

BLO

BOSTONLYRICOPERA



BLO'S 49TH SEASON OPENS WITH VERDI'S MACBETH

Two performances: October 10 & 12, 2025 at the Emerson Colonial Theatre.

Norman Garrett stars in the title role. Alexandra LoBianco stars as Lady Macbeth.

Steve Maler directs; David Angus conducts the Boston Lyric Opera Orchestra.

Photos and other assets [here](#).

BOSTON, Mass. – September 8, 2025 – Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) opens its 49th Season with a new production of Giuseppe Verdi's Shakespeare-inspired opera **MACBETH** starring **Norman Garrett** (below, l.) in the tyrannical title role and **Alexandra LoBianco** (below, r.) as the scheming Lady Macbeth. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company Artistic Director **Steve Maler** helms the production, BLO Music Director **David Angus** conducts the BLO Orchestra, and BLO Head of Music **Brett Hodgdon** conducts the BLO Chorus. MACBETH runs for two performances: Fri, Oct 10 @ 7:30 pm; and Sun, Oct. 12 @ 3:00 pm, at the Emerson Colonial Theatre.

Blending one of Shakespeare's more enduring dramas with Verdi's compelling music, MACBETH offers a dark tale of ambition and fate. In this version, with a libretto by **Francesco**

Maria Piave and **Andrea Maffei**, military general Macbeth hears a prophecy that foretells his ascent to political power. Upon learning this, his wife begins to scheme, and during a visit from King Duncan she encourages her husband to kill the king in his sleep. After the murder, they plant false evidence to direct suspicion elsewhere. Amid the couple's growing ambition and paranoia, Macbeth ascends to the throne in the power vacuum created by the king's death.

Bloody consequences mount – affecting everyone from royalty to refugees – until Macduff leads an opposing army to liberate the people from Macbeth's tyranny and establish Malcolm as the rightful king.

"Verdi's MACBETH is an extraordinary way to open our season—with its incredible music, gripping storytelling, and the sheer vocal fireworks it demands of its performers," says **BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen**. "This is an exceptional cast of singing actors and a world-class creative team who will bring this masterpiece to life. We're happy to return for the fourth year to the historic Colonial Theatre, whose partnership we value deeply. This



production truly showcases the power of opera, with so many BLO artists onstage and behind the scenes to make it all happen.”

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Additional casting for this production includes **David Junghoon Kim** as Macduff, **Zaikuan Song** as Banquo, **Omar Najmi** as Malcolm and **Vera Savage** as Lady in Waiting. **Léon Jerfita**, a Deaf actor seen on many Boston stages, will perform the non-singing role of Duncan. Full cast list and bios are [here](#).

Scenic design for MACBETH is by **Amy Rubin**. Lighting design is by **Eric Southern**. Costumes are designed by **Amanda Gladu**. Wigs and makeup are designed by **Tom Watson**. Fight and intimacy coordinator is **Angie Jepson**. Full creative team bios are [here](#).

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Steve Maler says the visual and emotional inspiration for this production was influenced initially by his interest in German artist **Anselm Kiefer**, whose large-scale multimedia works suggest imaginary landscapes ravaged by war and evoke the desolation of daily life in war and tyranny.

“We’ve focused on the psychological landscape of war in the opera, both referencing it and abstracting it,” Maler says. “Characters wear the silhouettes from wars that the U.S. has been part of in the 20th century...it’s our way to relate the world of the opera to the world of the audience. I’m hoping to land in a liminal space that feels historic, but allows for powerful contemporary parallels of civil strife and unbridled ambition to resonate.”

Maler says he sees the play and the opera as “a love story gone terribly awry, a tale of moral collapse as a fearless warrior succumbs to ambition, and a cautionary warning about how civil strife has catastrophic consequences. But ultimately, I want to anchor this production in the costs of war on the so-called ‘cannon fodder’...the grunts in the armies, the people of Scotland, the farmers whose lands become battlefields.”

Although he first wrote MACBETH in 1847, Verdi revised the opera for a French-language version in 1865. A third hybrid version, using the later libretto translated back to the original Italian, is the one most often seen now, and the one BLO will use.

SCHEDULE & TICKETS

Boston Lyric Opera’s production of MACBETH runs Fri, Oct 10 @ 7:30 pm and Sun, Oct 12 @ 3 pm at the Emerson Colonial Theatre in Boston. Tickets are \$40-\$309 and available at ticketing.blo.org.

ABOUT BLO & ITS SEASON

Now in its 49th Season, Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) is dedicated to creating compelling operatic experiences that welcome new audiences, break new ground, and enrich community life. Since its founding, Boston Lyric Opera has produced world and U.S. premieres, Pulitzer Prize-winning operas, and notable commissions and co-productions, ranging from live stage shows to films streamed worldwide. Each year, BLO employs more than 800 artists and creative professionals in 150+ public performances, from mainstage programs to free

community and education offerings that welcome more than 25,000 audience members. Programs are enhanced by partnerships with local cultural organizations including Boston Public Library, Boston Public Schools, and many more.

After **MACBETH**, BLO's fall season continues with the new opera revue **RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES!** (Nov. 12, 2025) at the SoWa Power Station in Boston's South End. Spring 2026 brings productions of **Samuel Barber's VANESSA** (Jan 8-10, 2026) in collaboration with Boston Symphony Orchestra; two productions of **Gustav Mahler's** music including **SYMPHONY NO. 3** (Feb 10, 2026) performed by **Budapest Festival Orchestra** (Iván Fischer, Music Director) in collaboration with **Celebrity Series of Boston** at Symphony Hall and **SONG OF THE EARTH** (March 20-29, 2026), which uses the chamber version arranged by Arnold Schoenberg and is staged in BLO's renovated Opera + Community Studios in Fort Point; **RAEHANN IN RECITAL** (March 24, 2026) featuring **Raehann Bryce-Davis** at BLO's Opera + Community Studios; **Gaetano Donizetti's DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT** (April 24-May 3, 2026) in a new production with a new libretto and new musical setting at the Emerson Colonial Theatre; and **SHE WAS THERE** (June 13-14, 2026) in partnership with Castle of Our Skins at the West End Museum and the Museum of African American History. For information, www.blo.org.

CALENDAR LISTING & SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT: **Boston Lyric Opera** opens its 49th Season with a new production of Verdi's **MACBETH**, starring **Norman Garrett** in the title role and **Alexandra LoBianco** as Lady Macbeth. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company **Artistic Director Steve Maler** directs, BLO **Music Director David Angus** conducts the BLO Orchestra and BLO Head of Music **Brett Hodgdon** conducts the BLO Chorus.

WHEN: Friday, October 10, 2025 @ 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 12, 2025 @ 3 PM

WHERE: Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston Street in Boston

TICKETS: \$40-\$309 plus fees at blo.org/macbeth

SOCIAL 1: Boston Lyric Opera kicks off its 49th Season with Verdi's *Macbeth*, starring Norman Garrett and Alexandra LoBianco in a dark tale of ambition, fate, and the human and psychological consequences of war.

SOCIAL 2: Boston Lyric Opera opens its 49th Season with Verdi's *Macbeth* (Oct. 10 & 12), a gripping tale of ambition and fate starring Norman Garrett and Alexandra LoBianco. blo.org/macbeth

TAGS: **FB, Threads, IG, YouTube and TikTok:** @bostonlyricopera
#BLO, etc.

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MEDIA INFORMATION/CONTACT

For coverage, interviews, rehearsal visits and tickets to **MACBETH**, reach John Michael Kennedy, jmk@jmkpr.com, 781-620-1761 (o) or 212-842-1752 (cell/text).