

OPERA ORLANDO

OPERA ON THE TOWN

all
for
art

Rusalka

music by Antonin Dvořák
libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil
new English adaptation by Grant Preisser

Friday & Saturday
March 8 & 9, 2024



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MAITLAND





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season
2023-24

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Phantasmagoria

Friday & Saturday
May 10 & 11, 2024

OPERA
ORLANDO



Grammy-award winning
baritone **Gabriel Preisser**

DEAR FRIENDS:

Welcome to the Swamp!!

I've always wanted to say that. Each season at **Opera Orlando**, we try to outdo ourselves with finding a unique venue "On the Town" that would be the perfect setting for an opera. Luckily, for you, our audience, we discovered the mystic and mysterious confines of the **Art & History Museums of Maitland** which is the ideal setting for a Florida-based take on **Rusalka**. I mean, we could have ended up in an actual swamp, everglade, or even Lake Apopka.

But, I digress ...

The story of *Rusalka* is certainly familiar to us thanks to Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, but there are higher stakes and more perilous ramifications in this slavic variation of the popular Hans Christian Anderson tale brought to life by Antonin Dvořák's romantic, melodious score. We hope you will enjoy his incredible opera of love and sacrifice with a touch of magic and fantasy thrown in, all amplified by the Mayan-revivalist setting of the Art & History Museums of Maitland. We are so appreciative of our new best friends at the Museums who strive to promote, engage, and educate all visitors about visual art and history through exhibitions, tours, classes, hands-on programming, and more.

Make sure to catch the rest of our **All for Art** season with Donizetti's thrilling **Lucia di Lammermoor** back in Steinmetz Hall and Phillip Glass and Robert Moran's **The Juniper Tree**, presented in partnership with **Phantasmagoria** and **Orlando Family Stage**, at the Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater.

Opera Orlando has truly been fortunate over the past seven years of its existence, growing from a \$250,000 budget to more than \$2 million while staying fiscally solvent, growing our cash reserves, and creating an endowment fund with more than \$2.5 million currently in cash, pledges, and bequests. We have experienced exponential growth while expanding our programming and educational efforts. **AND** we truly could not have done it without all of you, and we are so grateful. Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Preisser".

Gabriel Preisser

general director | Opera Orlando

see **YOU** at the **Opera!**

all for art

season
2023__24

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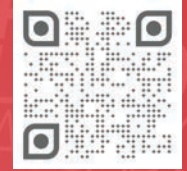
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Bravo, Opera Orlando!



OPERA
ORLANDO

presents

Rusalka

music by Antonin Dvořák
libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil
new English adaptation by Grant Preisser

sacrifice for art

sung in English

OPERA ON THE TOWN

Friday | **March 8, 2024** at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday | **March 9, 2024** at 7:30 p.m.

ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS OF MAITLAND



ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS
MAITLAND

Bernard McDonald, music director
Grant Preisser, stage director

APPROXIMATE RUN TIME

ACT I - 45 MINUTES | ACT II - 35 MINUTES

ACT III - 35 MINUTES

2 hours and 45 minutes with two intermissions



SYNOPSIS

a mythical Florida swamp | turn of the 20th-century

ACT I - at the swamp's edge

The swamp nymph Rusalka has fallen in love with a human, Prince, a plantation owner and rancher who hunts in the woods around Rusalka's swamp. Now she wants to become human herself to be with him. Vodník, Rusalka's father, is horrified and tells her that there is no place for her in the mortal world. When Rusalka insists, he tells her that it is beyond him, but that the witch of the wood Ježibaba can give her what she wants. Rusalka calls on the moon to guide her decision and resolves to call the witch.

Ježibaba arrives and agrees to give Rusalka a soul and make her human, warning her that if she doesn't find love she will be damned. Also, the price for her transformation is her voice. Convinced that her feelings for Prince can overcome all, Rusalka agrees. Ježibaba gives her a potion to drink and she is transformed.

Dawn breaks and Prince emerges from the wood with a hunting party. He sends the Hunters away to stay at the swamp, and Rusalka reveals herself in her new form. Even though she can't speak to him, he is captivated by her beauty. He takes her back with him to his plantation.

– INTERMISSION –

ACT II - the garden of Prince's plantation

At the plantation, the household is preparing for Prince's approaching wedding, and the Hunters gossip about his strange silent bride.

Prince enters with Rusalka, and he wonders why she remains cold toward him, but he remains determined to conquer her.

Meanwhile, Esmerelda, a socialite from the north looking for a husband, has come for the wedding. She sets her sights on Prince, mocking Rusalka's silence and reproaching Prince for ignoring her and the other guests. Prince escorts Esmerelda into the hall for the beginning of the festivities, and sends Rusalka away to dress for the ball.

In the deserted courtyard, Vodník appears and Rusalka rushes to him in tears. Finally recovering her voice, she begs her father to help her, telling him that Prince no longer loves her. Prince and Esmerelda come into the garden, and Prince confesses his love and desire for her, not Rusalka. When Rusalka intervenes, he rejects her. Vodník warns Prince of the fate that awaits him, then disappears taking Rusalka with him. Prince asks Esmerelda for help, but she ridicules him, terrified by what she has just witnessed.

– INTERMISSION –

ACT III - back at the swamp's edge

Rusalka returns to the swamp, lamenting her fate. Ježibaba appears and hands her a knife, explaining that the only way to transform back into a nymph is to kill Prince. Rusalka refuses to do it, damning her to become a water wraith. She leaves as the Hunters emerge from the woods seeking Ježibaba for help. Prince, they say, has been bewitched by a strange wood girl he was going to marry. He is forlorn, and they blame Rusalka. Enraged, Vodník rises from the swamp, saying that it was the Prince who deceived Rusalka. Terrified, they run away.

Prince, desperate and crazed with remorse, returns to the swamp. He is searching for Rusalka. He calls out for her to return to him. She appears and reproaches him for his infidelity. Prince pledges his love to her, but Rusalka explains that now a kiss from her would kill him. Yearning for peace, he asks for her kiss. She does, and he dies in her arms.

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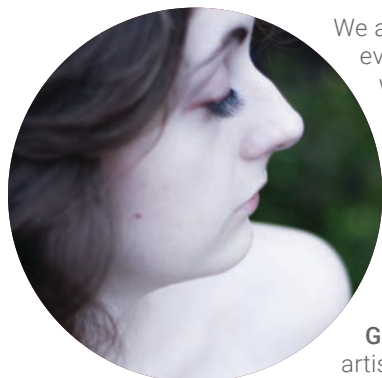


A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

When it comes to choosing what opera to be our site-specific production each season, we always juggle between selecting a title and then finding a location or confirming a location and then narrowing titles down to what would work best. In either scenario there is always a good amount of finesse needed to make it work, but when Gabe and I toured the Art and History Museums of Maitland, *Rusalka* immediately came to mind as the perfect opera to present in such a stunning and fantastical location.

The connections between the buildings, the art, and surrounding environs is truly inspiring, and it has been a labor of love crafting a new English adaptation of Dvořák's most famous opera that celebrates Jules André Smith's vision for his artist colony and the natural beauty of Central Florida. The reflecting pool at the heart of the property was the logical place for our water nymph *Rusalka* to reside, and the Mayan-revivalist architecture created a fun mash-up of Slavic lore and Mesoamerican mythology to explore as it relates to the fantasy creatures of sprites, nymphs, and witches. As I worked through the libretto, I wanted the human characters to live in a real place, making the story more immediate and relatable. To that end, we set the piece in 1895 Florida, a time when Central Florida, in particular, was still unsettled and wild with sugar plantations, citrus orchards, and Florida crackers wrangling and herding cattle. It is a time when belief in the supernatural was still very much a thing, and superstition permeated every day life.

It was also a time of big dreams and aspirations, which is really the heart of the story. *Rusalka* yearns for more than her home. She yearns to explore the human world, to no longer be immortal but to have a soul, to be a part of a new age dawning as the 20th-century approaches. She also yearns for love and to feel true passion, warmth, and belonging. All of these things she finds, but she is unprepared for the consequences of fulfilling one's desires.



We are so excited to share this evening of opera under the stars with you, and I hope you enjoy *Rusalka*'s cautionary and heartbreakingly romantic tale of love, sacrifice, and loss.

Grant Preisser
artistic director | Opera Orlando

WORTH A WATCH



Rusalka
Met Opera on Demand
directed by **Mary Zimmerman**

The Metropolitan Opera
released in 2017

Met Orchestra
conducted by **Mark Elder**

starring:

Kristine Opolais
Brandon Jovanovich
Jamie Barton
Eric Owens

WORTH A LISTEN



Rusalka
DECCA London Records
released in 1998

Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by **Charles Mackerras**

starring:

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Ben Heppner
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Franz Hawlata

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A Raisin in the Sun



by
LORRAINE HANSBERRY
FEB 16-24 | 2024

Metamorphoses



Based on the
MYTHS OF OVID
Written and originally
directed by
MARY ZIMMERMAN
NOV 3-18 | 2023

The Prom



Book & Lyrics by
CHAD BEGUELIN
Book by
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Music by
MATTHEW SKLAR
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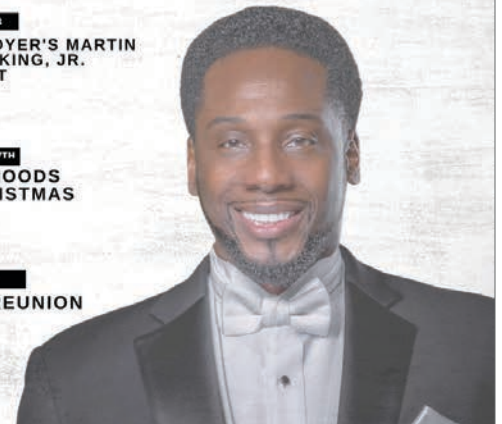
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OF CHRISTMAS**



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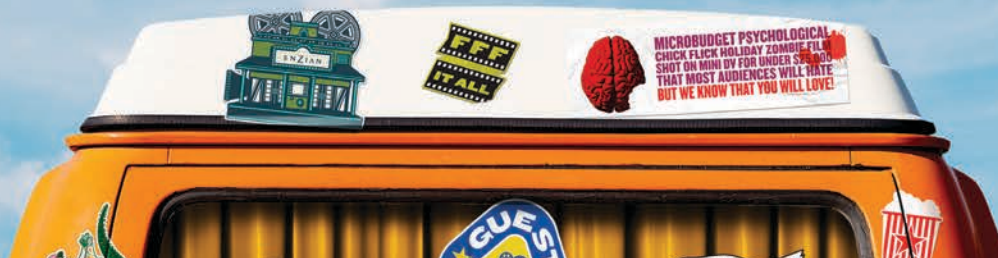


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A NOTE ON THE OPERA

Rusalka is the ninth and most successful of the ten operas composed by Antonín Dvořák. On March 3, 1899, František Šubert, the director of Prague's National Theatre, wrote to poet Jaroslav Kvapil, "Dvořák would very much like a libretto for an opera with a Czech fairy-tale plot," who immediately began work on a libretto based on the tale of *Rusalka*, a water sprite from Slavic mythology, usually inhabiting a lake or river.

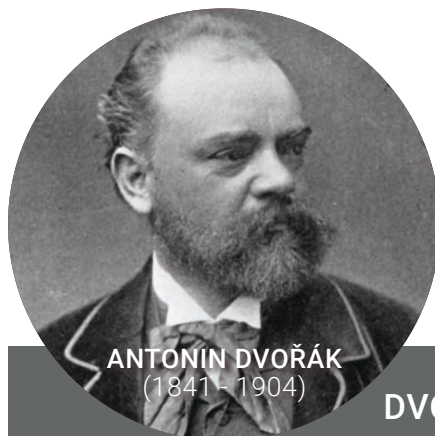
Kvapil based his opera libretto on Czech folklorist Karel Jaromír Erben's "sad, modern fairy tale," which contains elements that also appear in *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen and *Undine* by Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué. He completed his libretto in late 1899, but Dvořák wouldn't start on the project until April 22, 1900, quickly finishing the piece on November 27 of that same year. The opera premiered on March 31, 1901 at the National Theatre with Růžena Maturová as the first *Rusalka*. The opera was an instant and enormous success throughout Bohemia, as well as garnering some success abroad.

Coming after his four symphonic poems inspired by folk ballads, also by Erben, *Rusalka* is viewed as the culmination of Dvořák's exploration of a "wide variety of drama-creating musical techniques." It is a through-composed work that weaves together various motifs that depict *Rusalka*'s plight, including her damnation, the moon, her as a nymph, and the hunt. Dvořák masterfully uses established theatrical conventions – dance, comedy (in this version the Hunters), pictorial musical depiction of nature, and expressive and rapturous melody and word-setting. The work truly is Dvořák at the height of his maturity.

The first performance outside of Bohemia took place in Ljubljana, and then the opera premiered in Vienna by a Czech company in 1910. In 1935, it was produced in a German translation in Stuttgart, and its UK stage premiere was given by the amateur John Lewis Opera at Peter Jones, Sloane Square in May 1950. The Sadler's Wells Theatre then produced the work in 1959.

The United States premiere of the opera was presented by the San Diego Opera in 1975, and in 1983 it was produced in English by the English National Opera. It wasn't until 1993 that *Rusalka* was first performed in New York at The Metropolitan Opera – a production from the Vienna State Opera, directed by Otto Schenk, with Gabriela Beňačková and Neil Rosenshein as *Rusalka* and the Prince respectively.

The most popular excerpt from *Rusalka* is the soprano aria, the "Song to the Moon" ("Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém...") for the title character early in the first act. This aria actually put soprano Renée Fleming on the map when she sang it and won the Met's National Council auditions in 1988. It has since become a staple in her repertoire of arias, and was sung by a quartet of sopranos (Julia Bullock, Ailyn Pérez, Angel Blue, and Nadine Sierra) in honor of Renée Fleming being one of the recipients of the 2023 Kennedy Center Honors.



ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
(1841 - 1904)

DVOŘÁK IN THE STATES

In 1892, Dvořák became the director of the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City, and while there he wrote one of his most successful orchestral works: *Symphony No. 9* "From the New World." On a summer vacation in Spillville, Iowa in 1893, Dvořák also wrote his most famous piece of chamber music, his *String Quartet in F major*, Op. 96, "The American." While he remained at the Conservatory for a few more years, pay cuts and an onset of homesickness led him to return to his homeland in 1895.



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music by Antonin Dvořák

libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil

new English adaptation by Grant Preisser

cast

RUSALKA

Shannon Jennings

PRINCE

Isaac Hurtado

JEŽIBABA

Emily Pulley

VODNÍK

James Demler

ESMERELDA

Cristina Bakhoun Sanchez

HUNTER 1

David Soto Zambrana *

HUNTER 2

José Cuartas *

WOOD SPRITE 1

Laura Corina Sanders *

WOOD SPRITE 2

Linda Maritza Collazo *

WOOD SPRITE 3

Lisamarie Guadalupe

* Studio Artist

orchestra

Bernard McDonald

Nathan Cicero

conductor / keyboard I

keyboard II

Andreas Volmer

Irene Pacheco

Oana Patur

Jean-Marie Glazer

Elliot May

violin I

violin II

viola

cello

bass



production team

Bernard McDonald
Grant Preisser

music director
stage director

Tiffany Meadows-Green
Cait Durrance
Destinee Steele
Rocco Gaglioti
Ardean Landhuis
Sarai Goley

production stage manager
costume designer
hair & makeup designer
sfx makeup designer
lighting designer
props designer

Bridgette Sarich
Nathan Cicero
Emily DeNardo

assistant stage director
rehearsal pianist
company manager

Ardean Landhuis
Tyler Bargfrede
Andrew Blunt
Gustavo Cruz
Jonathan "Toby" Jones
Charles Richardson
Amanda Seckington

technical director
scene shop foreman
carpenters

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Charles Richardson
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Jodie Lebron

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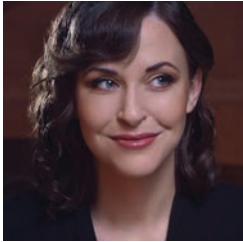
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THE ARTISTS



SHANNON JENNINGS | RUSALKA
HOMETOWN: Casselberry, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS
Summer Concert Series, 2023 - soloist

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Mimi, *La bohème* (Kentucky Opera)

Tosca, *Tosca* (Opera Las Vegas)

soloist, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* (Lancaster Symphony Orchestra)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Turandot, *Turandot* (Gulfshore Opera)

Mimi, *La bohème* (Opera Las Vegas)



ISAAC HURTADO | PRINCE
HOMETOWN: Provo, UT

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS
Summer Concert Series, 2023 - soloist

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

soloist, Nuñez Garcia's *Missa de Requiem*
(Carnegie Hall-MidAmerica Productions)

Don José, *Carmen* (Utah Festival Opera)

soloist, *Opera Gems* (Opera Roanoke)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Don José, *Carmen* (Opera Southwest)



EMILY PULLEY | JEŽIBABA
HOMETOWN: College Station, TX

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS
Summer Concert Series, 2022 - soloist
The Secret River, 2021 -
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Kate Keller, *Touch +* (Opera Birmingham,)

Fairy Godmother & stage director, Viardot's *Cinderella*
(Resonance Works)

Estelle Kavalier, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* ~
(The Metropolitan Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Old Lady & stage director, *Candide* (Wichita Grand Opera)

Mother/Witch, *Hansel & Gretel* (Eugene Opera)

Little Buttercup & stage director, *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Nashville Opera)



JAMES DEMLER * | VODNÍK
HOMETOWN: Dedham, MA

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Peter, *Hansel & Gretel* (Houston Grand Opera)

Alidoro, *La Cenerentola* (Boston Lyric Opera)

Der Notar ^, *Der Rosenkavalier* (The Metropolitan Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Sulpice, *La fille du Regiment* (Opera Company of Middlebury)

Monterone, *Rigoletto* (Pacific Opera)

Elijah, *Elijah* (Rhode Island Civic Orchestra)

* Opera Orlando debut | ^ role cover | + world premiere | ~ workshop



**CRISTINA BAKHOUM SANCHEZ |
ESMERELDA**

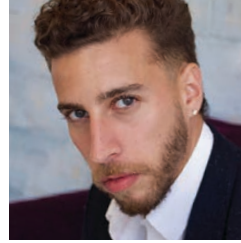
HOMETOWN: Hosuton, TX

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Rigoletto, 2022 -
Countess Ceprano / Giovanna

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Countess Almaviva, *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mobile Opera)
Clementina, *The Desert Song* (Winter Opera St. Louis)
Roya/ We, *The Innumerable* (Center for Contemporary Opera)



JOSÉ CUARTAS | HUNTER 2

HOMETOWN: Queens, NY

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - Edward G. Robinson
Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - Eduardo/Bonito/Diego Rivera
Tosca, 2023 - Sciarrone

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Papageno, *The Magic Flute* (Quisisana)
Dillon, *The Pirate's Daughter* (Romanza Lyric Opera)
Sciarrone, *Tosca* (Sarasota Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Enrico ^, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)
Husband, *The Juniper Tree* (Opera Orlando)



**DAVID SOTO ZAMBRANA |
HUNTER 1**

HOMETOWN: Orlando, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

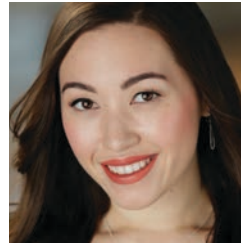
Frida, 2023 - Leon Trotsky/Mr. Ford
Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - Eduardo, Jr./Mr. Xoloti
Tosca, 2023 - Spoletta

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni* (Painted Sky Opera)
Duca, *Rigoletto* (Opera Colorado)
Frederic, *Pirates of Penzance* (Opera Colorado)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Ken/Mr. Hobart, *Two Corners* (Finger Lakes Opera)
Arturo/Edgardo ^, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)



**LAURA CORINA SANDERS |
WOOD SPRITE 1**

HOMETOWN: San Francisco, CA

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - Mrs. Ford
Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - Mariana
Tosca, 2023 - ensemble

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Zerlina, *Don Giovanni* (Painted Sky Opera)
Joua Thao/Kalia Yang, *The Song Poet* (Minnesota Opera)
Gilda, *Rigoletto* (Shreveport Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Gianetta, *L'elisir d'amore* (Charlottesville Opera)
Little Red Riding Hood, *Into the Woods* (Union Avenue Opera)

* Opera Orlando debut | ^ role cover | + world premiere | ~ workshop



**LINDA MARITZA COLLAZO |
WOOD SPRITE 2**

HOMETOWN: Bronx, NY

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - Lupe
Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - Frida Kahlo
Tosca, 2023 - Shepherd Boy

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Carmen, *Carmen* (Camerata New Jersey)
Meg ^, *Falstaff* (Aspen Music Festival)
Old Alyce, *Glory Denied* (Opera Naples)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Alisa, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)
Stepmother, *The Juniper Tree* (Opera Orlando)
Maud Dunlop, *The Music Man* (Charlottesville Opera)



**LISAMARIE GUADALUPE |
WOOD SPRITE 3**

HOMETOWN: Orlando, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - Calavera 2
Tosca, 2023 - ensemble
The Daughter of the Regiment,
2023 - ensemble

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Meg, *Falstaff* (International Opera Performing Experience-Italy)
Ma Moss, *The Tenderland* (UCF Opera)
Zita, *Gianni Schicchi & Buoso's Ghost* (UCF Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

ensemble, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)



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THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**BERNARD MCDONALD * |
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

HOMETOWN: Tallahassee, FL

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

conductor, *Carmen* (Opera Kelowna)

conductor, *Tosca* (Mobile Opera)

conductor, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Florida State University Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

conductor, *Rigoletto* (Mobile Opera)

conductor, *Glory Denied* (Florida State University Opera)



**GRANT PREISSER |
STAGE DIRECTOR**

HOMETOWN: Chicago, IL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Bella Notte at Bella Collina,

2023 - stage director

The Magic Flute, 2022 - stage director

La Traviata, 2021 - stage director

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

stage director, *Alcina* (University of Michigan)

stage director, *Hansel & Gretel* (Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra)

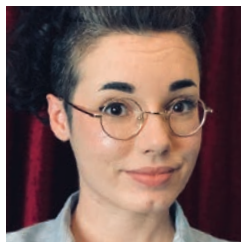
stage director, *Death of Ivan Ilych* (Thompson Street Opera Company)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

stage director, *Lucia di Lammermoor*

(Opera Orlando & St. Pete Opera)

stage director, *Hansel & Gretel* (Helena Symphony Orchestra)



**TIFFANY MEADOWS-GREEN |
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

HOMETOWN: Orlando, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - stage manager

Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - stage manager

Tosca, 2023 - stage manager

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

production manager at St. Luke's United Methodist Church

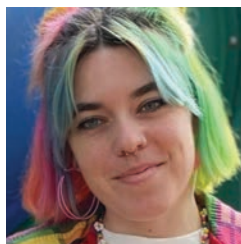
stage manager, HymnSong

(Encore! Performing Arts & St. Luke's United Methodist Church)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

production stage manager, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)

production stage manager, *The Juniper Tree* (Opera Orlando)



**CAIT DURRANCE |
COSTUME DESIGNER**

HOMETOWN: ORLANDO, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - wardrobe supervisor

Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - costume designer

Tosca, 2023 - associate costume designer

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

wardrobe, *Funny Girl* (NETworks)

costumer, *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*

(Hardrive Productions)

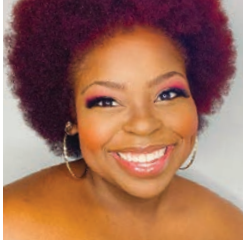
costumer, *Disney Dream Cruise Ship* (Disney's Cruise Line)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

associate costume designer, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)

costume designer, *The Juniper Tree* (Opera Orlando)

costume designer, *Moana, Jr* (RA&S)



**DESTINEE STEELE |
HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER**

HOMETOWN: Haines City, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - hair & makeup designer

Tosca, 2023 - hair & makeup designer

Bella Notte at Bella Collina, 2023 -
hair & makeup designer

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

hair & makeup designer, *Wine in the Wilderness*
(Penumbra Theatre Company)

hair & makeup designer, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*
(Maltz Jupiter Theatre)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

hair & makeup designer, *Jersey Boys* (Broadway at Music Circus)
teaching artist at the *International Thespian Festival*, 2022 - current
hair & makeup designer, *The Color Purple* (Pittsburgh CLO)



**ROCCO GAGLIOTI |
SFX MAKEUP DESIGNER**

HOMETOWN: Orlando, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Hansel & Gretel, 2021 - makeup designer

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

makeup artist, *Stranger Things* (season 4)

makeup artist, *The Color Purple*

makeup & prosthetics supervisor, *Universal Studios Orlando*



**ARDEAN LANDHUIS |
LIGHTING DESIGNER**

HOMETOWN: West Palm Beach, FL

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - technical director

Tosca, 2023 - Jailer

All Is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914,
2022 - ensemble

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

scenic designer, *Don Giovanni* (Gulfshore Opera)

stage director, *Not In My Town* (Opera Fusion)

Leporello, *Don Giovanni* (Palm Beach Opera)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

scenic & lighting designer, *Ragtime* (Lake Worth Playhouse)

lighting designer, *2024 Season* (Theatre Aspen)

scenic designer, *Turandot* (Gulfshore Opera)



SARAI GOLEY | PROPS DESIGNER

HOMETOWN: Haleiwa, HI

OPERA ORLANDO ENGAGEMENTS

Frida, 2024 - props designer

Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World,
2023 - stage director

The Magic Flute, 2022 - props designer

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

stage director, *Clue!* (BM Theatre Company)

playwright/stage director, *The Blood Feather*
(Uncarved Block Productions)

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

playwright/stagedirector, *The Bottleneck Effect*
(Foxy Traveler Productions)

props designer, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Orlando)

props designer, *The Juniper Tree* (Opera Orlando)

* Opera Orlando debut | ^ role cover | + world premiere | ~ workshop

Rusalka

artist patrons



Rusalka is underwritten by
Steve and Kathy Miller
pictured at the matinee performance of *Frida* 2024



Prince is underwritten by
Nancy Wagers
pictured at the opening night performance of *Frida* 2024



Vodnik is underwritten by
Eileen Schein (left)
pictured with Anne Gribbons at the opening night performance of *Frida* 2024



Ježibaba is underwritten by
Leila Trismen (left)
pictured with Chevalier Lovett at the matinee performance of *Frida* 2024

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Russell@OperaOrlando.org



stage director / **Grant Preisser** is underwritten by
Mary Palmer (right)
pictured with Helen Leon at the opening night performance of *Frida* 2024

Rusalka SPECIAL THANKS



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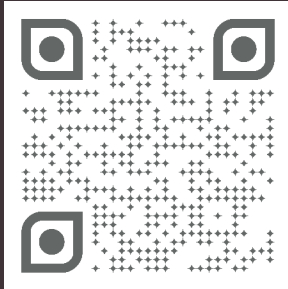


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Scott and Carmen Moscrip

OPERA ON BROADWAY

January 16, 2024

A big thank you to **Carmen and Scott Moscrip** for hosting the Company's **Opera on Broadway** event at their beautiful Windermere home. Donors enjoyed performances by the Company's general director Gabriel Preisser, and a quartet of opera/Broadway singers highlighting the gems of the Great White Way.



Sherry Magee, Isaac Juarez, & Roseann Harrington



Courtney Potter & Steve Nakagawa



Edward and Janas Durkee

MUSIC & WORDS OF LOVE

February 11, 2024

Audrey and John Ruggieri opened their home once again for their annual Valentine's event, **Music & Words of Love**. Opera lovers enjoyed brunch and a concert of selections from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, featuring the Opera's general director Gabriel Preisser along with international opera stars — soprano NaYoung Ban and tenor Matthew White.



John and Audrey Ruggieri



Rick Skaggs, Kathy Cressey, & Keith McIntyre



Cheryl Belfay & Debra Harrer



Stephanie Mauge & Helen Leon



Sarah Hansard & Walter Bissett

FRIDA AMBASSADORS RECEPTION January 26, 2024

Opera Orlando offers its Ambassadors level contributors and their friends the opportunity to mix and mingle before each MainStage production at Steinmetz Hall. Everyone was exuberant over the new production and opening night performance of *Frida*.



Federico and Danielle Hollander



Matt Gay, Lizette Valarino, & Aurelia Nugent



Elizabeth Conklin & Claudia Breese



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Helen Leon & tenor Matthew White



Audrey Ruggieri, Ann Fox, Marilyn Abrahamson, & Judy Lee

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private dinner with general and artistic director	✧	✧								
lunch with MainStage artist	✧	✧	✧							
lunch/golf with general director	✧	✧	✧							
invitation to board annual meeting	✧	✧	✧	✧						
invitation to exclusive cocktail parties with MainStage artists	✧	✧	✧	✧						
invitation to MainStage dress rehearsal	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧					
backstage tour of the production	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧				
invitation to Studio Artists donor party	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧			
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invitation to Ambassadors receptions	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	✧	
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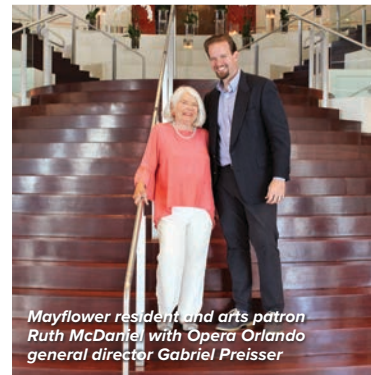
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