



Opera For All!

FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE NO. 81

Opera Valentine 2018

Tutti innamorati

Everyone's in love!



Five-Course Italian Gourmet Dinner

Serenades

Silent Auction

Songs of Love

Guest Artists:

Allison Angelo, soprano Paula Rockwell, mezzo-soprano
Leander Mendoza, tenor Jon-Paul Décosse, bass-baritone
Tara Scott, piano

Friday, February 16

6:00 for 6:30 p.m.

The Italian-Canadian Cultural Association Club
2629 Agricola St., Halifax



Tickets \$85.00 incl. \$25.00 tax receipt

By reservation only, call Sheila at 902 445-5768

“Tutti innamorati”, and we don’t want anybody to miss out on an evening where “Everyone’s in love” with the music, the dining, and the fun of Opera Valentine 2018. At the time of going to press, over half the seating capacity has been sold !!

Notes on The Artists

Allison Angelo is always welcomed home by the concert goers of her native Nova Scotia for her lovely soprano interpretations, now preserved so effectively on her ECMA nominated CD “Moon Loves its Light”. In recent Summers she has starred as Mabel Bell in Lorna MacDonald’s music theatre production *The Bells of Baddeck*.



Paula Rockwell, Professor of Voice at Acadia University, has hosted several seasons of

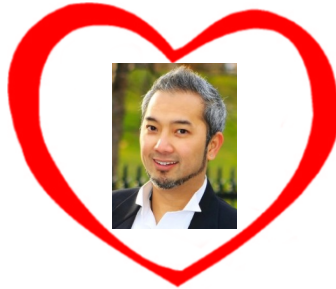
Opera Valentine, and for ONS has sung lead roles in concert Informoperals and in

(continued on page 2)

Opera Valentine 2018 (continued)

Spring Productions: *The Rake's Progress* as Baba the Turk, and the title role of *Savitri*. Her CD "Fleeting Melodies" captures the varied nuances of 20th century North American and European art songs.

Leander Mendoza has delighted HRM audiences with his personable tenor presentations since he established his home and vocal studio in Halifax after emigrating to Canada from The Philippines. For ONS he has portrayed lead roles in several concert Informoperals; this is his third appearance at Opera Valentine. His CD release is entitled "In the Moment - The Broadway Album".



Jon-Paul Décosse has sung roles with professional opera companies across Canada. Since taking up residence in Nova Scotia he has thrilled audiences attending ONS concert Informoperals, notably as Don Pizarro (*Fidelio*) and Brother Boniface (*Le Jongleur de*

Notre Dame), and in the Spring Productions of *Luisa Miller*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Serva Padrona*, and *Savitri*. He has contributed his fine recitalist's collegial support to Maureen Batt's CD "Lady of the Lake".

Thomas Brosky, baritone, a young star of the future, is a student of Jason Davis, winning the 2017 Kiwanis Festival Solo Opera Class ONS Scholarship.

Tara Scott, piano, who guides our soloists with her collaborative sensitivity, is a mainstay of productions by both Opera Nova Scotia and the Halifax Summer Opera Festival. Her close identity with Opera Valentine is annually appreciated by our guests.



The Music. Our Music Director has organized a program representing a well-balanced selection of vocal idioms: favourite art song and arias from operas by Donizetti, Mozart, Puccini, and Verdi, tastefully mixed with the operettas of Sullivan and Lehar, and spiced by hits from

well loved Broadway musicals. As a special treat, you will become members of the ONS Chorus, rendering the Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust*. Of course there will be the Serenades to the Lady and to the Gentleman, the winners of your bidding to honour your special someone.

The irresistible fare of the gourmet dinner: Caprese salad (basil, tomato, Mozzarella), Fettuccini (handmade, with leek and mascarpone sauce), *Filetto di Maiale ripieno* (stuffed pork tenderloin with vegetables and mixed salad, Cream Puffs Trio, coffee and tea. Italian wines for purchase.

Opera Valentine is for everybody: singles, couples, and informal groups. So call Sheila Andrecyk, 902-445-5768. Reservations are \$85, including a \$25 tax receipt. If you have any dietary restrictions or prefer a vegetarian Main Course the chef is always willing to accommodate your request as long as you communicate it to Sheila at least five days before the dinner. **NB:** No reservations can be made through the ONS Office.

Silent Auction Treasures

The Opera Valentine 2018 production team is looking for lots of treasures for the Silent Auction to support this very important annual fundraising event.

Do you have any items to donate for our auction tables? New or gently used items, even re-gifted Christmas presents are welcome!

Please contact me at 902-852-4208 to arrange drop off or pickup. When we have someone in place at the Opera Office, please drop your items off there, calling them at 902-425-8586 or email info@nsopera.org. We shall arrange to pick them up if you cannot deliver them in person.

Additionally, if you have any personal or business contacts who may be interested in contributing an item or a gift certificate for services, please let us know by contacting the office or myself at home.



“Singing the Nature of Love”

Ten Operas from Mozart’s Time until Today

*Introductory talks to the Metropolitan Opera HD transmissions
Season 2017-2018*

Lecturer: Dr. Walter H. Kemp,
Artistic Director Opera Nova Scotia

Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
The Keshen Goodman Library,
Lacewood Drive, Halifax

February 6. Donizetti, *L’elisir d’amore*
20. Puccini, *La Bohème*

March 6. Rossini, *Semiramide*
27. Mozart, *Così fan tutte*

April 10. Verdi, *Luisa Miller*
24. Massenet, *Cendrillon*

*Experience and appreciate opera on a whole new level.
A Reading Knowledge of music is not required to enjoy these talks.
Free admission, all welcome.*

Presented in cooperation with Opera Nova Scotia

Holidays Prize Puzzle Contest: *The Twelve Daze of Operas*

Congratulations to Ann Salsman, who submitted the correct answers to all 14 operas, on Jan. 8, 2018 ! She is the winner of two complimentary tickets to the ONS Spring Production, *La finta giardiniera*.

Correct Answers and their deduction:

1. Carmen. (Karl Benz, Henry Ford, and Enzo Ferrari were pioneering car makers of Germany, America, and Italy respectively)
2. Hamlet. (By definition a small village, with the referential clue for the Prince of Denmark.)
3. Tosca. (Anagram of ASCOT)
4. Aida. (I (one) inside “Ada”)
5. Lohengrin. (Behold [Lo!] a pullet’s [hen] happy face [grin])
6. The Magic Flute. (The instrument of two master flautists in jazz and classical styles)
7. Norma. (The 1st letter of the alphabet after a standard (norm + a))
8. Turandot (reversed tire track (tur, rev. from rut) + and + OT (the Old Testament ‘holy books’))
9. Don Giovanni. (don (put on) +” Giovanni” (Italian term for sweet, cute little boy))
10. Falstaff. (FA (Football Association) + L (left) inserted + staff (office workers))
11. Cavalleria Rusticana. (It. transl.”Rustic Chivalry”: three followers of the knightly code (English, French, and Spanish respectively) in a Sicilian country town)
12. Lakme. (lame (handicap) with a single K inserted (from KKK, the Klu Klux Klan))
13. Semiramide (semi (half) + ram (male sheep) +IDE)
14. Peter Grimes. (peter (decline in the noise, as in “peter out”) + plural of ‘grime’ (term for ‘gloomy modern urban music styles’))

A Reminder

You are receiving this issue of *Opera For All* as an ONS Member 2016-2017, as WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO MISS OUT on Opera Valentine. Thank you, if you are among our fully paid-up Members for 2017-2018. If you have not as yet renewed your membership for the current Season, we do hope you will consider doing so as soon as you are able. We have some interesting Members-only events in hand for the Winter/Spring months.

Opera Quiz

By Dappertutto



Two Puccini operas based upon French literary sources are featured among the initial offerings in the Winter portion of the Live in HD series from The Metropolitan Opera, New York. Time to refresh your knowledge of the links between verismo opera and French writing.

1. *Tosca* was adapted from the work of a then highly regarded French playwright of Puccini's time, who had written his *La Tosca* as a vehicle for the great actress Sarah Bernhardt. Was the theatre piece by Rostand, Hugo, or Sardou?
2. *La Bohème* was adapted by Puccini and his librettists from incidents and characters from one of the founding works of French literary Realism, Murger's *Scènes de la vie de bohème*. One year after the premiere of Puccini's work, another Italian Verist composer, respected for a two-act opera about fatal domestic jealousy among touring entertainers had his version of the same subject given its first performance, but it failed to thrive in the face of the popularity of Puccini's opera. Who was that composer: Mascagni, Leoncavallo, or Cilea?
3. Verdi had pioneered the operatic treatment of contemporary society based upon French authors with his treatment of *La Dame aux Camélias* by Dumas fils. What is the title of that opera?
4. The *verismo* composer Umberto Giordano set a play by Sardou, which although titled after the first name of the heroine, is best remembered for one miniature aria (of less than two minutes) for the tenor, and for the fact it helped popularize a particular style of men's clothing named after the work's title. Name the hat style so referred to.
5. Giordano's best known opera is about a French Revolutionary poet, after whom the work is named. Was that historical figure Villon, Chénier, or Marat?

Answers

1. Sardou; 2. Leoncavallo; 3. *La Traviata*;

4. Fedora; 5. Andrea Chénier.

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