



Opera  
Columbus

*presents*



# **CINDERELLA**

## **LA CENERENTOLA**

**OCTOBER 28+30, 2022**  
*at the* **SOUTHERN THEATRE**



## DEAR FRIENDS,

What a moment to be gathered here, experiencing opera together in person, some of us for the first time! Welcome to the Southern Theatre! What an exciting 41st season we are having, on the heels of an amazing 40th Anniversary with the 40 Days of Opera as our capstone. Thank you! Opera Columbus is no ordinary opera company and we have you to thank for it.

Charm is a quality in short supply in our society these days. When we encounter it, invariably it strikes us as a breath of fresh air. That's one of the many reasons that I'm so delighted by our production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. This irresistible work exudes charm while making us smile, dazzling our eyes and ears, and enriching our hearts. The opera was written by a true man of the theater who knew exactly how to please audiences. Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (or *Cinderella*) is one of the most popular comic operas in the classical repertoire – the timeless fairy tale about the triumph of virtue over snobbery. For this season, we have selected titles that offer great musical experiences ranging from comedy to high drama, as we strive to offer a wide range of operatic repertoire that touches all aspects of the human condition; this one is clearly no exception.

All of us at OC are thrilled to present *La Cenerentola* in a particularly memorable production. *Cenerentola*, like all Rossini's opera buffas, requires an orchestral performance (like a Ferrari) that can shift gears smoothly; a cast of singers whose distinct vocal ranges and coloratura technique can shine in solos, duets, and the most intricately interwoven ensembles. And it needs a director who can blend farce and frenzy with sensitivity and tenderness. Inspired by the wonderful tale by Charles Perrault, musically led by Kelly Kuo, and reset in 1950's Newport Rhode Island with the aesthetics of Audrey Hepburn's film *Sabrina* and the comedic timing of *I Love Lucy*, stage director Richard Gammon has brought to this unique cocktail of wit and romance every bit of the theatrical wizardry that has made him one of today's great geniuses of ensemble opera.

OC is so grateful to have such rich and enthusiastic artistic partners, like CAPA, Capital University Opera and Musical Theater, Columbus Fashion Week, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus Symphony, Festival Latino, ProMusica, and The Ohio State University Opera and Musical Theater. We are also delighted by the generous community, corporate, foundation, and individual support that has lifted Opera Columbus to a level we can all be proud of. We would be very grateful to have you be a part of Opera Columbus' family of donors. All of the arts face many challenges these days, but the performing arts have been hit particularly hard, and this year's Season Campaign is our way to keep opera thriving in our community. Both subscribing and contributing ensure the Opera's ongoing commitment to excellence. It is great to have you as a member of the Opera Columbus family.

The eagerly awaited return of La Cenerentola to Opera Columbus is a very special moment for our company, and we're delighted that you're here to share it with us. Have a drink, laugh, and enjoy the show! And when the curtain falls and the ovations fade, it warms our hearts to think of all those little Cinderellas heading home with smiles on their faces after their night at the ball.

Sincerely,



**Julia Noulín-Mérat,**  
*Opera Columbus General Director + CEO*



## FROM OPERA COLUMBUS

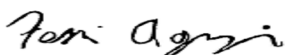
Thank you for joining us for La Cenerentola! Our all-women design team has taken a more modern approach to Rossini's beloved classic. At Opera Columbus, we seek to offer our audience diverse programming, both traditional and contemporary opera, reflective of today's issues and our community. The production you are about to see is a great example of this.

I hope you will join us for the rest of our powerful season, including Maria de Buenos Aires on February 24 & 26, and Rigoletto at the Ohio Theatre. We encourage you to return to the Southern Theatre, April 30 for the Cooper-Bing Vocal Competition, which engages impressive young operatic talent from all over the world. Last season we received 270 applications from Greece, Korea, and Mexico, to name a few. Please join us for an afternoon of incredible singers as they compete for a top prize of \$10,000 and cast your vote for your favorite!

Get your season subscription to ensure you don't miss any of these exceptional productions! Please visit [OperaColumbus.org](http://OperaColumbus.org) for more information.

Enjoy this beautiful masterpiece and thank you for all the ways you support Opera Columbus!

Sincerely,



**Femi Adeyanju, President**  
*Opera Columbus Board of Trustees*

*Opera Columbus Presents...*

# CIN DER ELLA

Opera composed by **Gioachino Rossini**.  
Libretto by **Jacopo Ferretti**.

## **CAST**

Angelina	<b>Sofia Selowsky *</b>
Don Ramiro	<b>Benjamin Lee *</b>
Dandini	<b>Gideon Dabi *</b>
Don Magnifico	<b>Cody Müller *</b>
Alidoro	<b>Artega Wright</b>
Clorinda	<b>Michelle Trainor *</b>
Tisbe	<b>Ivy Zhou</b>

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

<b>Richard Gammon</b> Director	<b>Kelly Kuo</b> Conductor
<b>Jason Hiester</b> Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor	<b>Sarah Dahnke</b> CRANE Directing Fellow

Set in mid-century modern town of Newport, Rhode Island.

Performance time is approximately two hours and twenty minutes  
with one intermission.

*Titles Underwritten by Dick and Ruth McNeal Fund  
of the Columbus Foundation*

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Set Designer .....	Julia Noulín-Mérat
Costume Designer .....	Jen Caprio
Lighting Designer .....	Kaitlyn Breen
Hair + Makeup Designer .....	Erica Stewart
Titles Creator .....	Alex Lynch
Stage Manager .....	Kimberley S. Prescott
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Becky Barger-Amato
Assistant Stage Manager .....	KatieAnn Bonavita
Rehearsal ASM .....	Jasmine “Jaz” Nappier
Rehearsal Pianist .....	Ed Bak
Musical Contractor .....	Robert Breithaupt
Facilities + Transportation Manager .....	Patrick McGovern
Surtitle Operator .....	Jenna Allen

*The scenery and costumes for this production are jointly produced and owned by Tri-Cities Opera, Annapolis Opera Company, and Opera Columbus.*

*La Cenerentola was originally directed by David Lefkowich.*

## CHORUS MEMBERS

Jake Itzhak Bavarsky  
Joshua Cook  
Doug Davis

Billy Edwards  
Ryan Patrick Jones  
Michael Kirkman

Ryan Kopycinsky  
Thomas W. Stevenson  
Austin Wood

## SUPERS

KatieAnn Bonavita  
Cari Brackett

Jessica Kapusta  
Natalie Keller Pariano

Mackenzie Leland  
Ainsley Savage

## ORCHESTRA

### VIOLIN

Anita Chiu

### VIOLIN I

Shang-Yi Chen  
Elaine Swinney

### VIOLIN II

Douglas Locke  
Dylan Firlie

### VIOLA

Vanessa Ripley  
Alexandar Locke

### CELLO

Cora Kuyvenhoven  
Mary Shelton Davis

### BASS

Gary Wasserman

### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Lisa Jelle

### CLARINET

Brent Eresman

### OBOE

Brad Walsh

### BASSOON

Jesse Schartz

### HORN

Kim McCann  
Jocelyn Standley

### TRUMPET

Lance Witty

### TIMPANI + PERCUSSION

Ryan Kilgore

Robert Breithaupt, *Musical Contractor*

# LA CENERENTOLA

## SYNOPSIS

### **ACT ONE**

Clorinda and Tisbe, daughters of Don Magnifico, are in the middle of one of their usual arguments. Their stepsister Angelina, who is called Cinderella and serves as the family maid, sings her favorite song, about a king who married a common girl. Courtiers announce that Prince Ramiro will soon pay a visit: he is looking for the most beautiful girl in the land and will hold ball to choose his bride. Ramiro enters alone, dressed in his servant's clothes so he can freely observe the prospective brides. Cinderella returns, and the two are immediately attracted to each other. Then, the "prince" arrives—in fact Ramiro's valet, Dandini, in disguise. He invites Magnifico, Tisbe and Clorinda to the ball. Cinderella asks to be taken along but Magnifico refuses. At the ball Alidoro enters with a beautiful unknown lady who, strangely, resembles Cinderella.

### **ACT TWO**

Magnifico fears that the arrival of the stranger could ruin his daughters' chances to marry the prince. Cinderella tells Dandini that she is in love with his servant. Ramiro is overjoyed and steps forward. Cinderella, however, tells him that she will return home and does not want him to follow her. If he really cares for her, she says, he will find her. During a thunderstorm, Alidoro arranges for Ramiro's carriage to break down in front of Magnifico's mansion so that the prince has to take refuge inside. Cinderella and Ramiro recognize each other. Ramiro threatens Magnifico and his daughters, but Cinderella asks him to forgive them. At the prince's palace, Ramiro and Cinderella celebrate their wedding. Magnifico tries to win the favor of the new princess, but she asks only to be acknowledged at last as his daughter. Born to misfortune, she has seen her life change and declares that the days of sitting by the fire are over.

## PRINCIPALS



### **Sofia Selowsky\*** as Angelina

What would be your character's favorite song in 2022?  
***"Break My Soul" by Beyonce, because she's a survivor!***



### **Benjamin Lee\*** as Don Ramiro

Who was your favorite princess growing up?  
***Mulan. I am Korean-American, not Chinese like Mulan - but that kind of representation still matters!***



### **Gideon Dabi\*** as Dandini

What is your favorite scene of Cinderella?  
***Cinderella's first appearance at the palace***



### **Cody Müller\*** as Don Magnifico

What would be your character's favorite song in 2022?  
***"Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish***



### **Artega Wright** as Alidoro

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?  
***I love Rocky Road and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough***



### **Michelle Trainor\*** as Clorinda

What is your go-to karaoke song?  
***"Running Up That Hill" by Kate Bush***



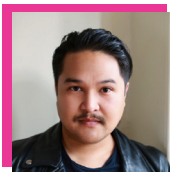
### **Ivy Zhou** as Tisbe

What do you love about performing in opera?  
***I love stepping into someone else's shoes, and getting paid to travel and play!***

\* Opera Columbus Debut



## CREATIVES



**Richard Gammon,\*** *Director*

Do you have a hidden talent?

***Yes - I cook really good soups.***



**Kelly Kuo,** *Conductor*

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

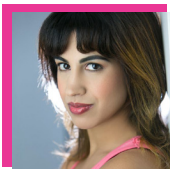
***Graeter's Black Raspberry Chip (Go Cincinnati!)***



**Jason Hiester,** *Chorus Master + Assistant Music Director*

What do you love about opera?

***Live acting, singing and drama!***



**Sarah Dahnke,\*** *Crane Directing Fellow*

What is your go-to karaoke song?

***"I Wanna Dance With Somebody" by Whitney Houston***



**Julia Noulin-Mérat,** *Set Designer*

What is your go-to karaoke song?

***"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper***



**Jen Caprio,** *Costume Designer*

What is your favorite scene in *La Cenerentola*?

***When they ride the vespa!***



**Kaitlyn Breen,\*** *Lighting Designer*

Who was your favorite princess growing up?

***Cinderella***



## CREATIVES + PRODUCTION TEAM



**Erica Stewart**, Hair + Makeup Designer

Who was your favorite princess growing up?

***My favorite princess is Ariel, The Little Mermaid.***



**Kimberley S. Prescott**, Stage Manager

What is your favorite scene in *La Cenerentola*?

***My favorite scene is when the step-sisters realize that it's their step-sister is becoming the wife of the Prince. They are shocked and expect Cinderella to be mean to them, but instead Cinderella is kind to them.***



**Becky Barger-Amato**, Assistant Stage Manager

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

***My favorite is Ben and Jerry's Chunky Monkey***



**KatieAnn Bonavita**, Assistant Stage Manager

What is your go-to karaoke song?

***Anything from "Into The Woods"!***



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our donor list next season?**

**Make a gift while you're waiting for  
the show to start!**

*Donations like yours make up 80% of  
Opera Columbus' annual revenue.*

*We can't do it without you.*

### THANK YOU!

Brandon Kim, MD, Development Chair  
Bob Philips, Development Co-Chair  
Opera Columbus Board of Trustees

## CHORUS



**Jake Itzhak Bavarsky**



**Joshua Cook**



**Doug Davis**



**Billy Edwards**



**Ryan Patrick Jones**



**Michael Kirkman**



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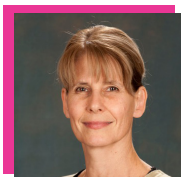


**Austin Wood**

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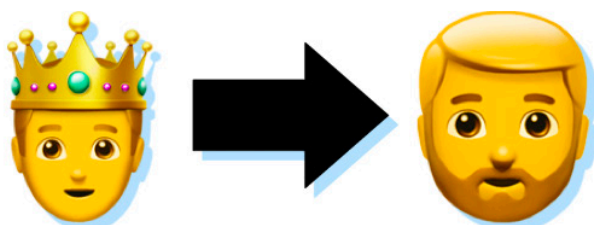


**Mackenzie Leland**



**Ainsley Savage**

# THE STORY OF **LA CENERENTOLA** IN EMOJIS



# ROYAL MAD LIB

Once upon a time...

There was a young country girl who dreamed of marrying a prince! One \_\_\_\_\_ day, she  
*temperature*  
got a letter inviting her to a \_\_\_\_\_ ball.  
*adjective*  
She was to \_\_\_\_\_ to attend. She \_\_\_\_\_  
*emotion* *adverb*  
began getting ready. She tried on \_\_\_\_\_  
*number*  
different gowns. Her favorite cost \_\_\_\_\_  
*number*  
dollars. But, luckily it was on sale, so she only  
had to pay \_\_\_\_\_ dollars. It was \_\_\_\_\_  
*number* *color*  
and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ buttons  
*color* *number*  
and \_\_\_\_\_ bows. She already felt like a  
*number*  
\_\_\_\_\_ princess when she put it on. She  
*adjective*  
found matching \_\_\_\_\_ slippers to wear  
*material*  
with it. On the night of the ball, the \_\_\_\_\_  
*adjective*  
prince fell in love with her.

And they lived \_\_\_\_\_ ever after!  
*adjective*

# *Cinderella* Disney vs Opera

## THE WICKED STEP PARENTS

### DISNEY

There is a wicked stepmother.

### OPERA

There is a wicked stepfather who is cruel to Cinderella.

## NO MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION

### DISNEY

Cinderella is transformed into a princess by her fairy godmother.

### OPERA

The prince disguises himself as a servant to find a woman who will love him as he is.

## NO GLASS SLIPPERS

### DISNEY

The prince finds Cinderella with her lost glass slipper.

### OPERA

Cinderella gives the prince a bracelet, and tells him that if he really loves her he will find her.

## MORAL OF THE STORY

### DISNEY

Cinderella lives happily ever after with her prince.

### OPERA

Cinderella falls in love. But more importantly, she extends forgiveness and love to those who wronged her.

# HELP CINDERELLA GET TO THE PALACE!



# LEARN THE ABCs of OPERA

**Acts** Portions of an opera, designed by the composer and separated by breaks

**Aria** A vocal solo used to express feelings or comment on an action

**Bravo** Italian for “well done”

**Choreography** A dance or making of a dance

**Chorus** A group of singers, usually divided into sopranos, altos, tenors and basses

**Composer** The person who writes the music of an opera or a musical piece

**Conductor** The musical director of the orchestra

**Director** The person who tells the performers how to move on stage, and what should be conveyed to the audience

**Libretto** The text of an opera

**Orchestra** The group of instrumentalists that performs the music of an opera

**Score** The written notation of a musical piece that the conductor uses to see what each musician should be playing or singing

**Set** The background furnishing on the stage

**Supertitles** The translated words of an opera that are projected on a screen above and on either side of the stage



# THEATRE ETIQUETTE

**HAVE FUN** - that's why you are here, right?!

## **LAUGH, CRY AND CLAP**

Opera is emotional, so we encourage you to get into it!

At the end of the opera, try yelling “BRAVO” (that is opera language for “well-done”)

**SAVE THE CHATTER** for after the show, please.

**TURN OFF YOUR PHONE.** That incoming text message may ruin the magic for you and your neighbors.

## **PLEASE COME AGAIN!**

If you enjoy your visit, why not discover more ways to get involved here at Opera Columbus? We would love to see you again!



**You can also experience Cinderella in your school  
with OPERA IN A DROPBOX!**

This FREE virtual program, accompanied by musical tracks with a lead character hosting the show encourages students to develop their acting skills.

For more information, visit: [operacolumbus.org/cinderelladropbox](https://operacolumbus.org/cinderelladropbox)

# What is OPERA COLUMBUS?

The mission of Opera Columbus is to advance the experience and art of opera.

Opera Columbus serves over 13,000 students each spring through our education program.

Opera Columbus is run by a team of all women!

Opera Columbus partners with organizations around Columbus, including COSI, COTA, and more!

Upcoming show *Maria de Buenos Aires* is the first Spanish opera to be performed in Columbus

Upcoming show *Rigoletto* will be performed in grand-scale collaboration with the Columbus Symphony

Opera Columbus hosts an annual internationally-recognized vocal competition every year: The Cooper-Bing Competition.

# I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE...

*Can you spot these items onstage during the show?*

Cinderella's  
Bracelet

---

Waffle  
Maker

---

Red  
Vespa

---

Tennis  
Racket

---

A Fan

---

Conductor

---

Red  
TV

---

Pink  
Dress

---

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# SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

*Snap a picture and tag us!*

**#CinderellaOC #MakeltYours #OperaCbus**

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*Join the Movement*



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Opera Columbus



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