



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 13, 2017

## ***Opera on the Edge* Modernizes Opera Classic**

Columbus, Ohio—Opera Columbus' *Opera on the Edge* brings the opera classic, *Don Giovanni*, to the year 2017 with a fresh and hip *transladaptation* (new translation and adaptation), titled *#UncleJohn*, by opera director, Joel Ivany. The one-hour production is performed in English at Shadowbox Live's Backstage Bistro, The Refectory and Le Meridien Oct. 15 to Nov. 17.

*Opera on the Edge* is designed to provide an introduction to opera for those who have no experience with the art form.

"Ivany transposes Mozart's tumultuous masterpiece to Columbus' funky club scene," said Peggy Kriha Dye, Artistic Director for Opera Columbus. "This smart, sassy and meticulously crafted transladaptation by Ivany is a way to hear Mozart's iconic opera like never before."

According to Kriha Dye, expect modern social platforms like Twitter, Tinder and Facebook to make their way into this classic story of seduction and deceit.

*Opera on The Edge* began in 2012 as a way to engage new audience members to the art form.

### **#UNCLEJOHN PERFORMANCE DATES**

#### **Shadowbox Live Bistro**

Tickets to Shadowbox Live performances are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Shadowbox at 614-416-7625. Reservations are encouraged.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 22 and 29 and Nov. 5 and 12 at 5 p.m.

#### **Refectory Restaurant and Bistro**

Refectory Restaurant reservations are \$95 and include a four-course dinner held in the Choir Loft with a pre-set menu (beverages, tax, and gratuity not included). Seating is limited. Reservations are required by calling 614-451-9774 or visiting [www.refectory.com](http://www.refectory.com).

Saturday, Oct. 21; Thursday, Oct. 26; Thursday, Nov. 9; and Friday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.

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## **Le Meridien Columbus, The Joseph**

Thursday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.

Le Meridien will present #UncleJohn free of charge in its lobby. Advance registration is requested, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unclejohn-in-the-lobby-tickets-38228179514>.

#UncleJohn is directed by Andreas Hager and stars Brian Hupp as the title character, Uncle John, and James Eder as John's nephew, Leporello.

### **Andreas Hager**

Andreas Hager has directed opera, film, and theatre. Recent productions include *La Belle Hélène* (Opera North) *Il matrimonio segreto* (Cincinnati Chamber Opera), and *Matthäus-Passion* (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music). Upcoming engagements include work with Cincinnati Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and Houston Grand Opera. Andreas was a winner of the Opera America Director-Designer Showcase, and is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab.

### **Brian Hupp**

Brian Hupp is active in both Opera and Music Theater. He has worked with Indianapolis Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Opera Columbus, Opera Project Columbus, and Pittsburgh Festival Opera. He has also performed as a soloist with the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, Butler University Chamber Orchestra, Amherst Symphony Orchestra, the Southeastern Ohio Symphony, and Heisey Wind Ensemble.

As part of the 2016-17 season, he completed the Indianapolis Opera Resident Artist Program where he was featured as a soloist in several concerts and special events, and toured throughout the state of Indiana, performing outreach shows to students and the elderly. Other roles last season included Marcello in *La bohème* with Mid-Ohio Opera, Le Dancaïre in *Carmen* with Opera Columbus, and Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls* with Dare 2 Defy Productions. This summer, Brian was an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera where he was seen in productions of *A Little Night Music*, *Billy Budd*, and *Turandot*. He completed his Graduate Level Studies at the Ohio State where he received an MM in Vocal Performance.

### **James Eder**

James Eder has been acclaimed as having a "resonant" voice and being both "laugh-out-loud funny" and "marvelously sinister and threatening." He received a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville studying with Andrew Wentzel and his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from The Ohio State University studying with Robin Rice.

Along with studying at OSU and UT, James spent the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2015 performing with the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center in Brevard, North Carolina. James was a Resident Artist and Cornetti Scholar with Pittsburgh Festival Opera in the summer of 2016 and returned to Opera Columbus that fall as Colline in *Opera on the Edge: La bohème*. In 2017, he returned to Knoxville Opera to perform the roles of

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Alcindoro/Benoit in La Bohème and debuted with the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera as the Bonze in Madama Butterfly. In the summer of 2017, he will be performing the role of Elviro in Pittsburgh Festival

Other notable roles include Don Alfonso in Così fan tutte, The Secret Police Agent in Menotti's The Consul, Collatinus in Benjamin Britten's The Rape of Lucretia, Achilla in Julius Ceasar, Baron Zeta in Franz Lehár's The Merry Widow, Pistola in Falstaff, and Sir Joseph Porter in Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore.

### **About Opera Columbus**

Under the vision of Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus is redefining the concept of regional opera with world-class, original productions that celebrate extraordinary young talent and artistic collaboration, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of art forms. Opera Columbus is currently engaged in a collaboration with the Artist Diploma for Opera Studies (ADOS) program at The Juilliard School which brings exceptional Juilliard ADOS artists to perform in Opera Columbus' mainstage productions. For more information, visit [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org).

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