

## For Immediate Release

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## Opera Baltimore brings grand opera to Baltimore once again with a lush staging of Verdi's *La Traviata*

**Baltimore, MD - February 20, 2023** - Opera Baltimore will present Verdi's iconic romantic opera *La Traviata* next month in Towson. The opera will premiere March 24th at Towson University's Stephens Hall with a second matinee performance on March 26th, followed by two performances at The Grand in Wilmington, DE on March 31st and April 2nd hosted by OperaDelaware. This co-production represents a continued collaboration between the two opera companies to bring top talent to both communities. All performances will feature full orchestra, spectacular voices, stunning scenery, and beautiful costumes.

Celebrated soprano **Lindsay Ohse** stars as Violetta. Hailed for her "clear and powerfully stratospheric" voice (A la Carte Productions), Ohse's recent appearances include Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, Bekhetaten in *Akhnaten*, and Noemie in *Cendrillon* at the Metropolitan Opera. Internationally acclaimed tenor **Matthew Vickers**, known for roles such as Canio in *Pagliacci* and Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, sings the role of Alfredo. Baritone **Benjamin Taylor** is cast as Alfredo's father, Germont. A Morgan State University graduate, Taylor has recently performed Papagena in *The Magic Flute* and Thierry in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* at the Metropolitan Opera. Rounding out the extraordinary cast are mezzo-soprano **Melanie Ashkar** as Flora Bervoix, tenor **Daniel Sampson** as Gastone de Letorières, baritone **Ben Lowe** as Barone Douphol, mezzo-soprano **Rachel DiBlasio** as Annina, baritone **Jeffrey Gates** as Marchese d'Obigny, and bass **Mark Hightower** as Dottore Grenvil.

The OperaDelaware Orchestra will play in both venues, conducted by **Maestro Domenico Boyagian**, music director of Cleveland Opera Theater and the Suburban Symphony. **Kaley Karis Smith** directs, having recently directed with major companies across the country including Houston Grand Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival and OperaDelaware. The Opera Baltimore debut of Kaley Karis Smith is partially supported by OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors, generously funded by the Marineau Family Foundation.

"This will be a gorgeous traditional production filled with stellar performances crafted to touch the hearts of our audiences," says Opera Baltimore General and Artistic Director, Julia Cooke. "We are thrilled to bring this production to the greater Baltimore community."

### LA TRAVIATA

A co-production by Opera Baltimore and OperaDelaware  
*Sung in Italian with projected English supertitles*

### Opera Baltimore

March 24th at 7:30pm

March 26th at 3:00pm

*Performances at Stephens Hall at Towson University (free garage parking available)  
7900 York Road, Towson, MD 21204*

Tickets available through Opera Baltimore's box office:  
[OperaBaltimore.org/events-calendar](http://OperaBaltimore.org/events-calendar), 443-445-0226  
Group rates for parties of 10+ and student discounts available

**OperaDelaware**  
March 31st at 7:30pm  
April 2nd at 2pm  
*Performances at The Grand*  
818 N. Market St, Wilmington, DE 19801

Tickets available through OperaDelaware's box office:  
[Operade.org/tickets](http://Operade.org/tickets), 302-442-7807

*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**. 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 d'oHeritage 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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