



For Immediate Release  
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## OPERA COLUMBUS CONTINUES CREATIVE EVOLUTION FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON

(Columbus) – Opera Columbus takes a hard left turn from the conventions of conventional opera with its 2018-2019 season. The company also continues its tradition of local collaboration, featuring one co-commission with a specifically local theme, and one partnership with a genre towards the other end of the musical spectrum. The mainstage season will include three productions in the Southern Theatre:

- Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* (Sept. 28-30), featuring an all-women creative team and a modern, politically conscious interpretation.
- *The Flood* (Feb. 8-10), a world premiere co-commissioned by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, composed by Korine Fujiwara with libretto by Stephen Wadsworth, *The Flood* tells a story of human connection through loss and shared tragedy, centered around the devastation of Columbus’ Franklinton neighborhood in the Great Flood of 1913.
- *Opera Swings Jazz* (Apr. 12-14), a concert collaboration with Jazz Arts Group, combining opera with jazz.

“Gone are the days of formality and unspoken rules,” said General and Artistic Director Peggy Kriha Dye. “We are creating an open, innovative, fun, and unexpected form of opera entertainment that reflects the young, vibrant city in which we live and play.”

The all-new production of *Madama Butterfly* will be helmed by acclaimed director **Crystal Manich**, her fifth collaboration with Opera Columbus. She has been hailed by the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other major publications for “lively” and “imaginative staging.” Her work spans across international borders including Pinchgut Opera in Australia and Buenos Aires Lírica in Argentina. U.S. credits include more than 50 productions with The Kennedy Center, Pittsburgh Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, and others.

Following the classic *Madama Butterfly*, Opera Columbus turns its attention to the local. In the company’s first-ever collaboration with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra on *The Flood*, a “chamber opera” about the Ohio Flood of 1913 and its lasting effects -- the legacy of trauma and how it is passed down through generations. All the stories take place in Columbus, a city whose low-lying, riverbank community Franklinton, the downtown neighborhood directly to the west of the Scioto River, was destroyed in the flood.

Opera Columbus continues to tweak convention and embrace collaboration with its final production of the season, *Opera Swings Jazz*. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, featuring Artistic Director and renowned trumpeter Byron Stripling, joins artistic forces with Opera Columbus for a fun, non-traditional and lively production.

The 2018-2019 Opera Columbus season wholly reflects the company’s new brand, “Opera Columbus—Make it Yours”.

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“Tweet, hoot, clap, and enjoy the shows in your own personal way,” said Kriha Dye. “Dress as you like and express yourself without the restrictions of traditional propriety – no one will judge you.”

Opera Columbus’ main stage productions for the 2018-2019 season include:

***Puccini’s Madama Butterfly***

**Friday, September 28, 2018, 7:30pm**

**Sunday, September 30, 2018, 2pm**

**Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)**

Crystal Manich, Director  
Court Watson, Set and Costume Designer

Daniel Montenegro

Eric McKeever

Hester Warren-Steijn, Stage Manager

Janer Szepei Todd

Kathy Kelly, Conductor

Susan Van Pelt Petry, Choreographer

Tlaloc Lopez-Watermann, Lighting Designer

Zoie Reems

\*\* Opera Columbus produces its updated and socially conscious version of an all-time classic. The title character of *Madama Butterfly*—a young Japanese geisha who clings to the belief that her arrangement with a visiting American naval officer is a loving and permanent marriage—is one of the defining roles in opera. The story triggers ideas about cultural and sexual imperialism for people far removed from the opera house. The lyric beauty of Puccini’s score, especially the music for the thoroughly believable lead role, has made *Butterfly* timeless.

***The Flood***

**Friday, February 8, 2019, 7:30pm**

**Saturday, April 9, 2019 7:30pm**

**Sunday, February 10, 2019, 2pm**

**Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)**

Stephen Wadsworth, Director and Librettist

Korine Fujiwara, Composer

Columbus ProMusica Chamber Orchestra

Steven Osgood, Conductor

Anita Yavich, Costume Designer

Amanda Bottoms

Charles Corcoran, Set Designer

Kevin Deas

Lacey Jo Benter

Naomi O’Connell

Samuel Levine

Syzmon Komasa

\*\* Opera Columbus joins forces with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra to tell the original story of a natural disaster that affected the lives of Columbus residents for generations. The Flood of 1913 decimated the community of Franklinton, the downtown neighborhood directly to the west of the Scioto River. The production explores the incident and this monumental piece of Central Ohio history as it shaped the lives of one impacted family.

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***Opera Swings Jazz***

**Friday, April 12, 2019, 7:30pm**

**Sunday, April 14, 2019, 2pm**

**Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)**

The Columbus Jazz Arts Group featuring Byron Stripling

Adelaide Boedecker

Calvin Griffin

DeMeeshia Marshall

Miles Mykkanen

\*\* An upbeat and innovative fusion of opera and jazz is the centerpiece of this concert, featuring Opera Columbus' first collaboration with Byron Stripling and the Columbus Jazz Arts Group.

Friday evening or Sunday afternoon subscriptions range from \$69-\$249 per person and are on sale now. Season subscriptions can be purchased at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), by phone at (614) 469-0939, or online at [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org). Individual tickets can be purchased at a later date.

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Support for Opera Columbus' 2018-19 season is provided by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, The Columbus Performing Arts Prize, Nationwide, and Cardinal Health.

**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).