



Opera  
Columbus

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### **A Re-Imagined *Traviata* Invites the Audience to the Party**

David Lefkowich's Take on the Verdi Classic Debuts During 40 Days of Opera

In one of the most well-known and well-loved melodies in opera, the hopelessly romantic Alfredo raises a toast to his beloved, free-spirited Violetta. In a new production from Out of the Box Opera (Minneapolis) and Opera Columbus helmed by stage director David Lefkowich and General Director Julia Noulín-Mérat, audience members, too, will be guests at Violetta's party. Operagoers will get to experience each act in an intimate and up-close setting with a chamber orchestra.

Known for immersive productions that audiences in the middle of the action, Lefkowich and Noulín-Mérat have had great success creating new experiences for operagoers. "My passion is bringing opera closer to the audience. There's an excitement in the audience when the action is happening all around them that you don't get from more traditional staging," says Lefkowich.

Audiences at this *Traviata* will be able to experience Verdi's classic in a new way that eschews linear scene work for a more relatable, character-driven story. Lefkowich's production follows three sopranos, each portraying a different side of Violetta. "Musically, Violetta has three different voices, and the singing differs greatly from one act to another. To highlight her growth and transformation throughout the story, we have three phenomenally talented, very different artists who will really dig deep into Violetta's biggest moments in the piece."

Violetta will be performed by Alexandra Razskazoff (winner, 2022 Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition), Act one; Bizhou Chang (*La Bohème* film, Opera Columbus), Act two; and Meroe Adeeb Tchomobe (Glimmerglass Festival, Columbus Symphony), Act three. Benjamin Dutcher makes his Opera Columbus debut as Alfredo Germont, with Paul La Rosa (Lyric Opera of Chicago) as Giorgio Germont.

"We are so excited to collaborate with David [Lefkowich] and Out of the Box Opera on this thrilling new production of a truly timeless opera," says Opera Columbus General Director + CEO Julia Noulín-Mérat. "*La Traviata* is a perfect fit for the 40 Days of Opera festival, bringing the Columbus community into the opera experience in a new way, where they are a part of the adventure, with a fascinating new take on this gorgeous

piece. I am also thrilled to be partnering with the Residence Inn and to shine the light on such a great hotel at the heart of Columbus”

*La Traviata* will be presented at the Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown Columbus on Gay Street from Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5. Performances are general admission and require moderate walking as the audience immerses itself in the production. Ticket prices range from \$60 - \$100, with VIP tickets including a drink voucher and post-show reception with the cast. *La traviata* will be performed in English.

*40 Days of Opera* and *La Traviata* are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and PNC Arts Alive. Visit <https://www.operacolumbus.org/la-traviata/> for additional information and tickets.

**CAST & CREATIVE:** Alexandra Razskazoff, Violetta 1, Bizhou Chang, Violetta 2; Meroe Khalia Adeeb, Violetta 3; Benjamin Dutcher, Alfredo Germont, Chalie Aldrich, Gastone; Paul La Rosa, Giorgio Germont; Victoria Okafor, Flora BErvoix; Emily Cottam, Annina; Hidenori Inoue, Dottore Grenvil; Miguel Pedroza, Marchese d’Obigny. Brian DeMaris, music conductor; David Lefkowich, stage director.

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## About Opera Columbus

Under the vision of General Director + CEO Julia Noulín-Mérat, Opera Columbus is redefining and reimagining 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 art forms. From groundbreaking collaborations to innovative and breathtaking productions, Opera Columbus is passionate about creating artistic moments for each and every patron. Opera Columbus’s 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 or Twitter: @OperaColumbus

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