

BOSTONLYRICOPERA 2019/20 SEASON

MAR 13 - 22 | EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATER



#### SUPPORT BLO

Support from BLO donors goes far beyond the productions seen on stage.

Donations directly impact the core facets of BLO: Community & Education Programs, Emerging Artists, New Works, and increasing opera accessibility. Learn more about how you can make an impact as a Friend of BLO or member of The Orfeo Society.

#### **VOLUNTEER**

Love music, theatre, and giving back to the community? Become a **BLO Volunteer**!

#### **E-OPERA**

Sign up for BLO's e-newsletters at BLO.org to learn about special offers and upcoming events, along with new articles and interviews published on our blog, *In the Wings*.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS, PLEASE VISIT BLO.ORG/PATRONS | #NORMABLO | @©®



# WELCOME!

Norma is Vincenzo Bellini's best-known opera. It premiered in December 1831 at La Scala in Milan, Italy, just after his 30th birthday and four years before his death. Despite his short life, Bellini was a

prolific composer; he completed ten operas including *I Puritani*, his final one, which was last produced by BLO in 2014.

Early on, Bellini was named "the Swan of Catania" for his innate and remarkable talent for writing long, flowing melodic lines. For *Norma*, he partnered with his friend and frequent collaborator Felice Romani, the Italian poet and scholar of literature and mythology. Romani was intrigued by the historic uprising of the Gallic tribes against the Roman occupation, an incident that earlier had inspired Alexandre Soumet's play *Norma*, or *The Infanticide*.

The story and music of *Norma* have enchanted artists, historians, and feminists for generations. Walt Whitman memorialized her in his "Leaves of Grass," after being moved by a rendition of the opera in a desolate Dakota outpost, when Swedish singer Jenny Lind toured North America.

It has been a great pleasure to explore the essential story behind *Norma* with stage director Stephanie Havey and her creative team. The juxtaposition of natural and man-made powers, the insidious resistance of the conquered against their powerful occupiers, and the push-and-pull of female and male forces—all of it is as old as humankind, and yet, as new as our time.

Is Norma a victim or a forceful rebel? A traitor or a heroine? A selfish woman or an altruistic leader? A faithful lover or a failed mother? Or is she all these things? We do know that she is a force of nature...part of that shining and shadowy symbol of female power and a force of subversion against the status quo.

Since its premiere, the opera's title role has been considered among the most taxing in all of opera, demanding a certain vocal *bel canto* athleticism. Soprano Renata Scotto called *Norma* the "Everest of opera!" Sarah Caldwell twice brought the great Shirley Verrett to Boston in the role and convinced Beverly Sills to sing *Norma* under her baton nearly 50 years ago. *Norma* has made (or broken) careers, and it continues to challenge singers today. I am thrilled we have Elena Stikhina on stage here for her role debut. To me, she is one of the most powerful, moving, and agile vocalists of our time.

By now, you've surely heard about our 2020/21 Season. I hope you are pleased by the choices, featuring yet more fantastic singers. This will be a season of classics and great contemporary pieces with another wide range of familiar and popular titles alongside lesser-known works. As I reflect on my decade in Boston, I am grateful for the many opportunities to produce works of great music and theater. And I am honored by your incredible support and enthusiasm. Together we make it possible to promote the boundless human creativity that knows no cultural, religious or political barriers, and to support our artists of the past and of tomorrow. Together we make a richer community!

Esther Nelson | Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director

Please visit the box office to learn more about the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Seasons.

Eske Nele



# PROGRAM CONTENTS

Welcome

Board of Directors 3

Creative Team 4

Cast & Synopsis 5

Director's Note 6

Meet the Artists 7

Jane and Steven Akin

Emerging Artists 11

A Conversation with Music Director

David Angus 13

BLO Orchestra, Chorus & Production/Artistic Staff 14

Acknowledgments 16

Donors 18

BLO Staff, Volunteers

& About BLO 20

Information on Venue 24

Covers: Leapfrog Arts | iStock Left, Esther Nelson | Liza Voll Photography Above, Sandra Piques Eddy, Jonathan Burton, and Elena Stikhina | Liza Voll Photography

# "Where words fail, music speaks."

- Hans Christian Andersen

Boston Lyric Opera is honored to dedicate this production of *Norma* to Director Emeritus in Perpetuity

### Horace H. Irvine III BLO Board Chair 1990-1995

Hod Irvine joined BLO's Board of Directors in the late 1980s, serving for 29 extraordinary years including five years as Board Chair. His vision for world-class opera in Boston and his invaluable contribution toward community engagement initiatives have been instrumental in establishing a strong and lasting foundation for opera in New England and across the country. We are grateful for his tremendous generosity and we ensure that his passion for opera will forever be expressed in the artistry on our stages.





#### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to BLO's production of *Norma*. Set amidst war and occupation, *Norma* is, at its core, an intensely personal story. The relationships between Norma, Pollione, and Adalgisa are complex and speak to elements of the human condition that translate well from a setting in the first century B.C.E. to contemporary times. Themes of friendship, love, jealousy, and outward appearances that contrast with interior realities, are knit

together to tell a riveting tale of people connected in a host of ways.

Connections are critical to making art work. When a moving opera like *Norma* is on stage, the emotions, pageantry, music, and voices serve to bring a disparate people together. In sharing an artistic experience with others, and at the same moment, you are connected with the singers and the musicians—with the composer and the artistic team—and they with you. This shared experience is an essential element of truly great art and is felt most keenly in live performance.

Boston Lyric Opera's connections in the city, across the country, and within the vast world of international opera run deep. Connecting with you—as an audience member, as a donor, a student or an artistic collaborator—is what keeps BLO running. Our connections with some of the world's greatest singers, musicians, and production artists makes it possible for us to present shows of this caliber. Whether your connection with BLO comes in the form of your engagement, your financial support, your ticket purchase, or indeed, your very presence, I thank you for being part of Boston Lyric Opera.

It was almost 11 years ago that BLO first connected to Esther Nelson. We were undertaking a national search for a new artistic and administrative leader. The Company was looking for a person who would light a fire of creativity, who would have not only a love for the art form, but also the chops to build, support, and represent a strong, exciting opera company. Ten years later, it remains clear that the Board made the right choice. With Esther as our General & Artistic Director, every season is a chance to make a fresh start—and new connections.

Last month, we celebrated Esther at the annual Opera Gala. Hundreds of opera lovers, city and business leaders, artists and long-time patrons (including many of you) joined in an evening of glorious music, stunning surprises, and heartfelt tributes to a leader who put BLO back on the international map. She has made us a stronger institution, financially and artistically. She has launched the careers of dozens of opera artists who work onstage, in the orchestra pit, and behind the scenes. She has commissioned and nurtured new works that expand the boundaries of contemporary opera and propel it forward. She has strengthened the Company's connections to the city, the cultural community in Greater Boston, and to all of you here today.

As we did at the Gala, let us raise again an appreciative toast to Esther Nelson on the occasion of her tenth anniversary at BLO. With my fellow Board members and all of you, I look forward eagerly to the next ten years.

Michael J. Puzo | Chair, Board of Directors

#### **BOARD**

CHAIR Michael J. Puzo VICE-CHAIR Miguel de Bragança

TREASURER Susan W. Jacobs

CLERK
Dr. Irving H. Plotkin
STANFORD
CALDERWOOD
GENERAL & ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

Esther Nelson, Ex Officio

Linda Cabot Black Willa Bodman Alicia Cooney Wayne Davis Alan Dynner Robert Eastman Andrew Eisenberg Mimi Hewlett Amelia Welt Katzen Maria J. Krokidas Jeffrey E. Marshall Abigail B. Mason Anne M. Morgan A. Neil Pappalardo E. Lee Perry William Pounds David W. Scudder Susan R. Shapiro

Ray Stata

#### **BOARD OF ADVISORS**

CO-CHAIRS L. Joseph LoDato Lawrence St. Clair

James Ackerman
Kimberly Balfour
Elizabeth Barker
Richard M. Burnes, Jr.
Ellie Cabot
David Campbell
Carol Deane
JoAnne Walton Dickinson
Jessica Donohue
Timothy Fulham
David Hoffman
Kathleen Hull
Amy Hunter
Ernest Jacob

Ellen Kaplan Stephen T. Kunian Louis Lévy Russell Lopez Anita Loscalzo David Manning M. Lvnne Markus Jillian McGrath Kate Meany Jane Pisciottoli Papa Samuel Y. Parkinson Susanne Potts Steven Ricci Carl Rosenberg Carol Rubin Allison Ryder Alex Senchak

Wendy Shattuck

Louise Johnson

Wynne Szeto Frank Tempesta Richard Trant Amy Tsurumi Lydia Kenton Walsh Robert Walsh Peter J. Wender George Yip Tania Zouikin

#### **EMERITI**

Steven P. Akin J.P. Barger Horace H. Irvine II° Sherif A. Nada

> ° Deceased As of February 6, 2019

# NORMA

# MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID ANGUS

2019/20 Season Sponsor, Linda Cabot Black

#### NORMA

Music by Vincenzo Bellini Libretto by Felice Romani

Sung in Italian with English surtitles. Surtitles by Taylor Carnes

#### **PERFORMANCES**

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 | 7:30PM SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 3:00PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 7:30PM FRIDAY, MARCH 20 | 7:30PM SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 3:00PM

Performance time is approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes including one intermission.

Pre-Performance Talks begin one hour prior to each performance.

EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE

219 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116

\*Boston Lyric Opera Debut

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

**CONDUCTOR** 

STAGE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE HAVEY

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR SHURA BARYSHNIKOV

**DAVID ANGUS** 

SET DESIGNER JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT

COSTUME DESIGNER CHARLES NEUMANN

LIGHTING DESIGNER PABLO SANTIAGO

WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER RONELL OLIVERI

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA ORCHESTRA ANNIE RABBAT

Concertmaster

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA CHORUS

BRETT HODGDON\*

Chorus Master

REHEARSAL COACH/ACCOMPANIST NATHAN SALAZAR+

ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR MELANIE BACALING\*

STAGE MANAGER MICHAEL JANNEY

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Boston Lyric Opera Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup>Boston Lyric Opera Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist Alumnus/a

# **CAST & SYNOPSIS**

#### CAST in order of vocal appearance

OROVESO ALFRED WALKER

Sponsored by Alan & Lisa Dynner

POLLIONE JONATHAN BURTON

Sponsored by Katie & Paul Buttenwieser

FLAVIO OMAR NAJMI‡

Sponsored by Dr. Robert Walsh &

Lydia Kenton Walsh

NORMA ELENA STIKHINA

Sponsored by Anonymous

ADALGISA SANDRA PIQUES EDDY

Sponsored by Miguel & Suki de Bragança

CLOTILDE ROBYN MARIE LAMP\*†

Sponsored by Willa & Taylor Bodman

#### **SYNOPSIS**

In the forests of ancient Gaul, the Druid king Oroveso leads his army in prayer for revenge against the Roman occupiers. When the Druids return to their temple, the Roman general Pollione and Flavio enter. Pollione confesses that he no longer loves Norma, Oroveso's daughter and a powerful Druid priestess, even though she has betrayed her vows and people to be with him, secretly bearing his two children. He has now fallen in love with a novice priestess, Adalgisa. The Romans depart and Norma prays to the goddess for peace and for victory in a coming revolt—but secretly, she admits to herself that she could never hurt Pollione. Later, alone, Adalgisa remembers how she fell in love with Pollione and prays for strength to resist him. He appears and convinces her to renounce her vows and run away with him to Rome.

At her home, Norma confides her worries to her maid, Clotilde, that Pollione will return to Rome and desert her and their children. Adalgisa arrives and confesses that she has fallen in love with a Roman; Norma, sympathetic, is about to release her from her vows when Pollione enters, and the two women realize that they are both speaking of the same man. Norma is furious, accusing him of treachery, and Adalgisa is distraught. Pollione professes his love for Adalgisa and again asks her to come away with him. Adalgisa refuses, declaring that she would rather die than leave her people for the man who betrayed Norma.

Anguished, Norma contemplates killing her sleeping children to spare them the pain of Pollione's abandonment. But her love for them wins out, and she instead summons Adalgisa, begging her to marry Pollione and bring the children with them to Rome. Adalgisa rejects Norma's plan and only agrees to go to Pollione in order to plead with him to return to Norma. The two women embrace and vow their friendship.

The Druids gather and Oroveso rages against the Roman occupation. Norma is with them and awaits Adalgisa's return. Clotilde brings news that Pollione will not return to her. Norma is enraged and declares war, as Adalgisa appears. Oroveso demands a human sacrifice to complete the war ritual. Just then, Pollione is dragged in—having been captured in the sacred temple attempting to abduct Adalgisa. Norma questions him alone, making a final, desperate attempt to win him back, but she realizes that she cannot bring herself to kill him. Instead, Norma tells the warriors that their sacrifice will be a priestess, one of their own who has betrayed her people, broken her vows, and had children with one of the enemy—Norma herself.

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**ORMA** is both the narrative of a well-respected leader who feels that she must put her personal desires aside for the well-being of her people and a larger metaphor for the eternal conflict between man and nature.

As a Druid priestess, Norma represents an earthbound lifestyle that believes nature to be sacred and looks to celestial bodies for guidance. Druids see humankind not as a central figure, but as just one part of the fabric of life. Through their rituals and faith practices, they honor the Earth and one another.

Our production looks to ancient rituals that venerate Earth and the celestial bodies. These rituals revere light as a vessel of power, or inner strength, and as a form of blessing from the what the Druids call the "otherworld." Steeped in ancient mystic tradition, the rituals represent a communion with Earth as the Druids face destruction from the Romans.

Pollione, and the Romans who hold the Druids under siege, signify the ensuing destruction of industrialism as man strives to control nature. While the Romans aim to conquer and subdue the Druids, Pollione's pursuit of Norma, and then also her acolyte, Adalgisa, resembles this endeavor. He pleads with his beloved to abandon her beliefs and way of life. He tells her "Ciel più puro e Dei migliori t'offro in Roma" (I offer you a purer heaven and holier gods in Rome) and "De' tuoi riti è Amor più santo..." "... cedi a me" (Our love is more sacred than your rituals... yield to me!) Both women submit to his advances and abandon their vows of chastity and piety.

These three central figures, entangled in a fatal attraction, make irreversible choices that cause a rippling effect, much as the Moon affects the tide. With their shifting loyalties and

AS THE DRUIDS LOOKED TO THE PHASES OF THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL EVENTS TO GUIDE THEM. WE WANTED TO ALIGN NORMA'S FATE WITH HER GREAT POWER SOURCE. THE MOON.

impassioned power plays, they reminded us of warring celestial bodies eclipsing and consuming one another in the night sky. As the Druids looked to the phases of the Moon and other celestial events to guide them, we wanted to align Norma's fate with her great power source, the Moon.

As Norma's moon rises, she finds herself in impossible circumstances where her role as a leader is put at odds with her role as a mother. While her tribe demands of her chastity, purity, strength, leadership, wisdom, (nothing short of perfection); Norma seeks to protect her children and find reconciliation with their father, at any cost. While heartache and fear rage in Norma's heart, her light is eclipsed. In the same instant, her tribe calls out to her for comfort and yet, demands her destruction. Norma defiantly chooses truth and self-sacrifice, softening the heart of even her most stalwart oppressor, Pollione.

In the end, it is Norma's great nobility as a leader that reveals the eternal truth, that even in the face of man's domineering destruction and tyrannical demands, nature will persist and will overcome.

#### BY STEPHANIE HAVEY



DAVID ANGUS | Conductor

David Angus is Music Director of Boston Lyric Opera, following a very successful period as Music Director of Glimmerglass Opera. He was formerly the Chief Conductor of the Flanders Symphony Orchestra for many years and built that

orchestra into one of the most exciting young orchestras in Northern Europe. Maestro Angus now conducts all over Europe and North America. He began his career working at Opera North (U.K.) and at Glyndebourne, where he conducted a wide range of operas, and went on to work in Italy and across Europe. In the concert hall, he performs particularly in the U.K. and Scandinavia, and this season, apart from conducting productions at BLO, includes a return visit to Hawaii Opera Theatre, and further work in the concert hall and recording studio with the London Philharmonic.



STEPHANIE HAVEY | Stage Director Stephanie Havey, winner of both the Adelaide Bishop award for artistic quality and the OPERA America Director-Designer Showcase, has staged productions for Pittsburgh Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Arizona Opera, Atlanta Opera, Opera

Omaha, New York City Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, and more. Her work includes new productions of La Rondine for The Curtis Institute of Music, Tosca for the Lyrique-en-Mer International Festival de Belle-Île, Shining Brow for Tulsa Opera, Rigoletto for Syracuse Opera, and Gluck's Armide for Opera NEO. Ms. Havey's additional professional engagements include Central City Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Sarasota Opera, and Opera North, among others. As a frequent collaborator for the development and staging of new opera, she has collaborated with Opera Philadelphia for their Double Exposure event and OPERA America's New Works Forum. Ms. Havey was the Resident Stage Director for North American New Opera Workshop, a member of the staging staff at San Francisco Opera and The Santa Fe Opera, and has been the guest instructor for multiple prestigious Young Artist training programs. Ms. Havey's upcoming engagements including Eugene Onegin with Seattle Opera and Opéra de Montréal, The Crucible for Opera Santa Barbara, La Traviata with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Florencia en el Amazonas with the Pittsburgh Opera, and more.



SHURA BARYSHNIKOV | Movement Director Shura Baryshnikov is an interdisciplinary artist who works broadly as a dancer, actor, improvisor, choreographer, and somatic movement educator. Ms. Baryshnikov has co-founded a number of dance projects, including the Contact

Improvisation research and performance ensemble Set Go, and has also collaborated with dancemakers Gabriel Forestieri, Heidi Henderson, Betsy Miller, Lorraine Chapman, Danielle Davidson and others. In recent seasons, she has choreographed for productions at Boston Lyric Opera, Trinity Repertory Company, Bridge Repertory Company, Khambatta Dance Company and Urbanity Dance and appeared in productions at the The Gamm Theatre, Odyssey Opera, Bridge Rep, Trinity Rep, and Festival Ballet Providence. She is Head of Physical Theatre for the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Program in the Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies at Brown University where she has instructed since 2011. She has also instructed in both theater and dance at MIT, Dean College, and Connecticut College.



JULIA NOULIN-MÉRAT | Set Designer
Julia Noulin-Mérat is an international production
designer and the founder of Noulin-Mérat Studio.
In addition to her work as Associate Producer
for Boston Lyric Opera, Ms. Noulin-Mérat is the

Co-Artistic Director for Guerilla Opera. She

has designed over 400 opera, theater, and television productions, including 18 new operas and 22 new plays, and has produced 50 shows. She has served on the panel for OPERA America adjudicating the Tobin Director-Designer showcase and recently received OA's Women's Opera Network mentorship distinction. Recent credits include Rigoletto for Minnesota Opera, Le Monde à l'Envers for Wolf Trap Opera, Tosca and Falstaff for Opera Omaha, Gallo, Pedr Solis, and Troubled Water for Guerilla Opera, L'Heure Espagnole and Scalia/ Ginsburg for Castleton Festival, Sumeida's Song and 27 for Pittsburgh Opera, and The Rake's Progress, The Threepenny Opera, The Barber of Seville, and Pagliacci for BLO. Other projects include a TEDx talk on site-specific opera productions in the modern age, Neverland for China Broadway, a 50,000 square foot immersive theater piece in Beijing based on Peter Pan, and Playground for Opera Omaha, a national touring operatic sound sculpture in collaboration with composer Ellen Reid. Ms. Noulin-Mérat is an adjunct professor at Pace University and holds degrees from Boston University in Business and Scenic Design.

## **ARTISTS**



CHARLES NEUMANN | Costume Designer Charles Neumann returns to BLO having designed costumes for The Threepenny Opera and Pagliacci. Mr. Neumann is a Boston-based designer and illustrator and has worked with organizations including Edgewood Studios, Central City Opera,

MassOpera, and others. Mr. Neumann has been featured in Boston Fashion Week and has shown at charity events including Urban Nights, a fundraiser for homeless and at-risk youth sponsored by Urban Peak, and WE CAN with Mondo Guerra, sponsored by AIDS Connecticut. Mr. Neumann holds a degree in Fashion Design and Production from Lasell College and completed a costume internship with Central City Opera.



PABLO SANTIAGO | Lighting Designer Pablo Santiago returns to BLO having designed lighting for The Threepenny Opera, Schoenberg in Hollywood, and Pagliacci. Mr. Santiago's lighting design spans theater, opera, dance and gallery work. His designs have been seen at Arena Stage

in Washington, D.C., the Paramount Center in Boston, Skirball Center in New York City, South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA, Mark Taper Forum and Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Theatre Center, and more. Recent highlights include War of the Worlds for the LA Philharmonic, Pélleas et Mélisande for Cincinnati Symphony, Breaking the Waves for Opera Philadelphia and PROTOTYPE Festival, Destiny of Desire for the Goodman Theatre and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Flight and Pagliacci for Opera Omaha, Ted Hearne's Place at Brooklyn Academy of Music, the professional world premiere of *Proving Up* for Opera Omaha and the Miller Theatre in New York City, Eugene Onegin for The Boston Conservatory, Boris Godunov for San Francisco Symphony, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Prism for Teatro Municipal in São Paulo, Los Angeles Opera, PROTOTYPE Festival, and the Kennedy Center.



RONELL OLIVERI | Wig & Makeup Designer Ronell Oliveri is a wig and wakeup designer for opera, theater, ballet, and film and has worked with companies including Minnesota Opera, The ART, and The History Channel over the past 18 years. In 2007, Ms. Oliveri was nominated for a Primetime

Emmy Award for her work as a key makeup artist in television. She is currently the resident Wig and Makeup Designer for Opera Colorado, Opera Omaha, and Central City Opera. Ms. Oliveri's recent engagements include Proving Up with Miller Theater, Opera Omaha's One Festival, and Tosca with Opera Colorado. Her designs have been featured in productions with Chicago Lyric Opera, LA Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, The Boston Ballet, VH1, and Calliope films. Ms. Oliveri's work has also been seen in several Broadway shows including Wicked, All the Way, and Waitress.



#### ELENA STIKHINA | Soprano **NORMA**

Elena Stikhina returns to BLO having performed the title role in *Tosca* in her U.S. debut in 2017. Ms. Stikhina has since performed the title role of Suor Angelica in her debut with The Metropolitan

Opera, Leonora in La Forza del Destino with the Semperoper Dresden, Cio-Cio-San in Madama Butterfly with The Dutch National Opera, the title role in Aida with the Grand Théâtre de Genève, and has returned to The Paris Opera in performances of La Forza del Destino and Prince Igor. Recent engagements include Leonora in *Il Trovatore* with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Senta in *Der Fliegende* Holländer at Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and with Bayerische Staatsoper, performances in concert with the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Munich Philharmonic, and the Philharmonie de Paris, and her British debut at the BBC Proms singing Tatvana's letter scene from Eugene Onegin. Ms. Stikhina also regularly appears as a guest soloist with the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg after developing her repertoire at the New Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theatre in Vladivostock. Upcoming performances include Mimì in La Bohème and the title role in Adriana Lecouvreur with The Paris Opera, followed by a return to the Salzburg Festival and a summer festival with Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich.



#### JONATHAN BURTON | Tenor **POLLIONE**

Jonathan Burton returns to BLO having performed the role of Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. Mr. Burton has recently sung Canio in Pagliacci with Opera Omaha, Dick Johnson in La Fanciulla del West

with Maryland Lyric Opera, and Pollione in Norma with Utah Opera in his role debut. Mr. Burton has been heard as Calaf in *Turandot* with Sarasota Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, and Knoxville Opera, Gustavo in Un Ballo in Maschera with Florida Grand Opera, Bacchus in Ariadne auf Naxos with Austin Opera, and his U.K. debut as Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly with Welsh National Opera. Operatic highlights include Radames in Aida, Don Jose in Carmen, Rodolfo in La Bohème, and more. This season, Mr. Burton sings Calaf with Austin Opera, Hermann in La Dame de Pique with Des Moines Metro Opera, Luigi in *Il Tabarro* with Maryland Lyric Opera, and made his debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Rodolfo in Luisa Miller. Mr. Burton has appeared with companies including Royal Opera House Muscat, Dubai Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Colorado, Central City Opera, Utah Opera, and Nashville Opera, among others. Mr. Burton has sung under the baton of Lorin Maazel in multiple productions at the Castleton Festival, concerts in Washington, D.C., and in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the reopening of Teatro La Fenice.



SANDRA PIQUES EDDY | Mezzo-Soprano ADALGISA

Sandra Piques Eddy returns to BLO where she has performed in *Werther, Kátya Kabanová, Cos*ì *Fan Tutte, Madama Butterfly,* and more. Recent performances include role debuts as Dido in *Dido* 

and Aeneas with Florentine Opera, as Orfeo in Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice with Portland Opera, and as Meg Page in Falstaff with Opera Colorado. Ms. Eddy's successes also include creating the role of Young Wife in the World Premiere of Scott Wheeler's Naga, part of the Ouroboros Trilogy, in Boston, and company debuts as the title role in Carmen with Michigan Opera Theatre, Austin Opera, Opera North (U.K.), Portland Opera, Calgary Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and with Seiji Ozawa in Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan. Ms. Eddy has sung more than 100 performances with The Metropolitan Opera, in roles including Novice in Suor Angelica, Fiona in Nico Muhly's Two Boys, Mercédès in Sir Richard Eyre's production of Carmen, Cherubino in Le Nozze di Figaro, Lola in Cavalleria Rusticana, and many more. Internationally, Ms. Eddy has performed with Opera North (U.K.), Vancouver Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and was a featured soloist in *The Seven Ages* of Shakespeare Concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England. Ms. Eddy's upcoming performances include a return to Opera North (U.K.) as Dinah in Trouble in Tahiti.



# ALFRED WALKER | Bass-Baritone OROVESO

Alfred Walker returns to BLO where he performed the title role in *The Flying Dutchman*. Mr. Walker's recent operatic performances include Crown in *Porgy and Bess*, Speaker in *The Magic Flute*,

and Titurel in Parisfal with The Metropolitan Opera, the Ruler in Das Wunder der Heliane with Bard Summerscape, Vater in Hansel und Gretel and Orest in Elektra with San Francisco Opera, Amonasro in Aida and Porgy in Porgy and Bess with Seattle Opera, Méphistophélès in Faust with Portland Opera, Kurwenal in Tristan und Isolde with Angers Nantes Opera and Opéra de Dijon, and Wotan in Das Rheingold with North Carolina Opera. Mr. Walker also recently joined the American Symphony Orchestra as the Man with the Helmet in Martinu's Julietta at Carnegie Hall. Mr. Walker is also a concert artist who has sung with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, the Handel and Haydn Society, American Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra as Porgy in Porgy and Bess in performances conducted by Bramwell Tovey, and more. Mr. Walker's upcoming performances include the title role in Porgy and Bess with Washington National Opera and a return to The Metropolitan Opera as Masetto in Don Giovanni.



# ROBYN MARIE LAMP | Soprano CLOTILDE

Robyn Marie Lamp is a BLO Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist. In 2019, Ms. Lamp made her Carnegie Hall debut singing the soprano solo in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with

Mid-America Productions. Recent operatic performances include the title role in *Suor Angelica* with Opera Fusion in South Florida and Adele in *Il Pirata* at The Caramoor Summer Music Festival. Ms. Lamp has sung roles including Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Mimì in *La Bohème*, First Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte*, Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, the title role in *Lucrezia Borgia*, and more. On the concert stage, Ms. Lamp has performed as the soprano soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at Mechanics Hall, and Puccini selections in concert with Gulfshore Opera. Highlights also include Handel's *Messiah*, Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and more. Ms. Lamp has appeared as a Sarasota Opera Young Artist and has been a three-time Regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



#### OMAR NAJMI | Tenor FLAVIO

Omar Najmi returns to BLO as a Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist alumnus, having appeared in many productions with the Company including Kátya Kabanová, The Love Potion, Lizzie Borden,

I Puritani, Rigoletto, The Magic Flute, The Handmaid's Tale, and Pagliacci. Mr. Najmi has been a Young Artist with Chautauqua Opera, Opera Saratoga, and Opera North. He is also an alumnus of the Opera Colorado Young Artist Program, where he performed in Lucia di Lammermoor, La Fanciulla del West, The Elixir of Love, and The Barber of Seville. Operatic credits include Don Giovanni, The Merry Widow, and Idomeneo with Opera NEO, Flight and Little Women with Opera Fayetteville, Lucio Silla with Odyssey Opera, the La Reina workshop with the American Lyric Theater, and more. Mr. Najmi made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2018 as the tenor soloist in Mark Hayes' Gloria and has performed on the concert stage with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra, Cape Cod Chorale, and others. As a composer, he recently premiered his first original chamber opera, En la Ardiente Oscuridad.

# CLASSIC BAROQUE GEM THRILLING VOCAL FIREWORKS



#### DON'T MISS THIS FULLY-REALIZED, GRAND-SCALE INSTALLATION THAT ONLY BLO CAN CREATE.

Julius Caesar has chased his enemy to Egypt, and Cleopatra seizes this opportunity to seduce Caesar. Handel's greatest opera traces the epic political struggle and the transcendent love story that ignited an empire and anointed a queen.

BLO

GIULLY CESARE

> MAY 8 - 17 | DCR STERITI MEMORIAL RINK #GCBLO | BLO.ORG/GC | TICKETS START AT \$25



# 2019/20

# BLO JANE & STEVEN AKIN **EMERGING ARTISTS**

The pursuit of a successful career in opera is a challenging—and expensive undertaking. Singers must continually hone their talent with regular coaching, expand their repertoire by learning new roles, and find opportunities to make themselves heard. BLO recognizes that the next generation of opera stars needs to be nurtured in order to flourish, and that the future of the art form depends on their success.

To that end, BLO has proudly expanded the opportunities we provide to Emerging Artists:

- Public auditions allow hundreds of singers to be heard
- Role and audition preparation in one-on-one sessions with both BLO's Music Director David Angus and BLO coaches
- Understudy key leading roles, serve on stage management staff and directing staff, to broaden their résumés
- Perform principal and comprimario roles in BLO productions
- Additional paid performance opportunities at BLO events
- Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director Esther Nelson and other leaders in the field provide career guidance and support
- Feedback auditions with Director of Artistic Operations Nicholas Russell provide invaluable advice on repertoire choices
- Introduction of Emerging Artists to key artists' managers

BLO Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artists are identified during the casting process of each season's repertoire. The Artists have, in most cases, already established themselves professionally and are drawn primarily from the post-graduate and post-young artist fields. In certain exceptional cases, younger candidates who are appropriate for specific repertoire with the Company are considered.



#### STEPHEN SHRESTINIAN AWARD **FOR EXCELLENCE**

Mezzo-Soprano Felicia Gavilanes is an Emerging Artist alumna and is the recipient of the 2019 Stephen Shrestinian Award for Excellence. The Shrestinian Award is a cash award created to help an exceptional young artist in the BLO chorus further their career by supporting advancement activities such as coaching a new role; taking a movement, dance, or acting class; or paying a portion of graduate school tuition or travel expenses. It is awarded

annually in memory of one of BLO's beloved chorus members who passed away suddenly at the age of 29.



# A CONVERSATION WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID ANGUS

Italian composer Vincenzo Bellini's Norma was first presented at La Scala in Milan in 1831 and has long since been regarded as one of the foremost examples of the bel canto genre.

With Boston Lyric Opera presenting Norma for the first time in nearly 40 years, Music Director David Angus sat down with R. Scott Reedy recently to talk about the opera, the soprano who will sing its title role, and more.

#### RSR: What made you choose Norma for this season?

DA: We're doing *Norma* for the music and for the star. This is definitely a star vehicle, and we have soprano Elena Stikhina to sing the role. She sang *Tosca* for us in 2017 and went on to become a star. The only way to get her back was to say, "What would you like to sing?" Elena wanted to do *Norma*, and we wanted her to sing it with us for the first time, so we were very happy when it all came together.

#### RSR: What was your first impression of Elena Stikhina?

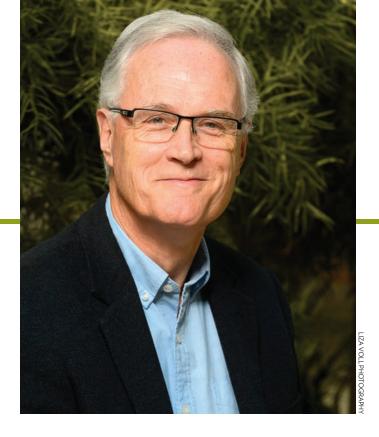
**DA:** Elena came in and sang for us during the *Tosca* auditions. While she was still singing, we said, "Book her now! Book her now, before we can't get her." She was so spectacular that we booked her immediately, which almost never happens. Elena sounds great. You know she is a star.

#### RSR: What made Bellini a great composer?

DA: He was the ultimate *bel canto* composer. Bellini was beloved for his lavish and long melodies and his ability to create captivating vocal moments. He was admired by other composers, too, including Liszt, Rossini, and Verdi, and influenced many others, including Wagner. In fact, Wagner was so keen on Bellini that he wrote an extra aria for *Norma*, which was never performed in his lifetime.

# RSR: What is it that distinguishes Bellini's score for this piece?

DA: It's some of the most beautiful music ever written. Bellini's melodies are flowing and gorgeous. His style was to write music that appeared to be incredibly simple, then add notes to bring in little colors. It blows your mind. It is perfectly calibrated music, achieved efficiently by the slightest means. You hear it and you think, "Why did that sound so beautiful and so painful?" It's artistry of the greatest skill and subtlety—both delicate and sensitive.



# RSR: Felice Romani's libretto for *Norma* is based on the play *Norma*, or *The Infanticide* by Alexandre Soumet. What should audiences know about the story?

DA: It's a love triangle in an exotic setting. It's about a woman, Norma, who is a Druid high priestess representing purity itself, but who also has a lover and two children. Her life is all secrets. She's betrayed everything—her religion, her family, and her country—because of her love for this man, the leader of the Romans. And he is not worthy of her. He is a rat chasing another woman. It's a massive story emotionally, while also being about normal human emotions.

#### RSR: Have you had prior experience with Norma?

**DA:** Right at the beginning of my career, I was an assistant conductor on a production of *Norma* that was done in a very traditional way. It was slow, heavy, and ornate—not the way I would have wanted to do it.

# RSR: Does that mean BLO audiences have something different in store for them?

DA: Definitely, because we're doing this as an opera, not just a bel canto opera. What makes opera powerful is when everything, from the singers and the orchestra, to the staging and the lighting, is fully integrated. This applies even more to bel canto than any other style, because it can easily become tunnel vision, only about the beautiful music. But if we put every element together, it becomes very powerful theater. At BLO, we work collaboratively and strive for a real theater experience—a symbiosis between the music and the drama. Opera is about human beings, not the spectacle. It's about the ability of the human voice to communicate emotion, which is why it's so powerful when it's done well.

## **ARTISTS & STAFF**

#### **BOSTON LYRIC OPERA ORCHESTRA**

Annie Rabbat | Concertmaster

**VIOLINI** 

Annie Rabbat Concertmaster

Colin Davis
Zenas Hsu
Robert Curtis
Sandra Kott
Roksana Sudol
Yonah Zur
Annegret Klaua
Rohan Gregory
Nivedita Sarnath

VIOLIN II

Sarah Atwood Principal

Janny Joo Stacey Alden Asuka Usui Lena Wong Lisa Goddard Maynard Goldman Joseph Lorang

**VIOLA** 

Kenneth Stalberg Principal

David Feltner Don Krishnaswami Russell Wilson Emily Rome Anna Griffis

CELLO

Melanie Dyball Acting Principal

Steven Laven Jan Pfeiffer-Rios Eleanor Blake

**BASS** 

Barry Boettger Acting Principal

Kevin Green Brian Thacker **FLUTE** 

Linda Toote Principal
FLUTE/PICCOLO

Iva Milch

OBOE

Nancy Dimock Principal

Mary Cicconetti

**CLARINET** 

Jan Halloran *Principal*Nicholas Brown

**BASSOON** 

Ronald Haroutunian Principal

Rachel Juszczak

**HORN** 

Whitacre Hill Acting Principal

Dirk Hillyer Clark Matthews Iris Rosenstein

**TRUMPET** 

Bruce Hall *Principal* Greg Whitaker

TROMBONE

Robert Couture *Principal* Victoria Garcia-Daskalova

Cameron Owen
CIMBASSO

Donald Rankin Principal

**HARP** 

Anna Ellsworth Acting Principal

**TIMPANI** 

John Tanzer Acting Principal

**PERCUSSION** 

Gregory Simonds Acting Principal

Abraham Finch

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA CHORUS

**SOPRANO** 

Brett Hodgdon | Chorus Master

Alisa Cassola Molly Crookedacre Jessine Johnson Tamra Grace Jones Marie McCarville Brianna J. Robinson Kimberly Sandoval Abigail Smith Jessica Jacobs Isabelle Zeledon

**ALTO** 

Megan Callahan Heather Gallagher Felicia Gavilanes Elizabeth Kinder Rebecca Krouner Katherine Maysek Arielle Rogers Vanessa Schukis **TENOR** 

Quinn Bernegger
David Rivera Bozón
Ethan Bremner
Christon Carney
Frank Levar
Christopher Maher
Thomas Oesterling

Thomas Oester Francis Rogers Patrick Starke Fred VanNess

**BASS** 

Jorgeandrés Camargo RaShaun Campbell Junhan Choi Kamil Ekinci Mitch FitzDaniel Fred Furnari Taylor Horner Todd McNeel Blair Mellow Devon Russo Marcus Schenck Ron Williams

Maynard Goldman Orchestra Personnel Manager Ashton Bush Orchestra Librarian

#### PRODUCTION/ARTISTIC STAFF

David Lee Bradke Production Manager

Joseph Staffa Interim Technical Director

Ricky Moats Tech Assistant

Melanie Bacaling Assistant Director & Intimacy Advocate

Michael Janney Stage Manager

Carmen Catherine Alfaro Assistant Stage Manager

Kate Johnson Assistant Stage Manager

Savannah Cathers Production Assistant

Brian Willis Head Production Carpenter

Henry Tompkins First Assistant Production Carpenter

Timothee Courouble Second Assistant Production Carpenter

Maxx Finn Lighting Director & Assistant Lighting Designer

Michael Gottke Head Production Electrician

Sumner Ellsworth Light Board Programmer

Donald King First Assistant Production Electrician

Jack Sullivan Second Assistant Production Electrician

Connor M O'Leary Props Master

Emily Picot Head of Production Properties

LaRasha Payne First Assistant Production Properties

Corey Prendergast Second Assistant Production Properties

Liz Perlman Costume Director

Lynn Jeffery Costume Supervisor

Dianna Reardon Head Production Wardrobe

Melinda Abreu Wig & Makeup Artist

Linnea Soderberg Wig & Makeup Artist

James McCartney Head Production Audio

Matthew Frelinger First Assistant Production Audio

Jeremy Ogungbadero Head Production Video

Natalia St Jean Surtitle Operator

Jacob Crosbie Driver

Jimmy Johnson Driver

#### **UNIONS**

The Artists and Stage Managers employed on these productions are members of the American Guild of Musical Artists. All musicians are members of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

The scenic, costume, and lighting designers are members of United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). Stagehands are represented by Local #11 of IATSE.

Boston Lyric Opera is a member of OPERA America, the national service organization for opera in the U.S. and Canada.



THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Boston Lyric Opera extends its gratitude to the following vendors, partners, individuals, community organizations, and school partners for their extraordinary courtesy in making our 2019/2020 Season possible:

 $4 Wall \ Entertainment \ | \ Rui \ Alves, Mike \ Texeira$ 

Acentech, Inc. | Carl Rosenberg, Ben Markham

Alexander Aronson Finning

American Repertory Theater

Artists for Humanity

Art of the Event

ArtsBoston

Backstage Hardware

Susan Bennett, M.D., Company Physician,

Consultant, Associate Physician, Massachusetts

General Hospital

BFIT | Carole Andreotti

**BG** Events and Catering

**BOCA Systems** 

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

Boston Arts Academy | Molly Jo Rivelli, Director

Boston Cecilia | George Case, Director

Boston Center for the Arts

**Boston Properties** 

Boston Public Library

Boston Public Schools Visual &

Performing Arts Office

Boston Symphony Children's Choir |

James Burton, Conductor

Cambridge Chinese Choral Society |

Yufen Yen, Director

Cambridge Community Chorus

Pam Mindell, Director

Capron Lighting & Sound Co | Jeff Antonellis,

Ryan Frost

Cartage America | Tim Riley

Casa Myrna

Charcoalblue LLP | Andy Hayles, Gary Sparkes,

John Owens

Citius Printing

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP |

Andrew Eisenberg, Will Krasnow

Coro-Dante | Linda Balliro, Director

Costume Works, Inc. | Liz Perlman

Cresa | Rick Lowe, Elizabeth Geary

C3 Commercial Construction

Consulting, Inc. | Doug Anderson

DCR | Janice Parlon, Carl Giambusso

Devon Lumber

Dyenamix, Inc.

East Cambridge Piano | James Nicoloro

Elderhostel, Inc. | Road Scholar

The Eliot K-8 Innovation School

Explorateur

Filippo Ristorante

Front of House Managers  $\mid$  Brianna Meese,

Nico Ruggieri, Susannah Thornton

Furnished Quarters | Annette Clement

Louis A. Gentile Piano Service

Goldstar

Timothy Hamilton

Haley Bryant | Graduate Summer Intern

Holltel Communications | Matthew Hollingsworth

Hub International

Hubspot, Inc.

HUM Properties | Casey Smith

The HYM Investment Group

IATSE Local #11 JACET | Colleen Glynn

IRN Internet Services | Jay Williston

Jayne's Flowers Inc.

JMK PR

Leapfrog Arts | Melissa Wagner-O'Malley

Lia Cruz | Bloomberg Summer Intern

Liza Voll Photography

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and

Recreation | Nick Connors mindSHIFT

Technologies Inc.

Mitel

Myles Standish Business Condominiums

**NEPS Primary Freight** 

New England Conservatory of Music

New England Professional Systems | Bill Miller

New England Restrooms | Nicole Antonucci

Night Shift Brewing - Lovejoy Wharf

Production Advantage

Opus Affair | Graham Wright

ProPrint Boston

Roaming Hunger, Inc.

Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers |

Ben Rosenberg, Steven Au Yeung Rosebrand Inc.

Ryder Transportation

Santander

Scalped Productions

Sentinel Group | Denise Roney

Sew What Inc. | Andrea Fraser

Seyfarth Shaw LLP | Brian Michaelis

Spectrum Catering & Concessions

Jason Reed, Michael McCurry

Starburst Printing | Jason Grondin

The Strategy Group

STV/DPM | Denise Pied

Tessitura

TDF | Theatre Development Fund

Toshiba, Corp. | Cheryl Hayford, Todd Tweedie

Transnational Group

United Staging & Rigging | Eric Frishman

Vantage Technology Consulting Group |

Geoffrey Tritsch

**VOICES** Boston

Wetherbee Creative | Wendy Wetherbee



#### DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are honored to recognize our donors who generously support the mission of Boston Lyric Opera to build curiosity, enthusiasm, and support for opera by creating musically and theatrically compelling productions, events, and educational resources for our community and beyond. We are deeply grateful for the following contributions made to BLO between July 1, 2018 to February 10, 2020.

- FRIENDS OF BLO | The largest community of supporters of Boston Lyric Opera. Members enjoy exclusive opportunities to explore opera and engage with others who share their passion through benefits such as invitations to Deconstructing Opera Salons, backstage tours, final dress rehearsals and more.
- ORFEO SOCIETY | Members gain behind-the-scenes access to BLO Artists and Creative Team members, while providing direct support to bring opera to our stages and communities.
- THE GOLDOVSKY SOCIETY | Membership is given in recognition of those who have made a provision in a will, living trust, deferred gift plan, or retirement plan that will benefit BLO.

For more information or to become a member, please call Sarah B. Blume at 617.702.8974.

#### CRESCENDO (\$100,000+)

Anonymous (1) Linda Cabot Black\*§ Willa & Taylor Bodman\*+ Gerard & Sherryl Cohen† Alicia Cooney & Stephen Quigley\*§ Ms. RoAnn Costin Wayne Davis & Ann Merrifield\*§† Abigail B. Mason\*§

Mattina R. Proctor Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. E. Lee Perry\*+

William & Helen Pounds\*+

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Puzo\*§† David & Marie Louise Scudder\*§† Wendy Shattuck & Sam Plimpton\* Mr. & Mrs. Ray Stata\* Sandra A. Urie & Frank F. Herron Miss Wallace Minot Leonard

#### VIVACE (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Anonymous (1) Jane & Steven Akin Timothy Blodgett<sup>‡</sup> Nonnie & Rick Burnes\*§+ Miguel & Suki de Bragança\* Andrew L. Eisenberg\* Jody & Tom Gill\*t Mr. & Mrs. Amos B. Hostetter, Jr. Susan W. Jacobs\*† Marie I. Stultz Revocable Trust Jane & Jeffrey Marshall\* Massachusetts Cultural Council

#### PRESTO (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Anonymous (2) Katie & Paul Buttenwieser Mark H. Dalzell & James Dao-Dalzell

Alan & Lisa Dynner\*§ Karen Johansen & Gardner Hendrie Mimi Hewlett\*§ Ms. Amelia Katzen\*† Maria Krokidas & Bruce Bullen\* The Montrone Family Anne M. Morgan\*† National Endowment for the Arts Mr. & Mrs. A. Neil Pappalardo\* Janet & Irv Plotkin\*§† Susan & Dennis Shapiro\* Dr. Robert Walsh & Lydia Kenton Walsh\*

ALLEGRO (\$10,000 - \$24,999) Anonymous (1) Landis Becker Young & Bracebridge H. Young Ms. Ellen Cabot\* Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Jessica Donohue\* Kathryn G. Freed, in memory of Dean & Patti Freed§ Kathleen Hull\*† Ernest Jacob\*† Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Johnson Ellen & Robert Kaplan\*§† Joe & Pam LoDato\*§† Dr. Joseph & Mrs. Anita Loscalzo\* **MEDITECH** Esther Nelson & Bernd Ulken Mr. & Mrs. Richard Olney III Anne B. Popkin John & Susanne Potts\* Suzanne & Peter Read§ Stephen & Geraldine Ricci\* Allison K. Ryder & David B. Jones\*† Rumena & Alex Senchak\*† State Street Corporation Susan A. Babson Opera Fund for **Emerging Artists** Lady Juliet & Dr. Christopher Tadgell

#### ADAGIO (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous (3) Sam & Nancy Altschuler Ms. Kimberly E. Balfour\*+ Ms. Ann Beha & Mr. Robert A. Radloff The Bell Family, in memory of Dr. Peggy Bell\* BPS Arts Expansion Fund at EdVestors Edmund & Betsy Cabot Charitable Foundation Dr. David Campbell\*† Marjorie B. & Martin Cohn Dr. Amos Deinard Dr. Charles Dickinson‡ & Ms. JoAnne Dickinson\* Ms. Catherine Dunn Mr. David Ferguson Lawrence & Atsuko Fish Lise Olney & Tim Fulham\* Dr. Alfred Goldberg & Dr. Joan Goldberg Nick & Marjorie Greville Kathy & Ron Groves David Hoffman & Deborah Friedman\*† Emily C. Hood Amy Hunter & Steven Maguire\*§† Ms. Louise Johnson\* Stephen Kunian\* Mr. Edward J. Leary<sup>†</sup> Drs. Lynne & Sidney Levitsky Karen Levv Richard & Nadine Lindzen

Andrew Sherman & Russ Lopez\*§† David B. Manning\* Ms. M. Lynne Markus\*§† Jillian C. McGrath\*† Karen E. McShane, MD, in honor of Esther Nelson & Bernd Ulken Mr. & Mrs. John O'Brien Dr. Kurt D. Gress & Mr. Samuel Y. Parkinson\*† William & Lia Poorvu Carol & Frank Porcelli Mr. Carl Rosenberg\* Ms. Carol Rubin\*† Larry & Beverly St. Clair\*† Gregory E. Moore & Wynne W. Szeto\* Mr. Richard Trant\* Ms. Amy Tsurumi\* Peter Wender\*§ Jeannie Ackerman Curhan & Joseph C. Williams George & Moira Yip\*

GRAZIOSO (\$3,000 - \$4,999) Anonymous (2) Michael Barza & Judith Robinson Drs. Susan E. Bennett & Gerald B. Pier Carolyn Bitetti & T. Christopher Donnelly Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Cabot Nancy & Laury Coolidge Corning Incorporated Foundation Tamara P. & Charles H. Davis II§ Laura Dike & Vaughn Miller Mr. Eijmberts & Mr. Tinga

Eli Lilly & Company Foundation, Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Ron Feinstein Rear Adm. & Mrs. S. David Frost Mr. & Mrs. Dozier Gardner Mr. Joseph Hammer§ Mr. Keith Higgins Mr. & Mrs. Morton Hoffman Doris & Howard Hunter William A. Hunter & Barbara Bradlee Hunter Milling Kinard Dr. Maydee G. Lande, in memory of her father Mr. Louis Lévy, in memory of Joce Ledeuil\*† Kate Meany\* Ms. Amy Merrill Jo Frances Mever Dr. Harold Michlewitz Shari & Christopher Noe D. Cosmo & Jane P. Papa\*† Mr. Winfield Perry, in memory of Shirley & Kenneth Perry Melinda & James Rabb Deborah Rose & Dr. Noel Rose Dr. Jordan S. Ruboy Charitable Fund§‡ Dr. & Mrs. R. Michael Scott David Shukis & Susan Blair† Mr. John Stevens & Ms. Virginia McIntyre Lise & Myles Striar Ms. Tricia Swift Tee Taggart & Jack Turner

Mr. Thaemert & Mr. Gokey

John H. Deknatel & Carol M. Taylor

Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Tempesta\*†

Ms. Tania Zouikin\*§

PRODUCER (\$1,500 - \$2,999)

Alliance Bernstein Matching Gift Program

Anchor Capital Advisors

Sarah E. Ashby

Boston Cultural Council

Dorothy & Hale Bradt

Samuel & Claire Cabot

Susan & Alfred Chandler

Mr. Lawrence M. DeVito§

Robert Eastman\*§† Ms. Jennifer Eckert

Dr. David Golan & Dr. Laura Green

Pamela & Alan Goodman

Dr. Charles Haffaiee

Mr. & Mrs. John Henn<sup>†</sup>

Arthur & Eloise Hodges

Mrs. Charles Hood Robert & Stephanie Hood

Eva R. Karger§

Mr. Stephen Kidder

Mr. Joseph Mari

Ms. Sandra Moose

Mary & Sherif Nada\*§

Barbara Goodwin Papesch<sup>‡</sup>, in honor of

Sarah Blume

The Honorable & Mrs. Lawrence Perera,

in honor of Michael & Christine Puzo

Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Perkins, Jr. JoAnne & Joel Shapiro

R. S. Steinberg

UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Mr. John Whittlesey

#### PARTNER (\$500 - \$1,499)

Anonymous (4)

Apple Inc.

Ms. Margaret Atwood

John Belchers

Mr. Martin S. Berman, in memory of

Lila Gross

Leonard & Jane Bernstein

Dr. Paul Bleicher & Dr. Julia Greenstein

Ms. Kathleen Boyce

Peter Braun & Diane Katzenberg Braun

John & Irene Briedis

Pam & Lee Bromberg

David W. Brown

Thomas Burger & Andree Robert

Mr. & Mrs. John Cabot

David J. Chavolla

Ms. Mei Po Cheung

Gene & Lloyd Dahmen Mr. Terry O. Decima

Janice Mancini Del Sesto, in memory of

Dorothy Arnold§

Mr. James DeVeer

Mr. & Mrs. Myron J. Dickerman

Dr. & Mrs. David B. Doolittle

Willis & Zach Durant-Emmons

Marie-Pierre & Michael Ellmann

Drs. Martin Elvis & Giuseppina Fabbiano§

Robert & Iris Fanger Family Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn L. Fencer

Mr. Edward N. Gadsby

Mrs. G. Peabody Gardner, in honor of

Mr. & Mrs. E Lee Perry

Mark C. Gebhardt, MD & Kristi L. Griffin

Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere

Ms. Sandra Steele & Mr. Paul Greenfield

Mr. Stephen Grubaugh &

Ms. Carol McGeehan

Anne & Neil Harper

Dr. Robert Henry

Fred Hoppin

Mr. Ted & the Rev. Canon

Cynthia P. Hubbard

Mr. Craig S. Hughes

Mr. & Mrs. C. Bruce Johnstone, in honor

of Steve & Jane Akin

Robert Kauffman & Susan Porter

Thomas & Cynthia Kazior

Mr. Stanley Keller

Mr. John Michael Kennedy

Dr. David Korn & Carol Scheman

Ms. Yuriko Kuwabara & Dr. Sunny Dzik

Pam Lassiter

Mr. & Mrs. Boardman Lloyd

Peter Madsen

Ms. Virginia Meany

Mr. Carl R. Nold & Ms. Vicky Kruckeberg

Melissa & David Norton

Ms Janet Offensend

Prof. Suzanne P. Ogden

Robert & Carolyn Osteen

Pamela E. Pinsky Memorial at the Silicon

Valley Community Foundation<sup>‡</sup>

Mr. & Mrs. James Post

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & Ute Prevost

Ms. Patricia Rosenblatt

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Ryder

Stephen & Peg Senturia

Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Shafir

Sayre Sheldon

Mr. Andrew Szentgyorgyi

Edward H. Tate II

Ernst & Toinette ter Haar

Diane C. Tillotson Mr. Michael Tronic§ Leonce Welt

Ms. Mary Wolfson

Mr. & Ms. Douglas Woodlock

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wulff

Dr. Ioannis Yannas

Albert & Judith Zabin Drs. Bertram & Laima Zarins

**CONTRIBUTOR (\$250 - \$499)** 

Anonymous (2)

Mr. Peter Ambler & Ms. Lindsay Miller

Mr. Bernard Aserkoff

Bantam Cider Co

Marc & Carol Bard

Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Beazley

Mr. Karen Bedrosian Mr. Andrew Binns

Ms. Elizabeth Bjorkman

Dr. & Mrs. Stuart R. Bless Dr. Roaer Boshes

C. Anthony Broh & Jennifer L. Hochschild

Ms. Katherine Cain

Ms. Mary Chamberlain Ms. Elisabeth Clark

A. Paul Cravedi, in memory of Anna Cravedi

James F. Crowley, Jr.

Rita Cuker

Curiosity Foundation

Mr. Paul Curtis

Dr. James Dalsimer

Deborah B. Davis

Mr. Mark Donohoe

Ms. Catharine-Mary Donovan

Mr. John Douhan

Ms. Diane D. Friebe

Sarah Gallivan & Gopal Kadagathur Mr. Clayton Geiger

Mr. Walter Gilbert

Mr. James Glazier

Ruth Golden

Dr. Philip L. Goldsmith

Dr. Donald P. Goldstein

Ron & Julia S. Goodman

Mr. Daniel Halston

Sylvia Hammer Mr. & Mrs. James J. Harper

Mrs. George Hatsopoulos

Mr. Thomas Hotaling Mr. Emil lantchev

Investment Technology Group

Jeri Lardy

Ms. Amelia Leclair Legal Sea Foods, Inc.

Leo Waldemar Professor Deidre Lynch Ms. Julia MacLaughlin, in memory of

Robert A. MacLaughlin

Mr. Charles Maier

Dr. Nicholas & Mrs. Charlotte Mastroianni

Dr. Edith Mathiowitz, in honor of

Joseph Suzin

Mr. Arthur Mattuck

James & Caroline McClov

Mr. & Mrs. Kilmer McCully

Margaret McDormand, in memory of

Anna Elizabeth McDormand Evelyn McFadden, in memory of

George Seaman

Claudia J. Morner & Leonard S. Jones

Ms. Sara Muspratt

OptumLabs

Mr. William Pananos

Pfizer Foundation

Anne & François Poulet

Thomas & Elena Powers Enid Ricardo Quiñones &

Wendy Blackfield Quiñones

Dr. R. Lynn Rardin

Jim & Sandy Righter Donald & Abby Rosenfeld

Simon Rosenthal & Nouri Newman

Ms. Penny Rossano

Mark & Lori Roux Varda & Dr. Israel Shaked

Lisa G. Shaw

Michael Skatrud

Ms. Joan Suit Marcos & Faith Szydlo

John & Mary Tarvin

Ms. Ann Teixeira Ms. Antra Thrasher

Ms. Melissa Tully

Mr. Konstantin Tyurin & Ms. Kirstin Ilse

Unitedhealth Group

Andrea Urban

Steve Walch & Linda Williams

Sinclair Weeks & Julia Hinman Weeks

Linda & Harvey Weiner Mr. Stephen Weiner

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Weinstein Ms. Denise Wernikoff

Mr. Jerry Wheelock & Elizabeth Wood

\* Board Member

† Lyric Circle Member § Goldovsky Society Member *‡ Deceased* 

## **INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS**

Performances of Norma are also funded, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER









# ABOUT BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

Both locally and beyond, Boston Lyric Opera leads the way in celebrating the art of the voice through innovative programming and community engagement initiatives that redefine the operagoing experience.

Under the vibrant leadership of Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director Esther Nelson, BLO's productions have been described by the magazine Musical America as "part of the national dialogue" because of their role as entry points for new audiences. The New York Times observed that BLO "clearly intends [its productions] to catch the interest of operagoers around the country."

This view is shared by the nearly 25,000 people who experience BLO each year through dynamic performances, extensive partnerships with leading cultural organizations, and programs throughout our vastly diverse and exuberant community.

BLO's programming remains faithful to tradition while blazing new ground, building audiences, and creating new ways to enhance the opera-going experience. BLO's Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artists hone their craft and prepare to expand their careers to other world-leading stages. And BLO's wide-reaching education initiatives introduce opera to new audiences across generations.

Through your support and attendance, BLO employs nearly 350 artists and creative professionals annually—vocalists, artisans, stagehands, costumers, and scenic designers—many of whom are members of our own community.

The Company is proud to play a significant and meaningful role in Boston's vibrant arts community.

#### **BOSTON LYRIC OPERA STAFF**

**Esther Nelson** *Stanford Calderwood General* & *Artistic Director* 

David Angus Music Director
John Conklin Artistic Advisor

Nicholas G. Russell Director of Artistic Operations Bradley Vernatter Chief Operating Officer Karen T. Frost Chief Financial Officer Eileen Nugent Williston Managing Director

#### **ARTISTIC**

Andrew Eggert Senior Manager, Artistic Zachary Calhoun Auditions Manager Sydney Mukasa Artistic Coordinator

#### **PRODUCTION**

Jessica Johnson Brock Associate Director of Production Ashley Shea Production Operations Manager Rachel Lucas Production Coordinator Sophie Urquhart Production Administration Assistant Julia Noulin-Mérat Associate Producer

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

David J. Cullen Senior Manager, Accounting
Reingard Heller Finance Manager
Elisabeth Layne Finance & Office Coordinator

Steven Atwater Senior Manager, Financial Operations

Lizabeth Malanga Executive Assistant to the Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director

#### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Sarah B. Blume Director of Major Gifts
Cathy Emmons Director of Institutional Gifts
Michele Walls Director of Development Operations
Jayne Gallagher External Relations Coordinator
Ashley Daugherty Development Coordinator
Kara Wasilauski Patron Relations Associate

Frank Impelluso Director of Marketing & Sales
Madison Florence Marketing & Communications
Coordinator

JMK PR Public Relations

Rebecca Kittredge Senior Manager, Audience Services & Analytics

Bailey Kerr Patron Services Associate

Rebecca Kirk Director of Education Programs
Sara O'Brien Senior Manager, Community Engagement
Catherine Doyle Events Coordinator
Sarah Zimmer Education Programs Associate
Patricia Au Resident Teaching Artist

Lydia Jane Graeff Resident Teaching Artist

IRN Internet Services Website Leapfrog Arts Graphic Design

#### **VOLUNTEER CORPS**

Jeannie Ackerman

Sharon Barry

Katie Bauer

Allyson Bennett

Pam Borys

Laima Bobelis

Lynn Bregman

Jane Cammack

Susan Cavalieri

Caroline Cole

Michelle Chen

Ann D'Angelo

Karla De Greef

MarshadePoo

Mary DePoto

Frances Driscoll

Marian Ead

Lee Forgosh

Erin Frey

Audley Fuller

Linda George

Mencken Graham

Rachel Hahn

Christine Hauray-Gilbert

James Karq

Eva Karger

Milling Kinard

Esther Lable

Daniel Levin

Richard Leccese

Nancy Lynn

Domenico Mastrototaro

Terri Mazzuli

Patti McGovern

 $Anne\ McGuire$ 

Meg Morton

Kameel Nasr

Gail Neff

Cosmo & Jane Papa

Barbara Papesch

Manitari Araceli-Patterson

Jeffrey Penta

Nikta Sabouri

Elizabeth Sarafian

Colin Sheehan

Alexandra (Sasha) Sherman

Yamel Rizk

Barbara Trachtenberg

Amy Walba

Gerry Weisenberg

Kenneth Westhassel

Beverly Wiggins

Debra Wiess

Alfred Williams

Lynn Williams

Sybil Williams

As of February 27, 2020







Earlier this year, BLO Education brought two singers, a pianist, and a teaching artist into over 15 public and private schools. We introduced opera to over 1,000 youth, presenting Hansel & Gretel in a highly interactive and participatory performance.

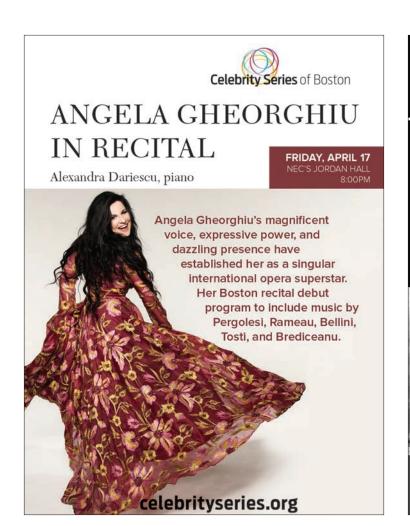
Join us April 20-24 as we bring this special one-hour Hansel & Gretel to the Boston Public Library in free DAILY public performances.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS & OTHER BLO PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AT BLO.ORG/CALENDAR















# exceptional musicianship, beyond the boundaries of genre.

New England Conservatory is internationally recognized as a leader among music schools, educating and training musicians of all ages from around the world.

NEC pushes the boundaries of making and teaching music through training in classical, jazz, and Contemporary Improvisation.



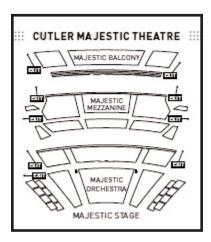
#### PERFORMANCE & VENUE INFORMATION

All performances begin on time. At the request of our patrons, Boston Lyric Opera observes the national opera standard of a no late seating policy. Additionally, if you must leave during the performance, re-entry may be prohibited. While we understand that traffic conditions, public transportation, weather, and other factors can have unexpected effects on your arrival, we wish to minimize disruptions for our seated patrons and for our artists on stage.

As a courtesy to the artists and for the comfort of those around you, please turn off mobile phones, watch alarms, and other devices with audible signals prior to the start of the performance. The use of cameras or recording devices in the theater is strictly prohibited.

For BLO productions, subscriptions & tickets, visit BLO.org or call BLO Audience Services at 617.542.6772, M - F | 10 - 5.

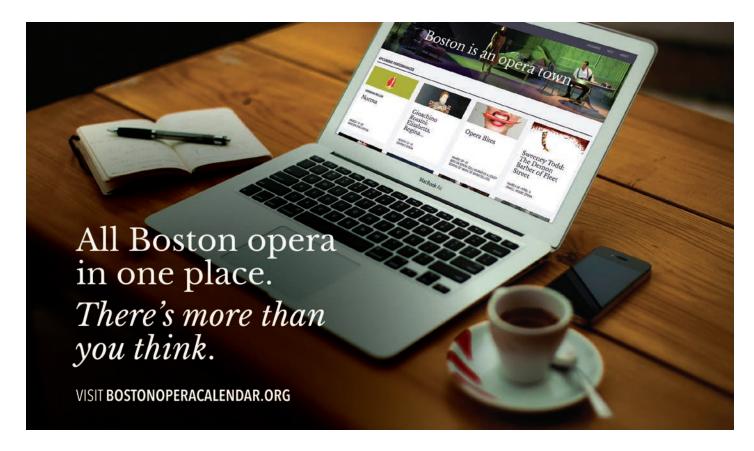
#### EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATER



ACCESSIBILITY: Restrooms for all patrons are on the balcony level and the lower lobby level. The front of the Orchestra has no stairs to access. The back half of the Orchestra has approximately ten stairs to the back row. The Mezzanine is accessible by two large flights of stairs only and has five stairs leading to the front rows and ten stairs leading to the back row. The Balcony is also only accessible by stairs and has three large flights of stairs. There are approximately ten stairs to the back row of the Balcony. Listening devices are available at the Box Office in the lobby. Large print programs and libretti are available electronically upon request. English surtitles provided.

VENUE INFORMATION: Emerson Cutler Majestic Theater | 219 Tremont Street | Boston 617.824.8400 | artsemerson.org

FIRE EXIT PLANS | For your own safety, please take a moment to view the exits.

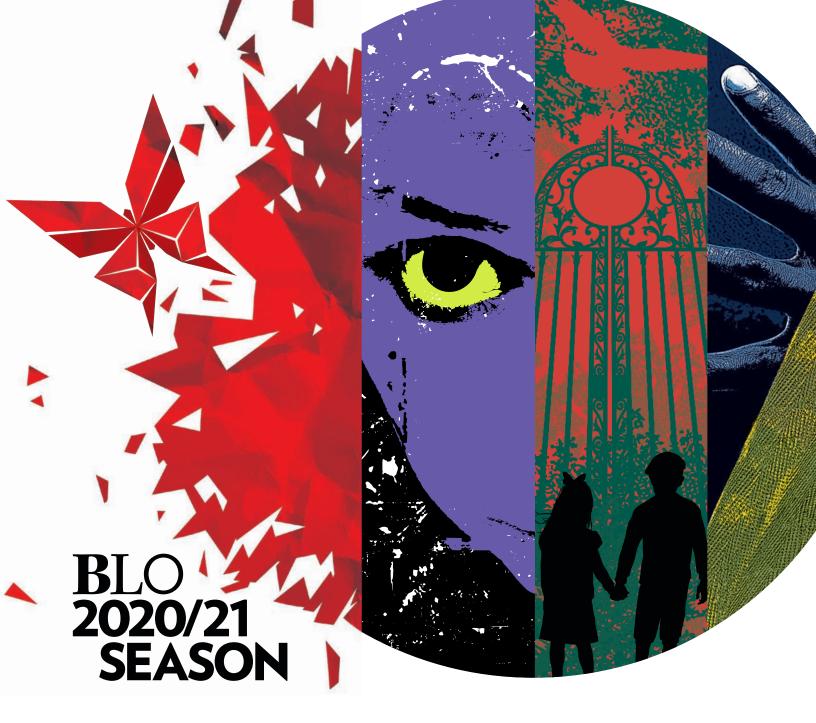


# CONTEXT LISTEN. STREAM. DOWNLOAD.

Covering world news to art news, happening right here in our community. Get it all at wbur.org.



90.9 wbur



MADAMA BUTTERFLY HANSEL & GRETEL

OCT 16 - 25 MAR 12 - 21

NOV 18 - 22 MAY 7 - 16

THE FALL OF THE CHAMPION: HOUSE OF USHER AN OPERA IN JAZZ