p>Sponsors:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNC is Pittsburgh Opera’s 2024–25 Season Sponsor. • WQED-FM is Pittsburgh Opera’s Media Sponsor. • Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center is the Tuesday performance and ‘Meet the Artists’ post-show event sponsor. • Natural Awakenings Magazine is the Song Shop Concerts sponsor. • Sponsorship opportunity information can be found on page 13.

THE OPERAS

Tosca (1900)

Music by [Giacomo Puccini](#); libretto by [Luigi Illica](#) and [Giuseppe Giacosa](#)

At the [Benedum Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage

- Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in [2017](#)

Performances of *Tosca*

- Saturday October 5, 2024 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 8, 2024 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, October 11, 2024 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, October 13, 2024 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Tosca*

She lived for art. Would she die for love?

When painter Cavaradossi—the lover of Rome’s enchanting diva Floria Tosca—decides to harbor a fugitive of the law, he makes himself and his beloved Tosca targets of the corrupt Chief of Police, Baron Scarpia. Now it is up to Tosca to free both her lover and herself from Scarpia’s clutches by making a horrific bargain that will have consequences for them all.

Puccini’s whirlwind political thriller packs high romance, dark motives, love, betrayal, murder, and intrigue all into a plot that unfolds over only 24 hours. See why *Tosca* is one of the most powerful operas ever written.

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Tosca*

Floria Tosca	Ana Maria Martinez ⁺
Mario Cavaradossi	TBA
Baron Scarpia	Kyle Albertson
Cesare Angelotti	Shavon Lloyd ^{**}
Sacristan	Brian Kontes
Spoletta	Fran Daniel Laucericca [*]
Sciarrone/Jailer	Matthew Soibelman ^{**}
Shepherd Boy	Shannon Crowley ^{**}
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Tara Faircloth ⁺
Scenic Designer	
Costume Designer	
Lighting Designer	
Wig & Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	

Assistant Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Director

[Glenn Lewis](#)
[Mark Trawka](#)
[James Lesniak](#)

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci (1890/1892)

Music by [Pietro Mascagni](#) with a libretto by [Guido Menasci](#) and [Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti](#) (Cavalleria)

Music and libretto by [Ruggiero Leoncavallo](#) (Pagliacci)

At the [Benedum Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage

- *Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera as a double feature in [1996](#)*
- *Production owned by [Lyric Opera of Kansas City](#)*

Performances of *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*

- Saturday, November 9, 2024 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, November 12, 2024 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, November 15, 2024 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 17, 2024 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*

An adulterous double feature

Jealousy, two-timing, and revenge unite the back-to-back tragedies of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. Possessiveness, machismo, and rage fuel their bloody conclusions.

Cavalleria Rusticana: On Easter Sunday, Alfio discovers his wife Lola has rekindled her old romance with Turiddu.

Pagliacci: Just before a performance of his traveling circus troupe, clown Canio discovers the infidelity of his wife Nedda.

Join us for this back-to-back double feature of love and hate—the first time Pittsburgh Opera has performed these two operas together since 1996!

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund and a generous gift from Robert and Christine Pietrandrea.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*

Cavalleria Rusticana

Santuzza
Turiddu
Mamma Lucia
Alfio
Lola

[Eve Gigliotti](#)⁺
[Rafael Davila](#)
TBA
[Sebastian Catana](#)
Audrey Welsh⁺

Pagliacci

Canio
Nedda
Tonio
Beppe
Silvio

[Jonathan Burton](#)
[Caitlin Gotimer](#)^{**}
[Sebastian Catana](#)
[Fran Daniel Laucericca](#)^{*}
[Ricardo Jose Rivera](#)⁺

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

[Antony Walker](#)
[Daniel Rigazzi](#)

James Geier

[Glenn Lewis](#)
[Mark Trawka](#)
[James Lesniak](#)

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumna

Armida (1779)

Music by [Joseph Haydn](#), with a libretto taken from [Antonio Tozzi](#)'s 1775 opera *Rinaldo*, as amended by [Nunziato Porta](#)

At the Pittsburgh [CAPA School Theater](#), downtown Pittsburgh
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

- *These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera*
- *Pittsburgh Opera will mount a new production*

Performances of *Armida*

- Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, Jan. 31, 2025 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Armida*

All's fair in love and war

To prevent the capture of Jerusalem by the knights of the First Crusade, The Prince of Darkness has sent the enchantress Armida into the world to seduce the Christian heroes and turn them from their duty. The bravest of these, Rinaldo, has fallen under Armida's spell. But, to her surprise, she becomes enchanted by him as well. She comes to love him so deeply that she cannot bring herself to destroy him. For both, duty clashes with desire. As war rages around them, will love conquer them both?

Containing some of Haydn's most inspired music, not only is *Armida* Haydn's most highly regarded opera, but the composer himself referred to it as his best work.

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Armida*

Armida	Lauryn Davis*
Rinaldo	Fran Daniel Laucerica*
Zelmira	Shannon Crowley*
Idreno	Matthew Soibelman*
Ubaldo	Shavon Lloyd*
Clotarco	Audrey Welsh*
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Haley Stamats**
Set Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA
Wig Master	TBA
Stage Manager	TBA
Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician	TBA
Assistant Stage Manager	TBA

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumna

Madama Butterfly (1904)

Music by [Giacomo Puccini](#), with a libretto by [Luigi Illica](#) and [Giuseppe Giacosa](#)

At the [Benedum Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sung in Italian with supertitles projected above the stage

- *Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in [2018](#)*
- *Co-production with [Cincinnati Opera](#), [Detroit Opera](#), and [Utah Opera](#)*

Performances of *Madama Butterfly*

- Saturday, March 22, 2025 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 25, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Thursday, March 27, 2025 * 10:15 AM – Student Matinee

- Friday, March 28, 2025 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, March 30, 2025 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Madama Butterfly*

His escape is her cage.

In this groundbreaking new production created by an all-Japanese and Japanese-American creative team, *Madama Butterfly*'s story is transported to a fantastical realm where reality and dreams intersect.

Pinkerton puts on a VR headset and transports us into a vibrant virtual reality playground where he has ultimate control. As his avatar, a U.S. Navy Lieutenant, he can seduce and marry his fantasy girl and abandon her just as easily. But to Cio-Cio San, this is no game and the love and betrayal she feels is all too real.

Enveloped in Puccini's stunning music, this visually beautiful production is the perfect match. Pittsburgh Opera is proud to partner with Cincinnati Opera, Detroit Opera, and Utah Opera to co-produce this reinvention of Puccini's classic, uncovering new and resonant meaning for all audiences to enjoy.

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera's annual Student Matinee will introduce 2,500+ school students grades 3–12 to this lively, colorful opera on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Benedum Center. Tickets are \$12, and are reserved through Pittsburgh Opera's Education Department. For more information, please [contact Marilyn Egan, Ph.D., Director of Education via email](#).

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Madama Butterfly*

Cio-Cio-San	Karah Son ⁺
Suzuki	Nazomi Kato ⁺
B.F. Pinkerton	Eric Taylor ⁺
Sharpless	Nmon Ford
Goro	Julius Ahn
Prince Yamadori	TBA
The Bonze	TBA
Yakusidé	TBA
The Imperial Commissioner	TBA
The Official Registrar	TBA
Cio-Cio-san's Mother	TBA
The Aunt	TBA
The Cousin	TBA
Kate Pinkerton	Audrey Welsh*
Dolore ("Trouble")	TBA

Conductor	Antony Walker
Original Production conceived and directed by	Matthew Ozawa
Revival/Associate Director	Melanie Bacaling

Scenic Designer	Kimie Nishikawa
Costume Designer	Maiko Matsushima
Lighting Designer	Yuki Nakase-Link
Wig and Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	TBA
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Director of Musical Studies	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Woman With Eyes Closed – World Premiere!

Music by [Jennifer Higdon](#), with a libretto by [Jerre Dye](#)
Commissioned by [Opera Philadelphia](#)
At the [Bitz Opera Factory](#), in Pittsburgh's Strip District
Sung in English with supertitles projected above the stage

Performances of *Woman With Eyes Closed*

- Saturday, April 26, 2025 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 29, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, May 2, 2025 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, May 4, 2025 * 4:00 PM

Overview of *Woman With Eyes Closed*

A family portrait

When Mona finds a mysterious suitcase filled with stolen masterpieces, she must grapple with a choice to save these priceless paintings or save her son—the thief. Burning the paintings would destroy the evidence of her son's crime, but one of the paintings—Lucien Freud's "Woman With Eyes Closed"—looks just like her own mother, a painter who died when Mona was still young. The uncanny resemblance unlocks long-buried memories that fuel the fires of three different possible endings.

This world premiere opera from award-winning composer Jennifer Higdon (Cold Mountain) is inspired by a [real-life art heist](#), and confronts the question "what is the true value of a work of art?" This is an opera that needs to be seen at least twice; each night of the production has the possibility of a completely new ending!

Cast and Artistic Team: *Woman With Eyes Closed*

Momma	Lauryn Davis*
Curator	Audrey Welsh*
Mona	Meredith Arwady ⁺
Thomas	Fran Daniel Lauceric [*]
Inspector	Matthew Soibelman [*]

Conductor	TBA
Stage Director	Kristine McIntyre
Scenic Designer	TBA
Costume Designer	TBA
Wig and Make-up Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA
Stage Manager	TBA
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Director of Musical Studies	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	TBA

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bravo Academy

Week 1: Monday, July 15 – Friday, July 19, 2024

Week 2: Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26, 2024

Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's summer camp, designed for rising 6th-9th graders, [Bravo Academy](#) offers two, 1-week programs (9:30 am – 12:30 pm) in July where students receive invaluable hands-on experiences with leading opera industry professionals and performers. Focusing on musical theater, opera, and art song favorites, Bravo Academy ensures that all participants will have a chance to shine in the limelight.

69th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Celebration

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's season kick off soiree with live Resident Artist performances, a silent auction, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres

Fashion Show

Monday, April 7, 2025

Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Combining fashion and opera, our annual fashion event is sure to dazzle and delight

Maecenas XL

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Monterey Bay Fish Grotto (1411 Grandview Avenue)

The Ruby Anniversary of our signature black-tie event with dinner, dancing, and awards to celebrate a successful season

[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 at all Pittsburgh Opera performances at the Benedum Center and Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater. 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 [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free, and is held in the Lower Lobby for Benedum performances, in the Black Box for CAPA performances, and in the performance space at the Bitz Opera Factory.

Meet the Artists Dates 2024–25

Tosca – Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Cav/Pag – Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Armida – Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Madama Butterfly – Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Woman With Eyes Closed – Tuesday, April 29, 2025

FREE Rising Stars Concert

Sunday, September 15, 2024

George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert on Sunday, September 15, 2024 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 singer 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 Song Shop Concerts

Selected Saturdays during the season, 12:00 PM

George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's free, informal Song Shop concerts feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#). Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays of each month, October 2024–April 2025, these one-hour performances are free, fun, and open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to bring a friend and bring a lunch. [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) provide a reception after each Song Shop concert.

Song Shop Concert Dates 2024–25

October 19, 2024
November 23, 2024
December 14, 2024
February 15, 2025
March 8, 2025
April 12, 2025

[FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) Events

[FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) (FPO) schedules events geared toward fellowship, fundraising, and opera scholarship during the year. Events for 2024–25 include summer Garden Parties, a Season Welcome Party, a Holiday party, salon-type events, and talks by opera aficionados and scholars.

FPO Events:

- Summer 2024: Garden Parties
- September 2024: Season Welcome Party
- December 2024: 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 2024–25 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 21–45, 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/PREVIEWES

Pittsburgh Opera 2023–24 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](#)
Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2023–24 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again.

The broadcasts are at 1:00 PM, unless otherwise noted, on consecutive Saturdays from August 31st through October 5th.

- ***The Barber of Seville*** – Saturday, August 31
- ***The Flying Dutchman*** – Saturday, September 7
- ***Iphigénie en Tauride*** – Saturday, September 14
- ***Proving Up*** – Saturday, September 21
- ***La Traviata*** – Saturday, September 28
- ***The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson*** – Saturday October 5

Pittsburgh Opera 2024–25 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, giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music, and production. Unless otherwise noted, the Saturday broadcasts are at 12:30PM, and the Friday night broadcasts are at 7:00PM.

- ***Tosca*** – Saturday, September 28 & Friday, October 4, 2024
- ***Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*** – Saturday, November 2 & Friday, November 8, 2024
- ***Armida*** – Saturday, January 18 & Friday, January 24, 2025
- ***Madama Butterfly*** – Saturday, March 15 & Friday, March 21, 2025
- ***Woman With Eyes Closed*** – Saturday, April 19 & Friday, April 25, 2025

TICKETS

Single Tickets

As part of Pittsburgh Opera's continued efforts to make opera accessible to all members of the community, once again [single tickets](#) for the 2024–25 season start at just \$15. In addition, tickets for kids and teens ages 6–18 are half price. Subscribers save 15%-20% on single ticket purchases beyond what's in their subscription package.

Opus Pass

Pittsburgh Opera's [Opus Pass](#) lets patrons see as many live opera performances as they want all season. For one low monthly price, passholders get a year's worth of unlimited admission to every performance of every opera, subject to availability.

Subscriptions

Subscription packages range from \$30 - \$544.. Single ticket sales begin in 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
- Discounted reserved parking at Theater Square Garage
- 15% discount on additional single tickets to operas at the Benedum Center

- 20% discount on additional single tickets to operas at the Bitz Opera Factory and Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater
- Money-Back Guarantee – if subscribers are not satisfied with their first opera, Pittsburgh Opera will refund the balance of the subscription

Group Tickets

Pittsburgh Opera makes 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 Wendy Parkulo at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

Sponsorships

Pittsburgh Opera's season is made possible, onstage and off, by support from all corners of the community. Pittsburgh Opera offers a range of flexible gift options and potential tax benefits for individuals, local businesses, and corporations. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Production Sponsorships** – *Help bring a production to life while pulling back the curtain and entertaining clients or friends. Gifts begin at \$25,000.*
- **Resident Artist Sponsorships** – *Support future opera stars while building personal relationships with artists. Gifts begin at \$10,000.*
- **Family Day & Community Programs** – *Underwrite free or low-cost concerts, because everyone deserves access to opera. Gifts begin at \$5,000.*
- **Parties & Events** – *Sponsor Galas, networking events, parties, and happy hours. Gifts begin at \$1,000.*

To learn more about becoming a sponsor, contact Pittsburgh Opera at 412-281-0912 x226 or development@pittsburghopera.org.

###