

VCU OPERA
Celebrating 71 Years!!

and the

VCU SYMPHONY

present

VIVA L'OPERA!

Escape the Pandemic Pandemonium with Delightful Opera Scenes

Sunday, April 25, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm
Live-streamed Performance

VCU OPERA Co-Directors
Melanie Kohn Day & Kenneth Wood
VCU SYMPHONY Conductor
Daniel Myssyk
Technical Coordinator / Director
Curt Blankenship

THE PROGRAM

THE GONDOLIERS..... W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

2015 spring production

Act I, scene 1 (9'43")

VCU Orchestra-conducted by Daniel Myssyk

Setting: The Piazzetta, Venice

Time: about 1750

Fiametta-Tess Ottinger
Giulia-Brenna Miller
Vittoria-Emma-Claire Polich
Francesco-Collier Phillips
Antonio-Forrest Glass

Giorgio-Alan Chavez
Marco Palmieri-DeVonte Saunders
Giuseppe Palmieri-Alex Harper
Women's Chorus & Chorus of Gondoliers

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THE MAGIC FLUTE..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

2011 fall production

Act I, scene 1 (sung in German) (6'20")

Melanie Kohn Day- piano

Setting: Forest in a mythical land

Time: Legendary

Prince Tamino-Chappell Lee
First Lady-Kelsey Snyder
Second Lady-Jessica Harika
Third Lady-Abigail Stinnett

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"What a Movie!" (TROUBLE IN TAHITI)..... Leonard Bernstein

2010 fall production

Melanie Kohn Day-piano (5'15")

Setting: a street outside of the town's hat shop

Time: 1950's

Dinah, not happily married to Sam-Jessica Harika

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"In Praise of Women" (A LITTLE NITE MUSIC)..... Stephen Sondheim

2010 fall production

Melanie Kohn Day-piano (3'39")

Setting: Sweden, in the Count's home

Time: 1900

Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm
a Dragoon-John Tyndall

HÄNSEL & GRETEL..... Engelbert Humperdinck

2011 spring production
Act I, scene 1 and entrance of The Mother (8'57")
VCU Orchestra-conducted by Daniel Myssyk
Setting: cottage in the woods, Germany
Time: 'once upon a time'

Gretel-Gianna Barone
Hänsel-Jessica Harika
The Mother-Kelsey Snyder

Act I, scene 2 "The Prayer" (1'46")

Gretel-Gianna Barone
Hänsel-Jessica Harika

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LE NOZZE di FIGARO/THE MARRIAGE of FIGARO Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

2018 spring production
Act I duet (sung in Italian) (3'00")
VCU Orchestra-conducted by Daniel Myssyk
Setting: Seville, Count Almaviva's house
Time: 18th century

Marcellina-Jaylin Brown
Susanna-Tess Ottinger

Act III, sextet (7'03")

Don Curzio-Connor Terrell
Figaro-Shyheim Hinnant
Count Almaviva-Alan Chavez

Don Bartolo-Chase Peak, VCU alumnus
Marcellina-Jaylin Brown
Susanna-Tess Ottinger

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THE CONSUL Gian-Carlo Menotti

2015 fall production
Act II, scene 2 (18'15")
Melanie Kohn Day-pianist
Setting: The Consulate, a central European totalitarian country
Time: 1950

The Secretary-Margaret Mayes
Mr. Kofner-Forrest Glass
Foreign Woman-Tylahr Dawes
Magda Sorel-Emily Nesbitt

Magician-Collier Phillips
Vera Boronel-Ella Mort
Anna Gomez-Savannah Whittenburg

THE MERRY WIDOW Franz Lehár

2014 spring production

Act I duet (3'22")

VCU Orchestra-conducted by Daniel Myssyk

Setting: Act I-The Marsovian embassy in Paris

Time: about 1900

Camille de Jolidon-Chappell Lee

Natalie, wife of Baron Popoff-Rachel Madison

Act II, septet (3'31")

Setting: Act II-Party on the grounds of Sonia's villa near Paris

Prince Danilo-Alex Harper

Marquis de Cascada-Alan Chavez

Raoul de St. Brioche-Aaron Jones

Baron Popoff-Ryan Blevins

Counsellor Khadza-Evan Coldiron

General Novikovich-Malcolm Jones

Nisch, Embassy Secretary-Forrest Glass

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PORGY & BESS..... George Gershwin

2016 fall production

Act I, scene 7 duet (5'44")

Melanie Kohn Day-piano

Setting: Catfish Row-Charleston, South Carolina

Time: 1920's

Porgy-Shyheim Hinnant

Bess-Jaylin Brown

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THE PIRATES of PENZANCE W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

2019 spring production

Act I, scene 1 (10'00")

VCU Orchestra-conducted by Daniel Myssyk

Setting: A rocky seashore on the coast of Cornwall, England

Time: 1910

The Pirate King -Alan Chavez

Chorus of Pirates

Ruth, Pirate Maid-of-All Work-Jasmin Ward

Frederic, the Pirate Apprentice-Micah Baldwin

Act I, scene 3 (3'42")

Mabel, Major General Stanley's Ward-Tara Davy

Chorus of the Major General's Wards

Act I, Finale (1'30")

Frederic-Micah Baldwin
Chorus of Major General's Wards & Chorus of Pirates

Act II, scene 2 (4'48")
Setting: A chapel in ruins by moonlight

Frederic-Micah Baldwin
Mabel-Tara Davy
Chorus of Police

Chorus of Major General's Wards
Major General Stanley-Dr. Kenneth Wood

Act II, scene 4 (3'40")

Chorus of Pirates
Chorus of Police

Frederic-Micah Baldwin
Ruth-Jasmin Ward

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Melanie Kohn Day-Producer/Director of VCU Opera & Pianist for all Scenes Galas
Dr. Kenneth Wood-Co-Director/Stage Director of VCU Opera
Professor Daniel Myssyk-Conductor of VCU Orchestra
Mercedes Schaum-Scenic Designer
The Costume Shop: Leslie Winn & Ivy Austin-Costume Design/Construction
Curt Blankenship-Livestreaming/Lighting Designer/Supervisor/Projections
Roland Karnatz-Technical Director/Props Construction/Projections
Melanie Kohn Day-Costume Coordinator for the Fall Scenes Galas & Hair/Wigs for all productions

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dr. Terry Austin, Chair of VCU Music; Curt Blankenship; Roland Karnatz; Linda Johnston; Dr. Ross Walter; Emerson & Kathy Hughes; Dr. Velimir Luketic; Dr. Sonia Vlahcevic; Professor Cynthia Donnell

WE INVITE YOUR SUPPORT!

If you have an interest in assisting VCU Opera with student scholarship funding, sponsoring a Guest Artist for Masterclasses/Workshops, or offering financial assistance for costumes and scenic production, we would welcome your much-needed support! Please contact Linda Johnston, Administrative Director for the Department of Music at 804.827.4542.

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 BOHÈME 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 major 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.