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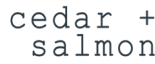


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Kathryn Smith, *General Director* | John DeMain, *Artistic Director*

Opera in the Park 2019

Jeni Houser, *soprano*
Michelle Johnson, *soprano*
David Blalock, *tenor*
Ben Edquist*, *baritone*

with **Douglas Swenson, *tenor***
Madison Opera Chorus
Madison Symphony Orchestra

John DeMain, *conductor*

** Madison Opera debut*

Hosted by

Kathryn Smith, General Director of Madison Opera
and **George Smith, WKOW-27**

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

MADISON OPERA, INC.

335 W. Mifflin Street | Madison, WI 53703

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THE PROGRAM

The Star-Spangled Banner

Madison Opera Chorus &
Madison Symphony Orchestra

Overture | *Donna Diana* (Reznicek; 1894)

Orchestra

Brindisi | *La Traviata* (Verdi; 1853)

Ms. Johnson, Mr. Blalock, Chorus

At a party at Violetta's home, Alfredo is convinced by his friends to lead them in a drinking song; he is joined by Violetta and the rest of the guests.

Un Di, Felice, Eteera | *La Traviata* (Verdi; 1853)

Ms. Houser, Mr. Blalock

Alfredo tells Violetta - who he has just met - how he fell in love with her from afar. She rejects him, saying she can only offer friendship, and they both sing of the mysterious force of love.

Our Very Own Home | *Fellow Travelers* (Spears; 2016)

Mr. Edquist

Hawkins Fuller, a government official in 1950s Washington, D.C., yearns for what he cannot have: a home that he and his lover Timothy Laughlin can share publicly.

Pace, Pace, Mio Dio | *La Forza del Destino* (Verdi; 1862)

Ms. Johnson

Leonora, a Spanish noblewoman who has fled to a monastery after her lover kills her father, asks God to grant peace on her tortured soul and end her suffering.

Che Interminabile Andirivieni! | *Don Pasquale* (Donizetti; 1843)

Chorus

The servants in Don Pasquale's home complain about the amount of work they have to do and muse on how entertaining they find the relationship between Pasquale and his new wife.

Venti Scudi | *The Elixir of Love* (Donizetti; 1832)

Mr. Blalock, Mr. Edquist

Nemorino needs cash to buy more of the magic elixir that he is convinced will make Adina fall in love in with him. Sergeant Belcore suggests he join the army, promising him 20 scudi if he does so. While Belcore sings of the excitement of military life, Nemorino looks forward to happiness with Adina.

Hymn to Bacchus | *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach; 1858)

Ms. Houser, Chorus

In a nightclub in Hades, Eurydice is disguised as a bacchante, one of Bacchus' followers. She leads all the gods and goddesses in a tribute to the god of wine.

Act II Finale | *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Offenbach; 1858)

Ms. Houser, Ms. Johnson,

Mr. Blalock, Mr. Edquist, Mr. Swenson, Chorus

Orpheus reluctantly leads an equally-unhappy Eurydice out of Hades, at the behest of Public Opinion and Pluto. Jupiter throws a lightning bolt, causing Orpheus to turn around, thus meaning that Eurydice will stay in Hades forever, happily serving Bacchus and carrying on with the party.

~ INTERMISSION ~

THE PROGRAM

- Barcarolle | *The Tales of Hoffmann* (Offenbach; 1881)** Ms. Houser, Ms. Johnson, Chorus
Nicklausse, Giulietta, and the party-goers at Giulietta's house extol the beauty of the Venice night.
- Pierrot's Tanzlied | *Die Tote Stadt* (Korngold; 1920)** Mr. Edquist
Fritz, a member of an acting troupe, sings a yearning song in character as Pierrot.
- Ebben? Ne Andrò Lontana | *La Wally* (Catalani; 1892)** Ms. Johnson
Wally has been told by her father that she must marry a man she does not love. She decides to run away and despairs that she will never see her home again.
- La Donna è Mobile | *Rigoletto* (Verdi; 1851)** Mr. Blalock
The Duke of Mantua sings that all women are fickle and will betray anyone who falls in love with them.
- O Luce di Quest'anima | *Linda di Chamounix* (Donizetti; 1842)** Ms. Houser
Linda, a young French woman, has just missed meeting her lover, an impoverished artist. She finds the flowers he left behind for her and sings of her love for him.
- C'est Moi | *Camelot* (Loewe; 1960)** Mr. Edquist
A French knight named Lancelot arrives in Camelot, proclaiming himself perfect to join King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table.
- Drink, Drink, Drink! | *The Student Prince* (Romberg; 1924)** Mr. Blalock, Chorus
A German crown prince is attending the University of Heidelberg in disguise, and joins his classmates at the local tavern.
- Don't Rain on My Parade | *Funny Girl* (Styne; 1964)** Ms. Johnson
Fanny Brice, a successful Broadway performer, decides to follow her heart and marry Nick Arnstein, regardless of what everyone tells her she should do.
- When the Children are Asleep | *Carousel* (Rodgers; 1945)** Ms. Houser, Mr. Blalock
Enoch tells Carrie of his plans to become rich, and the two envision their future together, with plenty of children.
- Anything You Can Do | *Annie Get Your Gun* (Berlin; 1946)** Ms. Johnson, Mr. Edquist
Annie Oakley and Frank Butler challenge each other to a final shooting match, leading to declarations that each is better than the other at everything.
- It's a Grand Night for Singing | *State Fair* (Rodgers; 1945)** Tutti, Chorus
At the Iowa State Fair, newly-met couples enjoy the evening dance.

Repertoire subject to change.



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MADISON OPERA'S HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Madison Opera's High School Apprentice Program offers high school juniors and seniors a unique opportunity to explore the world of professional opera.

Since 2008, over 100 students have participated in this free program. Apprentices have gone on to sing with the Madison Opera Chorus and even in solo roles; some of the 2018/19 season's apprentices are singing with the chorus tonight.

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An advertisement for Nedrebo's Formal Wear. The top half shows three men in black tuxedos with white shirts and black bowties, standing in a row. The word "Bravo!" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the bottom of the image. Below the image is a white circular graphic containing the text "Supporting the Arts in Madison since 1944" and the brand name "NEDREBO'S FORMAL WEAR" in a bold, serif font. At the bottom of the circle, the address "4522 E. Washington Ave. • 608-241-3131" and "601 Junction Rd. • 608-833-8811" are listed, along with the website "nedrebos.com".



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Opera begins with people - on stage and in the audience.

The magic of opera happens when its stories and music connect everyone, tapping into a shared sense of humanity. Madison Opera's 2019/20 season features three different opportunities to reflect on and rediscover our common journey.

Set in then-contemporary 1850s Paris, *La Traviata* tells of a young woman on the outskirts of "decent" society whose striving for love is made impossible by societal mores. Verdi's opera scandalized Italy and swiftly became one of the most popular operas in the world.

Taking place a century later in Washington, D.C., *Fellow Travelers* tells of two men embarking on a relationship at a time when discovery meant ruin, due to the McCarthy-era "Lavender Scare." *The New York Times* called Spears' 2016 opera "a near-perfect example of fast-flowing musical drama."

Leaving reality behind, *Orpheus in the Underworld* is set on earth, Mt. Olympus, and Hades, as mortals and gods collide in Offenbach's delicious spoof of mythology that takes nothing seriously, other than the need to have fun.

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2019/20 SEASON

La Traviata

BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

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Fellow Travelers

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MEET THE ARTISTS



David Blalock - tenor

Madison Opera Debut: Jaquino, *Fidelio* (2014)

Recently: Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni* (Opera Hong Kong); Nemorino, *The Elixir of Love* (Piedmont Opera); Alfredo, *La Traviata* (Arizona Opera); Sam Kaplan, *Street Scene*; Lysander, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Virginia Opera)

Upcoming: Orpheus, *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Madison Opera); Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni* (Pensacola Opera)



Ben Edquist - baritone

Madison Opera Debut

Recently: Emperor, *The Emperor of Atlantis*; Pierrot, *L'Île de Merlin*; Father, *The Juniper Tree*; William, *The Fall of the House of Usher* (Wolf Trap Opera); William Dale, *Silent Night* (Austin Opera); Remo, *The Skating Rink* (Garsington Opera); Manfred, *Out of Darkness* (Atlanta Opera); Older Thompson, *Glory Denied*; Marquis d'Obigny, *La Traviata*; Belcore, *The Elixir of Love* (Houston Grand Opera)

Upcoming: Hawkins Fuller, *Fellow Travelers* (Madison Opera); Figaro, *The Barber of Seville* (Painted Sky Opera)



Jeni Houser- soprano

Madison Opera Debut: Ensemble, *Acis and Galatea* (2013)

Recently with MO: Anne, *A Little Night Music*; Olympia, *The Tales of Hoffmann*; Amy, *Little Women*; Johanna, *Sweeney Todd*

Recently: Viv, *Companionship* (Fort Worth Opera); Frantzi, *Die Weiden* (Vienna State Opera); The Queen of the Night, *The Magic Flute* (Central City Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Minnesota Opera); La Charmeuse, *Thais*; Susanna, *The Marriage of Figaro* (Minnesota Opera); Zerbinetta, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Austin Opera, Minnesota Opera)

Upcoming: Eurydice, *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Madison Opera); Papagena, *The Magic Flute*; The Golden Cockerel, *The Golden Cockerel* (Dallas Opera)

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Opera in the Park

What Is Your Favorite Bird?

Our choice this month is the beautiful *Cedar Waxwing*. A treat to find in your binocular viewfield, this fellow is a silky, shiny collection of brown, gray, and lemon-yellow, accented with a subdued crest, a rakish black mask, and brilliant red wax droplets on the wing feathers. In fall these birds gather by the hundreds to eat berries, filling the air with their high, thin, whistles. In summer you're as likely to find them flitting about over rivers in pursuit of flying insects, where they show off dazzling aeronautics for a forest bird.



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MEET THE ARTISTS



Michelle Johnson - soprano

Madison Opera Debut: *Santuzza, Cavalleria Rusticana* (2018)

Recently: *Elsa, Lohengrin* (Opera Southwest); *Aida, Aida* (Opera Idaho, Knoxville Opera, Sarasota Opera); *Madame Lidoine, Dialogues of the Carmelites*; *Elisabeth de Valois, Don Carlos* (Sarasota Opera); *Leonora, Il Trovatore* (Hawaii Opera Theatre)

Upcoming: *Zemfira, Aleko* (Chicago Opera Theater); *Aida, Aida* (Opera Tampa)



John DeMain - conductor

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

Recently with MO: *Rusalka, A Little Night Music, Florencia en el Amazonas*

Recently: *Blue* (Glimmerglass Festival); *Candide* (Gran Teatre de Liceu); *Porgy and Bess* (Seattle Opera, Glimmerglass Festival); *Sweeney Todd* (Glimmerglass Festival); *Lost in the Stars* (Washington National Opera)

Upcoming: *La Traviata, Fellow Travelers, Orpheus in the Underworld* (Madison Opera); *Blue* (Washington National Opera)

Want to learn more about opera? Join us for *Opera Novice!*

Join Madison Opera for a FREE, short, fun, and informative evening, led by General Director Kathryn Smith. Each session looks at different opera topics that relate to an upcoming performance, and feature a live performance plus plenty of time to ask questions. It's the perfect jump-start for the opera-curious.

The Operas of Verdi

Friday, October 11, 2019, 6-7pm

Welcome to the 21st Century: New American Operas

Friday, January 17, 2020, 6-7pm

Multitudes of Orpheus: The Myth and the Opera(s)

Friday, March 27, 2020, 6-7pm

Opera Novice is FREE and is held at The Margaret C. Winston Madison Opera Center,
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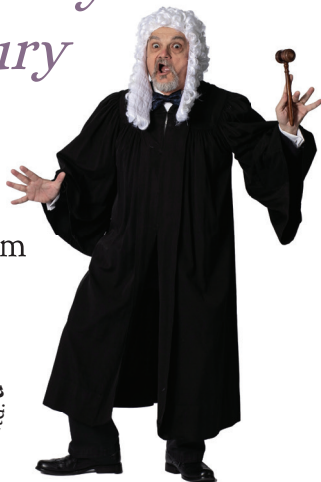
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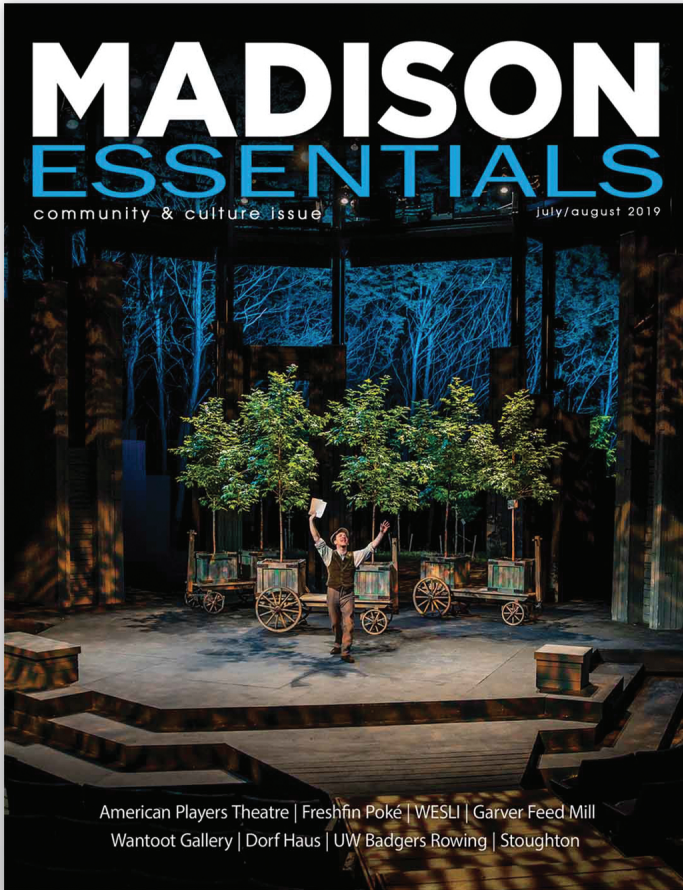
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Emma Aubrey*
Jill Carlson
Saskia den Boon*
Deborah Gil
Megan Gloss
Emma Goecks*
Cassidy Hopkins
Cecilia League*
Deanna Martinez
Connie Nelson
Julie Ottum
Lorie Wagner
Peggy Walters

Mezzo-Soprano

Lavonne Dettmers
Alice Green
Mary Hartkopf
Dale Kaufman
Maureen Kind
Sarah Mroz
Laura Muller
Kristin Roble
Erin Selbee
Anna Thompson*
Wendy Van Asten
Ellen Wojtak

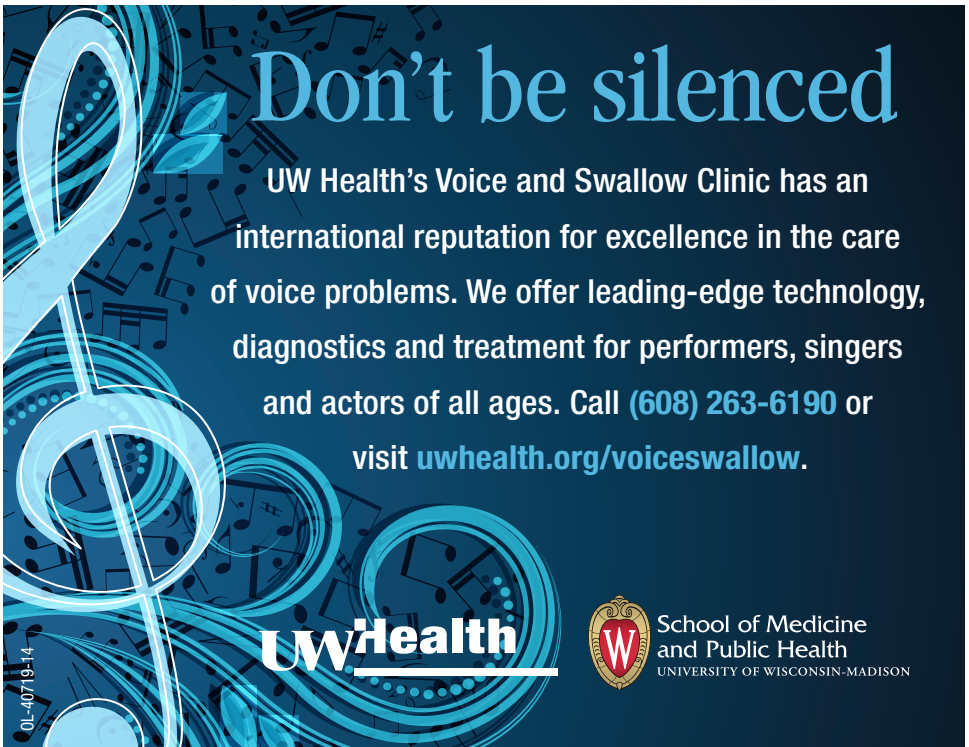
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A MADISON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS

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MAR 6-8

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Dates, programs and artists subject to change.

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Olga Pomolova
Beth Larson
Neil Gopal
Elspeth Stalter-Clouse
Tim Kamps
Jon Vriesacker
Katherine Floriano

VIOLIN II

Xavier Pleindoux
Hillary Hempel
Rolf Wulfsberg
Olga Draguieva
Kathryn Taylor
Geri Hamilton
Robin Ryan
Wes Luke

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Diedre Buckley
Renata Hornik
Elisabeth Deussen
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Davis Perez

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Lisa Bressler
Karen Cornelius
Laurie Riss
Derek Handley

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Carl Davick
Jeff Takaki

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Linda Pereksta
Dawn Lawler
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Technical Director.....	Billy Larimore
Lighting Designer.....	Kenneth Ferencek
Sound Technicians.....	Bag End Sound Systems, Henry Heine, President
Sound Consultant.....	Jonathan Lipp, Founder & CEO, Full Compass Systems Inc.
Ground Logistics Managers	Tim Ross, Brian Weinkauff
Assistant Event Coordinator.....	Kate Goodall
Volunteer Coordinator	Grace Ferencek
Audio Equipment Services.....	Full Compass Systems Inc.
Chorus Master.....	Anthony Cao
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Scott Gendel
Chorus Accompanist.....	Joy Bauman
Production Crew.....	Members of IATSE 251
Photographers.....	James Gill Photography; Krystal Images Photography
Videographer.....	Harry Browne, WeatherGage Productions

CITY OF MADISON

Mayor.....	Satya Rhodes-Conway
Alder, District 11.....	Arvina Martin
Parks Superintendent.....	Eric Knepp
Community Services Manager.....	Claire Oleksiak
West Parks Supervisor.....	Laura Bauer
West District Captain of Police.....	Cory Nelson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Adam Beach	Chris Fahrenthold	Thomas Terry
Karra Beach	Liam Forrest	Ryan Wubben, M.D.
Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club	Hilton Garden Inn	Wellspring United Methodist Church
Emmelyn Cullen	Shauno Kangas	
CUNA Mutual Group	James Madison Memorial High School	
Maebe Dutcher	Jonathan Schroerlucke	

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

PARK INFORMATION

Restrooms: Portable toilets are available along both sides of Garner Park.

Accessibility: Mobility-impaired pick-up and drop-off area is located at the central walking path entrance to Garner Park on Rosa Road. Alert Madison Opera staff or volunteers if golf cart assistance is needed.

First Aid: A first aid station and doctor are located under the tent by the basketball court. An ambulance and EMT's are available on site.

Together We Can Do Great Things



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

Thank you for joining us for the 18th annual *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.

Please help us keep great music accessible to everyone by making a gift to the Opera in the Park Fund. Any donation you make between now and August 31, 2019 will be matched by anonymous friends of Madison Opera, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000! 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, online at madisonopera.org, by mail, or by calling us at 608-238-8085.

**Thank you for supporting Opera in the Park.
Together, we can look forward to sharing this magical night every summer.**

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so every gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.