

PITTSBURGH OPERA

November 14, 2018

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**Pittsburgh Opera presents *afterWARds* –
“Mozart’s *Idomeneo* Reimagined”
A tale of love, loss, and healing**

What:	afterWARds – Mozart’s <i>Idomeneo</i> Reimagined Music by W. A. Mozart , libretto by Giambattista Varesco from a French text by Antoine Danchet
Where:	Pittsburgh CAPA Theater, downtown Pittsburgh
When:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat., Jan. 26, 2019 * 8:00 PM • Tues., Jan. 29, 2019 * 7:00 PM • Fri., Feb. 1, 2019 * 7:30 PM • Sun., Feb. 3, 2019 * 2:00 PM
Run Time:	85 minutes, with no intermission
Language:	Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
Tickets:	Single tickets for adults start at \$51.25 for all mainstage performances; tickets for children ages 6-18 are half-price. Call 412-456-6666 or visit pittsburghopera.org/tickets . Group Discounts available for groups of six or more.
Media Events	Photo Call (Jan. 14, 12:30 PM) – location TBA Full Dress Rehearsal (Jan. 24, 6:30 PM), Pittsburgh CAPA Theater
Related Events See pages 6-8 of this release.	Free Brown Bag concert (1/5) Opera Up Close (1/13), and Sensory Workshop for patrons with visual impairments WQED Preview (1/19 & 1/25) Meet the Artists (1/29) Audio Commentary (1/29)

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Pittsburgh, PA...

afterWARDS uses the words and music of Mozart's [Idomeneo](#) – perhaps his most radical, modern opera – in a reorganized and distilled 85-minute format by [director David Paul](#), that shifts the opera's focus towards its four protagonists and their timeless struggles for love and peace in a world full of carnage and destruction. All the music is Mozart's, and the lyrics are from the original Italian libretto.

afterWARDS is set on the island of Crete immediately after the Trojan War. Idomeneo is the King of Crete. Idamante is his son. Ilia is the Princess of Troy and enemy of Crete, who Idamante rescues from a shipwreck. King Idomeneo promises to kill the “traitor” who rescued Ilia, not realizing it was his son. Meanwhile, Ilia and Idamante begin to fall in love with each other, which infuriates Elettra, the Princess of Argos, who loves Idamante as well.

These four star-crossed characters are caught in a whirlwind of love, betrayal, loyalty, and family as they seek to rebuild their lives.

afterWARDS will star Pittsburgh Opera's award-winning Resident Artists, allowing audiences the rare opportunity to see tomorrow's opera stars in an intimate performance space.

These will be the first-ever performances of **afterWARDS**.

Fun facts about *afterWARDS*

1. Mozart's **Idomeneo** is a famously long and lavish opera that typically is only performed by the world's largest opera companies. With **afterWARDS**, Pittsburgh audiences will be able to hear amazing Mozart music that is rarely, if ever, performed live in Pittsburgh. (Pittsburgh Opera has never performed **Idomeneo**.)

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2. Although the story of **Idomeneo** takes place shortly after the end of the Trojan War, Pittsburgh Opera's production will be time-neutral, to better draw parallels to the plight of modern-day eastern Mediterranean refugees fleeing the brutal conflict in Syria.
3. **afterWARDs** continues Pittsburgh Opera's recent trend of producing operas with pants roles, i.e. where the role of a boy is sung by a woman. The role of Idamante is being sung by mezzo-soprano [Antonia Botti-Lodovico](#).

The story, in brief

After years of bloodshed, the Trojan War is over, and the fighters begin the difficult journey home. Idomeneo, King of Crete and commander of its depleted forces, is sailing home with the remainder of his men. Attached to the ship is a smaller vessel harboring Ilia, Princess of Troy, a refugee who watched her family murdered before her eyes. The overture begins with a massive storm that overturns Ilia's ship and throws Idomeneo's ship into danger.

Idamante, son of Idomeneo, braves the storm to rescue whomever he can reach. He rescues Ilia in his boat and returns to shore. Idomeneo's men are outraged at the apparent betrayal. They demand the King's word that he kill whoever rescued their enemy while leaving them out at sea. Idomeneo, under intense pressure from his men, accedes to their wish, promising to kill the unknown young man just as his own ship, too, is overturned, casting Idomeneo and his men into the sea. (This sequence is told throughout the overture in a combination of live action and video.)

Back on Crete, the opera begins with Ilia in a refugee shelter. As her family's sole survivor, she is tormented by guilt and feelings of betrayal. Yet much more pressingly, she is racked by her newest torment: a secret, inappropriate, and impossible love for Idamante, the young man and former enemy who just saved her life.

Idomeneo lands on the shore, arriving on a makeshift float consisting of pieces of his wrecked ship. Weary from years of war and destruction, he is tortured by the thought of having to kill yet another person. Meanwhile, Idamante, believing his father to have been killed in the storm, comes to the same shore to mourn him. Father and son meet but don't recognize each other – though Idomeneo knows that this is the man he has sworn to kill. When he discovers their true relationship, Idomeneo runs away, horrified; Idamante is left behind in complete emotional upheaval.

We next meet another inhabitant of the refugee shelter: Elettra, exiled princess of Argos, who has fled to Crete. Elettra fantasizes, for the first time in her life, about a positive future – with Idamante, the object of her desire, at her side.

Idamante, meanwhile, confesses his own illicit feelings to Ilia. Caught completely by surprise, she rejects him – just as Idomeneo arrives. He senses that his son might have fallen for the enemy refugee, while Elettra panics that Idamante and her imagined future are slipping from her grasp. Idomeneo refuses to speak to Idamante, and seeing no other way

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to avoid having to kill his own son, banishes him. Idamante is crushed, completely confused as to the reason.

Idomeneo has organized a ship to take Idamante and Elettra back to her homeland. Elettra, relieved to hear the sounds of the water, says a happy farewell to Crete. Idomeneo, meanwhile, is tortured by the vow he made and his inability to tell his son the truth. The torment he feels is overwhelming and he contemplates killing himself. Idamante and Elettra arrive and Idomeneo sends them off.

Suddenly, a giant storm whips up, leaving everyone scrambling for safety. Idomeneo, in complete emotional disarray, reads it as a sign from the gods. He screams at the heavens, demanding they take him instead.

The storm subsides and Idamante seeks out Ilia to say his final farewell to her. He has decided to venture off on his own, rather than live among people who don't return his love. Ilia makes a tortured confession of her own feelings. Both are overwhelmed, basking in this unexpected moment of bliss.

Ilia seeks out Idomeneo to try and build a bridge between father and son. In a difficult moment of personal struggle, she explains to him that she is ready to accept him as a friend and father-figure, in spite of her family's past suffering at his hands.

Idamante arrives. He has learned the true reason for his father's coldness: his father was trying to shield him from the awful truth of promising to kill him. He is ready to accept his death at Idomeneo's hands, serene in the knowledge that his father loves him after all. Idomeneo is overwhelmed with emotion when Ilia suddenly volunteers herself in Idamante's place, arguing that it's her whom the people actually want dead. The proceedings are interrupted by Elettra, who, seeing her future dreams dismantled before her eyes, suffers a nervous breakdown.

Idomeneo, deeply moved by the love of his son and the bond between him and Ilia, makes his most courageous decision: to defy the misguided will of his people and allow Idamante to live, regardless of the consequences. Father, son, and Ilia sing a chorus of love and peace, looking ahead to an uncertain future.

-Courtesy of David Paul and Ken Benson

For more information, including musical samples visit www.pittsburghopera.org/afterwards .

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Ticketing Information

- Single tickets are \$51.25. They are available [online](#), by phone at 412-456-6666 or in person at the Theater Square Box Office, 665 Penn Ave., downtown.
- Group discounts, including student discounts, are available. Call 412-281-0912 ext. 213, or [learn more online](#).

Sponsors

- [PNC](#) is the 2018-19 Pittsburgh Opera Season Sponsor
- [WQED-FM](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's Media Sponsor
- Tuesday sponsor: [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#)

Cast and Artistic Team: *afterWARDs*

Idomeneo	Terrence Chin-Loy *
Ilia	Ashley Fabian *
Idamante	Antonia Botti-Lodovico *
Elettra	Caitlin Gotimer *
Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Stage Director	David Paul
Scenic Designer	Christian Fleming
Costume Designer	Jason Bray
Media Designer	Caite Hevner
Lighting Designer	Todd Nonn
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Asst Stage Manager	Alex W. Seidel
Wig Master	Nicole Pagano
Asst Stage Director	Matthew Haney *
Asst Lighting Designer/Master Electrician	Todd Nonn
Prop Master	Johnmichael Bohach
Supertitles	David Paul

Sets & Costumes created by Pittsburgh Opera

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

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Related Events for *afterWARDs*

January Brown Bag concert

Saturday, January 5, Noon - 1:00 PM

George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

You're invited to our free January Brown Bag concert! Join us for an afternoon celebrating Mozart at our first Brown Bag of 2019. Selections being performed include "Là ci darem la mano" from [Don Giovanni](#) and "Sull'aria" from [The Marriage of Figaro](#), plus selections from [Idomeneo](#) and more.

Doors open at 11:30 AM. Handicapped parking is available by reservation. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/january-brown-bag-concert3>.

Opera Up Close: *afterWARDs*

Sunday, January 13, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Founders' Room, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

Join Robert Boldin, Artistic Administrator, and special guests from the production, for an in-depth look at [afterWARDs- Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined](#).

Admission is \$5; free to members of [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) and \$50+ donors. Handicapped parking is available by reservation. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/opera-up-close-afterwards-mozarts-idomeneo-reimagined>.

afterWARDs - Sensory Workshop for patrons with visual impairments

Sunday, January 13, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Founders' Room, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to offer, free of charge, a unique sensory workshop about [afterWARDs - Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined](#) - prepared for our patrons with visual impairments.

WHO: Members of [Blind Outdoor Leisure Development](#), the [Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh](#), and their companions.

WHAT: An examination of the story, the music, and the background of the opera. Participants will have a chance to meet artists and explore the set, props, and costumes. Light refreshments will be served.

To register, call Marilyn Egan at 412-281-0912 ext. 242. For more information see <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/afterwards-sensory-workshop-for-patrons-with-visual-impairments>

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***afterWARDs* Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and WQED.ORG**

Saturday, January 19, Noon - 12:30 PM

Friday, January 25, 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, and broadcast over the airwaves on WQED-FM 89.3 as well as the WQED website, WQED's preview of [afterWARDs- Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined](#) gives listeners an engaging introduction to the singers, music, and story of the opera. For more information: <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/wqed-preview-afterwards-mozarts-idomeneo-reimagined>

Pre-opera Talks for *afterWARDs*

One hour prior to each performance

Pittsburgh CAPA Black Box Theater, 111 9th Street, downtown Pittsburgh

Ticketholders are invited to attend a free Pre-Opera Talk in the Black Box Theater at CAPA, 111 9th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 one hour before each performance of [afterWARDs - Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined](#).

Learn about director [David Paul](#), the story of Mozart's **Idomeneo**, and some enthralling details of the performance!

Pre-Opera Talks are free to all ticketholders at all performances.

Audio Commentary: *afterWARDs*

Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 PM

Pittsburgh CAPA Theater

Ticketholders with visual impairments are invited to use [Pittsburgh Opera's Audio Description service](#) at our Tuesday performances. Trained volunteers describe the supertitles, scenery, costumes, and stage action. The listeners hear these descriptions via assistive listening devices. Those wishing to use Audio Description should reserve seats to the Tuesday, January 29 performance by contacting Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org. Braille and large-print programs are also available.

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Meet the Artists of *afterWARDs*

Tuesday, January 29, immediately following the performance

Pittsburgh CAPA Black Box Theater, 111 9th Street, downtown Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Opera [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) interviews the stars of [afterWARDs-Mozart's Idomeneo Reimagined](#) after the Tuesday evening performance, in the Black Box Theater at CAPA, 111 9th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

You can ask your own questions and mingle with the artists too! Free to all Tuesday ticketholders.

“Meet the Artists” is generously sponsored by Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center.

Learn more at <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/meet-the-artists-afterwards-mozarts-idomeneo-reimagined>

COMING UP NEXT for Pittsburgh Opera:

[Glory Denied](#), the true story of America’s longest-held POW, February 2019

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 80th season in 2018-19. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.

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