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## OPERA OMAHA ANNOUNCES 2023/2024 SEASON

Opera Omaha has a breathtaking 2023/24 season in store, filled with three enthralling productions and captivating artists. This collection of operas will feature the lavish grandeur of artistry that our productions are known for with both timeless and fresh works, delivered, as always, with the highest level of talent in the industry.



### WHAT WE REAP. WHAT WE SOW.

Are our circumstances always the consequence of our choices? Do we really get what we deserve? What do we bring upon ourselves and what is predestined by fate?

This season Opera Omaha examines the fruit of the seeds planted by characters searching for love, independence, and fulfilment. Three heroines, one crafting her love, one preserving her love, and one memorializing her love, each tend the paths given to them in hopes of a different outcome.

"The 23/24 season is the perfect balance of comedy, tragedy and imagination" commented General Director, Allison Swenson. "We are pleased to present fresh productions of Don Pasquale and La Traviata, and to introduce Omaha audiences to *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*. There is no substitute for live performance, especially in our beautiful Orpheum Theatre, and we hope you will join us and be inspired."



**DON PASQUALE**

Opening the season is the hilarious, **DON PASQUALE**. Hijinks and cunning flourish in this delightful comic opera. A crochety miser is thwarted in his attempts to thwart his nephew out of an inheritance. With the guile and wit of a clever young woman and a family friend, the old man becomes tangled in the vines of his own buffoonery.

Baritone Jorell Williams will make his role and Opera Omaha debut as the miserly Pasquale with returners Vanessa Becerra (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2023, *Les Enfants Terribles* 2019) and Taylor Stayton (*Falstaff* 2018, *L'elisir d'amore* 2018) as the young lovers and Luis Alejandro Orozco in his Opera Omaha debut as the puppet master, Dr. Malatesta.



## LA TRAVIATA

The season continues in February with one of the most iconic, romantic, and tragic stories of all time, **LA TRAVIATA**. Scandalous love between a courtesan, the iconic Violetta, and an upper crust young man blissfully blooms until societal expectations force her to confront what sacrifices she is willing to make in exchange for his honor. This exquisite, traditional staging of one of the art form's most popular operas flourishes with the passion, hope and costs of love.

Two Opera Omaha favorites, soprano Andriana Chuchman (*Capulets & Montagues* 2020) making her role debut as the lavish and fading Violetta, and conductor Steven White (*Eugene Onegin* 2022, *Marriage of Figaro* 2023) will lead this splendid production. Making Opera Omaha debuts are tenor Brian Vu as the passionate Alfredo and baritone Hyung Yun as his father, Giorgio. At the helm will be sought after director, E. Loren Meeker also making her company debut.



## EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO

*(The last dream of Frida and Diego)*

In the Spring, Opera Omaha presents **EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO** (*The Last Dream of Frida and Diego*). By the light of candles, through the fragrance of marigolds, the famous muralist Diego Rivera longs to see his deceased wife Frida Kahlo just once more before he dies. With the pathway back to earth open on Día de los Muertos, Frida and Diego imagine their tumultuous love and passion by journeying through her paintings and memories, blossoming their relationship and exploring the cultivation of their lives.

### TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Season tickets for Opera Omaha's [2023/24 Season](#) are available now. Visit [www.TicketOmaha.com](http://www.TicketOmaha.com) to purchase or call Opera Omaha at (402) 34OPERA (346-7372). Ticket Omaha's Box Office hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 am–5:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am–6:00 pm during performance season.

## SEASON ARTWORK

To create the artwork for the 23-24 season, Opera Omaha commissioned Omaha artist Nathaniel Ruleaux. Nathaniel Ruleaux is an award-winning artist and culture worker currently located on unceded land of the Umónhon & Očhéthi Šakówiŋ in Nebraska. A partner, father, and member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, his work combines modern art with traditional indigenous imagery. He is a founding member of Unceded Artist Collective. Recently, he created work for the national 2022 Indigenous Futures Survey & the Natives Vote 2020 campaign. In addition to creating visual art, he is a classically trained actor and educator. He received his MFA in Theatre from the University of Houston's School of Theatre and Dance after receiving a BA in Theatre Performance at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. View his work and learn more at [nathanielruleaux.com](http://nathanielruleaux.com) or by following @nathanielruleaux on Instagram and TikTok.

## Don Pasquale | October 27 & 29, 2023

Composed by Gaetano Donizetti  
Libretto by Giovanni Ruffini

### *Cast*

Don Pasquale | Jorell Williams\*  
Norina | Vanessa Becerra  
Dr. Malatesta | Luis Alejandro Orozco\*  
Ernesto | Taylor Stayton

Conducted by Gary Thor Wedow  
Directed by Octavio Cardenas\*



Jorell Williams Photo Credit: Dahlia Katz



Vanessa Becerra Photo Credit: Coco Jourdana



Luis Alejandro Orozco



Taylor Stayton



Octavio Cardenas



Gary Thor Wedow

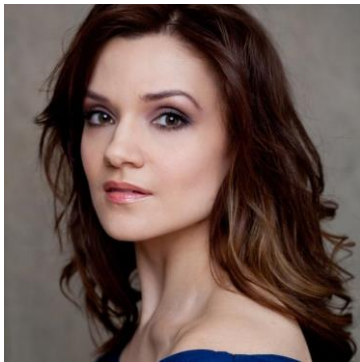
## La traviata | February 16 & 18, 2024

Composed by Giuseppe Verdi  
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

### Cast

Violetta | Andriana Chuchman  
Alfredo Germont | Brian Vu\*  
Giorgio Germont | Hyung Yun\*  
Annina | Jaime Marie Webb\*

Conducted by Steven White  
Directed by E. Loren Meeker\*



Andriana Chuchman Photo Credit: Chia Messia



Brian Vu



Hyung Yun



Jaime Marie Webb



E. Loren Meeker



Steven White

## El último sueño de Frida y Diego | May 3 & 5, 2024

*The Last Dream of Frida and Diego*

Composed by Gabriela Lena Frank\*

Libretto by Nilo Cruz\*

Commissioned and Produced by San Diego Opera, San Francisco Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and DePauw University, School of Music, with generous support from the University of Texas Austin College of Fine Arts.

### Cast

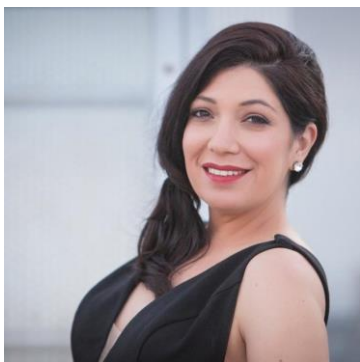
Frida Kahlo | Stephanie Sanchez\*

Diego Rivera | Levi Hernandez

Catarina | Laura León\*

Leonardo | César Aguilar

Directed by Lorena Maza\*



Stephanie Sanchez Photo Credit: Stephen Dillon



Levi Hernandez



Laura León



César Aguilar



Gabriela Lena Frank Photo Credit: Mariah Tauger



Nilo Cruz Photo Credit: Marc Richard Tousignant

\* Opera Omaha Mainstage Debut

## ABOUT OPERA OMAHA

Opera Omaha is a growth-minded, high energy, and innovative company with a demanding mission: producing opera performances in multiple formats and styles and co-creating artist-led programs for a variety of community service organizations.

Since 1958, Opera Omaha has led its rich artistic community by producing a season of original mainstage productions, presented at the historic Orpheum Theater, and smaller productions and musical events throughout the community. Opera Omaha is internationally known for its productions of eight world premieres and four American premieres of classical masterpieces and is highly regarded regionally for extensive community engagement and education programs. In 2018, Opera Omaha launched its ONE Festival, an innovative new spring festival, and a groundbreaking civic action initiative, the Holland Community Opera Fellowship — work that is key to Opera Omaha's ongoing transformation from a performing arts organization to a cultural resource for the community.

Visit [www.operaomaha.org](http://www.operaomaha.org) for more information.