

## For Immediate Release

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## Opera Baltimore brings pop-up museum and free concerts to six branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library with its 'Opera on the Avenue' programming

**Baltimore, MD - January 11, 2023** - Opera Baltimore's ongoing civic practice project titled "Opera on the Avenue," celebrates the life of African-American soprano Anne Wiggins Brown, the first Bess in Gershwin's iconic opera *Porgy and Bess*. Ms. Brown grew up in Old West Baltimore just off Pennsylvania Avenue, and received her formative musical training here. Still relatively unknown in her own city, Opera on the Avenue seeks to amplify this trailblazer's journey, celebrate her legacy, and uplift the stories of African-American artists from Baltimore.

Over the next six months, Opera Baltimore's "pop-up museum installation" about the life of Anne Brown and other prominent West Baltimoreans will travel to six different branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Opera Baltimore will also offer a free afternoon concert at each branch, highlighting Anne Brown's contributions to Baltimore and the operatic artform. Opera Baltimore is grateful to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for recognizing the importance of this project, and for their partnership in the Opera on the Avenue project.

Free public performances will be given at each participating library branch. Learn more about the project at [www.OperaBaltimore.org/opera-on-the-avenue](http://www.OperaBaltimore.org/opera-on-the-avenue).

### JANUARY

Edmondson Avenue Branch: 4330 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229  
*Free Public Performance **January 21st at 12pm***

### FEBRUARY

Herring Run Branch: 3801 Erdman Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213  
*Free Public Performance **February 11th at 2pm***

### MARCH

Waverly Branch: 400 E. 33rd Street, Baltimore, MD 21218  
*Free Public Performance **March 25th at 2pm***

### APRIL

Northwood Branch: 4420 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21218  
*Free Public Performance **April 22nd at 2pm***

### MAY

Hamilton Branch: 5910 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214  
*Free Public Performance **May 13th at 2pm***

### JUNE

Pratt Central Library: 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
*Free Public Performance **June 3rd at 2pm***

*Opera Baltimore was originally founded in 2009 as Baltimore Concert Opera. Our commitment to strong organizational structure and artistic excellence set the stage for both continued success and smart growth. Opera Baltimore is an Artist-in-Residence at the stunning Garrett-Jacobs Mansion in Baltimore's arts district of Mount Vernon. We strive to invigorate both our audiences and artists through a balance of classic and innovative programming. In a typical season we produce one fully-staged opera with orchestra, two concert operas, two audience-building highlights concerts paired with wine, beer or cocktail tastings, as well as a full complement of education offerings and free outreach events.*

For more information about Opera Baltimore, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to volunteer, please visit **[www.OperaBaltimore.org](http://www.OperaBaltimore.org)**. Opera Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are deeply grateful for the support of the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Citizens of Baltimore County, the Middendorf Foundation, OPERA America, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John J. Leidy Foundation, the T. Rowe Price Foundation and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts on behalf of the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore.

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