



NATIONAL CAPITAL *Opera Society*

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

Mark your calendar and please join us for:

The 2023 National Capital Opera Competition

Saturday, 14th October 2023, 2:00 p.m.
First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa
30, Cleary Avenue, Ottawa

The National Capital Opera Competition (formerly the Brian Law Opera Competition) is the National Capital Opera Society's principal event, in partnership with New Opera Lyra. The competition is normally held every two years, but this year marks its triumphant return, following a four-year break due to the pandemic. With this year's competition opened to all young Canadian singers, we received a record number of applications from some outstanding entrants. The panel of first-round judges has chosen the following six talented young singers as finalists:



Soprano **Daniela Agostino** is known as a "bright and agile soprano" (Stage Door) and is hailed for her "soaring and lively" voice (Opera Canada). She holds a master's degree in performance and literature from Western University, where she studied with soprano Jackalyn Short. She was the winner of the London Opera Guild Scholarship in 2017 and most recently was awarded the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation Scholarship for the production of performance videos. During her studies, she played Gretel from Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, and First Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.



Jordan Baldwin is a countertenor residing in Toronto. He is currently completing his MMus in Historical Performance at the University of Toronto under the guidance of Jean MacPhail and Daniel Taylor. This past summer Jordan was a part of the Opera Connections Program in France facilitated by Jeannette Aster.



Ariane Cossette, soprano is part of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio. She made her professional operatic debut as Frasquita in *Carmen* (COC). She performed in France in Choeurs Éternels concerts in 2018-2019. She is a Christina and Louis Quilico Awards second prize winner and has received the support of many foundations.



Soprano **Angela Gjurichanin** is based in London, Ontario. In 2022, she was a District Winner for the Metropolitan Laffont Competition and won the Gordon Wallis Opera Competition. She had the privilege to perform the role of Nella from *Gianni Schicchi* with the Opera Workshop at Western in March, 2021 and she joined them again in performing Adina from *L'elisir d'amore* in March, 2022. Ms. Gjurichanin had her debut with the Regina Symphony Orchestra as the soprano soloist for *Messiah* in December, 2022 and had her international operatic debut this past summer singing Zerlina with the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar.



Kathryn Rose Johnston is an up-and-coming soprano on the Canadian opera scene, having recently been selected as a finalist with the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal National Auditions. A graduate of the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto, Kathryn has performed opera and concert across the country. Recent roles include Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, First Wood Sprite in *Rusalka* and Musetta in *La bohème*.



Tenor **Angelo Moretti** made his professional debut in 2022 at Opéra de Montréal as Ruiz in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. He is a current member of Opera de Montréal's atelier lyrique and holds a Master of Music degree in Opera Performance from the University of Toronto's Opera School. In 2023-24, Moretti joins the mainstage casts of Opera de Montreal's *Le Nozze di Figaro* as Don Basilio and Don Curzio and *La Traviata* as Gastone and will sing Nemorino for the Orchestre symphonique de Drummondville.

On 14th October they will compete for the following prizes:

- First prize, \$10,000, in honour of Tom McCool
- Second prize, \$5,000, donated by Murray Kitts
- Third prize, \$3,000, donated by Carole Stelmack

The other three finalists will each receive \$1,000. All will be judged by an expert panel.

Please join us to support these outstanding Canadian singers of the future. Tickets are available at the door or in advance online through Eventbrite. [Click here for tickets.](#) We invite you to join us at a reception following the event to meet the competitors, pianists and the distinguished judges.

The competition is funded by generous donations to the National Capital Opera Society. We invite you to join us in supporting these young singers by making a tax-deductible donation to the Society. Prize money will go towards establishing these budding careers.



President's Message

Dear Fellow National Capital Opera Society Member:

I am very excited to report that we are in the final stages of preparing for the 2023 National Capital Opera Competition. We received 31 applications. On July 25th the first-round judges selected the six finalists. I am grateful to the first-round judges who are Sandra Graham, Susan Blyth-Schofield and Dr. Andrea Kovago.

Now is the time where I am requesting your help:

The success and continuation of this competition is dependent on donations from you. Please consider making a donation either through e-transfer to President@NCOS.CA or by mailing a cheque to NCOS President, 101-1035 Bank St., Ottawa, ON, K1S 5K3. It has been four years since the last competition and we are planning on the next one in 2025. Your contributions are vital to the continuation of support for young Canadian singers.

The competition will be held at 2 PM on 14 October and the First Unitarian Congregation on Cleary Avenue. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

If you can help publicize this special event of new young Canadian singers, please let me know what you need. We will have posters available. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you all on October 14th and thank you for your contribution.

Mark Robinson

President, National Capital Opera Society



Reviews

The Show Must Go On – What Happens When the Lights Go Out Romeo and Juliet at Glimmerglass Lesley Robinson

Romeo	Duke Kim
Juliet	Magdalena Kuźma
Mercutio	Olivier Zerouali*
Friar Laurence	Sergio Martínez*
Count Capulet	Stefano de Peppo
Tybalt	Hayden Smith*
The Duke	John Mburu*
Stéphano	Lisa Marie Rogali*
Gertrude	Meredith Arwady
Grégorio	Darren Lekeith Drone
Paris	Jonathan Patton*
Benvolio	Will Upham*
Lady Capulet	Allison Hill-Edgar

* Member of the Young Artists Program

Conductor	Joseph Colaneri
Director	Simon Godwin

It was a new beginning at Glimmerglass, both for us and for the festival. We had not returned since the beginning of the pandemic, so in the interim we had enjoyed what Glimmerglass was offering from afar. For the 2023 season, the festival welcomed a new Artistic and General Director. Rob Ainsley comes to Glimmerglass with impressive artistic credentials. He has proved himself as a leader, an administrator and a performer and has a passion for encouraging the contributions of young artists, including composers and librettists. From the moment he took to the stage to welcome the audience, it was clear that he has the personality and the wit to charm us all. He will be an admirable successor to Francesca Zambello whose energy and cutting-edge innovations will continue to propel the festival into the future.

As usual, the pre-performance talk gave us plenty to think about. Gounod's opera contains not the usual two, but *four* love duets: the first when Romeo and Juliet first meet at the ball, the second in the balcony scene, the third (and most passionate) during the couple's night of passion before the banished Romeo must leave. (This is the glorious "Nuit d'hyménée", one of my most favourite love duets in all of opera.) The final duet comes in the last act when Gounod allows himself the artistic licence of letting Juliet awaken before Romeo dies, giving them the opportunity for one last expression of their fervent, yet hopeless love. Gounod ties in the motif from the potion scene and brings back the theme from the Act 3 duet.

It is interesting that the overture of the opera is intensely dramatic and bears a resemblance to the opening of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* which was premiered a little over 15 years earlier than *Roméo et Juliette* and Gounod would no doubt have heard it. I was aware of another Wagnerian theme in the final scene, when Juliet sings about what a sweet moment it is to die together. *Tristan und Isolde* premiered just a couple of years before *Roméo et Juliette*. Might this be another instance of the influence of Wagner, or should we just attribute that influence to Shakespeare?

It was during that final scene that the singers, most notably Duke Kim, showed remarkable professionalism when the lights suddenly went out. They continued to sing and remained in character as the lights went out in the pit and finally on the stage and the music stopped. Mr. Ainsley stepped out to reassure us that the show would certainly go on when power returned and indeed it did. Mr. Kim was indeed outstanding in the role of Romeo. You will perhaps have noticed how many of the cast are in the Young Artists Program. This is a wonderful feature of Glimmerglass. Young singers are given the opportunity to learn and grow in substantial roles throughout the festival. There was a particularly notable performance from Lisa Marie Rogali as Stéphano in the trouser role of Romeo's peppy young page.

So normal service has indeed been resumed at Glimmerglass.



Duke Kim

Magdalena Kuźma

Joseph Colaneri

Lisa Marie Rogali

Olivier Zerouali

Rinaldo at Glimmerglass
A Feast of Whimsy and Imagination
Lesley Robinson

Rinaldo
Almirena
Armida
Goffredo
Argante

Anthony Roth Costanzo
Jasmine Habersham
Keely Futterer*
Kyle Sanchez Tingzon*
Korin Tomas-Smith*

Sorcerer
Dancers

Nicholas Kelliher*
Madison Hertel*, Peter Murphy*, Emma Sucato*

*Members of the Young Artists Program

One might wonder what the connection is between a paediatric hospital ward and the Crusades, but when seen from the perspective of a child's imagination, Glimmerglass's unusual setting for Handel's tale of sorcery and heroism makes perfect sense. The action begins in a hospital room where a young boy is recovering from surgery. He delves into a box of toys and finds knights and swords. His playful imagination creates a whole fantastic world of drama, heroism and gallantry. He plays out the whole story as the hero of the tale, using the medical supplies available as props. The girl in the next bed becomes the princess heroine who needs rescuing in the boy's mind and the doctors, nurses and distraught parents at the hospital all take on roles in the story.

Anthony Roth Costanzo is the perfect boy hero. Slight in stature and oozing with playfulness, he brings the story to life with boyish charm and vitality. His sparkling countertenor voice adds to the impression of eager fearlessness. Handel included three parts for castrati in the original 1711 version. Many revisions followed and *Rinaldo* was not performed at all for a period of two hundred years. In modern revivals the part of Rinaldo has most frequently been sung by a woman. However, the current crop of fine countertenors creates a range of casting possibilities for eighteenth century works and this was a fine choice. The backdrop of childlike fantasy provided the opportunity for playing heroes and villains with over-the-top exuberance and once again the Young Artists Program afforded a number of fine performances, most notably that of Keely Futterer in the role of Armida.

The set of the hospital room could be manipulated in the boy's imagination, moving around beds and props to suit the action and the world beyond the window became the fantasy world of mountains and lairs, using the projection of animations reminiscent of fairy-tale illustrations. The ultimate triumph of heroism over villainy and of health over illness leaves us with a very satisfying and jubilant happy-ever-after denouement.



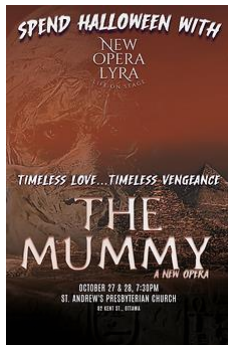
In an exuberant curtain call, l-r Jasmine Habersham, Anthony Roth Costanzo, conductor Emily Senturia and Keely Futterer



Upcoming Seasons 2023/24



2023/24 Season



The Mummy - a new opera by Andrew Ager
Friday October 27, 7:30 PM
Saturday October 28, 7:30 PM
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

An ancient world, hubris, revenge, yearning for lost love, dreams of timeless ages - all this awaits you in the world-premiere of New Opera Lyra Composer in Residence Andrew Ager's "The Mummy". Fully staged, and with colourful instrumental ensemble, "The Mummy" will take you inside the tragic fate of those who awaken ancient honour and the mysterious forces of time.

Scrooge's Christmas
Saturday December 9, 7:00 PM
Rideau Park United Church

Ebenezer Scrooge—everyone's favourite curmudgeon has been trying to ruin everybody's Christmas for a century and a half. But this time - will he manage it? Come and find out at the return performance of Andrew Ager's "Scrooge's Christmas". New Opera Lyra is presenting this spooky one-hour comic opera in the delightfully cozy surroundings of Rideau Park United Church in Alta Vista. Some of Ottawa's finest performers will bring to life this tale of the best-known misanthrope of all time. Fully staged, with instrumental ensemble.

Spooky spirits, Christmas Cheer, Merriment and Laughter...Bah, Humbug!





The Great Gatsby - a new opera by Andrew Ager
 Friday April 19, 2024 7:30 PM
 Saturday April 20, 2024 7:30 PM
 Southminster United Church

Jay Gatsby—a mysterious man. Where is he from? How did he achieve his boundless wealth? They say there was a tragic loss in his early life.

Come and see New Opera Lyra's world-premiere of "The Great Gatsby". Based on the iconic novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Andrew Ager's latest opera tells the story of a man who has everything - except his lost love. His desire to regain his former happiness awakens the unknowable forces of fate, which neither wealth nor power can control...

Opera Gala
 Saturday June 1, 2024 3:30 PM

Great opera choruses and favourite arias! Ottawa's Ewashko Singers and New Opera Lyra bring you a glorious afternoon of selections from the best-loved operas of all-time. With new instrumental arrangements by Andrew Ager, chorus and soloists, all under the direction of Ottawa's Laurence Ewashko, our second season closing Gala will be an unforgettable event not to miss.

And there's an extra! The audience is invited to sing along with several of the most familiar choruses. Maestro Ewashko will hold a fun-filled rehearsal shortly before the concert for all who wish to add their voices to this splendid occasion.

The greatest opera choruses and arias – and your chance to be part of the show!



Sundays @ Four
 Rideau Park United Church

October 15 - Hyung Song, baritone
 November 19 - Ania Heinar, soprano
 January 14 - Adam Sperry, tenor
 February 11 - Susan Elizabeth, soprano
 March 3- Jennifer Olenic, soprano
 April 7 - Ryan Hofman, baritone
 May 12 - Norman Brown, baritone
 Andrew Ager, accompanist

For more information go to www.newoperalyra.ca.
 For tickets [click here](#).

OPEROTTAWA

Artistic Director - Norman E. Brown

All female
casts!!

11th Season
2023-2024

Something
really
different!

SUOR ANGELICA
by G. Puccini
and a selection of
OPERA ARIAS
September 17th 2023

In an updated interpretation, Suor Angelica is set in a private Catholic high school for girls. One of the students, Angelica, faces the guilt and sorrow of having had to give up her out-of-wedlock child for adoption. Amidst the religious beliefs and scorn of her classmates and school staff, her wealthy aunt, whom she has not seen for several years, pays her a visit, leading to tragic consequences.

The battle between good and evil continues in one of Mozart's most popular operas. The only difference is this war will be quite Amazonian - females against females. Can the Queen of the Night defeat Sarastro? Will Princess Tamina be united with Pamina?

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE
by W. A. Mozart
November 26th 2023

World premiere!
Gates of Heaven:
REQUIEM for a Life of Peace
by Jack Hui Litster
March 10th 2024

Jack Hui Litster's "Gates of Heaven: Requiem for a Life of Peace" is written for female voices and chamber orchestra. His previous commissions for OperOttawa depicted childbirth (The Day You Were Born), then love (What is Love?), and now his Requiem explores the journey through the gateway of death into the next life (In Paradisum).

Single Tickets: Adults \$50 /Student (with ID)\$25
Subscription (all 3 shows) \$125 (Adult) \$62.50 (Student)
CHILDREN UNDER 10 - free at door when accompanied by an adult
Tickets: From cast, EventBrite, at the door, or norman_e_brown@rogers.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (Laurier @ Elgin)

The Met: Live in HD

Coming to a cinema near you:

2023-24 Season

JAKE HEGGIE / LIBRETTO BY TERRENCE MCNALLY

Dead Man Walking

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, OCT 21, 2023 12:55 PM ET

ANTHONY DAVIS / LIBRETTO BY THULANI DAVIS / STORY BY CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, NOV 18, 2023 12:55 PM ET

DANIEL CATÁN / LIBRETTO BY MARCELA FUENTES-BERAIN

Florencia en el Amazonas

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, DEC 09, 2023 12:55 PM ET

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Nabucco

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, JAN 06, 2024 12:55 PM ET

GEORGES BIZET

Carmen

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, JAN 27, 2024 12:55 PM ET

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

GIUSEPPE VERDI

La Forza del Destino

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, MAR 09, 2024 12:00 PM ET

CHARLES GOUNOD

Roméo et Juliette

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, MAR 23, 2024 12:55 PM ET

GIACOMO PUCCINI

La Rondine

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, APR 20, 2024 12:55 PM ET

GIACOMO PUCCINI

Madama Butterfly

LIVE PERFORMANCE

SAT, MAY 11, 2024 12:55 PM ET

For more information [Click here](#)

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