

Ryan Brown
Conductor and Artistic Director



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Opera Lafayette presents
Pierre Gaveaux and Jean-Nicolas Bouilly's
Léonore, ou L' Amour conjugal
A Modern Premiere and New Production

Opera sung in French with English supertitles

Sunday, February 19, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University

Tickets as low as \$25 can be purchased at lisner.gwu.edu or (202) 994-6800

Washington, DC – Opera Lafayette presents the **modern premiere** of ***Léonore, ou L' Amour conjugal*** by Pierre Gaveaux and Jean-Nicolas Bouilly on **Sunday, February 19, 2017, 3:00 p.m.** at **Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University**. This opéra comique is the origin of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Fidelio*, a cornerstone of the operatic canon. *Léonore, ou L' Amour conjugal* is "one of the most famous pieces of lyric theater that virtually no contemporary audience has ever witnessed," says **Julia Doe** from Columbia University. Opera Lafayette's performances will be a **new production** featuring sets and costumes by **Laurence Mongeau**, lighting by **Julie Basse**, and directed by **Oriol Tomas**. The entire cast, led by **Kimy Mc Laren** in the title role, are French Canadian. **Ryan Brown** will conduct the performances, which feature the **Opera Lafayette Orchestra and Chorus**. This production will be filmed for a future DVD release. **Single tickets as low as \$25 are available online** at lisner.gwu.edu or by phone at **(202) 994-6800**.

The Quebecois cast includes debut performances by Mc Laren, **Jean-Michel Richer** as Florestan, **Tomislav Lavoie** as Roc, **Keven Geddes** as Jacquino, and **Alexandre Sylvestre** as Dom Fernand. Returning artists include as Marceline **Pascale Beaudin**, who last performed in Opera Lafayette's 2015 production of Grétry's *L'Épreuve villageoise*, and as Pizare **Dominique Côté**, who made his company debut last season as Pausanias in Chabrier's *Une Éducation Manquée*.

Opera Lafayette's mission is to present French 18th-century opera repertoire and its precursors, influences, and artistic legacy, and to create a recorded legacy of these rediscovered works. Opera Lafayette will film this production for future release on DVD. The organization's discography currently features 12 CD recordings with the most recent release of Grétry's *L'Épreuve villageoise*. 2017 will mark the release of Opera Lafayette's first DVD recording of Rameau's *Les Fêtes de l'Hymen et de l'Amour, ou Les Dieux d'Égypte*.

Bouilly's French libretto is rich with themes that are relevant today, including female heroism and political asylum. Similar to *Fidelio*, the story may be familiar to many. Revolution is in the air. A political prisoner awaits death in his cell. A woman puts herself in mortal danger to seek justice. From the loneliness of Florestan's dungeon to the triumphal reunion of husband and wife, audiences are sure to be captivated by this setting of a timeless and inspiring story.

A **pre-performance discussion** with Ryan Brown will take place one hour before the performance.

This production will also be presented in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater at the John Jay College in New York, NY on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.

Performance and Ticket Information

Sunday, February 19, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.
Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University
730 21st Street NW
Washington, DC 20052

Single tickets run \$25 - \$150 and are available online at lisner.gwu.edu or by calling **(202) 994-6800**.

Mini Subscriptions: People interested in purchasing tickets to *Léonore, ou L'Amour conjugal* and Opera Lafayette's next production, Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes – Part IV* on May 31, 2017, 7:30 p.m., also at Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University, will receive a 10% discount when they order a mini subscription through Opera Lafayette online at OperaLafayette.org or by phone at **(202) 546-9332**.

Sponsors

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Pernod Ricard

Opera Lafayette is an American period-instrument ensemble that specializes in French repertoire, rediscovers masterpieces, and creates a recorded legacy of its work. Founded in 1995 in Washington, DC by Artistic Director Ryan Brown, Opera Lafayette has earned critical acclaim and a loyal following for its performances and recordings with international singers renowned for their interpretations of baroque and classical operas. At the invitation of Château de Versailles Spectacles, Opera Lafayette made its international debut at the Opéra Royal in February 2012 with the modern world premiere of Monsigny's *Le Roi et le fermier*. Opera Lafayette returned to Versailles for five sold-out performances in January and February 2014. The company's discography on the NAXOS label has expanded to twelve releases, including the recent release of Grétry's *L'Épreuve villageoise*. OperaLafayette.org

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