VCU OPERA
CELEBRATING 68 YEARS
PRESENTS
Reveling in Relationships
A Gala of Opera Scenes
Friday, November 16, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 4 p.m.
Co-Directors
Melanie Kohn Day & Kenneth Wood
Lighting Designer
Curt Blankenship
CANDIDE
Leonard Bernstein (1918—1990)
Act I Duet "Oh Happy We"
Act I Duet "You Were Dead, You Know"

Candide
Cunegonde

Micah Baldwin
Tara Davy

COSÌ FAN TUTTE
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756—1791)
Act II Recitative & Duet: "Prenderò quel brunettino" (in Italian)

Fiordiligia
Dorabella

Jasmin Ward
Kate Juliana

DON GIOVANNI
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Act I Recitative & Duet: "Là ci darem la mano" (in Italian)

Don Giovanni, A NOBLEMAN
Zerlina, A PEASANT

Ricky Williams
Christianna Casey

DIE FLEDERMAUS
Johann Strauss II (1825—1899)
Act II Duet: "How Engaging, How Exciting" (in English)

Gabriel von Eisenstein,
A WEALTHY VIENNESE LAWYER
Rosalinda, HIS WIFE

Alan Chavez
Savannah Whittenburg

LAKMÉ
Léo Delibes (1836—1891)
Stage Director, Catherine Pelletier
Act I Duet: "The Flower Duet" (in French)

Lakmé, DAUGHTER OF THE HIGH PRIEST
Malilka, HER MAID AND COMPANION

Emily Nesbitt
Jasmin Ward

Upcoming VCU Music Events

Faculty Recital: Russell Wilson, piano
Sunday, November 18 at 7 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Free admission

Choral Arts Society and Vox Concordia (formerly Women's Choir)
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
General admission: $10, Free for VCU students with ID

Senior Recital: Kate Juliana, soprano
with Daniel Stipe, piano
Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 6 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Free admission

VCU Symphony
Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
General admission: $10, Free for VCU students with ID

Holiday Gala to benefit The Doorways
Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
General admission: $10, Children 12 and under: $5

This annual holiday concert features Jazz Orchestra II; VCU Guitar Ensemble & Community Guitar Ensemble with Kenneth Wood, tenor; Vox Concordia; Bassoon Ensemble; VCU Symphony & VCU Health Orchestra; Percussion Ensemble; Symphonic Wind Ensemble; and Commonwealth Singers. All ticket proceeds benefit The Doorways (formerly Hospital Hospitality House.)

learn more at
GO.VCU.EDU/CONCERTS

purchase tickets at
VCUMUSIC.SHOWCLIIX.COM
About VCU Opera

Founded in 1950 by L. Wayne Batty, VCU Opera has been directed by Melanie Kohn Day since 1983. In 2008, Dr. Kenneth Wood joined the VCU voice faculty and additionally assumed the position of Stage Director for VCU Opera. Between November 2011 and November 2015, VCU Opera was the recipient of four national awards from the NOA-National Opera Association: 2nd place for Humperdinck’s HANSEL & GRETEL, 1st place for Menotti’s THE OLD MAID & THE THIEF, 3rd place in the opera scenes competition for the opening duet of Act IV from Puccini’s LA BOHEME and 1st place for Gilbert & Sullivan’s THE GONDOLIERS.

VCU Opera has the longest-running tradition of annual full-scale productions in the state of Virginia and is proud of its outstanding reputation as an opera training program. Each year there is a fully-staged production of opera scenes as well as a full-scale production featuring scenery and costumes and presented in collaboration with the VCU Symphony.

VCU Opera’s mission is to cast undergraduate students in appropriate roles from the mainstream repertoire. We specialize in traditionally styled productions utilizing where possible our extensive collection of costumes, wigs and props.

With a significant emphasis on the holistic training of the complete “singer-actor,” VCU Opera has prepared numerous students for scholarships to the nation’s finest conservatories and university graduate programs, as well as for prestigious summer festivals in the USA and abroad and for Resident Artist positions with regional opera companies throughout the USA. Many VCU Opera alumni have gone on to enjoy highly successful careers performing in the world’s greatest opera houses.

LA CLEMENZA DI TITO
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Act I Recitative & Duet: “Come ti piace” (in Italian)

Vitellia, DAUGHTER OF THE DEPOSED EMPEROR VITELLUS
Emma Jane Tracy
Sesto (Sextus), A FRIEND OF TITUS, IN LOVE WITH VITELLIA
Tara Davy

LA FAVORITA
Gaetano Donizetti (1797—1848)
Act II Duet: “Ebben, così si narra” (in Italian)

Leonora, MISTRESS OF THE KING, IN LOVE WITH FERNANDO
Catherine Pelletier
Alfonso, KING OF CASTILE
Alan Chavez

THE MIKADO
W.S. Gilbert (1836—1911) & Arthur Sullivan (1842—1900)
Act I Dialogue & Trio: “I Am So Proud”

Ko-Ko
Micah Baldwin
Fish-Tush
Connor Terrell
Pooh-Bah
Calvin Bremer

PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTOR OF VCU OPERA, PIANIST & DIALOGUE COACH
Melanie Kohn Day

CO-DIRECTOR/STAGE DIRECTOR OF VCU OPERA & NARRATOR
Dr. Kenneth Wood

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Curt Blankenship

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
PROPS CONSTRUCTION
Roland Kernetz

PRINCIPAL STAGE MANAGER
Catherine Pelletier

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Kristen Melzer

COSTUMES & HAIR/WIGS
Melanie Kohn Day

COSTUME ASSISTANT
Mikala Swank

HAIR ASSISTANT
Christianna Casey
SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Terry Austin, Chair of VCU Arts Music; Curt Blankenship; Roland Karnatz; Linda Johnston; Catherine Pelletier; Alan Chavez; Kristen Melzer; Anne Marie Dumain; Emerson & Kathy Hughes; Dr. Velimir Luketic; Dr. Sonia Vlahcevic

SUPPORT VCU OPERA

If you have an interest in assisting VCU Opera with student scholarship funding, sponsoring a guest artist for masterclasses/workshops, helping with costumes or scenic production, we would welcome your assistance! Contact Linda Johnston, Administrative Director for VCU Arts Music at 804.827.4542 or lsjohnst@vcu.edu.

VCU OPERA ALUMNI NEWS

Tess Ottinger ('18), has just begun her MM studies at The Peabody Conservatory of Music with the "Artistic Excellence Scholarship Award." Already she has been cast as Nella in their production of Gianni Schicchi, and she will additionally be covering the role of Cunegonde in Candide.

Jessica Harika ('13), stage-directed Gianni Schicchi, and Roméo et Juliette and L’elisir d’amore with ARE Opera (NYC) this past season. She also was assistant director for The Manhattan School of Music Baroque Aria Ensemble’s production of Orpheus. As a singer, Jessica made her Steinway Hall debut in NYC in March. In February, she will stage-direct Capitol Opera Richmond’s jewel-box version of La Bohème.

Malcolm Jones ('15), graduated in May from San Jose State University (M.M. in Choral Conducting). Malcolm travelled last summer to various locations in the Baltics on tour with SJSU’s Choraliers making his European soloist debut as the bass soloist in Mozart’s Requiem. Malcolm then made his way to Marseille, France, to become a Conducting Scholar (an international auditioned position offered to only 8 people) for the Delaware Choral Academy’s summer program France Symposium 2018.

Alumna Anna Maples Dombo completed her graduate degree and fellowship in Speech-Language Pathology and now works as a speech therapist in Richmond.

Alexander Harper ('15) graduated recently from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and debuted with Dayton Opera singing multiple roles. He subsequently completed a year-long residency as a Young Artist with the Dayton Opera, during which time he performed the roles of Assan (with a cover of John Sorel) in The Consul and Fiorello (with a cover of Figaro) in the Barber of Seville.

Vanessa Naghdi ('11) was a 2017-2018 Resident Young Artist with Opera Colorado. She performed Clorinda in the company’s new touring production of Cinderella, Adina in their touring production of The Elixir of Love, covered Musetta in La Bohème, and performed Mrs. Soep while covering Ina Soep in their world premiere of Steal a Pencil for Me. She also performed and covered the role of Nannetta in Falstaff. Vanessa has sung with Virginia Opera, The Kennedy Center, Grand Canyon Music Festival, Annapolis Opera, Nightingale Opera Theatre, Harrower Opera, Arizona Opera, and Mittelsächsisches Theater in Germany.

Forrest Glass ('16) is a MM Choral Conducting student at Temple University’s Boyer College of Music. He received two major Dean’s awards this past year for musicianship, academic excellence and conducting. Forrest also travelled to Cape Town, South Africa as part of a music and cultural exchange.

Aaron Jones ('15), recently received his MM from Arizona State University and has performed with Sedona Performing Arts in Arizona. In addition, he sang the role of Tamino in The Magic Flute in a production with Opera On Tap in Phoenix.

Zarah Brock ('15), graduated in May with her Master’s Degree in Opera Performance from the University of Maryland Opera Studio. This past year she sang Annio in La Clemenza di Tito and Sœur Constance in Dialogues des Carmelites at UMD. She spent her summer studying voice in Italy.