

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

Date: August 11, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:30

Place: Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main St, Watertown, Massachusetts

Metropolitan Opera Galas *Speaker Bill Cotten*

The Metropolitan Opera Company has had a long history of producing gala performances for various occasions. William Cotten, continuing his series of *A History of Great Singers*, will focus on three of



those galas: the closing of the Old Met in 1966, the retirement of General Manager Rudolf Bing in 1972, and the Met Centennial in 1983. The presentation of these "one-of-a-kind" events will feature the singing of Zinka Milanov, Richard Tucker, Leontyne Price, Luciano Pavarotti, Licia Albanese, Placido Domingo, Birgit Nilsson, Robert Merrill, Montserrat Caballé, Sherrill Milnes, Joan Sutherland, Ruggero Raimondi, Marilyn Horne, and more.

Free to All

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 - 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.



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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)

2019 NEOC Programs

(listings are subject to change)

September 22: *Meredith Palmer*

October 13: *Angelo Mammano*

November 10: *Ed Tapper*

December 15: *John B. Jarzavek*



**Tenor Jonas Kaufmann is 50 years old this year
and shows no signs of slowing down!**



Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* in London's Royal Opera House, March 2019: Jonas Kaufmann is "The Force of Destiny," embodied by the character Don Alvaro. In one scene, he bursts into a room and serenades Leonora: "My beautiful angel...when I hold you in my arms, the world will rejoice with me."

Rejoiced the world has, most especially at Kaufmann's fame and glory... Kaufmann has brains and brawn, technique and charisma — and a characteristic husky tenor that goes to the heart.

His 50th birthday on July 10 was being marked in more than 200 movie theaters in Germany, Austria and Switzerland with "An Italian Night – Live from the Waldbühne," the film documentation of an enthusiastically-received performance Kaufmann gave at that Berlin venue in the summer of 2018.

Two days later, he returns to the stage of the Bavarian State Opera in his home town of Munich in a production of Verdi's *Othello*. And on July 18, Kaufmann is scheduled to sing at the Palace Festival in Regensburg — for which fans have been trading tickets priced up to €600 (\$670).

The busy schedule is nothing new for the star tenor. Twenty-five years on the stage and counting, Jonas Kaufmann mentioned in an interview with *Der Spiegel*: "If I didn't believe that deep down inside of me, I wanted to make an impact somewhere, I would not have worked so hard all those years. Even so, one can never really depend too much on success."

Born in Munich in 1969, the Bavarian native initially studied mathematics but eventually found himself at the Munich Academy for Music and Theater. After graduating in 1994, he sang at the Saarland State Theater in Saarbrücken for two years.

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 neoperclub@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

Kaufmann gradually conquered the world's major opera stages... Beginning with lyrical roles, he gradually progressed to the heroic tenor category: from Mozart and Verdi to Wagner — notably in his premiere at the Bayreuth Festival 2010 in the title role of *Lohengrin*. The previous year, his rendition of the role in Munich had earned him the title Singer of the Year.

Operatic singing requires endurance, and Kaufmann has shown great stamina over the years. In 2018 alone, he performed in Japan and the US, but not only there: His Italian Songbook tour took him across Europe from Germany, Austria and Hungary to France, Spain and the UK. He sang at the Life Ball in Vienna and the Waldbühne in Berlin, gave recitals in Moscow, a show at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and starred in a new production of Verdi's *Othello* in Munich.

It was a comeback with a vengeance: for several months in 2016, an inflammation of the vocal chords had put him out of commission.

Once called "Mr. Elusive" for having cancelled three shows in New York due to illness and a desire to spend more time with his family, Kaufmann is generally excused for cancelling performances due to his consistently high singing quality. Newly married to the operatic stage director Christiane Lutz, his family, including his four children — three from a previous marriage — today live outside Munich.

Will Jonas Kaufmann's 50th birthday milestone mark a gradual reduction in his performance output? To date, nothing points to this singer's slowing down. And if Strauss, Verdi or Wagner were alive today, the much vaunted tenor might have been among their favorites too.

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**Promethean Artists Welcomes Deborah Voigt For General Management**

by BWW News Desk Jul. 10, 2019



Promethean Artists <[prometheanartists.com](http://prometheanartists.com)> has announced that acclaimed American soprano Deborah Voigt has joined the roster... Having made her name as a leading dramatic soprano, she is internationally lauded for her performances in the operas of Wagner and Strauss, as well as for her recitals and accounts of Broadway standards and popular songs. This change in management reflects what she considers a return to her roots, as she moves from an opera-centered repertoire to the music that first inspired her to choose the life of a singer.

"I am so excited to be opening this new chapter in my career, and to be navigating the journey with a new management team that is fully behind my vision for the future,"

Voigt said. "I have been blessed for nearly three decades to sing the greatest operatic roles on the world's most important opera stages. I have now reached a time in my life and career when I want to focus more of my creativity and energy on the music that drew me into singing in the first place, including the gospel music I have sung at church since I was a child and the music of Broadway.

"I want to continue to perform American standards, which I have always included in my recitals, but I also want to perform the popular songs and music from the musical theater of our own times. Simply put, I want to program and perform more of the music I most love and want to sing, from those Karen Carpenter songs I fell so madly in love with as a teenager, to the Sondheim standards I adore, to music by some of the extraordinary singer-songwriters of today."

"We are thrilled to welcome such a distinguished and accomplished artist as Ms. Voigt to the Promethean roster," Adam Cavagnaro, President and Founder of Promethean Artists said. "In addition to being one of the most celebrated Wagnerian sopranos of our time, she is an icon in the global operatic community. Her contributions to the art form, both on the leading stages of the world and on screen as a featured host on the Met's 'Live in HD' broadcasts, have inspired generations of audiences and artists alike. Promethean Artists looks forward to working with Ms. Voigt as she enters this new exciting stage of her career."

Voigt adds: "Promethean Artists is exactly the kind of company I want to work with as I begin this new chapter of my career. Adam and his team represent a splendid mix of extraordinary talents, and I'm very excited to partner with an agency that concentrates its efforts on a select roster of artists. The fact that they are based in my hometown, San Francisco, affirms the feeling I have that my life and career have truly come full circle."

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ **Opera Diary** ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

**Local Opera and Classical Music, August 2019**

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

August 1, 8 PM

**Tanglewood** | *Les Nuits d'été*, Berlioz - Joyce DiDonato, National Youth Orchestra of the USA  
Ozawa Hall, 297 West Street, Lenox, MA | [berkshirelinks.com/tanglewood-schedule-2019-season/](http://berkshirelinks.com/tanglewood-schedule-2019-season/)

August 4, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5 FM: Voices with Chris Voss** | *Vespers*, Rachmaninoff  
<https://www.classicalwcrb.org/programs/voices-chris-voss#stream/0> )

August 6-10, 8 PM; Thursday matinee at 2 PM

**College Light Opera** | *Ruddigore*, Gilbert & Sullivan  
58 Highfield Dr; Falmouth, MA | 508.548.0668, <http://www.collegelightoperacompany.com/2019season.html>

August 7, 7:30 PM

**Greater Worcester Opera** | Summer concert: *Opera meets Broadway*  
65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester | [greaterworcesteropera.org/events.html](http://greaterworcesteropera.org/events.html)

August 8, 7:30 PM

**Berkshire Opera Festival** | "*Ain't it a Pretty Night*" - Excerpts from *American Opera*  
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington, MA | 413.213.6622 <https://www.berkshireoperafestival.org>

August 11, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5 FM: Voices with Chris Voss** | *A Festival of Schubert and Mendelssohn*  
<https://www.classicalwcrb.org/programs/voices-chris-voss#stream/0>

August 13-17, 8 PM; Thursday matinee at 2 PM

**College Light Opera** | *Evita*, Webber & Rice  
58 Highfield Dr; Falmouth, MA | 508.548.0668, <http://www.collegelightoperacompany.com/2019season.html>

August 14, 7:30 PM

**Greater Worcester Opera** | Summer Sing of Mozart's *Requiem*  
65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester | [greaterworcesteropera.org/events.html](http://greaterworcesteropera.org/events.html)

August 14, 7:30 PM

**Berkshire Opera Festival** | "*Savor the Sound*" - *An Evening of Bel Canto*  
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington, MA | 413.213.6622 <https://www.berkshireoperafestival.org>

August 18, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5 FM: Voices with Chris Voss** | *Manon Lescaut*, Puccini  
<https://www.classicalwcrb.org/programs/voices-chris-voss#stream/0>

August 20-24, 8 PM; Thursday matinee at 2 PM

**College Light Opera** | *Knickerbocker Holiday*, Weill  
58 Highfield Dr; Falmouth, MA | 508.548.0668, <http://www.collegelightoperacompany.com/2019season.html>

August 24, 1:00 PM; 27, 30: 7:30 PM

**Berkshire Opera Festival** | *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti  
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington, MA | 413.213.6622 <https://www.berkshireoperafestival.org>

August 25, 2:30 PM

**Tanglewood** | *Friede auf Erden*, Schoenberg; *Symphony No. 9*, Beethoven: Boston Symphony Orchestra, chorus & soloists | [berkshirelinks.com/tanglewood-schedule-2019-season/](http://berkshirelinks.com/tanglewood-schedule-2019-season/)  
Shed, 297 West Street, Lenox, MA

August 25, 9:30 PM

**WCRB 99.5 FM: Voices with Chris Voss** | *An Evening of Italian Baroque Masterpieces*  
<https://www.classicalwcrb.org/programs/voices-chris-voss#stream/0>