

September 4, 2023

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Pittsburgh Opera presents beloved favorites, rare gems, and free concerts this fall

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) kicks off its 2023–24 Season with more than just its mainstage operas. From free and casual events to the glitz and glamour of the full opera experience, Pittsburgh Opera offers a plethora of operatic entertainment this fall for every taste and price point.

Pittsburgh Opera's fall line-up provides an easy entry point to patrons new to opera. Patrons can experience the thrill of live, grand opera through the beloved classics [The Barber of Seville](#) and [The Flying Dutchman](#) at the Benedum Center.

For those patrons who just want to test the waters of this age-old art form, free concerts in Market Square as well as at the Bitz Opera Factory present an opportunity to encounter premier artists in a welcoming, intimidation-free environment ripe with well-known accessible music.

The adventurous patron looking for a unique operatic foray can enjoy a night of elegance and entertainment at the [Sparkling Speakeasy](#) gala. Pittsburgh Opera strives to make opera accessible to all, and its autumn events present plenty of avenues to enjoyment.

Fall 2023 Highlights

[Free - Concerts at Market Square Farmers Market](#)

Thursday, September 21 and Thursday, September 28
Market Square

[Free - Rising Stars Concert](#)

Saturday, September 23
Bitz Opera Factory

[Free - Song Shop Concerts](#)

Saturday, September 30, Saturday, November 4, and Saturday, December 9th
Bitz Opera Factory

[Sparkling Speakeasy: Diamond Horseshoe 2023](#)

Saturday, October 7
Bitz Opera Factory

[The Barber of Seville](#)

Music by [Gioachino Rossini](#), with a libretto by [Cesare Sterbini](#)

October 14, 17, 20, 22

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

[The Flying Dutchman](#)

Music and libretto by [Richard Wagner](#)

November 11, 14, 17, 19

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

Detailed information about each opera, concert, event, and more can be found on the following pages.

[The Barber of Seville \(1816\)](#)

Music by [Gioachino Rossini](#), with a libretto by [Cesare Sterbini](#)

At the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

Sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage

- *Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in 2016*
- *Period production set in the French Quarter of New Orleans*

Performances of *The Barber of Seville*

- Saturday October 14, 2023 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 17, 2023 * 7:00 PM
- Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023 * 10:15 AM – Student Matinee
- Friday, October 20, 2023 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, October 22, 2023 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *The Barber of Seville*

Close shaves and cutting comedy

With scissors as sharp as his wits, the cunning barber Figaro is the go-to neighborhood trickster capable of solving any problem. When Count Almaviva finds himself smitten with the charming and clever Rosina, Almaviva knows exactly who to call to help him out. Through disguises and distractions, schemes and subterfuge, Figaro and Almaviva team up to outwit the dastardly Dr. Bartolo who would have Rosina—and her large fortune—for his own.

From its famous opening overture to its topsy-turvy conclusion, you'll be cheering for "Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!" to win the day.

Tickets are available online at opera.culturaldistrict.org, by calling 412-456-6666, or in-person at the Theater Square Box Office. Single tickets start at just \$15; Children and teens ages 6–18 are half-off. [Group discounts](#), including [student discounts](#), are available.

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera's annual Student Matinee will introduce 2,500+ school students grades 3–12 to this lively, colorful opera on Thursday, Oct. 19th at the Benedum Center. Tickets are \$12, and are reserved through Pittsburgh Opera's Education Department. For more information, please [contact Marilyn Egan, Ph.D., Director of Education via email](#).

These performances are sponsored in part by a generous gift from Robert and Christine Pietrandrea, and by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *The Barber of Seville*

Count Almaviva	Lunga Eric Hallam ⁺
Figaro	John McCullough ⁺
Rosina	Stephanie Doche ⁺
Don Bartolo	Musa Ngungwana
Don Basilio	Brian Kontes
Fiorello	Brandon Bell*
Berta	Emily Richter*
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Gregory Keller
Scenic Designer	Steven Kemp
Costume Designer	Howard Tsvi Kaplan
Lighting Designer	Cindy Limauro
Wig & Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Haley Stamats *
Assistant Stage Managers	Laura Weston* and Claire Young*

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumna

*Scenery and props provided by the New Orleans Opera Association
Costumes provided by Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.*

[The Flying Dutchman](#) (1840)

Music and libretto by [Richard Wagner](#)

At the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

Sung in German with English supertitles projected above the stage

- *Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in 2003*
- [Period production](#)

Performances of *The Flying Dutchman*

- Saturday, November 11, 2023 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, November 17, 2023 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 19, 2023 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *The Flying Dutchman*

Your timbers will shiver.

Every seven years a ghostly ship pulls into port captained by a man known simply as The Dutchman. Condemned to eternally roam the seven seas, only the pure heart of a faithful bride can free him from his curse. In a windswept fishing village, he finds Senta, a young woman obsessed with his dark legend. But can this match made in heaven truly save him from his hellish fate?

Wagner's thunderous score brings this haunting tale to life with all the power of a stormy and turbulent sea.

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to present Wagner's sweeping epic *The Flying Dutchman* for the first time in over 20 years.

Tickets are available online at opera.culturaldistrict.org, by calling 412-456-6666, or in-person at the Theater Square Box Office. Single tickets start at just \$15; Children and teens ages 6–18 are half-off. [Group discounts](#), including [student discounts](#), are available.

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *The Flying Dutchman*

The Dutchman:	Kyle Albertson ⁺
Senta:	Marjorie Owens ⁺
Daland:	Peter Volpe
Erik:	Bryan Register ⁺
Steuermann:	Daniel O'Hearn ^{**}
Mary:	Leah Heater ^{**}

Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Sam Helfrich
Set Designer	Steven Kemp
Projection Designer	Ian Wallace
Costume Designer	Nancy Leary
Lighting Designer	Derek Van Heel
Wig & Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Haley Stamats [*]
Assistant Stage Managers	Laura Weston and Claire Young

- + Pittsburgh Opera debut
- * Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
- ** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

Production owned by [Opera San Jose](#)

Scenery and props originally designed and created by Opera San José

Additional Events

Sparkling Speakeasy: Diamond Horseshoe 2023

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Entertainment at the speakeasy will include live jazz, magic, aerial performances, and of course, opera! Enjoy scrumptious bites and delicious drinks as you enjoy an evening of non-stop amusement. Explore the incredible stories that will be told during Pittsburgh Opera's 2023–24 season and meet the exceptionally talented class of Resident Artists who will grace the stage all season long.

Special thanks to Event Co-Chairs Helen Hoey and Dawn Kozel for their commitment to creating a dazzling evening in support of Pittsburgh Opera. Along with superb performances throughout the night, there will be auction items you won't want to miss. The proceeds from this event support Pittsburgh Opera's community engagement and education programs that provide free public performances, encourage music in schools, and uplift underserved communities.

FREE Market Square Concerts

Thursday, September 21 and Thursday, September 28, 2023

11:30AM–1:30PM

Market Square, Downtown

Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists will entertain Pittsburghers with [free open-air concerts at Market Square](#) during the Farmers Market on Thursday September 21st and 28th. Sample all that the Market Square Farmers Market has to offer while enjoying world-class singing of opera favorites by Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists!

A special thank you to The Charity Randall Foundation for supporting Pittsburgh Opera's Market Square concerts.

These Market Square concerts are presented as part of RAD Days' free programming.

FREE Rising Stars Concert

Saturday, September 23, 2023

George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert on Saturday, September 23, 2023 in the Opera's Strip District headquarters. *Rising Stars* is the community's first opportunity to meet the incoming [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists](#). This performance is free and open to everyone.

At *Rising Stars*, each Resident Artist singer first performs a selection of his or her own choosing, followed by one chosen by [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) and [Music Director Antony Walker](#). A final aria to conclude the concert is selected by the audience.

FREE Song Shop Concerts

Selected Saturdays during the season, 12:00 PM
George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's popular Brown Bag concerts have a new name for 2023-24 to honor the Bitz Opera Factory's industrial heritage—Pittsburgh Opera's Song Shop concerts. The free, informal Song Shops feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#). Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays, September 2023–May 2024, these one-hour performances are free, fun, and open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to bring a friend and bring a lunch. [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) provide a reception after each Song Shop concert.

Song Shop Fall 2023 Concert Dates

- [September 30, 2023](#) (Animated Arias)
- [November 4, 2023](#) (Violins of Hope)
- [December 9, 2023](#) (Holiday Concert)

FREE Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to attend a [Pre-Opera Talk](#) one hour before each performance's curtain at all Pittsburgh Opera performances at Benedum Center, Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, and the Byham Theater. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

FREE Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday opera performance are invited to join [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free, and is held in the Lower Lobby for Benedum performances.

The Barber of Seville – Tuesday, October 17, 2023

The Flying Dutchman – Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Opera Up Close

Selected Sundays during the season, 2:00 PM
Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#)) unless otherwise indicated

Pittsburgh Opera hosts another season of its popular *Opera Up Close* presentations. These entertaining and insightful programs are offered six times per season in Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters (2425 Liberty Avenue) in the Strip District. Join Director of Artistic Operations Robert Boldin and special guests from the production for an in-depth look at our upcoming production. There is a \$5 general admission fee, but *Opera Up Close* events are free to members of [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#), members of the [Pittsburgh Opera New Guard](#), and to donors at \$50+.

The Barber of Seville – Sunday, October 8, 2023 via Zoom

The Flying Dutchman – Sunday, October 29, 2023

WQED BROADCASTS/PREVIEW

Pittsburgh Opera 2022–23 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](#)

Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2022–23 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again. The broadcasts are at 1:00 PM, unless otherwise noted, on consecutive Saturdays from September 2nd through October 7th.

Rusalka – September 9, 2023

The Marriage of Figaro – September 16, 2023

Ariodante – September 23, 2023

Il Trovatore – September 30, 2023

We Shall Not Be Moved – October 7, 2023

Pittsburgh Opera 2023–24 Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](#)

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, these half-hour previews of each upcoming opera are broadcast twice before each production opens, giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music, and production.

The Barber of Seville – Saturday, October 7 & Friday, October 13, 2023

The Flying Dutchman – Saturday, November 4 & Friday, November 10, 2023

Sponsorships

Pittsburgh Opera's season is made possible, onstage and off, by support from all corners of the community.

- [PNC](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's 2023–24 Season Sponsor.
- [WQED-FM](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's Media Sponsor.
- [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#) is the Tuesday performance and 'Meet the Artists' post-show event sponsor.
- [Natural Awakenings Magazine](#) is the Song Shop Concerts sponsor.
- Pittsburgh Opera programs are generously supported by [Allegheny Regional Asset District](#) and the [Pennsylvania Council on the Arts](#).

Pittsburgh Opera offers a range of flexible gift options and potential tax benefits for individuals, local businesses, and corporations. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Production Sponsorships** – *Help bring a production to life while pulling back the curtain and entertaining clients or friends. Gifts begin at \$20,000.*
- **Resident Artist Sponsorships** – *Support future opera stars while building personal relationships with artists. Gifts begin at \$10,000.*
- **Family Day & Community Programs** – *Underwrite free or low-cost concerts, because everyone deserves access to opera. Gifts begin at \$5,000.*
- **Parties & Events** – *Sponsor Galas, networking events, parties, and happy hours. Gifts begin at \$1,500.*

To learn more about becoming a sponsor, contact Pittsburgh Opera at 412-281-0912 x226 or development@pittsburghopera.org.

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