

October 22, 2025 DRAFT

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Pittsburgh Opera presents *Fellow Travelers*, based on the novel by Thomas Mallon, Nov. 14-16

Pittsburgh Opera continues its 2025–26 season with a tale of forbidden romance, suspicion, and betrayal.

Pittsburgh Opera presents its first-ever performances of [*Fellow Travelers*](#), based on the acclaimed novel by Thomas Mallon which also inspired the Paramount+ Limited TV Series of the same name.

Performance Schedule

- Friday, November 14, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 15, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 16, 2025 * 2:00 PM

Other Details

- Location: Byham Theater in downtown Pittsburgh
- Run time: approximately 2 hours
- Understand Every Word: *Fellow Travelers* is sung in English, and has supertitles projected above the stage
- Tickets start at just \$20. Discounts available for children aged 6-18, students, seniors, members of the military, groups of 6+, and more. Details below.

Synopsis

The Red Scare, tinted lavender.

At the height of the McCarthy era, naive college graduate Timothy Laughlin comes to Washington eager to join the crusade against communism. But a chance encounter with a handsome State Department official, Hawkins Fuller, leads to Tim's first job—and his first relationship with a man.

Under the threat of increased government scrutiny, this complicated and clandestine affair will put both men's loyalties and convictions to the ultimate test. As the poisonous political climate pollutes their relationship, love becomes a casualty of what it takes to "play the game" in Washington.

Based on Thomas Mallon's 2007 gut-wrenching novel, *Fellow Travelers* was praised as "a near-perfect example of fast-flowing musical drama" by *The New York Times* and "a deeply human love story" by *The Wall Street Journal*. *Fellow Travelers* is already widely considered a contemporary classic.

Cast and Artistic Team

Timothy Laughlin	Logan Wagner *
Hawkins Fuller	Erik Nordstrom *
Mary Johnson	Shannon Crowley *
Senator Charles E. Potter/General Airlie/Bartender -	Joel Balzun ⁺
Estonian Frank/Interrogator/Senator Joseph McCarthy -	Daniel Teadt **
Potter's Assistant/Bookseller/Party Guest/Technician/French Priest -	Matthew Soibelman *
Tommy McIntyre	Yazid Gray **
Miss Lightfoot	Lauryn Davis *
Lucy	Audrey Welsh *

Music by Gregory Spears

Libretto by Greg Pierce, based on the novel by Thomas Mallon

Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director and Concept Designer	Brian Staufenbiel ⁺
Scene & Props Designer	Jacquelyn Scott
Original Costume, Wig & Make-Up Designer:	Y. Sharon Peng
Original Lighting Designer	Spense Matubang
Lighting Designer	Todd Nonn
Wig & Make-up Designer	James Geier
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Dana Kinney *
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Assistant Stage Managers	Bee Anderson, Tess Naval

An [Opera Parallèle](#) production.

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumnus

Related Events

Muted Voices, Resonant Songs (free)

Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Bitz Opera Factory (2425 Liberty Avenue)

Muted Voices, Resonant Songs will feature excerpts from Pittsburgh Opera's upcoming production of [Fellow Travelers](#) sung by Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists paired with discussions of the intense historical events that inspired the piece. Presented in partnership with the [Persad Center](#), this event is free and open to everyone. Light snacks will be provided. Please [register in advance](#).

The distinguished panelists include:

- Billy Hileman - Queer Activist, will discuss the history and impact of the Lavender Scare

- Gina Winstead - Vice President, Culture and Community at Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
- Jason Shavers - author at [QBurgh](#)
- Steve Hough
- The Reverend Deryck Tines - Pastor, Allegheny Unitarian Church

Pre-Opera Talks (free)

Ticketholders are invited to attend a Pre-Opera Talk one hour before each performance's start time. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera. These talks are free to all ticketholders.

Meet the Artists (free)

After the Saturday, Nov. 15th performance of *Fellow Travelers*, patrons are invited to join [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) as he interviews the stars of the production.

***Fellow Travelers* Preview Show on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](#) (free)**

Saturday, November 8 at 12:30PM & Thursday, November 13, at 7:00PM

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, this half-hour preview is broadcast twice before each production opens, giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music, and production.

Tickets

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 \$35.50 - \$581.

Subscribers enjoy the benefits of:

- The best seats at the best prices
- Easy, flexible, free ticket exchanges
- Discounted reserved parking at Theater Square Garage
- 15% discount on additional single tickets to all operas
- 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 groups@pittsburghopera.org.

Single Tickets

[Single tickets](#) start at just \$20. Tickets for kids and teens ages 6–18 are half price. Subscribers save 15% on single ticket purchases beyond what's in their subscription package. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit opera.culturaldistrict.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 \$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 \$500.*

True to its mission of accessibility, **Pittsburgh Opera has introduced Piece by Piece, a new mini-sponsorship program.** Some of the most impactful parts of *Fellow Travelers* are its powerful moments of silence. For just \$250, patrons can '[sponsor a silence](#)', to honor the quiet courage of those who loved in secret.

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