

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

Date: September 9, 2018
Time: 2:00 - 4:30 PM

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

La Fanciulla del West *Speaker: Angelo Mammano*

10 December 1910 was the date of the initial presentation of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, but actually there were two debuts that night. It was also New York's debut on the world stage. By presenting the first-ever American premiere of an opera by a major European composer, the Met hoped to win legitimacy for New York as one of the world's great opera cities. Without question it accomplished that. There were no fewer than fifty-five curtain calls throughout the performance and at the end the house applauded for more than fifteen minutes.

Puccini, in *Fanciulla*, was determined to break free from what he called the "musica zuccherata" (sugary music) of his earlier operas and to position himself as a composer of "serious" music. After the opening, he said "...the Girl has come out, in my opinion, the best opera I have written."

La Boheme, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly* may be more accessible and more popular but *Fanciulla* succeeds on a higher level of sophistication and accomplishment. It is his *capolavoro*, his *chef d'oeuvre*, his *Meisterwerk*. Anton Webern, whose spare music is as far removed from Puccini's heart-on-sleeve approach as conceivable, wrote to his teacher Arnold Schoenberg in Vienna in 1919 about *Fanciulla* as "a score with an original sound throughout, splendid - every bar a surprise - I must say I enjoyed it. Am I wrong?" No, Anton, you are not wrong. Puccini's opera convinces us of that.



Giacomo Puccini

- Angelo Mammano

Angelo Mammano is a long-time Board Member of the NEOC. He is an opera lecturer and writer. In his former life as a ballet pianist he worked with Boston Ballet and other companies here and in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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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Annual Membership:

\$40 for each individual
/ \$45 for a couple at
same address
\$15 student with valid
ID

Mail check, payable to
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Mima Leivi, Treasurer
(see address above)

2018 NEOC Programs
(lists are subject to change)

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



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*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.*

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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



La Fanciulla del West

Midsummer Opera *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown | Conducted by Susan Davenny Wyner, with Antonio Ocampo-Guzman as stage director.

The cast was full of stars: Count Almaviva was Theo Lebow, well matched by Robert Balonek as Figaro and Alisa Jordheim as Rosina. Jason Budd as Don Bartolo and David Cushing as Don Basilio were worthy opponents to the team of young lovers-and-helper. Heather Gallagher (Berta), Andrew Mille (Fiorello), and Seth Grondin (Captain) filled out the cast.

The performance was very good - good singing actors, good chamber orchestra, good staging... and Rossini had some pretty good ideas, too.

The one surprise, for me at least, was the inclusion of the aria best known these days as "Non piu mesta," performed as a mezzo piece in *La Cenerentola*, but originally composed for the tenor in *The Barber of Seville* (although usually left out). The tenor had the skill for it - he spent the opera pouring out gallons of fioratura without blinking, and then added this incredible piece as dessert.

A very good evening - I look forward to more productions by Midsummer Opera!

- mlc



♪♪♪♪♪ Opera Diary ♪♪♪♪♪

Local Opera and Classical Music, September 2018

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

September 13 to October 7, varied times

Greater Boston Stage Company | *Being Earnest*, **Gordon**
395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA | 781-279-2200
greaterbostonstage.org/beingearnest.html

September 15, 1 PM

Freisinger Chamber Orchestra | *Bernstein, Donizetti, and more* | freisingerchamberorchestra.org/
Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston



J. S. Bach in Leipzig

September 16, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | Bach Cantata Series: *BWV 22, Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe*
617-536-3356 x 5, emmanuelmusic.org/calendar_tickets/18-19season/caltix18-19_cantatas.html
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

September 16, 4 PM

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music | *Bass-baritone Dashon Burton in recital*
Peabody Hall, All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont Street, Dorchester
eventbrite.com/e/bass-baritone-dashon-burton-in-recital-tickets-46503477152?aff=efbeventtix

September 16, 2 -5 PM

Sudbury Opera Lovers Organization | *Carmen*, presented by Sara Bellini with DVD and slides
Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury
RSVP: sudoper@yahoo.com



September 18 to November 18 , varied times
Boston Opera House | *Hamilton*,
888.616.0272, boston.broadway.com/shows/hamilton-baa/
539 Washington Street, Boston

September 22, 7:30 PM

Odyssey Opera | *La Reine de Saba*, Gounod
NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston
617.826.1626 odysseyopera.org/2018-gounod-la-reine-de-saba/

September 23, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | Bach Cantata Series: *BWV 166, Woo gehest du hin?*
617-536-3356 x 5, emmanuelmusic.org/calendar_tickets/18-19season/caltix18-19_cantatas.html
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

September 23, 5:30 PM

Opera on Tap | *An Evening at La Scala*, music and dinner (\$55 per person)
Stellina Restaurant, 47 Main St, Watertown | Reserve your place directly
through Stellina: 617.924.9475, stellinarestaurant.com/sunday-september-23-sunday-night-at-the-opera-evening-at-la-scala/



The Queen of Sheba

September 27-29, 8 PM

White Snake Projects | *Permadeath*, Visconti
Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St, Boston
617.824.8400, whitesnakeprojects.org/productions/permadeath-boston-2018/

September 28, 7:30 PM; September 30, 3 PM

Handel + Haydn Society | *The Great Bach Concertos and Cantatas: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3; Mass in G Major; more!*, Bach
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston

September 28, 7 PM

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center | *Grandest classical hits for cello and piano; Concert and reception featuring world-renowned Italian cellist Francesco Mastromatteo and NEMPAC's artistic director and pianist, Christina Wright-Ivanova, featuring works by Italian, Argentinian and Polish composers*
North Bennet Street School, Windgate Hall, 16 Charter St R, Boston
617.227.2270, <https://nempacboston.org/upcomingperformances/>

September 30, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | Bach Cantata Series: *BWV 50 & BWV 120 Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft; Gott, man lobet dich in der Stille*
617-536-3356 x 5, emmanuelmusic.org/calendar_tickets/18-19season/caltix18-19_cantatas.html
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston | 617.227.2270