

Cheers! Syracuse Opera Reveals 2023-2024 Season at First-Ever Opera and Beer Event *Upcoming season highlights intimate portraits of hopes and dreams*

Syracuse, NY – At its first-ever Opera and Beer event, Syracuse Opera pulled back the velvet curtain to reveal its upcoming season. An audience of about 100 people were the first to learn what Syracuse Opera is planning in 2023-2024. The theme of the upcoming season explores hopes and dreams, building on momentum generated throughout Syracuse Opera's 2022-2023 season, which recently ended with an acclaimed production of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

"When we thought about what stories we wanted to tell next year, it was important to us to find productions that resonate with all our community members. We want to say, 'Opera is for you. You're welcome here,'" said John Rozzoni, General Director of Syracuse Opera. "Sometimes when people aren't familiar with opera, they have misconceptions about what it really is. We hope our 2023-2024 season demonstrates that opera can be playful and relevant to everyone, here and now."

The 2023-2024 season opens with *I Am a Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams* on the weekend of October 20 at the Redhouse Arts Center in Syracuse. The production explores both the compassion and dark side of humanity through the intersecting lives of two immigrants. The story chronicles the complicated parallels and experiences of Rosa, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico; and her court-appointed attorney, Singa, herself an immigrant from Indonesia with a green card. With music composed by Jorge Sosa and a libretto by Cerise Lim Jacobs, the opera will be performed in English.

Next, *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* promises to move audiences with a remarkable true story of an extraordinary night during World War I, when Allied and German soldiers set down their weapons to enjoy food and drink, camaraderie, music, and peace. Written by Peter Rothstein, the opera will be performed in English at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church on Friday, December 15.

In February 2024, Syracuse Opera brings *The Fantasticks* (the longest running musical in history) to the community. On Valentine's Day weekend, audiences will be treated to a modern telling of the age old story of meddling parents and the power of love. The comedic production (written in the 1960's with original book and lyrics by Tom Jones; music by Harvey Schmidt) was given a fresh rewrite by Tom Jones, in collaboration with director Michael Lluberes in 2022. The new boy-meets-boy story line features the well known songs and all the heart of the original.

Syracuse Opera's 2023-2024 season concludes with *The Barber of Seville*, the beloved prequel to *The Marriage of Figaro*. Audiences who saw Syracuse Opera's production of *The Marriage of Figaro* will recognize the characters as the barber, Figaro, helps Count Almaviva woo the beautiful Rosina away from her guardian, Dr. Bartolo. The opera will be performed in Italian with English translations at the Crouse Hinds Theater on Sunday, April 28.

In addition to four opera productions, Syracuse Opera will also host two other fun, musical events. On Saturday, September 23, 2023, Syracuse Opera will host an evening to honor the storied career of the legendary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. *Celebrating 75: An Andrew Lloyd Webber Revue* will take audiences through some of the most beloved songs in the impresario's catalogue, from *The Phantom of the Opera* to *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats* and beyond..

Finally, Syracuse Opera looks forward to reprising a successful evening of **Opera and Beer** in May 2024. As attendees on Tuesday evening experienced firsthand, the unique event offers a relaxed approach to opera by inviting the audience to get up close and personal and connect with performers.

“It makes opera more accessible. It’s a fun way to invite people into our world, kick off the summer, and celebrate the future of opera in Syracuse,” said Rozzoni.

Opera and Beer—as presented for the first time in Syracuse on Tuesday at Harvey’s Garden—featured a blend of famous opera arias, ensembles, and show tunes. Most importantly, the evening shined a spotlight on the talents of Syracuse Opera’s Young Artists in their final performance of the season.

Tickets to Syracuse Opera’s 2023-2024 season will go on sale soon. While single-show ticket options are not yet available for purchase, subscription packages for the whole season are available by completing a subscription form on [Syracuse Opera’s website](#). The community is encouraged to check in often for updates, and follow the opera company on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Syracuse Opera: *Syracuse Opera, established in 1974, is Central New York’s only year-round professional opera company. As an integral part of the arts and cultural community in Central New York, the company blends tradition with innovation to connect with audiences of all ages through the power of live musical storytelling. Built on the core values of Artistic Excellence, Integrity and Community Enrichment, Syracuse Opera harnesses creativity and innovation to introduce opera to new audiences, while maintaining its exceptional reputation among longtime opera lovers. Syracuse Opera is collaborative, civic-minded and values inclusivity – demonstrating its commitment to foster a vibrant community through investing in world-class artists and performers, stunning productions, and enriching education programs. Syracuse Opera programming is made possible with funds from the General Operating Support program, a regrant program of the County of Onondaga with the support of County Executive, J. Ryan McMahon II, and the Onondaga County Legislature, administered by CNY Arts; by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the City of Syracuse Arts & Culture Recovery Fund Program, a regrant program of the City of Syracuse administered by CNY Arts; and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature. To learn more, visit <https://syracuseopera.org/>.*

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