

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

## Facts about the company's growth and accomplishments

Since Pittsburgh Opera's inaugural season in 1939–1940, the company has grown from a fledgling community arts organization to a world-class, professional company. Pittsburgh Opera creates artistically diverse opera productions, trains promising young singers, directors, and arts administrators in its season-long Resident Artist program, provides extensive education programs to engage participants of all ages, and makes opera accessible to everyone in the community.

The company focuses on the ideals of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility, in public offerings as well as internally.



Photos above and below by David Bachman

### A Blend of Contemporary and Standard Repertoire

Pittsburgh Opera offers a mix of contemporary works, including world premieres, and familiar operas to appeal to a variety of artistic tastes.

#### Contemporary works

\* World Premiere

*afterWARDs*, conceived by David Paul  
*As One* by Laura Kaminsky  
*Ashes & Snow* (*Savage Winter*) by Douglas J. Cuomo \*  
*Billy Budd* by Benjamin Britten  
*Charlie Parker's Yardbird* by Daniel Schnyder  
*Dark Sisters* by Nico Muhly  
*Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie  
*Dialogues of the Carmelites* by Francis Poulenc  
*Flight* by Jonathan Dove  
*Florencia en el Amazonas* by Daniel Catán  
*Glory Denied* by Tom Cipullo  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by Ricky Ian Gordon  
*In a Grove* by Christopher Cerrone \*  
*The Last American Hammer* by Peter Hilliard  
*Little Women* by Mark Adamo  
*The Long Walk* by Jeremy Howard Beck  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten  
*Moby-Dick* by Jake Heggie  
*Orphée* by Philip Glass  
*Paul's Case* by Gregory Spears  
*The Rake's Progress* by Igor Stravinsky  
*The Rape of Lucretia* by Benjamin Britten  
*Soldier Songs* by David T. Little  
*Street Scene* by Kurt Weill  
*Sumeida's Song* by Mohammed Fairouz  
*The Summer King* by Daniel Sonenberg \*  
*The Threepenny Opera* by Kurt Weill  
*La Tragédie de Carmen*, adapted by Peter Brook  
*The Turn of the Screw* by Benjamin Britten  
27 by Ricky Ian Gordon

#### Standard Repertoire

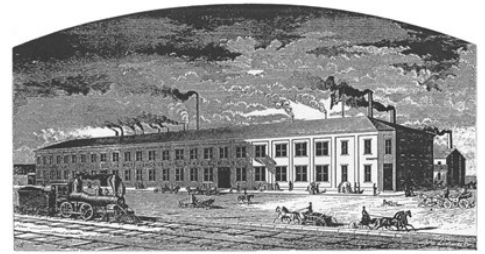
(listed by number of Pittsburgh Opera productions)

23 *Carmen* by Georges Bizet  
20 *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini  
20 *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi  
18 *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini  
18 *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini  
15 *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi  
15 *The Barber of Seville* by Gioachino Rossini  
14 *The Marriage of Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
13 *Faust* by Charles Gounod  
13 *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Gaetano Donizetti  
12 *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi



## Pittsburgh Opera Highlights

- 2021 Pittsburgh Opera re-named its headquarters the **Bitz Opera Factory**, in grateful recognition of Francois Bitz's exceptional generosity and long affiliation with the company.
- 2017 Pittsburgh Opera produced the world premiere of *The Summer King—The Josh Gibson Story*.
- 2013 The *FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera*, a friend-raising and fund-raising auxiliary, was launched during the company's 75<sup>th</sup> Season by merging the Guilds and Pittsburgh Opera Association.
- 2008 Christopher Hahn was named the General Director and the company began rehearsing in its new headquarters in the Strip District, the former **George Westinghouse Air Brake Factory** at 2425 Liberty Avenue. The U.S. Green Buildings Council awarded Pittsburgh Opera LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, establishing the company as the first green opera company in an existing building in the U.S. and the headquarters as the oldest LEED-certified structure in Pittsburgh.
- 2000–2008 General Director Mark Weinstein, Artistic Director Christopher Hahn, and Music Director John Mauceri brought fiscal stability, new artistic excellence, and excitement to the company. Antony Walker was appointed Music Director in 2006.
- 1987 First performances presented at the **Benedum Center for the Performing Arts**, where Pittsburgh Opera's first production was *Turandot*. **Luciano Pavarotti** sang a benefit concert for Pittsburgh Opera on October 6, 1987.
- 1986 Pittsburgh Opera established Resident Artist summer workshops. More than 250 young singers and directors have participated in the Resident Artist training program.
- 1984 OpTrans first used at performances of Verdi's *La Battaglia de Legnano*. Supertitle projections became standard for all subsequent productions.
- 1983–2000 **Tito Capobianco** set high standards for productions. The production values have risen steadily during the decades.
- 1976–1979 Artistic Director Barbara Karp, the conductor's talented daughter, introduced the company to some of its most innovative and successful productions up to that time.
- 1971 Pittsburgh Opera took a giant step forward with its move to **Heinz Hall** in October 1971, presenting a lavish new production of *Aida*.
- 1942–1977 **Richard Karp** conducted 171 Pittsburgh Opera productions. In 1945, he moved the company to **Syria Mosque** in Oakland, with its fully-equipped professional stage and an orchestra pit.
- 1939–1940 Pittsburgh Opera's first production, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, was at Carnegie Music Hall on March 15, 1940. Five visionary ladies took the first steps to establish and fund The Pittsburgh Opera Society.



Liberty Avenue, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets.

