

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

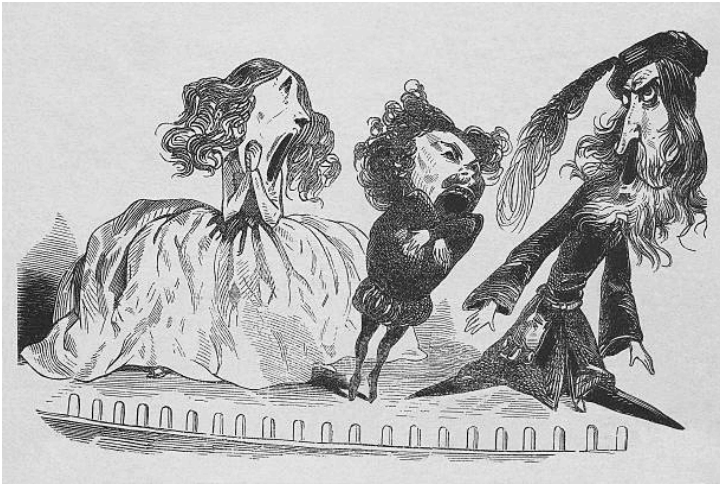
Date: November 17, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:30

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

Pirate Treasures

Speaker: Ed Tapper

It has been nearly 25 years since Ed Tapper opened *Orpheus*, one of the country's only stores devoted to opera and classical music. Among the many collections he has purchased for the Commonwealth Avenue shop, Ed came into a vast library of live opera performances on cassette in his first few years of business. The collector who amassed them corresponded and traded with opera and vocal enthusiasts from throughout the U.S. and the world, amassing roughly 20,000 tapes in total. Given the volume of the collection, and the limited space of *Orpheus*, several thousand tapes remained boxed in storage for decades. Recently, Ed completed the Herculean task of going through the tapes, and separating the operatic wheat from the chaff. Having culled some of the most tantalizing morsels for our edification, he will return to the New England Opera Club as our November speaker, presenting a program of these hand-picked "pirate



treasures."

His presentation will include a sampling of this diverse, monumental collection, which included live, in-house opera and gala performances from houses throughout the globe, American and European radio broadcasts, and compilations of some wonderful, but lesser known artists, as well as several famous singers performing roles and repertoire they seldom sang or recorded commercially. Almost all the selections have never been made available, either on record---or even on Youtube. They will feature singers of every vocal range, spanning the 78 RPM era to some of the great singers of today; and, as always, we will be treated to a number of pleasant surprises.

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.

Free to All

at Lincoln Center, or as part of its new initiative to collaborate with other presenters, such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Public Theater. But Mr. Gelb said that it could come to New York as soon as the 2021-22 season, with support from the Ford Foundation, and that the Met's music director, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, would conduct it.

Mr. Gelb and Mr. Nézet-Séguin have been working to bring more contemporary — and diverse — voices to the Met. Last year the company announced that for the first time it was commissioning operas by women — a Missy Mazzoli work based on George Saunders's novel *Lincoln in the Bardo*, and a Jeanine Tesori opera, *Grounded*, based on a George Brant play. In its history the Met has performed just two operas by female composers: Kaija Saariaho's *L'Amour de Loin* in 2016, and Ethel M. Smyth's *Der Wald* in 1903, both of which were originally produced elsewhere.

"Hopefully," Mr. Gelb said, "there will be many more African-American composers whose work we feature."

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

Local Opera and Classical Music, November 2019

For up-to-date activities, visit FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/NEoperaevents/>
Join NEOC! Visit <https://neoperaclub.org/membership.html#form2>



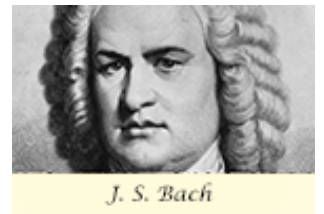
November 1, 7:30 PM; November 3, 2 PM
Odysseus Opera | *Maria, Regina d'Inghilterra*, Pacini
Huntington Avenue Theater, 264 Huntington Ave, Boston | 617.933.8600,
<https://www.odysseusopera.org>

November 3, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | BWV 106 *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* / Motet: *Victoria – O quam gloriosum*
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

November 7, 7:30 PM

Boston Opera Collaborative | 3 short operas by Jonathan Bailey Holland
Room&Board Boston Showroom, 375 Newbury Street, Boston |
<https://www.bostonoperacollaborative.org/room-board-opera>



November 8, 7 PM

Due Donne Productions | *Prima Donne Concert*, featuring favorites from the opera repertoire. |
<https://www.duedonneproductions.com/events-1>
Cafe at the Arts at the Armory, Somerville, MA

November 9, 8 PM

Masterworks Chorale | *Gloria*, Vivaldi; motets by Monteverdi
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge | <https://www.masterworkschorale.org/>

November 10, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | BWV 79 *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild*
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

November 13 -17

Boston Lyric Opera | *Fellow Travelers*, Gregory Spears
Emerson Paramount Center

November 16

Cambridge Chamber Ensemble | Auditions for *Forbidden Love (Das Liebesverbot)*, Wagner |
<https://www.cambridgechamberensemble.org/> for audition information.

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November 16, 8:00 PM

Emmanuel Music | *Renaissance Men - On This Island* - Benjamin Britten's dramatic *Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard* provide the musical centerpiece of the program.
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

November 17, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | BWV 79 BWV 183 *Sie werden euch in den Bann tun II*
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

November 17, 2 - 5 PM

Sudbury Opera Lovers Organization | November 17th 2019 — Richard Kellaway presents *Lizzie Borden* by Jack Beeson
Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury | 978.443.7262, <https://sudburyoperalovers.org/index.html>

November 17, 4 PM

La Donna Musicale / Rumberroco | *Fandangos, Joropos, and other Folias*
St. John's Episcopal Church | 705 Hale St, Beverly Farms | <https://ladm.org/upcoming-events/>

November 21, 7:30 PM

NEMPAC | *Through the Lens: Jewish Classics, Celebrated and Unknown: A Winter Concert Series Event*
Bijou de la Vida Gallery, 390 Commercial Street, Boston

November 23, 7:30 PM; November 24, 3:30 PM

Mystic Chorale | *More Love*
Converse Hall, 88 Tremont St., Boston | 617.523.7320, <https://mysticchorale.org/concerts/more-love/>

November 24, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | BWV 192 *Nun danket alle Gott*
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

Jessye Norman Was a Diva, in the Best Way

The great soprano, who died on [September 30] at 74, had a regal, even haughty presence, but also vocal charisma to spare.

By Anthony Tommasini, NY Times



Singing with penetrating power is not the same as singing forcefully or loudly. To understand the crucial difference you had only to hear the soprano Jessye Norman in the early 1980s, during the prime years of her storied career.

Even when Ms. Norman, who died on Monday at 74, sang an ornate Mozart concert aria with Classical-era elegance, she fleshed out the notes with a plush, sumptuous sound and sent phrases soaring effortlessly over an orchestra. This never felt strident: In the title role of Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* or as Wagner's tormented Kundry in *Parsifal*, it seemed that her opulent tone was not originating from her body, but enveloping you, coming at you from all the corners of the opera house. Her voice penetrated; it permeated.

Ms. Norman was not a fiery singer, though in flashes she could turn ominous. Overall, her temperament tended to be majestic and regal, a touch haughty at times. Still, she had charisma to spare. The sheer sound of her voice was transfixing. And her control of floating pianissimo phrases was just as wondrous.

I remember a 1986 recital at Symphony Hall in Boston, just after I had started writing reviews for The Boston Globe. She sang songs of Mahler and Brahms with glowing warmth and grave beauty, and had an elusive, expressionist Berg song sounding like the most sublimely lyrical music imaginable.

For more, read the obituary for Jessye Norman, and listen to 10 of her greatest performances:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/30/obituaries/jessye-norman-dead.html?module=inline>