

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

A VOICE. A STAGE. A STORY.

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Contacts: Kay Feeney-Caito and David Starkey

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kfcpublicrelations@gmail.com/starkey@indyopera.org

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA ANNOUNCES 2019-20 SEASON

The 45th Season opens with Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* in November 2019, continues in the spring with Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in March 2020, and culminates with the double bill of *Brundibar* and *Vedem* in April 2020.

Mainstage:

Donizetti: *Elixir of Love* (November 15-17, 2019)

Indianapolis Opera opens its 45th season with the irresistible *Elixir of Love*. Donizetti's comic opera focuses on the plight of Nemorino, a simple peasant hopelessly in love with Adina, a beautiful and wealthy landowner, and the lengths to which he'll go to win her heart. Adina will be played by Ashley Fabian, a rising star from Pittsburgh Opera. The quintessential romantic comedy, *Elixir of Love* juxtaposes the romantic idealism of Nemorino and the social pragmatism of Adina, while playing with the tropes of Sergeant Belcore and traveling salesman Dr. Dulcamara. Presented at the Tarkington Theatre in Carmel, Indiana, the Indianapolis Opera production will provide an intimate and classic setting with traditional 19th-century influences, emphasizing the timeless theme of love overcoming obstacles. The production will be sung in Italian with projected English supertitles.

Mozart: *Don Giovanni* (March 20 – 22, 2020)

Mozart's iconic operatic masterpiece *Don Giovanni* is the second mainstage show of the Indianapolis Opera season, presented at "The Toby" Theater at Newfields.

Based on the legend of Don Juan, *Don Giovanni* is a story of power, pleasure, violence, and their many consequences. And yet, the opera is also known for its many comedic and lighter moments, from Leporello's "Catalogue Aria" to Zerlina's "Vedrai, Carino". Librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte's adaptation of the text combines elements of drama, comedy, and the supernatural to make *Don Giovanni* the height of *dramma giocoso* – a unique composite of comic opera with a dark underside. American baritone Eric McKeever from the Lyric Opera of Chicago will star in the title role, and Metropolitan Opera soprano Kirsten Chambers will star as Donna Anna.

Hans Krása: *Brundibar* and Lori Laitman: *Vedem* (April 24-26, 2020)

Indianapolis Opera closes its season with the double bill of *Brundibar* and *Vedem*, presented at "The Toby" Theater at Newfields. *Brundibar* is a children's opera, and will

feature a children's chorus made up of members from the Indianapolis Children's Choir. Written by Jewish Czech composer Hans Krása and librettist Adolf Hoffmeister in 1938 in the ghettos of Prague, *Brundibar* is a parable of hope and justice. The opera was performed 55 times by the children of the Nazi concentration camp Terezin, under the direction of Jewish music teachers.

The story focuses on the struggle of children Annette and Little Joe to help their sick mother. To raise money, they decide to sing in the marketplace, but the evil organ grinder Brundibar chases them away. With the help of a dog, a cat, a sparrow, and many other children, they overcome the evil Brundibar and return home in victory.

Vedem is the first piece composed by a female composer to be performed with the company. Written by Lori Laitman, an American composer of Jewish heritage, *Vedem* is an oratorio that directly discusses events experienced at Terezin during the Holocaust.

This is the Indianapolis debut of *Brundibar* and *Vedem*, and also marks the first mainstage collaboration between Indianapolis Opera and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. These performances will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of many of the concentration camps across Europe, including Terezin.

Special Events:

Opera in the Park (September 8, 2019)

Indianapolis Opera is excited to announce a newly-revived "Opera in the Park" performance at Garfield Park as part of their summer/fall concert series. This is an official production of the nonprofit "Friends of Garfield Park", in partnership with the city parks department, and is a free concert for the public.

Metropolitan Opera Indiana District Auditions (October 13, 2019)

The Metropolitan Opera Indiana District Auditions will return to Indianapolis at the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center at the University of Indianapolis on October 13, 2019. Indianapolis Opera is proud to present the event that is the best platform of discovering the next great opera singer. Producing more Met competition winners in recent years than any other district in the country, this prestigious competition is the perfect opportunity for opera lovers to hear some of the most gifted talent of today.

Tickets:

Season ticket packages are available now and can be purchased online at indyopera.org, by calling 317.283.3531, by mail, and in person at the Basile Opera Center, 4011 N. Pennsylvania St. Season ticket packages range from \$93 to \$234. Single tickets go on sale September 9, 2019.

Our Mission:

The mission of Indianapolis Opera is to educate, inspire and entertain through the creation and presentation of musical storytelling for the Hoosier community.

Experience *Opera All Around Town* with world-class voices, designers, directors, and conductors in authentic, intimate productions.