



All things *LAKMÉ*

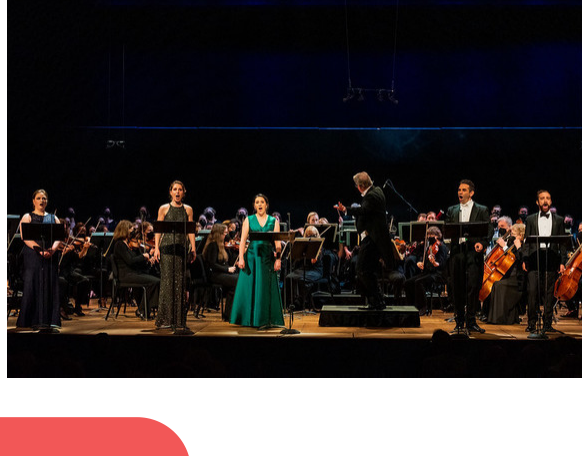
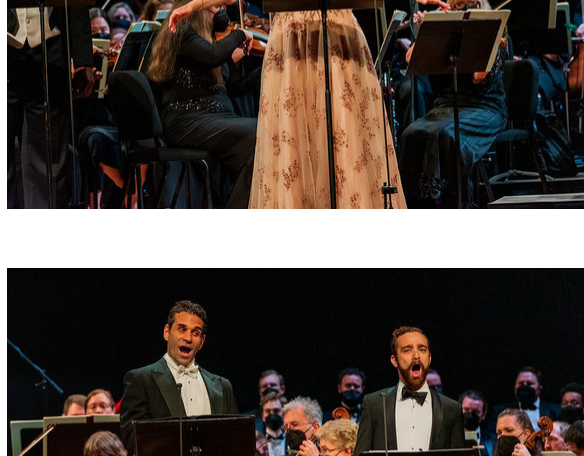


Hi Friend of WCO,

We hope you had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! It's now been over a week since we closed our 35th Anniversary Season with Delibes' *Lakmé*.

Whether you attended, donated, or admired from afar, we want to THANK YOU for your continued support of our work.

Read on below for excerpts from the reviews and to view photos from the stunning performance!



[View More Photos](#)

The reviews are in...

From Charles T. Downey of Washington Classical Review:

"Soprano Erin Morley triumphed as Lakmé Sunday in her WCO debut... Every moment she sang, onstage and from the wings, her voice shimmered with radiance and delicacy."

"[Taylor Raven's] warm tone on the lower part [of the Flower Duet], purring but present, allowed Morley to float the top part above with consummate ease."

"Alfred Walker deployed his stentorian bass-baritone to the angry role of Nilakantha, Lakmé's father... [He] snarled and howled with resentment one can only describe as justified, seeing his country occupied, his religious practices banned, and his daughter wooed away by a foreigner."

"[Frédéric Antoun possesses] a voice with pleasing characteristics, including ringing top notes and the ability to shape lines with musical sensitivity."

"As usual, Antony Walker assembled an extraordinary cast down into the supporting roles. The colonial quintet of British expats, including Antoun, sang with sparkle and rhythmic unity... soprano Véronique Filloux... crowned these ensembles with incisive high notes."

"The banter of this group of clueless tourists received comic vitality from... confident mezzo-soprano Lindsay Metzger. Their supercilious governess, Mistress Bentson, was sung... by remarkable contralto Megan Esther Grey. This was also a strong outing for baritone Theo Hoffman, whose tightly coiled vibrato gave a resonant buzz to the role of Frédéric... Chorister Sammy Huh made a charmingly self-effacing Hadji..."

"Walker conducted the score with confident efficiency, coordinating the offstage contributions of soloists and, in Act III, the chorus, the latter well prepared by assistant conductor David Hanlon. Choral chanting scenes were heightened by touches of exotic percussion and folksy drones in the lower strings and brass. Harpist Eric Sabatino added an aura of mystery to many of Lakmé's pieces, including her first entrance, where she sang from off stage."

From Michael Rogers at Opera Gene:

"The audience applauded aria after aria, and the standing ovation at the end was one of the most enthusiastic I have witnessed... This is a cast that the Metropolitan Opera would have been proud of..."

"The other major role is Gérald, who falls desperately in love with Lakmé; he was played by much sought after tenor Frédéric Antoun. I found Mr. Antoun to be impressive. He has a beautiful voice, and importantly, he brought romance to the role."

"Ms. Morley truly sang like an angel, or in this case almost a goddess, on stage and off. She seemed to navigate the highest notes with complete control, with only the smallest effort. Her embellishments often moved beyond beautiful, becoming breathtaking; listening to her was not only pleasurable, it was exciting. Her Bell Song received a tremendous ovation, many in the audience standing."

"Conductor Antony Walker leading the Washington Concert Orchestra and Chorus Master David Hanlon directing the Chorus provided an authoritative and sensitive rendering of Delibes' beautiful and melodious music."

Become a part of the music



Our fiscal year ends on June 30!

Help us end our 35th Anniversary Season on a high note with a gift of any size – your continued support will have a long-lasting impact. Click the button below and become part of the music we make today.

[Support](#)

And a reminder...

To honor the legacy of Stephen Crout, our founder who passed away in November 2021, the WCO Board of Directors has established a special fund in his memory, the proceeds from which will go directly toward expanding upon his vision while allowing the company to further its reach for many more years to come. Click below to learn more and to donate today.

[Memorial Fund](#)

From our friends at Opera Lafayette

Opera Lafayette Presents **Concert Spirituel aux Caraïbes**

Music from the Caribbean French Colonies

Sunday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.

The Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater

Guest conductor Pedro Memelsdorf explores the complicated dynamics between the musical culture of Imperial France and the people of the Caribbean. Well-known French composers from the 18th century and newly rediscovered works are represented in this orchestral concert with vocal soloists and ensembles.

[Tickets start at \\$30](#)



Opera Lafayette Presents Gretry's **Silvain**

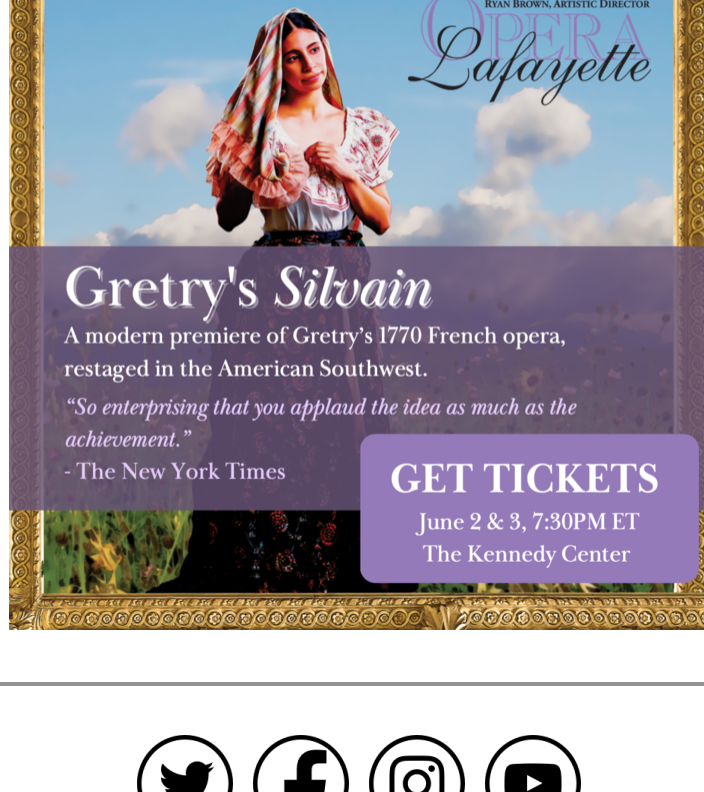
An 18th Century French opera restaged in the American Southwest

Thursday, June 2 & Friday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

The Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater

Artistic Director Ryan Brown and filmmaker Tania Hernandez Velasco present a modern premiere of Grétry's 1770 *Silvain* like it's never been seen before. Set in the 19th century American Southwest, the story explores timeless tales of family drama, and the still historically-pertinent struggles over land rights in America.

[Tickets start at \\$30](#)

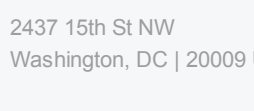


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