



For Immediate Release
Jan. 22, 2024

Contact: Lydia Weyrich
lydia@irvinpr.com, 740-398-4377

Opera Columbus Brings *Eugene Onegin* to the Stage for the First Time in Columbus' History

Columbus, OH — Opera Columbus and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with CAPA will kick off March with *Eugene Onegin*, an opera that has never before been brought to the Columbus stage. Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* will be at the Ohio Theatre on March 1 + 2 at 7:30 p.m. on both days.

Regarded as his greatest opera, the iconic Tchaikovsky production will be stage directed by Rosetta Cucchi and music directed by the Columbus Symphony's Rossen Milanov. The production follows Tatyana as she bares her soul to Eugene, who coldly rejects her and flirts with her sister, resulting in a deadly game of Russian roulette. *Eugene Onegin* is renowned for its sweeping melodic pulse and the tremendous emotional punch. The work is based on Pushkin's famed novel and verse.

"It's an exciting time to be producing opera on this scale and to be drawing on such artistic forces" said Julia Noulin-Mérat, Opera Columbus' general director + CEO. "We are so thrilled to bring it to life for the first time in Columbus alongside our friends at the Columbus Symphony and CAPA. Our audience has been hungry for such a memorable performance."

Lydia Grindatto will lead the cast as Tatyana, with Morgan Smith as Eugene Onegin, Dane Suarez as Vladimir Lensky, and Hilary Ginther as Olga Larina. Known for her Tatyana, Grindatto is currently a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts and performs frequently with Opera Southwest. Smith is no stranger to Ohio and has been seen most recently at the Cincinnati Opera in addition to The Metropolitan Opera in New York. Rosetta Cucchi who recently directed *Adriana Lecouvreur* at Sydney Opera House, a coveted international Italian stage director and the artistic director of Wexford Opera Festival in Ireland, will be making her Columbus debut.

"If you love The Nutcracker or Swan Lake music, you will love this masterpiece," said Daniel Walshaw, Columbus Symphony's Chief Operating Officer. "Eugene Onegin is a stunning production both visually and musically."

Eugene Onegin will be presented at the Ohio Theatre (39 E State St.) on March 1 + 2 at 7:30 p.m. Performances will last two hours with one 30-minute intermission, and will be sung in the original language with English supertitles. Ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$108.00. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.operacolumbus.org/eugene/.

###

Cast + Creatives



Lydia Grindatto as Tatyana Larina; Morgan Smith as Eugene Onegin; Dane Suarez as Vladimir Lensky; Hilary Ginther as Olga Larina; Anastasiia Sidorova as Filippyevna; Mariya Kaganskaya as Madame Larina; Darren Templeton as Price Gremin; Artega Wright as Zaretski; Steven Cole as Monsieur Triquet; Krista Lively Stauffer as Wiser Tatyana

Rosetta Cucchi, director; Rossen Milanov, conductor; Brandon Shaw McKnight, CRANE Directing Fellow; Julia Noulin-Mérat, set designer; Neil Fortin, costume designer; Benjamin Pilat, lighting designer; Ronell Oliveri, wigs, hair, and makeup designer

About Opera Columbus

Under the vision of General Director + CEO, Julia Noulin-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 artforms. 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperaColumbus

Instagram: @Opera.Columbus

Twitter: @OperaColumbus

TikTok: @OperaColumbus

Join the conversation by using #EugeneOC #MakeItYours #HerStoryOC

Opera Columbus' 2023-24 season is made possible thanks to funding from The Columbus Foundation, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Nationwide, and the Ohio Arts Council, with additional support from Cardinal Health, Crane Group, Cult Marketing, and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center-Voice Center.

About Columbus Symphony

Since 1951, the Columbus Symphony (CSO) has been proud to serve as central Ohio's flagship music performance organization. The CSO's musicians, conductors, chorus, and world-renowned guest artists enrich the central Ohio community through extraordinary talent, passion, dedication, and the highest standards of musicianship. Living and working in the community, CSO musicians are interwoven throughout the region's cultural fabric, accompanying performances by other companies, performing in other local orchestras, and teaching and coaching young musicians. Guided by the artistic vision of Music Director Rossen

Milanov, the CSO offers four programming areas – Masterworks, Pops, Picnic with the Pops, and Education/Community Engagement – that are targeted to appeal to diverse audiences throughout central Ohio. This segmented approach, innovative within the American orchestra industry, is helping the CSO to reach new, younger, and more diverse audiences.