

For Immediate Release

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Opera Baltimore wows crowds from Patterson Park to West Baltimore

Baltimore, MD - July 21, 2023 - Opera Baltimore says its vision is *Building Community through Opera* and it knows how to practice what it preaches. With upcoming free evening concerts at the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center in West Baltimore (Aug 31), Patterson Park (Sept 6), and Mount Vernon Place (Sept 7), **Opera Baltimore will again kick off its season with a “Fall for Opera” concert series across the city.**

“Opera Baltimore’s community programming is uniquely comprehensive,” says Director of Experience and Exploration, Courtney Kalbacker. “We offer events tailored for people of all ages, many of whom have their first operatic experience through an Opera Baltimore performance. Children laugh and cheer at our school assemblies, young professionals enjoy opera + wine tastings at our ‘Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera’ evenings, hundreds enjoy free concerts in parks across the city, and retirement community residents enjoy our on-site Opera Club discussion series across the greater Baltimore area - just to name a few!”

Kalbacker continues, “A significant percentage of folks who enjoy any of these first-contact programs, go on to explore more of our full-length opera offerings – both our semi-staged operas at the Engineers Club and full-staged theatrical productions at Stephens Hall Theatre in Towson. Opera is a bold, unfiltered, visceral experience that attendees find unforgettable.”

Opera Baltimore was selected as **one of only eight companies** in the United States to receive a sought-after Civic Practice Grant from OPERA AMERICA this year. Last year, OB utilized a similar grant to launch a feature concert, a street festival, and a traveling exhibit about West Baltimore native, opera singer Anne Wiggins Brown. This year, Opera Baltimore will launch an innovative new program for children titled **“Voice Your Story”**. This West Baltimore-centered program will leverage OB’s existing partnerships with the Enoch Pratt Library and Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks to encourage creativity and joy in children through the creation of guided, improvised mini-operas based on empowering children’s stories.

Deeply committed to opera education for all ages, Opera Baltimore’s popular pre-opera lectures with Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Aaron Ziegel of Towson University will continue to be offered for each opera. OB’s Opera Club series - “like Book Club, only LOUDER!” - will be offered at multiple retirement communities and locales throughout the region. Also continuing will be Opera Baltimore’s interactive school assembly program “What is Opera? A Team!” which reached **more than 3,500 children** in dozens of schools last year with a positive message of the transformative power of teamwork. Lastly, the collaboration with Towson University’s

collegiate music students will continue as Opera Baltimore hosts their TU productions of opera for children and parents at the Engineers Club on select Saturday mornings.

For information about programs for children, young professionals, seniors, and the larger community, we encourage visits to our website, www.OperaBaltimore.org or phone calls to Courtney Kalbacker, at 443-445-0226.

Opera Baltimore's 2023-2024 Selected Events:

Fall for Opera, free concert at Shake and Bake Family Fun Center - August 31, 2023, 9:30pm

Fall for Opera, free outdoor concert at Patterson Park - September 6, 2023, 6pm

Fall for Opera, free outdoor concert at Mount Vernon Place - September 7, 2023, 7pm

Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera (opera tasting evening) September 28th, 2023

Rigoletto (Verdi) October 20th and 22nd, 2023
Fully-staged with orchestra at Stephens Hall Theatre, Towson University

Salon Series Recital Engineers Club, December 10th, 2023

Opera for Children - Winter 2023 and Spring 2024, TBD

Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera January 25th, 2024

Opera Baltimore Gala at the Engineers Club February 3, 2024

Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky) February 28th, March 1st and March 3rd, 2024
semi-staged concert opera at the Engineers Club in Mount Vernon, Baltimore

The Impresario (Mozart) April 10th, 12th, and 14th, 2024
semi-staged concert opera at the Engineers Club in Mount Vernon, Baltimore

Thirsty Thursdays at the Opera May 16, 2024

Season Launch Party June 4, 2024

About Opera Baltimore: Opera Baltimore was originally founded in 2009 as Baltimore Concert Opera. The company invites both long-time opera enthusiasts and future opera fans to revel in the timeless music and stories of opera that bring us all together. Inspired by the beauty of our venues and legendary music from across the centuries, we achieve our ultimate goal: our artists

and audiences leave moved, entertained, and enriched. All performances at our home venue are through the auspices of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund and its Artists in Residence program which is part of its community outreach mission.

For more information about Opera Baltimore or to make a tax-deductible donation, 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 Heritage Area, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John J. Leidy Foundation, the T. Rowe Price Foundation, BGE, and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts.

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