



*Opera
Phila
delphia*

YOUR
FAVORITE
STORIES
IN A NEW
LIGHT

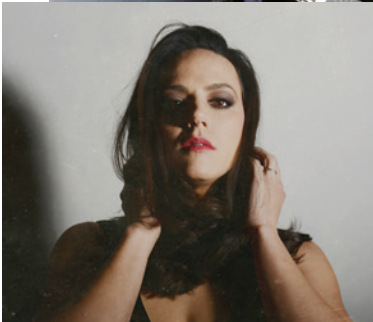
THE 2022–2023 SEASON

Return to Opera Philadelphia and see some of your favorite stories in a new light.

Experience the familiar comforts of operatic tradition: bel canto fireworks; powerhouse choral singing; and soaring, heartbreaking melodies. But prepare to be surprised with rarely performed classics, unexpected voices, and bold reinterpretations.



From top: Lawrence Brownlee, Daniela Mack, Kristen Choi, Brandie Sutton, Joshua Blue, and Kara Goodrich.



As we present three works in the Academy of Music and bring back Festival O for the first time in three years, we know that the world is not the same as it once was. You expect more from your experiences.

More joy.
More relevance.
More solace.

You will find joy, relevance, and solace in abundance this season. Bring an open heart and an open mind, ready for the full-bodied emotions and thrills that you can only feel from live opera.

THE 2022 – 2023 SEASON

THE
ACADEMY
SERIES

ROSSINI
OTELLO
Part of Festival O22
Sept. 23, 25, 30, Oct. 2, 2022

ORFF
CARMINA BURANA
Concert Performances
Feb. 3 & 5, 2023

PUCCINI
LA BOHÈME
April 28, 30, May 5, 7, 2023



FESTIVAL O22
Sept. 21–Oct. 2

HOSOKAWA
THE RAVEN
Sept. 21, 24, 29, Oct. 1 | Merriam Theater

LITTLE
BLACK LODGE
Oct. 1 & 2 | Philadelphia Film Center

OPERA ON FILM
Sept. 27–Oct. 2 | Philadelphia Film Center

**AFTERNOONS
AT AVA**
Sept. 24 & Oct. 1 | Academy of Vocal Arts

PLUS

THE CONTINUATION OF THE
OPERA PHILADELPHIA CHANNEL

Discover ticket packages on page 14.

O T E L L O

Sept. 23, 25, 30, Oct. 2, 2022

Academy of Music

NEW
PRODUCTION

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

Runtime is approximately 3 hours including one 20 minute intermission

Rossini's rarely performed version of Shakespeare's tragedy comes to Opera Philadelphia for the first time in a critically acclaimed production by Spanish director **Emilio Sagi** (*Tancredi*, 2017). Set in the 1920s, with elegant costumes and scenery evocative of the gilded world of *Downton Abbey*, Sagi's production puts a unique focus on the character of Desdemona, a woman whose acts of both rebellion and loyalty position her as more than just a symbol of lost innocence, but as the moral center of a changing world.

THE PLOT

As in Shakespeare's play, Desdemona defies her father, Emilio, and marries his enemy Othello rather than the nobleman Rodrigo. Their love is undone by the vengeful Iago, who is also in love with Desdemona and plots to convince Othello that his wife has been unfaithful.

MUSIC

Gioachino Rossini

LIBRETTO

Francesco Berio di Salsa after William Shakespeare's play *Othello*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Othello Khanyiso Gwenxane*

Rodrigo Lawrence Brownlee

Desdemona Daniela Mack

Iago Alek Shrader

Emilia Sun-Ly Pierce*

Elmiro Christian Pursell*

Gondolieri Aaron Crouch*

Conductor Corrado Rovaris

Director Emilio Sagi

Set Design Daniel Bianco

Costume Design Gabriela Salaverri*

Lighting Design Eduardo Bravo

Chorus Master Elizabeth Braden

*Opera Philadelphia debut

Did you know?

The character of Rodrigo is more prominent here than in Shakespeare's play or Verdi's opera. Performed by the world-famous tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** in his role debut, the part features tour-de-force singing, an ideal showcase for Brownlee's "dazzling technical ease and sheer grace" (*Opera News*).

Maestro Corrado Rovaris' engagement as the Jack Mulroney Music Director has been made possible by Mrs. John P. Mulroney.
Production from Opéra Royal de Wallonie - Liège (Belgium)

C A R M I N A B U R A N A

February 3 & 5, 2023

Academy of Music

CONCERT
PERFORMANCES

Performed in Latin with English supertitles

Runtime is approximately 90 minutes including a 5-minute pause

The critically acclaimed Opera Philadelphia Chorus and Orchestra take center stage in a concert of one of the most intense and popular pieces in the choral canon.

From its very first moments—spine-tingling chords of vocal and percussive ferocity—*Carmina Burana* captures the audience’s attention. It is a kaleidoscopic piece that demands to be heard live, as thundering cries on the fickleness of fortune transform into lilting celebrations of spring and raucous drinking songs.

Orff’s cantata will be preceded by a suite of works for a multi-part evening of thrilling choral music.

MUSIC

Carl Orff

LIBRETTO

Adapted from the *Carmina Burana*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Soprano Brandie Sutton*

Tenor Alasdair Kent

Baritone Ethan Vincent*

Conductor TBA

Chorus Master Elizabeth Braden

*Opera Philadelphia debut

Did you know?

Carmina Burana is one of the most-often quoted classical music pieces in American popular culture, appearing in hundreds of films, television shows, video games, and commercials. You can even find it sampled on Busta Rhymes’ debut album. The opening movement, “O Fortuna,” has become synonymous with moments of dramatic intensity, played for either serious or humorous effect.

L A B O H È M E



April 28, 30, May 5, 7, 2023

Academy of Music

NEW
PRODUCTION

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

Runtime is approximately 100 minutes with no intermission

Opera's beloved bohemians embark on a new journey—from tragedy to hope, death to life, loneliness to love—in a visionary production from director and MacArthur “Genius” Yuval Sharon. The story and music you adore are presented in reverse order, ending with the promise of new love and the joys of friendship, wine, and song. This bold take on Puccini’s opus is itself a bohemian work of art: experimental, nonconforming, and original. It is a celebration of life uniquely suited to our times and a reminder that opera is a living, breathing art form.

The Plot

In 19th-century Paris, four starving artists, a seamstress, and a chanteuse discover the heartbreak and joys of young love.

MUSIC

Giacomo Puccini

LIBRETTO

Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Rodolfo Joshua Blue

Mimi Kara Goodrich

Marcello Troy Cook

Musetta Melissa Joseph*

Schaunard Benjamin Taylor*

Colline Adam Lau*

Alcindoro & The Wanderer
Kevin Burdette

Conductor Corrado Rovaris

Director Yuval Sharon*

Set Design John Conklin*

Costume Design Jessica Jahn*

Lighting Design John Torres*

Chorus Master Elizabeth Braden

*Opera Philadelphia debut

Did you know?

While this version starts at the beginning of Act IV, it isn’t a wild deviation from the original introduction of the opera: the opening music and setting of Act I and Act IV are nearly identical. Both acts open in the “bachelor pad” of Rodolfo and Marcello’s garret apartment. Musically, both acts open with the same rousing “Bohemians theme.”

THE ACADEMY SERIES

Maestro Corrado Rovaris’ engagement as the Jack Mulroney Music Director has been made possible by Mrs. John P. Mulroney.
A co-production of Detroit Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, and Spoleto Festival USA.



FESTIVAL O

SEPT. 21–OCT. 2, 2022

“A hotbed of operatic innovation”—*The New York Times*

A multi-day celebration that pushes the genre forward, Festival O22 features new works, opera films, and more, anchored by Rossini’s *Otello*.



MUSIC

Toshio Hosokawa

LIBRETTO

Edgar Allan Poe

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Mezzo Kristen Choi

Director Aria Umezawa*

Conductor Eiki Isomura*

Runtime is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission

Edgar Allan Poe’s haunting poems inspire a two-part evening of immersive theater on the stage of the Merriam, the centerpiece of which is **Toshio Hosokawa’s** *The Raven*. The classic elegy on grief transforms into a chilling monodrama for mezzo-soprano and 12-piece chamber orchestra, inspired by the supernatural elements of Noh theater. Hosokawa’s atmospheric music meets a minimalist approach by director **Aria Umezawa**; as the music skitters and swoops, you are transported into a world of shifting realities and the inescapable nature of anguish.

Production support provided by The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

AFTERNOONS AT AVA

Runtime is approximately 1 hour with no intermission

Alumni of the Academy of Vocal Arts return to their old training ground and are joined by current Resident Artists of the prestigious institution for a recital series. Internationally renowned soprano **Latonia Moore** (recently seen in the Metropolitan Opera’s acclaimed production of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*) headlines the recital on Saturday, October 1. *Additional singers and repertoire to be announced.*

Sept. 24 & Oct. 1

Academy of Vocal Arts

*Opera Philadelphia debut



Runtime is approximately 1 hour with no intermission

“Be very careful what you need to know.” So warns the unnamed protagonist of **David T. Little’s** new cinematic opera, *Black Lodge*. This bold, surrealist work blends opera and rock into an alchemical exploration of magic, mystery, regret, and redemption. *Black Lodge* is an inspired and radical reconsideration of the operatic form by one of America’s most prolific and daring composers.

Glam opera band, **Timur & the Dime Museum**, featuring the “stratospheric voice” (*Los Angeles Times*) of front man Timur, alongside musicians from the **Opera Philadelphia Orchestra**, perform live in a World Premiere event that is part film screening and part industrial rock opera concert.



OPERA ON FILM

Celebrate opera on the big screen with a series of feature-length and short-form screenings, including classic opera films, recent cinematic works created for the Opera Philadelphia Channel, panel discussions, and submissions from other dynamic creators around the world. *Titles and schedule to be announced this summer.*

Sept. 27–Oct. 2

Philadelphia Film Center

MUSIC

David T. Little

LIBRETTO

Anne Waldman

STORY & SCREENPLAY

Michael Joseph McQuilken

FILM CAST

Timur

Jennifer Harrison Newman

DIRECTOR

Michael Joseph McQuilken

LIVE PERFORMERS

Timur and the Dime Museum*

Members of the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra

WORLD
PREMIERE

Opera commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects and Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera.

Film commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects, Opera Philadelphia, and the Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera, with additional support provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation, David & Kiki Gindler, Charlotte Isaacs, and Thomas H. Platz.

Major support provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Developed by Beth Morrison Projects and CalArts Center for New Performance.

Produced by Beth Morrison Projects.



Opera Philadelphia CHANNEL



A *Washington Post* “Best of 2021 Classical Music” Pick

“The company’s streaming channel is one of the most successful pandemic pivots among American opera presenters” —*The New Yorker*

“One of the great treasures of the pandemic has been Opera Philadelphia’s digital shorts.” —*The New York Times*

The Opera Philadelphia Channel continues to bring a catalog of cutting-edge films and favorites from our archive to TV screens, mobile devices, and computers around the globe. Discover world premiere commissions from today’s top composers and acclaimed opera films like the GRAMMY®-nominated *Soldier Songs*, *La voix humaine* (starring Patricia Racette), and *Svadba*. The **Reflection & Re-Vision** series looks deeper into the opera genre with lectures and discussions from leading scholars and artists.

The Opera Philadelphia Channel has been made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Disosway Foundation, Inc., and by Wyncote Foundation.



THE NEXT ACT



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Support Opera Philadelphia’s Next Act

On stage and screen, in parks and classrooms, Opera Philadelphia members help make the 2022–2023 Season possible.

Opera Philadelphia is committed to presenting artistic productions of the highest quality while being a fully welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Member support energizes our work and encourages our momentum forward as we return to the stage for the next act.

We invite you to join this community by making a gift to Opera Philadelphia. Throughout the year, members enjoy invitations to behind-the-scenes lectures and events, ticket discounts, and private sales. Thank you!

2022 – 2023 PACKAGES

Save 20% on live performance tickets with a package. Tickets start at \$20.

Interest-free payment plans available.

1

THE ACADEMY SERIES

Pick your favorite seats and keep them year after year.

Includes three live performances: *Otello*, *Carmina Burana*, & *La bohème*

2

OPERA À LA CARTE

Build your perfect package and save 20% on two or more performances.

3

CHANNEL SEASON PASS

Stream the full catalog of opera films and additional programs. Save 50% when purchased with the Academy Series or Opera À La Carte packages.

4

OPERA ON FILM BADGE

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FESTIVAL O22 & SPRING 2023

September/ October 2022	W 21	Th 22	Fri 23	Sa 24	Su 25	M 26	Tu 27	W 28	Th 29	Fri 30	Sa 1	Su 2
Academy of Music Otello			8:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.					8:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.
Merriam Theater The Raven	7:00 p.m.			7:00 p.m.					7:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m.	
Philadelphia Film Center Black Lodge											9:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Academy of Vocal Arts Afternoons at AVA				4:00 p.m.							4:00 p.m.	
Philadelphia Film Center Opera on Film							Schedule to be announced this summer					

February 2023

	Fri 3	Sa 4	Su 5
Academy of Music Carmina Burana	8:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.

April/May 2023

	Fri 28	Sa 29	Su 30	M 1	Tu 2	W 3	Th 4	Fri 5	Sa 6	Su 7
Academy of Music La bohème	8:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.					8:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.

A NOTE ON SAFETY

Opera Philadelphia, in consultation with all venues and taking into consideration the recommendations of public health officials, will create a welcoming live performance environment with enhanced safety protocols when deemed necessary. Please visit operaphila.org/safety for the most up-to-date information.

Seating priority is based on current donor level, number of years as a donor, number of years as a subscriber, package type, and date order is received. Casting, program, schedule, and pricing subject to change without notice. Deposited checks or charges do not guarantee seating availability.



1420 LOCUST STREET, SUITE 210
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102



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