

# New England Opera Club



*New England Opera Club Newsletter*

*Logo by Barbara Winston*

**Date: August 19, 2018**  
**Time: 2:00 - 4:30 PM**

**Place: Watertown Free Public Library**  
**123 Main Street, Watertown, MA**

## *Great Singers in Musical Theater*

Icons of the American musical (Barbara Cook, Alfred Drake, Ethel Merman, Mary Martin, John Raitt, Julie Andrews, Jerry Orbach...) bring to life classic show tunes in *Great Singers in Musical Theater* presented by William Cotten, faculty member of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

We will also hear stars from the opera world who appeared in musical theater, such as Ezio Pinza, Helen Traubel, Todd Duncan, Patricia Neway, Shirley Verrett, and Robert Rounseville, singing from *South Pacific*, *Porgy and Bess*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *42nd Street* and much more!

**Speaker William Cotten** performed with the Boston Opera Theater Company in *The Marriage of Figaro*, a production which was filmed in Vienna and aired on PBS's *Great Performances*. He also performed in Paris, at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, and in the American Repertory Theater's world premiere of Robert Moran and Phillip Glass's *The Juniper Tree*. He has sung throughout the Boston and New England area, and was a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center.



Bill is currently on the faculties of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and the College of the Holy Cross, and has taught at the New England Conservatory. His students have sung throughout the United States and Europe in opera, concert, national tours, on Broadway, and have won numerous awards.

### *Directions and parking:*

**From the West:** Take Route 20 East (Main Street) to Watertown Square. WFPL is at 123 Main Street.

**From the East:** Take Rte. 16 (Mt. Auburn St.) west. Turn right on Main Street. WFPL is at 123 Main Street.

**Parking:** Limited metered parking is in back of the library and on the street. All parking is metered, on the street and behind the library with a 2 hour limit. The meters are monitored between the hours of 7am-6pm Monday through Saturday, Sundays are free.

**Public Transportation:** The library is accessible via MBTA Bus routes Express 502, Express 504, 52, 57, 59, 70, 70A, and 71. It is less than a five minute walk to the library from the buses that arrive at Watertown Yard.

*The Library is fully handicap-accessible*  
*Open to the public. In the intermission, free dessert and beverages available.*

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**Letters or Articles to the Editor:**

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**Annual Membership:**

- \$40 for each individual / \$45 for a couple at same address
- \$15 student with valid ID
- Mail check, payable to NEOC, to
- Mima Leivi, Treasurer  
*(see address above)*

**2018 NEOC Programs**  
*(lists are subject to change)*

- September 9: *La Fanciulla del West*  
 Angelo Mammano, speakerx
- October 14: *A Collector's Verdi Requiem*  
 Elizabeth Hubbell, speaker
- November 4: *Carmen*  
 Sara Bellini, speaker
- December 16: *Great Singers Around Boston. An Historical Survey (Part 4)*  
 Ed Tapper, speaker

**Past Presidents**  
 William Miranda  
 NEOC (Founder & President Emeritus)  
 Jack Fiddler  
 Maria Iantosca  
 Charlotte Wolfe  
 John M. Tischio

*The mission of this nonprofit association is educational: To promote appreciation of the art of opera; to support performances of quality opera in New England; to encourage talented students in their pursuit of operatic careers.*

To subscribe to our newsletter or to join our mailing list, please send your name and email address to [neoperaclub@gmail.com](mailto:neoperaclub@gmail.com)

**Jacopo Peri Award**  
*The NEOC frequently honors a person who has made a significant contribution to the local opera scene.*

- Eunice Alberts
- John Balme
- Scott Brumit
- Sarah Caldwell
- Schuyler Chapin
- Carole Charnow
- Richard Conrad
- Federico Cortese
- Patricia Craig and Richard Cassilly
- Phyllis Curtin
- Jan Curtis
- Sharon Daniels
- Janice Mancini Del Sesto
- Ron Della Chiesa
- D'Anna Fortunato
- Randolph J. Fuller
- Boris Goldovsky
- Donald Gramm
- Roland Hayes
- Robert Honeysucker
- Norman Kelley
- Stephen Lord
- William Miranda
- John Moriarty
- Esther Nelson
- Martin Pearlman
- Bradley Pennington
- Jeffrey Rink
- Eleanor Steber
- Susan Stone
- John M. Tischio
- Ernest Triplett



August 25, 28, 31  
 Colonial Theatre | Pittsfield  
 413.997.4444  
**Berkshire**  
 opera festival  
[www.berkshireoperafestival.org](http://www.berkshireoperafestival.org)  
 BERKSHIRE  
 GREAT PRESENTATIONS



*Broadway World Review:*  
**JONAS KAUFMANN - DOLCE VITA at Berlin's Waldbuehne**  
*by Mark Janicello, Jul. 14, 2018*

Last night, Friday the 13th, proved to be lucky for Jonas Kaufmann. Despite threatening clouds all evening, Kaufmann's *Dolce Vita* was spared from the predicted rainstorm and was an elegant evening under the stars at Berlin's spectacular amphitheater, the Waldbuehne.

Mr. Kaufmann is probably the most sought-after tenor on the planet today. His *Dolce Vita* concert last night proved exactly why.

Let's state the obvious. Mr. Kaufmann is a tall, very handsome man,

who's in very good shape both vocally and physically. He has been blessed with a dark-hued, baritone-like tenor voice complete with very secure, clarion high notes, that he uses with great intelligence and enormous musicality. This is one of the most unique voices singing classical music today.

During the last few seasons, Mr. Kaufmann has had some personal and health issues and has canceled a number of high-profile performances. These cancellations led to murmuring in the classical-music industry of a possible "vocal crisis." On the basis of last night's performance, I am happy to report that Mr. Kaufmann's voice is in very fine shape. The voice was even from top to bottom. He sang a few spectacular high notes moving from a pianissimo with seamless crescendos to forte and fortissimo. Mr. Kaufmann's renowned musicality was in full evidence and he showed his voice to be the finely-nuanced instrument that it has always been.

Jochen Rieder conducted the marvelous Berlin Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra. Their playing was nothing short of magnificent. It must be said that the amplification of the orchestra in an amphitheater with 22,000 seats was first-rate. Starting with the Overture from Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani*, Mr. Rieder extracted an extremely nuanced orchestral performance in a venue more closely associated with large rock concerts.

Joining Mr. Kaufmann for two solos and two duets was the mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili, a rising star in the world of opera. To this critic's ear, Ms. Rachvelishvili's "operatic" singing was not as effective as her "pop" singing in the second act. Her rendition of Lucio Dalla's *Caruso* was the most beautiful, moving rendition of that song, I have ever heard. In the first act, her aria and duet from *Cavallaria Rusticana* were both very sensual renditions, but her singing remained very soft-grained. There is a constant, somewhat worrying, breathiness even in her loudest notes. While this breathiness served her extremely well in the *Caruso*, it was out of place in the Mascagni pieces.

Mr. Kaufmann is a great technician with a gorgeous voice. What he is not, is a showman or a very emotional singer. This is a tenor that one admires for his technical facility and for the beauty of his sound. He is not a huge personality in the style of Luciano Pavarotti. He is studious, correct and very German in his approach to singing. This has preserved his voice throughout his career, but in a concert like *Dolce Vita*, one wished for more emotional fire and passion. Everything "sounded" right, but not much emotion came across the footlights.

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The performance was being filmed for ZDF television, Germany's equivalent of CBS or ABC, and for a DVD release. Mr. Kaufmann's choice of songs also left something to be desired. While his performance of *Cavallaria Rusticana* was admirable, heavy dramatic operatic excerpts are not what one expects in a concert titled *Dolce Vita*. Unlike Mr. Pavarotti, who knew how to use classical music to create a commercial entertainment, Mr. Kaufmann's musical choices ensured that he will not "crossover" to a wider "general" audience.



**Piotr Beczala wins the Male Singer of the Year!**

*Tuesday 10 April, 2018*

During the 2018 International Opera Awards ceremony, which took place on Monday 9 April at the London Coliseum, Piotr Beczala was awarded with the Male Singer of the Year award.

"I am very honoured. I would like to thank the 2018 International Opera Awards jury for the recognition, my family and friends for constant encouragement and inspiration, and my fans for loyal and unfailing support. It is you, who gives me strength to work and aim for excellence. Thank you!", the artist wrote on his social media profiles.

*- from his web site, <http://piotrbeczala.com/>*



**Local Opera and Classical Music, August 2018**

For up-to-date activities, visit FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/NEoperaevents/>  
Join NEOC! Visit [operaclub.org/membership.html](http://operaclub.org/membership.html)

New England Opera Club Newsletter

August 1, 7:00 PM

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra:** *Requiem*, Verdi | Guests: One City Choir, Back Bay Chorale, and soloists  
The Hatch Shell | [hatchshell.com/directions.php](http://hatchshell.com/directions.php)

August 5, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5: Voices with Chris Vos** | *Opera overtures*

August 7, 7:30 PM

**Longwood Opera** | *An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan*  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA |  
[longwoodopera.org/#summer](http://longwoodopera.org/#summer)

August 9, 8pm

**Boston Symphony Orchestra** | *A Quiet Place*, Bernstein  
Tanglewood: Seiji Ozawa Hall, 297 West Street, Lenox, MA | [www.bso.org/](http://www.bso.org/)

August 12, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5: Voices with Chris Vos** | *Great Mass in C minor*, Mozart

August 14, 7:30 PM

**College Light Opera** | *Iolanthe*, Gilbert & Sullivan  
58 Highfield Dr; Falmouth, MA | 508.548.0668, [collegelightoperacompany.com/iolanthe.html](http://collegelightoperacompany.com/iolanthe.html)

August 14, 7:30 PM

**Longwood Opera** | *Opera, the Art of Emotions*  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA | [longwoodopera.org/#summer](http://longwoodopera.org/#summer)

August 15, 7:00 PM

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra:** *Sounds of the Sea*, Ravel, Debussy, others  
The Hatch Shell | [hatchshell.com/directions.php](http://hatchshell.com/directions.php)

August 19, 9:00 PM

**WCRB 99.5: Voices with Chris Vos** | *Falstaff*, Verdi

August 21, 7:30 PM

**Longwood Opera** | *An Evening of Stage & Screen*  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA | [longwoodopera.org/#summer](http://longwoodopera.org/#summer)

August 22, 23; 8pm

**Boston Symphony Orchestra** | *Candide*, Bernstein  
Tanglewood: Seiji Ozawa Hall, 297 West Street, Lenox, MA | [www.bso.org/](http://www.bso.org/)

August 22, 7:00 PM

**Boston Landmarks Orchestra:** *Symphonic Dances*, Tchaikovsky, Beach, and others  
The Hatch Shell | [hatchshell.com/directions.php](http://hatchshell.com/directions.php)

August 24, 8pm

**Boston Symphony Orchestra** | *Symphony No. 3 featuring Susan Graham and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus*, Mahler  
Tanglewood: Seiji Ozawa Hall, 297 West Street, Lenox, MA | [www.bso.org/](http://www.bso.org/)

August 25, 1:00 PM; 28, 31: 7:30 PM

**Berkshire Opera Festival** | *Rigoletto*, Verdi  
The Colonial Theatre, 111 South Street, Pittsfield, MA | [www.berkshireoperafestival.org/rigoletto](http://www.berkshireoperafestival.org/rigoletto)

August 26, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5: Voices with Chris Vos** | *The Creation*, Hayden - *Finale to the first season of Voices*



August 28, 7:30 PM

**Longwood Opera** | *A Gala Night of Opera*  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA |  
[longwoodopera.org/#summer](http://longwoodopera.org/#summer)