



Friday, May 31, 2024, 7:00 PM & Saturday, June 1, 2024, 7:00 PM
Bryant Park, NY

Presents

Puccini Celebration

Part of Bryant Park's Picnic Performances series

*Honoring the 100th anniversary of the
passing of Giacomo Puccini*

Featuring

Michael Capasso, emcee

Joseph Rescigno, conductor

Tatev Baroyan, soprano

Ashley Galvani Bell, soprano

Irina Rindzuner, soprano

Victor Starsky, tenor

Todd Thomas, baritone

WooYoung Yoon, tenor

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PROGRAM

<i>Le villi</i>			(1884)
	Trio and Prayer		
	Anna:	Tatev Baroyan	
	Roberto:	WooYoung Yoon	
	Guglielmo:	Todd Thomas	
	New York City Opera	Chorus	
<i>Edgar</i>			(1889)
	Requiem and Addio, mio dolce amor		
	Fidelia:	Ashley Galvani Bell	
	New York City Opera	Chorus	
<i>Manon Lescaut</i>			(1893)
	Act II: Tu tu amore tu!		
	Manon:	Irina Rindzuner	
	Chevalier des Grieux:	Victor Starsky	
<i>La bohème</i>			(1896)
	Act I: O soave fanciulla		
	Mimi:	Ashley Galvani Bell	
	Rodolfo:	WooYoung Yoon	
<i>Tosca</i>			(1900)
	Te Deum		
	Scarpia:	Todd Thomas	
	Spoletta:	Michael Capasso	
	New York City Opera	Chorus	
	Vissi d'arte		
	Tosca:	Irina Rindzuner	
<i>Madama Butterfly</i>			(1904)
	Un bel dì vedremo		
	Cio-Cio-San:	Ashley Galvani Bell	
<i>La fanciulla del West</i>			(1910)
	Una partita poker		
	Minnie:	Irina Rindzuner	
	Rance:	Todd Thomas	



La rondine

(1917)

Act II Concertato: Bevo al tuo fresco sorriso

Magda:	Ashley Galvani Bell
Ruggero:	Victor Starsky
Lisette:	Tatev Baroyan
Prunier:	WooYoung Yoon
New York City Opera Chorus	

INTERMISSION

Il trittico

(1918)

Il tabarro

Nulla, Silenzio

Michele:	Todd Thomas
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Suor Angelica

Senza Mamma

Suor Angelica:	Tatev Baroyan
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Gianni Schicchi

O mio babbino caro

Lauretta:	Ashley Galvani Bell
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Turandot

(1926)

Tanto amore...Tu! Che di gel

Turandot:	Irina Rindzuner
Liu:	Tatev Baroyan
Calaf:	Victor Starsky
Ping:	Todd Thomas

Nessun dorma

Calaf:	Victor Starsky
Full Company	

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tatev Baroyan, soprano

Soprano Tatev Baroyan's recent seasons have held many significant milestones. She had her role and house debut at the Salzburger Landestheater, portraying the title role of *Iolanta*. This production was a unique combination of Tchaikovsky's two works: *Iolanta* and *The Nutcracker*, crafted into a fantasy setting directed by Thomas Mika, under the baton of Leslie Sukanandarajah. Additionally, she returned to the New York City Opera, making her role debut as Annina while covering the role of Violetta in *La Traviata*, directed by Michael Capasso and conducted by Constantine Orbelian. She



also performed the role of Berta in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, directed by Helena Binder. Prior to these engagements, Tatev Baroyan participated in the world premiere production of *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* by Ricky Ian Gordon and Michael Korie with the New York City Opera, covering the title role of Micòl Finzi-Contini. She also won the Florida District competition and received the second prize in the Southeast Region of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.

Ashley Galvani Bell, soprano

The “delightful” (*Opera News*) soprano Ashley Galvani Bell has been performing from an early age, debuting as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Children’s Chorus at age nine and making her Off-Broadway debut at sixteen in the world premiere of the musical *The Golden Touch*. Bell’s 2023-24 season includes producing and performing the title role in Divaria Productions’ *Giovanna D’Arco/Maid of Orleans* at the Bay Street Theatre; singing the role of Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and reprising the title character in Pedro Halffter’s *Klara* at the Teatro Pérez Galdos in Gran Canaria, a role she originated and has performed at Harvard University and in several venues in Spain. In 2023, Bell made her debut with ABAO Bilbao Opera as Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte* where *ProOpera* highlighted her “superabundance of talent.” Other recent highlights include her debut with Seville’s Teatro Maestranza as Violetta in *La Traviata*, performing the role of Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly* with both Bohème Opera New Jersey and Daytona Beach Symphony Society; singing as soprano soloist with Milan’s Orchestra UNIMI in Mozart’s *Exsultate Jubilate*; and singing Mimì in *La Bohème* with Opera Modesto.

Joseph Rescigno, conductor

Joseph Rescigno has conducted the music of Bach through the moderns for companies on four continents. Permanent engagements have included the Florentine Opera Company of Milwaukee, WI, where he served as Artistic Advisor and Principal Conductor for 38 seasons beginning in 1981. He also has been Music Director of La Musica Lirica since 2005. As a guest, he has mounted the podium of more than 50 companies such as the Montreal Symphony and the New York City Opera (debut 1985). Maestro Rescigno’s discography of seven recordings includes two operatic world premieres and studio recordings of operatic and symphonic works. The University of North Texas Press published his *Conducting Opera: Where Theater Meets Music* in 2020. A native New Yorker, Joseph Rescigno comes from a long line of musicians on both sides of his family. He trained as a pianist and has studied and performed music since childhood.

Irina Rindzuner, soprano

Irina Rindzuner is an American dramatic soprano who has appeared in leading roles at many of the world’s major opera companies and has received great critical acclaim from international publications. As a designated Metropolitan Opera cover artist for the principal role of Katerina in



Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk in the 22/23 season, Irina Rindzuner made her Metropolitan Opera stage debut (in the comprimario role of the Convict) in September 2022 with no rehearsal. *Turandot* is Irina Rindzuner's signature role, as she has sung it 84 times in theaters across the globe. The most notable performances have taken place at such theaters as Gran Teatro Puccini, Den Norske Opera, Teatro Municipal de Santiago de Chile, Minnesota Opera, National Lyric Opera of New York, Opéra Nice Côte d'Azur, Saarländisches Staatstheater, Braunschweig Staatstheater and many others. *The New York Times* has described Ms. Rindzuner's appearance as *Turandot* at the Dicapo Opera Theater as a performance that has "earned her a rousing ovation." She covered the role at The Metropolitan Opera in the 20/21 season.

Victor Starsky, tenor

Tenor Victor Starsky, a native of Richmond Hill, New York, received critical acclaim for role debuts as Radamés in Verdi's *Aida* and George Gibbs in Rorem's *Our Town* at the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater in 2023. He performed Roméo in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* with New York City Opera and Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* with Wichita Grand Opera. This winter, Starsky makes his Sarasota Opera debut as Don José in *Carmen*; one critic wrote "While possessing a voice that flexes with nuance...Watching his slow crumbling into unhinged desperation is unforgettable." Starsky will make his debut with Charlottesville Opera as Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* in summer 2024. Previously, Starsky performed The Celebrant in Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* with Maestro Maurice Peress, and as an Adler Fellow with San Francisco Opera, he was awarded the Shoshana Foundation's Richard F. Gold Career Grant.

Todd Thomas, baritone

Recognized by opera companies and critics alike as one of the true Verdi baritones gracing stages today, Todd Thomas continues his tenure as one of America's most sought-after artists. Last season, Thomas returned to the Shanghai Opera House for his captivating portrayal of *Der fliegende Holländer*, reprised his signature role of *Rigoletto* with Amarillo Opera, and performed the role of Scarpia in *Tosca* with Florida Grand Opera, Opera Memphis, Opera on the James, and Charlottesville Opera, as well as Amonasro in Tulsa Opera's *Aida*. This season, Thomas returns to China for concert performances of *Roméo et Juliette* with the Suzhou Symphony Orchestra. Recently, Mr. Thomas performed the title role in *Nabucco* with Theater Erfurt in Germany, the title role of *Rigoletto* for both Florentine Opera and Florida Grand Opera, and Michele in *Il tabarro* with Opera Santa Barbara. Additionally, he sang *Rigoletto* for Tulsa Opera and Shreveport Opera, Michele/Schicchi in *Il trittico* with Pacific Opera Victoria, Tonio/Alfio in *Pagliacci/Cavalleria rusticana* for Opera Omaha, the title role of *Gianni Schicchi* with Opera Memphis, and Scarpia in *Tosca* with New Jersey Festival Orchestra.



WooYoung Yoon, tenor

Tenor WooYoung Yoon has been praised for his “soaring high notes” and a voice that “conveys nobility” - Opera News. Future engagements include Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, both with Opera San Jose, and his return to Carnegie Hall as a soloist in Hagenberg’s *Illuminare*, and in the Ramirez *Misa Criolla*. Recent performances include the Duke in Verdi’s *Rigoletto*, Benvolio and Romeo (cover) in Gounod’s *Romeo et Juliet* for Opera San Jose, Mozart’s *Requiem* for the Evansville Philharmonic, and the title role in *La Damnation de Faust* and *Christus am Oelberg* with Maestro Nelson and the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Costa Rica. For the New York City Opera, he made his role debut as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, sang Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, premiered a concert commemorating the heroism of *Chiune Sugihara* which debuted at Carnegie Hall, and was featured in their production of Peter Rothstein’s *All Is Calm*.

Valerie Wheeler, stage manager

Valerie Wheeler has served as Production Stage Manager for opera companies across the U.S. including New York City Opera, Opera Carolina, Chautauqua Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Portland Opera, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Opera Cleveland, Opera on the James, and Opera Santa Barbara. Valerie is currently the Production Stage Manager & Assistant to the Director of Production for Opera Carolina. She is thrilled to be back as the Production Stage Manager for New York City Opera.

New York City Opera Orchestra

Violin I

Richard Rood, *Concertmaster*
Emily Yarbrough
Ragnhildur Petursdottir
Sam Katz

Violin II

Suzanne Gilman, *Principal*
Dilyana Tsnov
Patricia Davis

Viola

Sarah Adams, *Principal*
Jack Rosenberg

Cello

Elizabeth Anderson, *Principal*
Robert La Rue

Bass

Jeff Carney

Piano

Kathryn Olander

Flute

Janet Arms, *Principal*
Helen Campo

Oboe

Randall Wolfgang

Clarinet

Mitch Kriegler, *Principal*
Ben Baron

Bassoon

Harry Searing

Horn

David Peel, *Principal*
Kyle Hoyt

Trumpet

Don Batchelder, *Principal*
Jerry Bryant

Trombone

Christopher Olness

Timpani

David Nyberg

Percussion

John Ostrowski

Orchestra Librarian

David Carp

Dan Haskins,

Orchestra Manager



New York City Opera Chorus

Soprano

Stacy Dove
Nicole Goldstein
Sami Sallaway

Tenor

Josh Lee Rotz
David Smolokoff
Riley Soter

Mezzo-soprano

Marie Anello
Melanie Long
Chen Philips

Bass

Cory Clines
David Kelleher Flight
Izaya Perrier

PRODUCTION TEAM

John Farrell
Valerie Wheeler
Nathalie Gendron
Weston Farrell

Director of Production
Production Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Crew

ABOUT NEW YORK CITY OPERA

New York City Opera was famously dubbed “The People's Opera” by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia at its founding in 1943. More than 80 years later, City Opera continues its historic mission to inspire audiences with innovative and theatrically compelling opera, nurture the work of promising American artists, and build new audiences through affordable ticket prices and extensive outreach and education programs.

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