



Embargo until March 8, 2019

For Immediate Release
March 8, 2019

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OPERA COLUMBUS ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 SEASON THAT INSPIRES CONVERSATION, INTEGRATES ART DISCIPLINES AND IGNITES EMOTIONS

(Columbus) – Opera Columbus continues to reinvent opera during its 2019-2020 season with productions that celebrate partnerships, provoke thought, and modernize the genre while encouraging all of its patrons to “make it yours” during the company’s 38th season.

Twisted 3, Sept. 26-29, 2019: Columbus’ flagship performing arts organizations, BalletMet, CAPA, Columbus Symphony, and Opera Columbus, reunite for this multi-disciplinary celebration of the performing arts. *Twisted 3* delivers masterful choreography, lively classical works, and acclaimed operatics. Our part will include an abbreviated version of Puccini’s ***Gianni Schicchi***, a comic, one-act opera sung in Italian. This collaboration only happens every couple of years – you don’t want to miss it.

As One, Nov. 8 and 10, 2019: A compelling and thought-provoking story about Hannah, a transgender woman, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world. *As One* is a celebration of the human character revealed through drama, music, and film.

The Barber of Seville, Feb. 14 and 16, 2020: Figaro, Figaro, Figaro! These three words are recognizable to even those who have never heard of this classic production. This brilliant comedy will be moved from 1880s Seville, Spain to the 1990s in Seville, Florida. There will be a glitter beard contest, a live haircut, and drinks will be served by members of the cast. Intrigued?

The Poppea Project, April 22-26, 2020: This co-production with the Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, in partnership with Fashion Week Columbus and BalletMet 2, is set among three galleries of the Pizzuti Collection of CMA. Performers wearing custom couture glide between all three floors of the galleries (especially curated for this show), while interacting with you, the patron. Masks, handed out upon entrance, add an element of mystery, allowing guests to be part of the production.

“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.”

“As our motto says, ‘make it yours’...dress as you like and express yourself without the restrictions of traditional propriety – no one will judge you,” said Kriha Dye. “

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Season subscriptions begin at \$72. Subscribers receive special benefits including discounted pricing, invitations to special events, and discounted tickets to the 2020 Cooper-Bing Competition, an internationally-recognized vocal competition that engages young operatic talent from all over the world to compete for top prize of \$10,000. Season subscriptions go on sale on March 8 and single ticket sales begin May 6. To purchase and for additional information, contact the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State Street), or by phone at (614) 469-0939.

Support for Opera Columbus' 2019-2020 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 General and 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. Opera Columbus' Opera Goes to School program reaches more than 13,000 students each year, and its community engagement programs serve the community each season with multiple productions infusing local artists. In addition, Opera Columbus' annual Cooper-Bing Competition draws top vocalists from around the world to Columbus to compete for a grand prize of \$10,000. Opera Columbus and Capital University have also announced a new One of a Kind partnership with the launch of the Opera Columbus Capital University Resident Artist Program. For more information, visit www.OperaColumbus.org.

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Twisted 3, Gianni Schicchi by Puccini

Sept. 26- 29, 2019

Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, Columbus, OH 43215

Collaboration with BalletMet, CAPA, and Columbus Symphony

Columbus' flagship performing arts organizations will reunite for the highly anticipated *Twisted 3*. BalletMet, CAPA, Columbus Symphony and Opera Columbus will collaborate to create an experience unlike any other. Featuring local artists.

- Director – Josh Shaw
- Conductor – Kathleen Kelly
- Gianni Schicchi – Robert Kerr
- Laretta – Keyona Willis
- Zita – Emily Spencer
- Rinuccio – John David Nevergall
- Gherardo – Benjamin Bunsold
- Nella – Kate Merryman
- Betto of Signa – Eric McKeever
- Simone – Brian Banion
- Marco – Jeff MacMullen
- La Ciesca – Karolyn Lee Gholston
- Ser Amanrio di Nicolao – Adam Cioffari
- Pinellino – Justin T. Swain (Fields)

As One

November 8 and 10, 2019

Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)

Music and Concept by Laura Kaminsky

Libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed

Film by Kimberly Reed

Carpe Diem String Quartet

A compelling and thought-provoking story about a transgender woman named Hannah, as she endeavors to resolve the discord between herself and the outside world.

- Director – Matthew Gray
- Conductor – Alexandra Enyart
- Hannah Before – Michael Kelly
- Hannah After – Blythe Gaissert

The Barber of Seville by Rossini

February 14 and 16, 2020

Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)

Comedy – Seville Florida, 1990's

Featuring Juilliard Artists

Capital University Chorus

The Barber of Seville contains some of the most recognizable opera moments ever (Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!). In our modern twist, see it set in 1990s Seville, Florida, complete with prefab houses, neon colors, boybands and teenage dreams.

- Director – Mary Birnbaum
- Conductor – Viswa Subbaraman
- Figaro – Xiaomeng Zhang

The Poppea Project by Monteverdi (season add on)

April 22-26, 2020

Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art

Baroque Opera

BalletMet2

Fashion Week Columbus

Set among three galleries of the Pizzuti Collection of CMA, performers wearing custom couture glide between the galleries especially curated for this show. You become a voyeur, safely hidden behind your mask as you witness dramatic scenes of sex, betrayal, death and power.

- Director – Peggy Kriha Dye
- Pizzuti Family Curator of Contemporary Art – Tyler Cann
- Conductor – Kelly Kuo
- Choreographer – Edwaard Liang
- Wardrobe Design – Gerardo Encinas
- Nero – Mireille Lebel
- Poppea – Mireille Asselin
- Ottavia – Tesia Kwarteng
- Seneca – Alex Rosen
- Arnalta/Lucano – Kevin Skelton