

**April 1, 2025**

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## **Pittsburgh Opera's newest world premiere, *Woman With Eyes Closed*, has three different endings**

[Pittsburgh Opera](#)'s upcoming world premiere has three different endings.

The opera, [Jennifer Higdon](#) and [Jerre Dye](#)'s [Woman With Eyes Closed](#), was inspired by the [real-life theft](#) of seven modernist paintings from Rotterdam's Kunsthal in 2012. The opera is named after one of the stolen paintings, by Lucian Freud.

In the show, a woman discovers the paintings in her house and realizes her son is the thief. The police are closing in, and she must decide what to do. The opera has three different endings, each reflecting her making a different choice.

All performances will be at the Bitz Opera Factory, 2425 Liberty Ave., in Pittsburgh's Strip District. The full performance schedule is:

- Saturday, April 26, 8:00 PM, Ending One
- Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 PM, Ending Two
- Friday, May 2, 7:30 PM, Ending Three
- Saturday, May 3, 2:00 PM, Ending TBA
- Sunday, May 4, 4:00 PM, Ending TBA

A limited number of tickets are still available. They can be purchased online at [opera.culturaldistrict.org](http://opera.culturaldistrict.org), by phone at 412-456-6666, and in-person at the Box Office at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Discounts are available for [groups](#), kids and teens ages 6-18, students, seniors, members of the military and more. See [pittsburghopera.org/discounts](http://pittsburghopera.org/discounts) for details.

A synopsis of the show, information on the cast and artistic teams, related events, and sponsorship opportunities can be found on the following pages.

## Opera Overview

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 performance has one of three different endings, reflecting three different decisions by Mona.

The opera is sung in English, with supertitles projected above the stage.

## Cast and Artistic Team

Momma	<a href="#">Lauryn Davis</a> *
Curator	<a href="#">Audrey Welsh</a> *
Mona	<a href="#">Meredith Arwady</a> +
Thomas	<a href="#">Fran Daniel LaucERICA</a> *
Inspector	<a href="#">Matthew Soibelman</a> *
Conductor:	<a href="#">Antony Walker</a> (April 26, 29, May 2, 3)
Conductor:	<a href="#">Glenn Lewis</a> (May 4)
Stage Director:	<a href="#">Kristine McIntyre</a>
Set Designer:	Luke Cantarella
Costume Designer:	Nancy Julian
Wig and Make-up Designer:	TBA
Lighting Designer:	Todd Nonn
Stage Manager:	Tess Naval
Director of Musical Studies:	<a href="#">Mark Trawka</a>
Associate Coach/Pianist:	<a href="#">James Lesniak</a>
Resident Artist Pianist / Supertitle Caller:	<a href="#">Maeve Berry</a> *
Assistant Stage Director:	<a href="#">Dana Kinney</a> *

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

These performances are sponsored in part by a generous gift from Diana Reid and Marc Chazaud in memory of Diana Jannetta – music lover, art collector, and dear friend.

Commissioned by [Opera Philadelphia](#), and funded in part by The Amphion Foundation, Inc.

## Related Events

### [WQED Preview Show](#) - Saturday, April 19 & Friday, April 25, 2025

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](http://wqed.org/fm), this half-hour preview of *Woman With Eyes Closed* gives listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music, and production. The WQED Preview Show is broadcast twice, on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM, and on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

### [Meet the Artists](#) - Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> performance are invited to remain in their seats immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) interviews the stars of the production.

## Sponsorships

Pittsburgh Opera's season is made possible, onstage and off, by support from all corners of the community.

- [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.

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 \$10,000.*
- **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](mailto:development@pittsburghopera.org).