



For Immediate Release  
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## **INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVITY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OPERA COLUMBUS' 2020-2021 SEASON**

(Columbus, OH) – Opera Columbus continues to reinvent opera during its 2020-2021 season with presenting opera productions as more innovative and accessible, while exploring new venues and collaborations for the 39<sup>th</sup> season.

“It has been an interesting time for Opera Columbus and arts organization across the globe,” said Peggy Kriha Dye, General Director + CEO for Opera Columbus. “We will warm up to the season with a few, intimate gatherings before we present our first performance in Jan. with Ryan Speedo Green who shares his personal journey and the power of art.”

### **Season Kick-off Party**

November 12, 2020  
400 West Rich

Join us at cocktail hour for pizza and beer to kick off the 2020-2021 season! Get a sneak peek of Opera Columbus' new season and the innovative location behind La Bohème as we celebrate artists.

### **Drinks and Drag Holiday Party**

December 17, 2020  
Stonewall, Short North

Celebrate the holidays in style with Opera Columbus

### **Opera Columbus Asks...*How can the arts help us heal?***

January 12, 2021

Luncheon, Lincoln Theatre Ballroom

Opera Columbus Asks: *How can the arts heal our community?* This luncheon will investigate the healing power of music and the arts.

### **Opera Columbus Annual Gala**

March 11, 2021

A glamorous evening of opera and elegance! Opera Columbus celebrates the season with dramatic flair at our annual Gala.

### **Boozy Brunch**

May 16, 2021

Join us for a Boozy Brunch before our annual vocal competition. Grab a mimosa and some delicious food, and join in the conversation hosted by some of our board members.

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### **Ryan Speedo Green**

January 15, 2021

Lincoln Theatre

At age 12, Ryan Speedo Green was locked up in Virginia's juvenile institution of last resort. At age 24, he was on stage at the Metropolitan Opera, competing in the Met's annual contest to find the most promising young singers in the nation. The story of Green's journey will be told in song, in dramatic reading and in conversation between Green and Daniel Bergner, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Sing for Your Life*. It's a spectacular narrative about the power of art and the possibility of transforming how we think about race in America.

*This performance is graciously underwritten by Johanna DeStefano.*

### **La Bohème**

February 11-14, 19+21, 2021

400 West Rich

*Six bohemians share a story of hardship, agony, love, and creative resilience, raising a toast to happier times!*  
An innovative and completely new production that reimagines Puccini's popular and beloved opera. The sound is *La Bohème* and the look is *Rent*. The shows will be performed with orchestra in Franklinton's 400 West Rich, a 100 year-old warehouse that has been converted into creative arts space. There will be a pre-show gallery hop with 400 West Rich artists. *La Bohème @ 400 West Rich* will be performed over two weekends with six total performances.

*Made possible by PNC Arts Alive, additional support by Ohio Arts Council.*

### **Don Giovanni**

April 30 + May 2, 2021

Southern Theatre

Mozart's masterpiece *Don Giovanni* is considered one of the greatest operas ever written. Based on the story of the sexually promiscuous and morally vacant Don Juan, this is a brilliant mix of comedy, melodrama, and demons from hell. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, this production will feature the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in all the grandeur of opera.

### **Cooper-Bing Competition**

May 16, 2021

Southern Theatre

This internationally-recognized vocal competition engages impressive young operatic talent from all over the world. The Cooper-Bing Competition aims to encourage emerging artists and celebrate the next generation of opera stars. Join us and cast your vote as singers compete for a top prize of \$10,000!

"By addressing collaborations, new performance venues and amazing talent, Opera Columbus is making our voices heard during our 39<sup>th</sup> season," said Kriha Dye.

Season subscriptions (*Ryan Speedo Green*, *La Bohème* and *Don Giovanni*) are available for \$99- \$199 beginning August 3, 2020 by contacting the CBUSArts Ticket Center at [tickets@cbusarts.com](mailto:tickets@cbusarts.com) OR by visiting [www.operacolumbus.org](http://www.operacolumbus.org). Single ticket sales begin on September 7, 2020.

## **About Opera Columbus**

Under the vision of General Director + CEO Peggy Kriha Dye, Opera Columbus is redefining the concept of regional opera with world-class productions that celebrate extraordinary talent and artistic partnerships, engaging a new, diverse audience for this most magnificent of artforms. From groundbreaking collaborations to innovative and breathtaking productions, Opera Columbus is passionate about creating artistic moments for each and every patron. Opera Columbus' slogan, "Make It Yours," demonstrates the company's commitment to inclusivity, and invites everyone in the community to join with us. For more information, visit [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org), Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus), Instagram: [Opera.Columbus](https://www.instagram.com/Opera.Columbus) or Twitter: [@OperaColumbus](https://twitter.com/OperaColumbus).

Support for Opera Columbus' 2019-2020 season is provided by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide, Cardinal Health, Cult Marketing, Residence Inn by Marriott, and Voice Center, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.

*\*In the event of COVID-related restrictions being in place, the alternative dates for La Bohème will be May 20-29, 2021*

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