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# OPERA IN THE PARK 2025

**Renée Richardson\***, soprano

**Emily Treigle\***, mezzo-soprano

**Andrew Bidlack**, tenor

**Benjamin Taylor**, baritone

with

**George Abbott III**, tenor

**Madison Opera Chorus**

**Madison Symphony Orchestra**

**John DeMain**, conductor

Hosted by

**Kathryn Smith**, General Director of Madison Opera

and **Brandon Taylor**, WKOW-27

*\* Madison Opera debut*

The performance will last approximately 2 hours 15 minutes, including one intermission.

Madison Opera acknowledges that Opera in the Park takes place on the Ho-Chunk Nation's ancestral lands. We celebrate the rich traditions, heritage, and culture of the Ho-Chunk Nation that originated before our arrival and continue to thrive today.

# THE PROGRAM

## The Star-Spangled Banner

Madison Opera Chorus

Overture | *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart; 1790)

Orchestra

Hence, Iris, Hence Away | *Semele* (George Frideric Handel; 1744)

Ms. Treigle

*Iris, messenger of the gods, reports to Juno the whereabouts of Semele's new palace. Enraged, Juno swears to destroy her rival, first enlisting the help of the god of sleep.*

Kuda, Kuda | *Eugene Onegin* (Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; 1879)

Mr. Bidlack

*Waiting in the woods to face his friend Onegin in a duel, Lensky reflects on his life and his uncertain fate.*

Robert's Aria | *Iolanta* (Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; 1892)

Mr. Taylor

*Robert, the Duke of Burgundy, tell his friend about the woman with whom he is in love.*

Sì, mi chiamano Mimì | *La Bohème* (Giacomo Puccini; 1896)

Ms. Richardson

*Mimì tells the poet Rodolfo about herself, including her name, that she makes her living through embroidery, and that she loves the spring.*

O soave fanciulla | *La Bohème* (Giacomo Puccini; 1896)

Ms. Richardson, Mr. Bidlack

*Rodolfo tells Mimì how beautiful she is, and suggests they stay home for the evening. She asks to instead accompany him with his friends to the Café Momus. As they leave, they sing of their new love.*

That Devil Killed Her | *Everlasting Faint* (Scott Gendel; premiering 2026)

Ms. Treigle

*Mary is visited by the ghost of her deceased daughter Elva and becomes convinced that she was murdered by her husband, Trout Shue. Mary vows to find out the truth.*

Whisky Girl | *Everlasting Faint* (Scott Gendel; premiering 2026)

Mr. Bidlack,

Mr. Abbott, Mr. Taylor

*In the local tavern, two men sing a drinking tune. They are joined in song by Trout Shue, who mourns the loss of his dear wife, Elva.*

Ah, guarda sorella | *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart; 1790)

Ms. Richardson, Ms. Treigle

*Sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella extol their fiancés' handsomeness and tell each other how happy they are.*

Votre toast | *Carmen* (Georges Bizet; 1875)

Mr. Taylor

with Ms. Richardson, Ms. Treigle, Chorus

*The toreador Escamillo recounts his exploits in the bullring for the crowd in a tavern.*

- INTERMISSION -

- O welche Lust | *Fidelio* (Ludwig van Beethoven; 1805)** **Chorus**  
*Allowed to enjoy fresh air outside their cells for the first time, a group of prisoners marvel at their temporary freedom as they emerge into the light.*
- Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen | *Die Tote Stadt* (Erich Korngold; 1920)** **Mr. Taylor,  
Chorus Women**  
*Fritz, a member of an acting troupe, sings a yearning song in character as Pierrot.*
- O Mon Fernand | *La Favorite* (Gaetano Donizetti; 1840)** **Ms. Treigle**  
*Léonore feels both joy and guilt at her upcoming wedding to Fernand. She loves him, but is worried about his reaction to her history and decides that he must learn of it soon.*
- Un bel dì, vedremo | *Madama Butterfly* (Giacomo Puccini; 1904)** **Ms. Richardson**  
*Cio-Cio-San dreams of the beautiful day when her American husband, Lt. Pinkerton, will return to her and her son in Japan.*
- Au Mont Ida | *La Belle Hélène* (Jacques Offenbach; 1864)** **Mr. Bidlack**  
*Paris, son of the Trojan King Priam, recounts “The Judgement of Paris,” when he was approached by three goddesses to decide who was the most beautiful.*
- Oh, Better Far to Live and Die | *The Pirates of Penzance* (Arthur Sullivan; 1879)** **Mr. Taylor, Chorus**  
*The Pirate King and his crew agree that piracy is a more honest way to live than respectability.*
- Over the Rainbow | *The Wizard of Oz* (Harold Arlen; 1939)** **Ms. Richardson**  
*After her aunt tells to “find yourself a place where you won’t get into any trouble,” Dorothy dreams of what that place must be like.*
- Something’s Coming | *West Side Story* (Leonard Bernstein; 1957)** **Mr. Bidlack**  
*Tony looks forward to a better future for himself, possibly starting at the dance he plans to attend that evening.*
- You’ll Never Walk Alone | *Carousel* (Richard Rodgers; 1945)** **Ms. Treigle, Chorus**  
*Nettie consoles Julie after the loss of her husband.*
- It’s a Grand Night for Singing | *State Fair* (Richard Rodgers; 1945)** **Tutti, Chorus**  
*At the Iowa State Fair, newly-met couples enjoy the evening dance.*

**Repertoire subject to change.**

Madison Opera believes great music should be accessible to everyone.



Opera in the Park is the way we make that happen.

Since 2002, Madison Opera has been sharing the gift of opera with our community under the beautiful night sky in Garner Park.

### By the numbers:

- Since the first concert, audiences have heard **296 separate pieces** from **152 different operas, musicals, and zarzuelas**, written by **86 composers**, performed by **96 soloists** in **7 languages**.
- Over **60 professional production staff** transform Garner Park and over **75 volunteers** help make sure audience members have a wonderful experience.
- We work with **33 vendors**, who supply the stage, generators, sound and lighting equipment, golf carts, and much more, as well as **7 organizations** who provide **in-kind support**.
- We coordinate with **6 City of Madison departments**: Parks, Police, Fire, EMS, Traffic Engineering, and the Water Utility.
- **Opera in the Park** costs over \$350,000 to produce; over **85% of our support** comes from individuals who share our belief in the power of music.

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# 27 NEWS

abc

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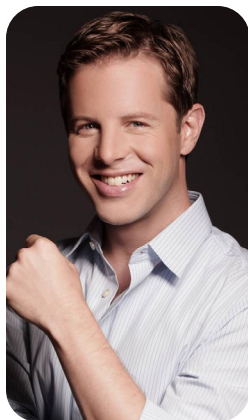
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# MEET THE ARTISTS



## **Andrew Bidlack** - tenor

**Madison Opera Debut:** Tamino, *The Magic Flute* (2017)

**Recently at MO:** Steven Kodaly, *She Loves Me*

**Recently:** Edmondo, *Manon Lescaut* (Washington Concert Opera); Third Squire, *Parsifal*; Sichel, *Doktor und Apotheker*; Der Wirt, *Der Traumgörge*; First Vagabond, *Die Kluge* (Oper Frankfurt); Doctor, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (Dallas Opera); Lyonnel, *Le Roi Arthur* (Tiroler Festspiele Erl, Bard Summerscape); Rob Hall, *Everest* (The Barbican Centre); Young Gypsy, *Aleko*; Paolo, *Francesca da Rimini* (Odyssey Opera)

**Upcoming:** Comte de Gloria-Cassis, *Les Brigands*; Remendado, *Carmen* (Oper Frankfurt); Trout Shue, *Everlasting Faint* (Madison Opera)



## **John DeMain** - conductor

**Madison Opera Debut:** *The Magic Flute* (1995)

**Recently at MO:** *Don Giovanni*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Candide*, *Tosca*, *Trouble in Tahiti / The Seven Deadly Sins*, *Salome*

**Upcoming:** *La Bohème* (Madison Opera)



## **Renée Richardson** - soprano

**Madison Opera Debut**

**Recently:** Countess, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Pensacola Opera); Fiordiligi, *Così fan tutte*; Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni* (Wolf Trap Opera); Flower Maiden, *Parsifal*; Sister Berta, *The Sound of Music*; Annina, *La Traviata*; Woman Whose Uncle Loved Maria Callas, *Another City* (Houston Grand Opera); Mimì, *La Bohème*; Foreign Princess, *Rusalka*; Suor Angelica, *Suor Angelica* (The Academy of Vocal Arts)

**Upcoming:** Mimì, *La Bohème* (Madison Opera); Cassandra, *The Secret River* (Orlando Opera)



**Benjamin Taylor** - baritone

**Madison Opera Debut:** *Silvio, Pagliacci* (2018)

**Recently at MO:** *Figaro, The Barber of Seville*

**Recently:** Jake, *Porgy and Bess* (Washington National Opera); Marcello, *La Bohème* (Arizona Opera); Bello, *La Fanciulla del West* (Bayerische Staatsoper); Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte* (Princeton Festival); Jan Nyman, *Breaking the Waves* (Detroit Opera); Moralès, *Carmen*; Papageno, *The Magic Flute*; (Metropolitan Opera); Paolo, *Simon Boccanegra* (Opera Philadelphia); West, *Castor and Patience* (Cincinnati Opera)

**Upcoming:** Escamillo, *Carmen* (Seattle Opera); Jake, *Porgy and Bess* (Metropolitan Opera); Sonora, *La Fanciulla del West* (Detroit Opera)



**Emily Treigle** - mezzo-soprano

**Madison Opera Debut**

**Recently:** Filipyevna, *Eugene Onegin*; Lucia, *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Canadian Opera Company); Despina, *Così fan tutte*; Juno / Ino, *Semele* (Wolf Trap Opera); Tisbe, *La Cenerentola*; Meg Page, *Falstaff*; Suzuki, *Madame Butterfly*; Flora, *La Traviata*; Miss Violet, *Another City*; Mère Jeanne, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; Gertrude, *Romeo and Juliet* (Houston Grand Opera)

**Upcoming:** Second Lady, *The Magic Flute* (Metropolitan Opera); La Ciesca, *Gianni Schicchi*; The Monitress, *Suor Angelica* (Houston Grand Opera); Mère Marie, *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (New Orleans Opera); Despina, *Così fan tutte* (Madison Opera)

## OPERA *in the* PARK RAFFLE

Enter to win and support *Opera in the Park!*

1st Prize: \$2,000

2nd Prize: \$1,000

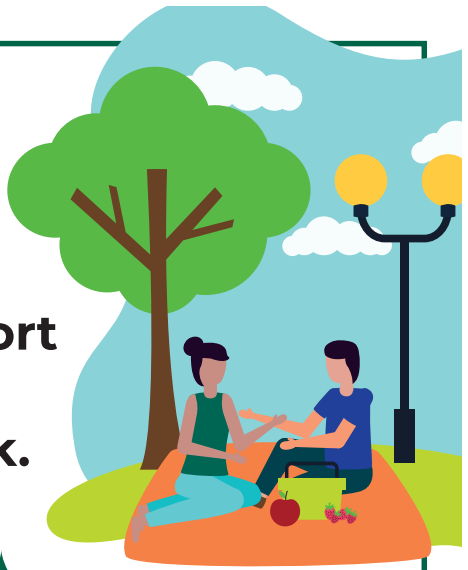
3rd Prize: Madison Opera Subscription for Two

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# MADISON OPERA CHORUS

## Anthony Cao, Chorus Master

### SOPRANO

Jill Carlson  
Megan Gloss  
Kimberly Grez  
Aria Johnson\*  
Wendy Jones Hill  
Katie Massey  
Lynn Morgan  
Connie Nelson  
Julie Ottum  
Deanna Summerlott  
Lorie Wagner

### MEZZO-SOPRANO

Lavonne Dettmers  
Natalie Falconer  
Dale Kaufman  
Maureen Kind  
Laura Muller  
Lauren Murakami  
Kirstin Roble  
Sarah Scallon  
Erin Selbee  
Ellen Wojtak

### TENOR

George Abbott III  
Ray Calderon  
Michael Hammer  
Jordan Humpal  
Scott Seyforth  
Doug Swenson  
Andrew Turner  
Victor Vegas  
Devon Wells\*  
Fred Younger

### BARITONE/BASS

Andy Ball  
Robert Dinndorf  
David Flanders  
Stan Hill  
John Itson  
Peter Kleinschmidt  
Nate Martin  
Brian Schultz  
Tom Stone  
John Unertl  
Ryan White

\*Madison Opera High School Apprentice

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The 2025/26 SEASON

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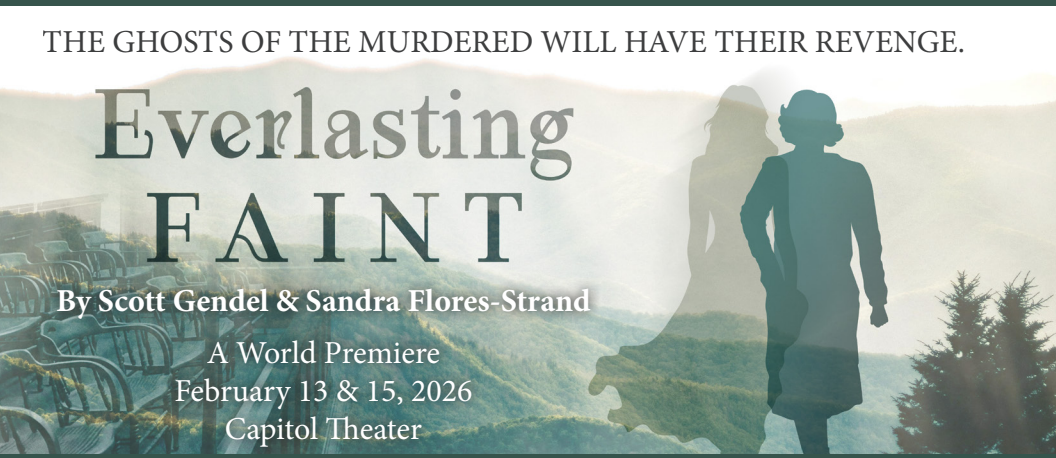


## La Bohème

By Giacomo Puccini

November 7 & 9, 2025  
Overture Hall

THE GHOSTS OF THE MURDERED WILL HAVE THEIR REVENGE.



## Everlasting FAINT

By Scott Gendel & Sandra Flores-Strand

A World Premiere  
February 13 & 15, 2026  
Capitol Theater


LOVE IS A GAME. EVERYONE CHANGE PARTNERS.



## *Così fan tutte*

BY W. A. MOZART

April 24 & 26, 2026  
Overture Hall



A heart-breaking love story. A true crime ghost story.  
And a very human comedy.

**Join Madison Opera for our 2025/26 season**, featuring our signature blend of works that are classic and new, tragic and comic, and above all musically enthralling in the way that only opera can be.

***La Bohème*** The greatest love story in opera, *La Bohème* is eternally young. Set to a ravishing score, Puccini's classic opera tells of the lives, loves, and losses of a group of young artists in a Bohemian quarter of Paris.

***Everlasting Faint*** A young woman has died of natural causes, or so the doctor declares. Her ghost returns and tells her mother that her husband murdered her. Shaken and resolute, her mother embarks on a journey to deliver justice for her daughter. Don't miss this world premiere by Madison composer Scott Gendel and librettist Sandra Flores-Strand, based on the true story of the 1897 Greenbrier Ghost.

***Così fan tutte*** Two sisters, two suitors, and a drunken wager about the nature of fidelity; what could possibly go wrong? Mozart's deliciously risqué romantic comedy is full of sublime arias, sparkling ensembles, and the complications that ensue when young love and flirtation encounter reality.

Subscribe to the 2025/26 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

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Celebrate a century of joy bringing live music to life. Your Madison Symphony Orchestra's 25/26 subscription concert season will take place between October 2025 and May 2026 — presenting eight triple-performances featuring orchestral masterpieces — including the world premiere of *EARTH: A Choral Symphony* by Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer, and works by **Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Bates, Franck, Mahler, Haydn, Mussorgsky, Strauss, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Korngold, Debussy, Stravinsky, Mozart, Ortiz, Respighi, López, Rodrigo, and Sibelius!** World-renowned guest soloists include **Olga Kern, Christopher Taylor, Alban Gerhardt, Yefim Bronfman, Rachel Barton Pine, Emanuel Ax, Julian Rhee, Ailyn Pérez, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.** Subscribers can add MSO at the Movies (Disney and Pixar's *Toy Story in Concert, Live to Film* and *Indiana*

*Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark™ Live in Concert*), plus September special events (Centennial Opening Weekend), to their subscription before **single tickets go on sale August 23, 2025.** Share our love of music together. You can **subscribe now** to 5-8 concerts (\$90-\$660) and **save 10-25%**. View our 25/26 season brochure online for complete details about your Symphony's exciting 100th Anniversary concerts and events. Explore and subscribe: [madisonsymphony.org/100](https://madisonsymphony.org/100)



### 25/26 SEASON PARTNERS

WMTV 15 News, American Printing, Madison Media Partners, Madison Magazine, Madison Symphony Orchestra League, The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club, PBS Wisconsin, Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Arts Board

Dates, artists, programs, and prices subject to change.



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# MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

John DeMain, Music Director

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Suzanne Beia  
*Concertmaster*  
Maynie Bradley  
Neil Gopal  
Tim Kamps  
Katherine Floriano  
Laura Burns  
Alec Tonno

## VIOLIN II

Hillary Hempel  
Peter Miliczky  
Holly Wagner  
Rolf Wulfsberg  
Olga Draguieva  
Kathryn Taylor

## VIOLA

Christopher Dozoryst  
Diedre Buckley  
Elisabeth Deussen  
Molly O'Brien

## CELLO

Karl Lavine  
Lisa Bressler  
Trace Johnson  
Alex Chambers-Ozasky

## BASS

Grace Heintz  
John Cleere

## FLUTE

Linda Pereksta  
Dawn Lawler

## PICCOLO

Dawn Lawler

## OBOE

Lindsay Flowers  
Laura Medisky

## ENGLISH HORN

Laura Medisky

## CLARINET

Orlando Pimentel  
Greg Smith

## BASSOON

Carol Rosing  
Joshua Fleming

## HORN

Dafydd Bevil  
Michael Wright  
William Muir  
Mary Buscanics-Jones

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Jean Laurenz  
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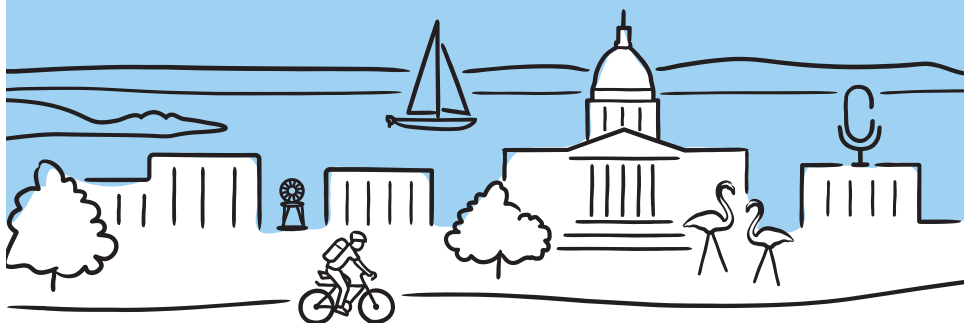
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# WANT EVEN MORE OPERA?

Join us for an array of performances and events off the stage this season - perfect for the opera omnivore, the newcomer, and everyone in between.

Our free **Studio Artist Recitals** showcase exciting young singers in hour-long recitals, performing arias, art songs, and more.

**Opera Talk with Kathryn Smith** is a free online dive into centuries of operatic history, thematic connections, and stories. This season, explore *Opera and Medicine*, *Opera Takes a Holiday*, and *The Art of Operatic Disguise*.



**Opera Up Close** is a two-hour behind-the-scenes preview of each opera in our season, including a roundtable with cast members.

**Community Previews** of our operas, including a performance by a Studio Artist, are given in retirement communities, and are free and open to the public.



**Digital Previews** of each opera are streamed online a month before performances, and then remain available to watch whenever suits you.

*Dates, times, locations, and streaming links can be found at [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org).*



## ***Education Programs for Youth***

**The High School Apprentice Program** offers juniors and seniors the chance to explore the world of professional opera.

**The Student Matinee** of *Così fan tutte* in April is open to school groups from across Wisconsin.

*For more information, visit [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org).*

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Cast of *Picnic*, Photo by Dan Norman.  
Phoebé González, Laura Rook, *Fallen Angels*.  
Top & bottom photos by Michael Brosilow.



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OITP25





## *Consider Legacy Giving – and give an “Encore” for Opera in the Park*

For the past 23 years, Madison Opera has given the gift of Opera in the Park to our community every summer. You can help support this magical evening in many ways, including making a donation to the Opera in the Park Fund tonight.

You can also make a long-term commitment to Opera in the Park by including Madison Opera in your estate planning. **A legacy gift will touch thousands of people in meaningful ways** – and you don't need to be a millionaire to do it.

When you designate a legacy gift to us, you become a member of Madison Opera's Encore Society and enjoy donor benefits and the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve this perfect summer evening of beautiful music for generations to come.

### **Encore Society member Jane Taves shares:**

*“I make this commitment to the future of Madison Opera because the music and the storytelling are transformative. Opera in the Park is one of the highlights of our summers here in Madison. My gift will help future audience members sitting on the hill in Garner Park experience and enjoy the magic of opera.”*

For information on legacy giving, visit [madisonopera.org/legacy-giving](http://madisonopera.org/legacy-giving) or contact Beth Tolles at 608-238-8085.



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Director of Production .....	Jill Krynicki
Technical Director .....	Billy Larimore
Lighting Designer .....	Matthew Ulrich
Sound Consultant .....	Jonathan Lipp, CEO, Full Compass Systems Inc.
Sound Technician .....	Audrey Martinovich, Audio for the Arts
Grounds Logistics Managers .....	Tim Ross, Brian Weinkauff
Event Manager .....	Kate Moore
Assistant Event Manager .....	Alyssa Pon-Franklin
Volunteer Coordinator .....	Susan Rathke
Principal Coach / Accompanist .....	Scott Gendel
Chorus Accompanist .....	Joy Bauman
Production Assistants .....	Tristan Brandhorst, Alexandria Brusky, John Itson, Kelsey Rueden, Laurel Streekstra, Alexander Torragar
Audio Equipment Services .....	Full Compass Systems Inc.
Videographer .....	Mats Rudels
Photographer .....	Lisa Karr
Production Stage Crew .....	Members of IATSE 251



# CITY OF MADISON

Mayor .....	Satya Rhodes-Conway
Alder, District 11 .....	Bill Tishler
Interim Parks Superintendent .....	Lisa Laschinger
Community Services Manager .....	Terrence Thompson
West Parks Supervisor .....	Charlotte Blotz
Park and Street Use Supervisor .....	Kelly Post
Madison Police Dpt. Midtown District .....	Capt. Shannon Blackamore
Division Fire Chief, Special Events .....	David Crossen

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bucky's Portable Restrooms	Buzz Kemper	Thomas Terry
Capital City Tent Rental	Kirsten & Kyle Lippart	TruStage
Charis Classical Academy	NWS Event Support	University Research Park
Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club	Douglas Schumacher	Vel Phillips Memorial Highschool
	Kendall Stevens, M.D. and Nicholas Genthe, M.D.	

UW-Madison Voice and Swallow Clinics  
is the official voice care provider for Madison Opera.

# PARK INFORMATION

**FIRST AID:** First Aid and EMS Paramedics are located at the ambulance on the basketball court.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Accessible pick-up and drop-off is located at the central walking path entrance to Garner Park on Rosa Road. Alert Madison Opera volunteers if golf cart assistance is needed.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Lost and Found is located in the shelter at the top of the hill. Items found after the concert will be held at the Madison Opera offices starting on Monday; call 608-238-8085 during business hours to claim your items.

**LOST MINORS:** All lost minors will be brought to the shelter at the top of the hill to be reunited with their parents / guardians.

**WATER:** Madison Water Utility's Water Wagon is located at the top of the hill. Refill your water bottles and stay hydrated!

## WEATHER EMERGENCY

In the event of an unexpected weather emergency or other emergency, an announcement will be made from the stage advising as to whether the concert is delayed or cancelled.

Depending on the forecast, audiences may be advised to take shelter:

- If you arrived via car, please return to it.
- If you arrived via public transportation, bicycle, or on foot, please tell Madison Opera volunteers, who will guide you to the emergency shelter.

If the park is evacuated, please leave in an orderly fashion and follow all police directions.

## STAFF

General Director .....	Kathryn Smith
Principal Conductor .....	John DeMain
Director of Production .....	Jill Krynicki
Director of Development .....	Lizabeth Tolles
Artistic Administrator .....	Chloe Agostino
Patron Services Manager .....	Robert A. Goderich
Finance Officer .....	Brian Haltinner
Marketing Manager .....	Julia Simpson
Technical Director and Warehouse Coordinator .....	Billy Larimore
Music Assistant .....	Aubrie Jacobson

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Peyton Engel*	Barbara Merz	Sonja Yde
David Flanders	Sally Miley*	
Joyce Hirsch*	J. Marshall Osborn*	

## ADVISORS

Fern Lawrence	Elaine Staley	Helen Wineke
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*\*Executive Committee*

### MADISON OPERA, INC.

335 W. Mifflin Street | Madison, WI 53703  
608.238.8085 | info@madisonopera.org

# TAKE THE OPERA IN THE PARK CHALLENGE



## SUPPORT OPERA IN THE PARK AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

Thank you for joining us for Opera in the Park. Madison Opera is committed to producing this incredible evening for decades to come, but we need your help. We are a non-profit arts organization, and Opera in the Park is only possible with donations from members of our community, including you.

Help us keep great music accessible to everyone by making a gift to the Opera in the Park Fund. **Any donation you make before August 31, 2025 will be matched by anonymous friends of Madison Opera, up to \$25,000!** This will double your gift's impact and help us keep Opera in the Park a FREE event.



Donations can be made in the park tonight, via the QR code, at [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org), by mail, or by calling us at 608-238-8085.

**SCAN TO DONATE**  
[madisonopera.org/give](http://madisonopera.org/give)

Madison Opera is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so every gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.