

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

Date: September 22, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:30

Place: Brookline Public Library
Hunneman Hall
361 Washington Street, Brookline, MA

Idomeneo

Speaker: Meredith Palmer

Based on Ancient Greek myth: King Idomeneo of Crete, on his way home from his victory over the Trojans, is almost lost at sea during a vicious storm. He vows to Neptune, the god of the sea, to sacrifice the first living person he encounters upon safe arrival on Crete.

This turns out to be his own son, Idamante, who is loved by both the captive Trojan Princess Iliia and Princess Elettra (Elektra) of Argos.

The vow, the father's love and love triangle complete the psychological drama of the plot.



Idomeneo was Mozart's first operatic success and the turning point in his career.

Free to All

Directions:

From Memorial Dr, Cambridge: Take the exit toward MA-2 E/Boston University Bridge / At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto MA-2 E/Boston University Bridge / Continue to follow MA-2 E / Take Dummer St to Amory St / Keep right to continue on Essex St / Essex St turns right and becomes Dummer St / Continue on Amory St. Take St Paul St to School St / Turn left onto Amory St / Turn right onto Beacon St / Turn left onto St Paul St / Use the right lane to merge onto Aspinwall Ave / Continue onto School St. Washington St, and the library, are on the left. Hunneman Hall is on the 2nd floor of the library.

Parking: There's a free underground garage, and free (on Sundays) on-street parking.



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Peter McNamara

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Wendy Mandel
info@neoperclub.org

Treasurer

Mima Leivi
617-983-0310
mleivi@msn.com

**Webmaster and
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Marion Leeds Carroll
marion@leedscarroll.com

Board

Andrew Altenbach

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617-527-1372

Felice Kahn
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Angelo Mammano
781-777-2178
operangelo@comcast.net

Erika Reitshamer
508-485-1214
erika@reitshamer.com

Noel and Deborah Rose
617-383-5045

To contact NEOC:
operainfo@neoperclub.org

**Letters or Articles to
the Editor:**

NEOC
Mima Leivi
80 Paul Gore St., #1
Jamaica Plain, MA
02130

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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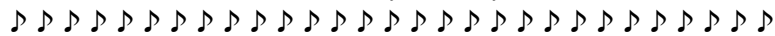
2019 NEOC Programs

(listings are subject to change)

October 13: *Angelo Mammano*

November 17: *Ed Tapper*

December 15: *John B. Jarzavek*



Cecilia Bartoli talks, again, of US return

By MIKE SILVERMAN, Associated Press

SALZBURG, Austria (AP) — There was a time a generation ago when Cecilia Bartoli's many U.S. fans could count on seeing her regularly in opera or in concert.

The Italian mezzo-soprano noted for her warm sound, dramatic intensity and dazzling coloratura agility had shot to fame in the early 1990s while still in her 20s on the strength of best-selling recordings of Rossini and Mozart. Her every appearance just about guaranteed a sellout.

But that was then. She last sang at the Metropolitan Opera in 1998, hasn't been seen at Carnegie Hall since 2009, canceled a West Coast concert tour in 2015 and has stayed mostly in Europe, giving rise only to occasional rumors of an imminent return.

"You're right, it's time, it's time," Bartoli said in an interview earlier this month in Salzburg, where she was appearing in the title role of Handel's *Alcina*.

"I have to come back before I go to pension." she added with her infectious laugh, making clear that at age 53 and still in prime vocal form that she has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

Bartoli said she has had "discussions" with both the Met and Carnegie Hall. "It would be nice to come for a longer period than just a concert and then leave," she said wistfully. "So we'll see."

As for the Met, general manager Peter Gelb said the company "has invited Ms. Bartoli back many times, but so far to no avail. We would be very happy were she to return."

Her motives for staying away are difficult to pin down. Bartoli, who lives in Zurich, Switzerland, and Rome with her husband, cites the fact that "I don't like to fly" and speaks of the difficulty of making an Atlantic crossing by ship during



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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.

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
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William Miranda
John Moriarty
Esther Nelson
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Jeffrey Rink
Eleanor Steber
Susan Stone
John M. Tischio
Ernest Triplett

the U.S. opera season. But she has flown to Australia and Asia, and given the modest size of her voice, the reason may have as much to do with concerns about finding the right repertory and venue for a return.

Bartoli has specialized in baroque and bel canto works from the 18th- and early 19th-centuries and favors the use of period instruments rather than the fuller modern orchestra. In Salzburg's 1,500-seat *Haus fur Mozart*, accompanied by *Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco* — an orchestra she founded — her every utterance as Alcina came through with riveting clarity. But she worries that might not be the case in a bigger house with a bigger orchestra.

"Mostly when you sing in the opera house you have this wall of sound in front of you and the only thing is to go and sing as loud as you can, and this is not making music," she said. "It's 80 against one, and you will never win."

Another obstacle to an extended U.S. visit might be finding time. Beyond keeping a full schedule of performances and recordings and nurturing an orchestra, Bartoli lends her name to a foundation dedicated to bringing classical music to a wider audience, researches neglected composers and singers of earlier eras, and runs Salzburg's annual Whitsun Festival.

That last assignment is a special point of pride for Bartoli. "I never thought in my life to be able to do something like that," she said. "To make a festival, to organize, to invite artists."

Still, she jokes about the small scale of her event compared with the summer festival, where 200 performances are packed into six weeks. "When I'm here preparing the Whitsun Festival, I feel it's huge," she said. "But it's just a long weekend! It's embarrassing."

Next year at Whitsun, Bartoli will star in Donizetti's comic *Don Pasquale*, singing Norina for the first time. Like Alcina, it's a role usually taken by sopranos, but Bartoli is characteristically dedicating the festival to a 19th-century singer — Pauline Viardot, a French mezzo who performed the opera in St. Petersburg, Russia. She's even including a version of the finale sung by Viardot that incorporates music from an opera by Irish composer Michael William Balfe.



One reason Bartoli has remained in such good vocal form is that she has always been fiercely protective of her voice and quick to turn down roles that might not be an ideal fit. One example: She had collaborated on several projects with the late early music specialist Nikolaus Harnoncourt, but balked when he rather improbably proposed that she take on Verdi's *Aida*.

"I said 'I feel it's really not right for me,' but he said, 'Oh, you can do it, with your temperament, with your beautiful pianissimi,'" Bartoli recalled. "I said, 'Yes, but you need a different instrument for that. I know what I can do, and we do have limits.'

And, ever the perfectionist, she added: "We are human, all of us. And the most important thing is not to show it."

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Local Opera and Classical Music, September 2019

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

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 9:30 PM

WCRB 99.5 FM: Voices with Chris Voss

<https://www.classicalwcrb.org/programs/voices-chris-voss#stream/0>

September 14, 1 PM

Freisinger Chamber Orchestra | Rossini, Lutoslawski, Chopin

Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. (Copley Square), Boston

<https://www.freisingerchamberorchestra.org/>

September 15, 2 - 5 PM

Sudbury Opera Lovers Organization | Harvey Wolfman presents "Don Giovanni" by Mozart

Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury | 978.443.7262,

<https://sudburyoperalovers.org/index.html>

September 21, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

VOX New England | Opera Gala: A Night at the Opera - arias, duets and scenes.

First Baptist Church of Worcester, 111 Park Avenue, Worcester |

<https://voxnewengland.org/season>



September 21, 7:30 PM

Odyssey Opera | Henry VIII, Camille Saint-Saëns (concert, sung in French) |

<https://www.odysseyopera.org/2019-saint-saens-henry-viii/>

NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston

September 22, 29; 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 22, 29; 4 PM

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music | Bach Project, bass-baritone Dashon Burton and others

Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont Street, Dorchester

| <https://www.ahchambermusic.org/concerts>

October 5, 2 PM

Boston Wagner Society | Wagner and Liszt

Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston |

517.844.1323, bosonwagnersociety.org

The Boston Wagner Society presents

Recital by
Soprano Julia Rolwing
and
Pianist Dr. Soycon Kim

**Wagner
and
Liszt**

Brünnhilde's Awakening (*Siegfried*),
Liebestod (*Tristan und Isolde*), Lieder,
and piano solos

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 2 p.m.
Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston
Members \$25 - General admission \$35 - Students \$10
For tickets, go to www.bostonwagnersociety.org or call
617-844-1323.