

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

2024/25 SEASON MOVES FROM MOZART TO “CAROUSEL”



Anne Bogart reimagines Rodgers & Hammerstein's CAROUSEL on its 80th anniversary.

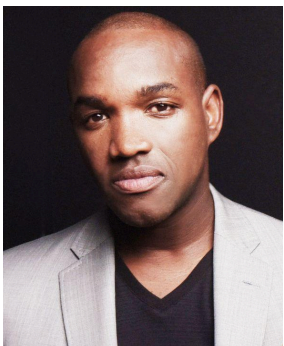
World Premiere THE SEASONS wraps Vivaldi in a new libretto by Sarah Ruhl.

Marquee singers include Lawrence Brownlee, Jamie Barton, Anthony Roth Costanzo, John Holiday, Michelle Johnson, Edward Nelson, Brandie Sutton and more.

Four mainstage productions, two additional collaborations compose a robust season.

Unprecedented number of community/artistic partnerships include BSO, Boston Children's Chorus, Boston String Academy, New England Conservatory Preparatory School, and more.

BOSTON — EMBARGOED until April 30, 2024 @ 6 AM EST — Boston Lyric Opera's (BLO) [2024/25 Season](#) mixes classic (**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's MITRIDATE**, **Verdi's AIDA**) and contemporary opera (the world premiere of **THE SEASONS**, blending **Vivaldi's** music and a new libretto by playwright **Sarah Ruhl**) with a major revival of **Rodgers & Hammerstein's CAROUSEL** on its 80th anniversary, presented at Boston's Emerson Colonial Theatre, which hosted its 1945 pre-Broadway run. Two additional productions – collaborations with Boston Symphony Orchestra and other partners – round out an ambitious season.



BLO's season opens September 13-15, 2024 with Mozart's thrilling and demanding 18th-century opera, MITRIDATE, featuring performances by acclaimed tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** (left). Brownlee returns to BLO for the first time since an acclaimed performance in the 2002 production of "The Barber of Seville." A one-night performance of AIDA with soprano **Michelle Johnson** in the title role precedes the company's gala November 10. THE SEASONS, which turns Vivaldi's ubiquitous Baroque concerti into a sung-through drama about artists dealing with climate change, plays March 12-16, 2025. Rodgers & Hammerstein's CAROUSEL closes the mainstage season April 4-13, 2025, directed by veteran artist and BLO Artistic Associate **Anne Bogart**. Full production details are below.

"The full range of opera and its possibilities are thrillingly on display next season," says **Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen**, who joined BLO earlier this year and was actively involved in planning the season. "The music, the artists, and the stories are equally spectacular. I know audiences will find plenty to love in these productions; there's something for everyone at the opera."

"Our season theme is inspired by the classic line from CAROUSEL: 'You'll Never Walk Alone,'" says BLO **Stanford Calderwood General Director and CEO Bradley Vernatter**. "That declaration of love and companionship punctuates all the stories we're telling next season, but it also aptly describes the journeys we're taking with an unprecedented number of artistic and programmatic collaborators. This year we are partnering with more Boston area artists and arts organizations than ever, including the youth-centered groups Boston Children's Chorus and Boston String Academy, and civic institutions like the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Public Library and Boston Public Schools. Our BLO artists, chorus, and orchestra leading these city-wide collaborations is an extraordinary way to realize part of our mission to connect communities through opera, onstage and off."

MORE ABOUT THE PRODUCTIONS

MITRIDATE – SEPTEMBER 13 & 15, 2024

Told against the backdrop of a 1st century B.C. war between Rome and the Hellenic city of Pontus, **MITRIDATE** (which premiered in 1770 and was written by a 14-year-old Mozart) is the story of the eponymous King of Pontus, his conniving sons Sifare and Farnace, and his fiancée Aspasia. **Lawrence Brownlee** plays the title. Company debuts in the cast include soprano **Brenda Rae** (left) who sings Aspasia, **John Holiday** as Farnace and **Vanessa Goikoetxea** as Sifare. The production is directed by **James Darrah** (BLO's "desert in" and "The Fall of the House of Usher") and conducted by **BLO Music Director David Angus**, who marks his 15th season with the company. Cast includes **Angela Yam** as Ismene, **Alexis Peart** as Arbate and **Charles Sy** as Marzio. **MITRIDATE** plays two performances September 13 and 15, at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre.

MITRIDATE will be recorded for later audio broadcast as part of CRB Classical 99.5's "In Concert" series. Details to be announced at a later date.

AIDA – NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Verdi's tragic love story of an Ethiopian princess captured and enslaved by the Egyptian military – and the Egyptian commander who loves her but must remain loyal to his country – has a one-night-only concert performance November 10, 2024 at the Emerson Colonial Theatre. Soprano **Michelle Johnson** (right) returns to BLO to star in the title role (she was seen most recently as Santuzza in 2021's "Cavalleria Rusticana"; tenor **Diego Torre** (Cavaradossi in BLO's 2010 "Tosca") is the soldier Radamès. **Alice Chung** (Suzuki in BLO's 2023 "Madama Butterfly") is Amneris, the Egyptian king's daughter who professes unrequited love for Radamès. **David Angus** conducts. The cast also includes **Brian Major** (Emile in 2022's "Champion: An Opera in Jazz") as Amonasro, **Stefan Egerstrom** as Il Re, **Morris Robinson** (Sparafucile in 2014's "Rigoletto") as Ramfis, **Chelsea Basler** as the High Priestess



and **Fred C. VanNess, Jr.** as the Messenger. The Boston Lyric Opera Chorus will be joined by members of Boston’s choral community, including the Back Bay Chorale, for the opera’s monumental Triumphal March in Act Two. This production of AIDA precedes BLO’s annual fundraising gala. Gala information is available at [BLO.org/gala2024](https://blo.org/gala2024).

THE SEASONS – MARCH 12-16, 2025

BLO hosts the world premiere of a bold reimagining of Antonio Vivaldi’s string masterpiece



“The Four Seasons,” with additional arias and ensembles by the composer, woven into a new libretto by Tony-winning playwright **Sarah Ruhl** (“Eurydice”) and featuring Grammy-winning countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo** (left) in his BLO debut. Co-conceived by Ruhl and Costanzo, and directed by **Zack Winokur** with choreography by **Pam Tanowitz**. Described by Ruhl as “a contemporary Baroque opera about the weather, inside and out,” it tells the story of five artists who retreat to a remote farm to make art inspired by the beauty of nature. But increasingly extreme and erratic weather complicates the plan. Hope arrives in an unexpected form, delivering a bright future. Produced by Boston Lyric Opera, AMOC* (American Modern Opera Company) and SCENE, THE SEASONS is co-presented by ArtsEmerson. Further casting to be announced.

CAROUSEL – APRIL 4-13, 2025

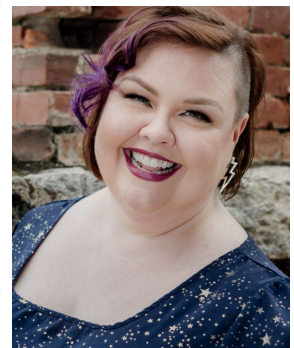


Following her seismic production of composer Poul Ruders’ “The Handmaid’s Tale” in 2019 at Harvard, and the critically acclaimed installation of “Bluebeard’s Castle/Four Songs” that melded Bela Bartók’s one-act opera and songs by Alma Mahler, the award-winning director and BLO Artistic Associate **Anne Bogart** returns to create a striking new vision for the classic American musical Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein’s **CAROUSEL**. **David Angus**



conducts. Baritone **Edward Nelson** (upper right, seen most recently as Ion in BLO’s “desert in”) plays Billy Bigelow, the charming carnival barker who falls for millworker Julie Jordan (**Brandie Sutton**, upper left, in her BLO debut). He finds himself desperate for money to support his young family and makes a tragic decision that changes everyone’s life.

A paean to the power of love and redemption, CAROUSEL had a pre-Broadway run at the Colonial Theatre in the spring of 1945. BLO’s production will be staged in the same location nearly 80 years to the date of the original’s three-week run. Cast includes **Jamie Barton** (right) in her BLO debut as Nettie, **Anya Matanovič** as Carrie (Anne Truelove in 2016’s “The Rake’s Progress”; Violetta in 2014’s “La Traviata”), **Omar Najmi** as Enoch (Valcour in



BLO's 2024 "The Anonymous Lover"), and **Markel Reed** (Young Emile Griffith in BLO's 2022 "Champion") as Jigger.

SEASON COLLABORATIONS

NOAH'S FLOOD (NOYE'S FLUDDE) – MAY 3, 2025

Benjamin Britten's biblically inspired 1958 opera **NOAH'S FLOOD** takes its inspiration from a 15th century English "mystery play" (NOYE'S FLUDDE, in Medieval language) about Noah, his wife, and their sons who get a message from God about an impending flood that will clear all life from Earth. Britten composed the opera after a storm surge flooded his coastal hometown, leaving 300 dead and 40,000 homeless, and destroying his own home. The work was created for presentation as a community event incorporating large groups of child singers and orchestra musicians, and participation from audience members. Presented in collaboration with **Boston Children's Chorus, Boston String Academy, Back Bay Ringers, Boston Symphony Orchestra** and **New England Conservatory Preparatory School** at **Symphony Hall**, BLO will produce the work to unite Boston audiences at a family-friendly event that fosters ongoing awareness and dialogue about the changing climate. More details to be released. *This event is made possible by support from the Mattina R. Proctor Foundation.*

DIE TOTE STADT – JAN 30 & FEB 1, 2025



Presented in collaboration with Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) at Symphony Hall, **Erich Korngold's DIE TOTE STADT** ("The Dead City") is a tender work about the memory of a lost loved one. Before Korngold became one of Hollywood's most important composers in the early 20th century, he wrote this opera between the ages of 19 and 23. It premiered in 1920 Germany and became one of the biggest operatic successes of its era, surely resonating with audiences still traumatized by the losses of World War I. Soprano **Christine Goerke** (left) leads a cast that includes BLO Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist alumnus tenor **Neal Ferreira** and baritone **Elliot Madore**, seen recently in BLO's production of Matthew Aucoin's "Eurydice." **Andris Nelsons** conducts; **James Burton** leads the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Information and tickets available through the BSO's website [here](#).

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

Going beyond the main stage and into the Greater Boston community, Boston Lyric Opera plans a series of free and low-cost public performances connected to its programming throughout the season. From school-based youth programming and accredited teacher training, to family-focused events in collaboration with the Boston Public Library and at community centers, BLO is committed to providing consistent community connection and operatic moments across the region year-round. Information on BLO community programs is available [here](#).

SUBSCRIPTIONS/TICKETS

Multi-part opera subscriptions are on sale now at [BLO.org](https://blo.org) or by contacting Audience Services at boxoffice@blo.org or 617-542-6772. Individual tickets are on sale for members May 27 and the general public June 3, 2024 at 10:00AM.

ABOUT BLO

Entering its 48th Season, Boston Lyric Opera remains dedicated to creating compelling operatic experiences throughout Greater Boston that welcome new audiences, break new ground, and enrich community life. Since its founding in 1976, Boston Lyric Opera has produced world and US premieres, Pulitzer Prize-winning operas, and notable commissions and coproductions, ranging from live stage shows to films streamed worldwide.

BLO has partnered with organizations such as Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Detroit Opera, and continues to be a destination for leading artists, conductors, directors, and designers from around the world. Each season, BLO invests in young artists through the Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artists initiative to hone their craft and prepare for the next step in their careers. Alongside its mainstage season, BLO offers wide-reaching community and educational public programs and performances year-round at its Midway Artist Studios headquarters, in partnership with the Boston Public Library system, in the Boston Public Schools, and with cultural organizations across New England.

BLO launched a new five-year [strategic plan](#) in 2022, prioritizing four strategic pillars: Programming, Community, Space and Leadership, along with a renewed commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. Its groundbreaking 2023 production of “Madama Butterfly,” driven by a year-long community focused series called “The Butterfly Process,” showed how traditional opera can be reimaged and given resonant new life through intentional productions that include artists whose historical narratives are being told. BLO employs over 500 artists and creative professionals each year — vocalists, instrumentalists, artisans, stagehands, costumers, scenic designers, administrators and beyond. The Company is proud to play a significant and meaningful role in Boston’s vibrant arts community.

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MEDIA CONTACT

For high-res artist photos, interviews about the season or other inquiries, contact John Michael Kennedy, jmk@jmkpr.com / 781-620-1761 (o) / 212-842-1752 (m).

PHOTO CREDITS

Lawrence Brownlee, photo by Shervin Lainez; Brenda Rae, photo by Gillian Riesen; Michelle Johnson, courtesy the artist; Erin Morley, photo by Chris Gonz; Edward Nelson, photo by Arielle Doneson; Brandie Sutton, courtesy the artist; Christine Goerke, photo by Arielle Doneson.