



# MADISON OPERA

2026/27 SEASON



**Passion. Intrigue. Revolution.  
Plus a little dancing.**

**Welcome to Madison Opera's 2026/27 season**, with our signature blend of works that are classic and rare, passionate and humorous, and always musically enthralling.

The season opens with our first production of Bellini's *Norma*, a towering masterpiece about a Druid priestess torn between love, duty, and revenge. With a stunning score, *Norma* is considered one of the greatest works of the bel canto era, and we are thrilled to share it with you.

In winter, we take a metaphorical journey with Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, a 1971 American opera that is pure entertainment. Kanopy Dance joins us as part of a group of travelers who gradually reveal the secrets we all carry.

The season closes with the most popular opera in the world, Bizet's *Carmen*, full of melodies that everyone knows, including the Toreador Song. Its story of a woman determined to live life on her own terms, whatever fate sends her way, has been thrilling audiences for over 150 years.

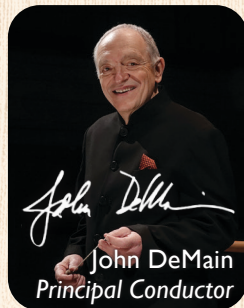
Outside the theater, our most important performance is *Opera in the Park*, which started in 2002. We are launching a year-long celebration of 25 years of our free gift to our community at *Opera in the Park 2026*, running through 2027, and we hope you will save the date to join us in Garner Park.

Please join us all season long for beautiful music, powerful stories, and the human connection that happens when we are all together.

We cannot wait to share the 2026/27 season with you!



Kathryn Smith  
General Director



John DeMain  
Principal Conductor

PRESENTING THE  
2026/27 SEASON



# NORMA

October 30 & November 1, 2026  
Overture Hall



Postcard  
from Morocco

February 5 & 7, 2027  
Capitol Theater



# CARMEN

April 23 & 25, 2027  
Overture Hall



# OPERA in the PARK

July 18, 2026 | Garner Park  
July 24, 2027 | Garner Park

## DON'T MISS A WORD!

English translations are projected above the stage during Overture Center performances, ensuring that you don't miss a word of love and laughter.

*For the best seats and best deals, order season tickets today!*

608.238.8085 | [MADISONOPERA.ORG](http://MADISONOPERA.ORG)



# NORMA

**BY VINCENZO BELLINI**

*Sung in Italian with projected English translations*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:30 PM**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT 2:30 PM**

**OVERTURE HALL**

**HER VOICE COMMANDS A NATION.  
HER LOVE COULD DESTROY EVERYTHING.**

A gripping tale of passion, betrayal, and duty set in a world on the brink of revolution, *Norma* tells of a Druid priestess in love with the head of the invading Roman army. When he falls in love with another woman, secrets unravel and loyalties are tested in Bellini's sweeping drama, set to a score full of profound beauty and electrifying fury.

Experience this legendary 1831 bel canto masterpiece, performed in Wisconsin for the very first time.



**NORMA**  
*Keely Futterer*

**ADALGISA**  
*Katherine Beck\**

**POLLIONE**  
*Joshua Stewart*

**OROVESO**  
*Wm. Clay Thompson*

**CONDUCTOR**  
*John DeMain*

**STAGE DIRECTOR**  
*Fenlon Lamb*

*\* Madison Opera debut*

**SPONSORED BY**

Kay & Martin Barrett

Martha Casey

John Lemke & Pamela Oliver

Chun Lin

Patricia & Stephen Lucas

Kato & David Perlman



CAPITOL LAKES

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Postcard  
from Morocco

**MUSIC BY DOMINICK ARGENTO**  
**TEXT BY JOHN DONAHUE**

*Sung in English with projected text*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 7:30 PM**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 2:30 PM**  
**CAPITOL THEATER**

## **FANTASY AWAITS ON PLATFORM SEVEN.**

A Moroccan train station in 1914 becomes a crossroad of dreams in this witty and touching entertainment about strangers, secrets, and stories. Argento's sparkling score is by turns romantic, mysterious, dramatic, and delightfully uninged in a 90-minute work that is richly human and thoroughly theatrical.

Kanopy Dance joins Madison Opera in a world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary – and every suitcase holds a story.



A LADY WITH A CAKE BOX  
*Flora Hawk\**

A MAN WITH A PAINT BOX  
*David Blalock*

A MAN WITH A CORNET CASE  
*Matt Boehler*

*with Kanopy Dance*

CONDUCTOR  
*Kyle Naig\**

STAGE DIRECTOR  
*Kristine McIntyre*

CHOREOGRAPHER  
*Lisa Thurrell*

*\* Madison Opera debut*

SPONSORED BY

David Flanders & Susan Ecroyd

Linda Caprariello

Kathleen Harker

Ann Lindsey  
in memory of Chuck Snowdon



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# CARMEN

**BY GEORGES BIZET**

*Sung in French with projected English translations*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23 AT 7:30 PM**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25 AT 2:30 PM**

**OVERTURE HALL**

**SHE MUST LIVE FREE,  
BUT NO ONE ESCAPES FATE.**

Carmen is determined to live life on her own terms, whatever may happen, and whoever she may encounter - but her fate is written in the cards she reads. Bizet's scandalous 1875 masterpiece blends passion, seduction, jealousy, dance, and a little law-breaking into one of the most famous opera scores ever composed.

Don't miss this irresistible opera that captivates every generation anew.



CARMEN  
*Zoie Reams\**

MICAËLA  
*Teresa Perrotta\**

DON JOSÉ  
*Eric Taylor\**

ESCAMILLO  
*Eric Greene\**

ZUNIGA  
*Matthew Treviño*

CONDUCTOR  
*Stephanie Rhodes Russell*

STAGE DIRECTOR  
*Joshua Borths\**

*\* Madison Opera debut*

SPONSORED BY

Marshall Osborn

Pleasant T. Rowland  
Foundation

Cyrena & Lee  
Pondrom

Gialamas Family  
Foundation

Diane Adams  
in memory of Bert Adams

Bea & Lau Christensen

Fran Klos

Patricia & Stephen Lucas

Sally & Mike Miley

Thomas Terry



HURLEY BURISH, S.C.  
ATTORNEYS

Amy & Jerry Nickles

Jane Taves

The Wallach Family

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# OPERA *in the* PARK

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
A MADISON SUMMER TRADITION

FREE Concert | Garner Park

2026

JULY 18, 2026

*rain date July 19, 2026*

2027

JULY 24, 2027

*rain date July 25, 2027*

Since 2002, Madison Opera has shared the joy of opera through Opera in the Park, our free gift to our community. Garner Park comes alive with music and light sticks, as soloists share their favorite opera and musical theater numbers, along with the Madison Opera Chorus and Madison Symphony Orchestra.

Join us in summer 2026 as we launch a year-long celebration of 25 years of Opera in the Park, running through summer 2027. Get ready to share your memories, your photos, and your happiness as we honor the past and look forward to the future!

We can't wait to see you in Garner Park as we revel in the power of music through extraordinary performances on a magical night.

## SPONSORED BY



Cyrena & Lee Pondrom

Vivian Ruth Brigham

Carla & Fernando  
Alvarado

Patricia & Stephen  
Lucas



RAYMOND B. PRESTON  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Susan M. Zaeske





## OPERA CONNECTS US. YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE.

*I cannot say enough about how much I enjoyed my experience.  
My first opera turned me into a lover of it, and I cannot wait to experience  
more stories, drama, emotion, performance, perfection, and joy - I'm all in!*  
- Audience member at *Everlasting Faint*, 2026

Music matters in our world, as sharing it provides an emotional lift to people from all backgrounds. With its dazzling fusion of drama, music, visual arts, and dance, opera brings to life powerful human stories that transcend time and place, reminding us of our shared humanity.

Bringing opera to the stage requires considerable financial support. Ticket sales pay for less than 25% of the cost of producing each opera, as over 200 people work on a typical production. Most of our programs outside of the Overture Center, including *Opera in the Park*, are free to attend, making our work truly accessible to our community.

**Please consider helping us continue to inspire, enrich, and connect by adding a gift to your subscription.** We'll provide an array of benefits, from backstage tours to rehearsals, parking passes, cast parties and more. A full description of benefits is available at [madisonopera.org/support-us/](https://madisonopera.org/support-us/).

Your tax-deductible contribution will enable thousands of people to share opera's emotional power with everyone around them. Thank you!





# MADISON OPERA IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to presenting extraordinary opera at the Overture Center for the Arts and at Opera in the Park, Madison Opera is active throughout the community. Here are a few highlights of our engagement programs for adults and youth.

## STUDENT MATINEES

For over four decades, middle school and high school students from around our region have attended fully-staged opera performances. We look forward to welcoming them to a performance of *Carmen* this season.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICE PROGRAM

About a dozen high school students are chosen as apprentices every season. Throughout the year, they attend rehearsals, participate in workshops, have dinner with leading artists, and much more – all at no cost to them.

## A NIGHT AT THE OPERA WITH BIG BROTHERS / BIG SISTERS

Every year, a group of “Bigs” and “Littles” are treated to a pizza party followed by attending a private rehearsal.

## STUDIO ARTIST RECITALS

Every fall and spring, our Studio Artists offer a series of free hour-long recitals of opera arias, ensembles, and more. The schedule will be published in summer 2026.

## ANGELS AT THE OPERA

Madison Opera partners with non-profit social service organizations, providing complimentary tickets to their dedicated staff and volunteers.

## ET CETERA

Every season brings extra-operatic activities such as film showings, National Anthem performances at UW games, and more. Check our website and follow us on social media to find us around Madison.

*For more information on any of these programs, please contact us at [info@madisonopera.org](mailto:info@madisonopera.org).*





# EXPLORE OPERA

## ONLINE

### OPERA TALK WITH KATHRYN SMITH

There is much more to opera than what happens on stage in one production. Explore centuries of history, thematic connections, and amusing stories with Kathryn Smith, Madison Opera's General Director. In these hour-long online presentations, take a dive into sometimes-overlooked areas of opera, with dry humor and pictures of cute animals included.

### DIGITAL PREVIEWS

One month before each production, Kathryn Smith gives an hour-long multimedia preview online, with an entertaining look at the opera's composer, history, and music.

Digital talks and previews stream live on YouTube, then remain online to watch whenever it suits you. Schedules and links will be posted on [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org) in July 2026.

## IN PERSON

### OPERA UP CLOSE

The weekend before each production, join us for an in-depth preview, led by General Director Kathryn Smith, that explores the history of each opera, followed by a roundtable discussion with the production's leading artists.

#### *Norma* Preview

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 1-3 PM

#### *Postcard from Morocco* Preview

Sunday, January 31, 2027, 1-3 PM

#### *Carmen* Preview

Sunday, April 18, 2027, 1-3 PM

Opera Up Close takes place at the Margaret C. Winston Madison Opera Center, 335 W. Mifflin St. Admission is FREE.

### COMMUNITY PREVIEWS

Free previews are held during the year in retirement communities around our region. A schedule will be published on [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org) in July 2026.

## AT THE THEATER: PRE-OPERA TALKS

Join us one hour before curtain for a half-hour talk that provides an informative and entertaining background to the opera you are about to see. FREE.

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

FOR THE MUSIC. FOR THE DRAMA. FOR THE JOY.

Subscribe to the 2026/27 season and join us for a world built of music, where stories cross centuries and continents, and human connection happens in a theater.

## BENEFITS OF SUBSCRIBING

### DISCOUNTS

Subscribers save up to 15% over single ticket prices and save an additional 15% compared to buying single tickets online through the Overture Center.

### FREE EXCHANGES

Subscribers may exchange tickets for another performance of the same opera for no cost, up to 48 hours in advance, subject to availability. To exchange tickets, please call the Madison Opera office at 608.238.8085.

### PRIORITY SEATING

Subscribers receive first choice of seats; non-subscription tickets do not go on sale until September.

### RENEWABLE SEATS

Love your seats? Subscribers can renew their same seats for the following year and are first in line to move to better seats.

### LOST TICKET INSURANCE

Lost your tickets? Simply contact Madison Opera and we will issue replacements for free.

## Choose your series!

Subscribe to the Full Season to get the most opera and the greatest discounts, or subscribe to only the productions in Overture Hall.

Series 1: Full season, Friday evenings

Series 2: Full season, Sunday matinees

Series 3: Overture Hall only, Friday evenings

Series 4: Overture Hall only, Sunday matinees

To subscribe, visit [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org) or call Madison Opera at 608.238.8085 during regular business hours.

### THE FINE PRINT

All casts subject to change.

Refunds are available for cancelled performances or if a patron believes their attendance may endanger their health or that of the community and notifies Madison Opera prior to the performance.

# SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Overture Hall prices below include BOTH *Norma* and *Carmen*.

Prices do not include Overture Center's Facility Fees of \$1-\$4.50 per ticket or Wisconsin sales tax of 5.5%. Those will be calculated when an order is placed.

## FULL SEASON

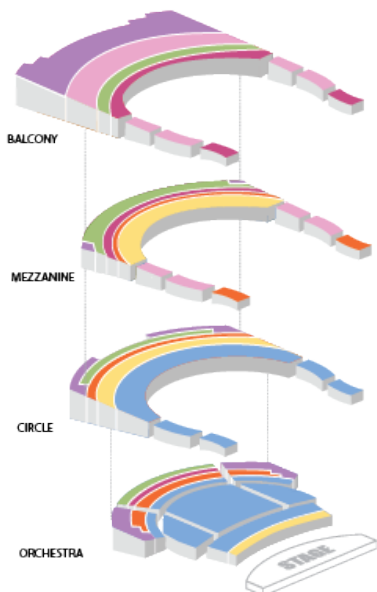
Overture Hall Section	Capitol Theater Section
1 (\$322)	1 (\$135)
2 (\$220)	2 (\$89)
3 (\$178)	3 (\$61)
4 (\$132)	4 (\$23)
5 (\$110)	
6 (\$54)	
7 (\$30)*	

## OVERTURE HALL ONLY

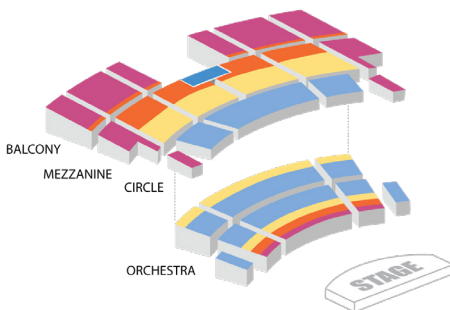
Overture Hall Section
1 (\$332)
2 (\$234)
3 (\$188)
4 (\$140)
5 (\$116)
6 (\$58)
7 (\$32)*

## VENUES

### OVERTURE HALL



### CAPITOL THEATER



\* Please note that supertitles are not visible from Section 7 seats, except in the balcony.



335 W. Mifflin St. | Madison, WI 53703  
p: (608) 238-8085 | [www.madisonopera.org](http://www.madisonopera.org)

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Madison, WI  
Permit No. 429

## 2026/27 SEASON

**NORMA**  
BELLINI

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Postcard  
from Morocco  
ARGENTO

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**CARMEN**  
BIZET

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**OPERA**  
*in*  
**PARK**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!  
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