UBC Opera

2017 - 2018 Season

Orfeo ed Euridice | La Cenerentola | Il Tabarro/Gianni Schicchi
Hear the Stars of Tomorrow, Today!

I am thrilled to be able to offer you an exciting 2017–2018 season. We will take you on a journey through the various eras of the operatic repertoire beginning in November with one of the most beloved of Christoph Willibald Gluck’s ‘reform’ operas, Orfeo ed Euridice. In February we chase away the winter blues and revel in one of Gioachino Rossini’s most popular operas, La Cenerentola. We end our season with two operas from Giacomo Puccini’s Il Trittico – Il Tabarro, a gripping one act thriller and Gianni Schicchi, a hilarious opera in the commedia dell’arte tradition.

We are excited to celebrate the opening of the season with an Opera Gala on September 21 where we will be joined by two international stars, baritone James Westman and tenor Michael Colvin, for an evening of operatic favourites. We are very grateful for the generous support of the Wall Family. All proceeds from this Gala will support the UBC Opera Ensemble. I hope you will be able to join us.

Our ever-popular Opera Teas will take place in the UBC Botanical Garden and in the Old Auditorium from September to April. In November’s Opera Tea, to honour Canada’s 150th Anniversary, we will celebrate our rich operatic heritage. Did you know there are over 400 Canadian operas? Joining us is UBC’s Dr. Stephanie Nakagawa, a recent graduate who devoted her doctoral thesis to the creation of a “Canadian Opera Anthology for Soprano”. Calling all gardeners! April takes us to the Botanical Garden again for an abridged version of Mozart’s Die Gärtnerin aus Liebe (The Gardener out of Love). Weather permitting we will be in the Garden’s beautiful outdoor amphitheatre!

On January 20, 2018, our series, Singer Behind the Song will feature special guest, Canadian baritone, Russell Braun. A further Singer Behind the Song event will be scheduled in the spring. Our guest artist for this event will be announced shortly. Our annual fundraiser, the Opera Ball, will once again take place on the stage of the Chan Centre on March 16, 2018. With a limit of only 120 guests, book now before it is too late! On April 3rd, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and to express our deep gratitude to the Chan family for making this world class concert hall possible, we are presenting a concert featuring excerpts from the 20 years of opera that we have performed on the Chan stage. Come and join the celebration!

Our collaboration with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra continues with a performance at the October Tea and Trumpets, as well as the Traditional Christmas concerts with the VSO during the month of December. In June we will join Bramwell Tovey and his Symphony for a concert version of Benjamin Britten’s opera, Peter Grimes at the Orpheum Theatre.

None of this would be possible without your support. Your donation, subscription or ticket purchase makes it possible for our students to have the privilege of learning, working and performing with outstanding opera professionals of international stature. Working with Vancouver Opera and the Vancouver Opera Orchestra has also helped to bring their performances to the professional standard expected of them.

I invite you to experience the talent, enthusiasm and passion of our UBC Opera Ensemble.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Hermiston
O.C., Head, Voice and Opera Divisions

UBCOPERA.COM | 1
Orfeo ed Euridice

OPERA IN THREE ACTS
SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

Christoph Willibald Gluck | Composer
Ranieri de’ Calzabigi | Libretto

NOVEMBER 2, 3, 4 — 7:30 P.M. | NOVEMBER 5 — 2:00 P.M.
THE OLD AUDITORIUM

One of Gluck’s most beloved works, this exquisite opera explores the power of music and love in our lives. Premiered in 1762 for Empress Maria Theresa, it was the first of Gluck’s ‘reform’ operas, in which the complex plots of opera seria were replaced with naturalness and simplicity in both the music and the drama. Its immediate popularity lasted for centuries and it became one of the most influential works for composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Wagner.

The opera, based on a mythological subject, tells the tale of the legendary poet and musician, Orfeo. The opera begins at the grave of Euridice, Orfeo’s young bride. First devastated, and then angry, Orfeo rages against the cruelty of the gods and determines to take back Euridice from them. Cupid intervenes and thus begins Orfeo’s famous adventure into the Underworld, where, with his music, he must woo the Furies in order to gain entrance into Hades and retrieve his beloved Euridice. Cupid has set one condition though – Orfeo must not look at her as he leads her out of Hell. Euridice, confused and upset at his coldness, begs for a glance from her beloved. Unable to deny her request, he looks back and watches as she dies once more. However, Cupid believing in the power of true love and demonstrating the power of the Gods, relents and Euridice is saved.

Hell, the Furies and Cupid, Hope and Despair are all combined with poignant music.

Leslie Dala | Conductor
Nancy Hermiston | Director
Vancouver Opera Orchestra

ILLUSTRATION BY ROAN SHANKARUK
If you think you know the story of Cinderella, prepare yourself for an enchanting surprise. In Rossini’s masterpiece, the evil stepmother becomes the malevolent stepfather, the fairy godmother becomes a philosopher, and the legendary glass slipper becomes a delicate bracelet. This last change was not because Rossini and his librettist, Jacopo Ferretti, believed a bracelet would be more suitable to the story, but because it was improper for a lady to expose her ankle in public at the time of the premiere! Nonetheless, the essence of the fairy-tale remains: a magical transformation from rags to riches. The impoverished Don Magnifico dreams of rich suitors for his daughters while Prince Ramiro is searching for a bride. Mistaken identities and disguises cause confusion but in the end Cinderella repays wickedness with kindness.

Rossini was only twenty-five years old when he composed the opera in an astonishing period of three weeks. Although it had a rather unsuccessful premiere in 1817, the opera quickly became immensely popular and soon found its way into opera houses around the world and has become one of Rossini’s most cherished operas.

Dreams of unexpected happiness and love play out with spectacular vocal fireworks, witty comedy and delightful music.
Il Tabarro/Gianni Schicchi  
TWO ONE ACT OPERAS  
SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

Giacomo Puccini | Composer  
Giuseppe Adami | Libretto (Il Tabarro)  
Giovacchino Forzano | Libretto (Gianni Schicchi)

JUNE 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 P.M. | JUNE 24 — 2:00 P.M.  
THE OLD AUDITORIUM

In 1904, Puccini first began planning what would later become his famous collection of one-act operas: Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica, and Gianni Schicchi. His plans were to write each opera as a reflection on Dante’s Divine Comedy. In the end, however, only Gianni Schicchi was based on the epic poem, with the unifying theme throughout the three operas being the concealment of death. This production presents the first and third operas of the set: the dark and brooding, verismo opera, Il Tabarro; and the ever-popular farce, Gianni Schicchi.

Il Tabarro is a gripping one act thriller, set in 1900s Paris, where the young Giorgetta has fallen out of love with her much older husband, the barge owner Michele. She has recently found comfort in the dockworker, Luigi, an employee of her husband, and soon a love affair evolves. The two plan on running away together; however, Michele catches Luigi when he arrives to meet Giorgetta, and kills him. Michele hides the body under the big cloak which he used in happier times to envelop his wife and child. As Giorgetta prepares to leave, Michele reveals the body to his devastated wife.

Gianni Schicchi, a hilarious opera in the commedia dell’arte tradition tells the tale of the trickster Gianni Schicchi, who agrees to help a family change the will of their relative in order to include them in it. However, after accepting their bribes, the cunning Gianni Schicchi dictates a new will in which he benefits the most! With the famous aria, “O mio babbino caro,” a hilarious cast of characters, and an amusing plot, this comic masterpiece beautifully compliments the dark Il Tabarro.

David Agler | Conductor  
Nancy Hermiston | Director  
Vancouver Opera Orchestra
THE WALL FAMILY PRESENTS

UBC Opera Ensemble Gala

A BENEFIT GALA TO SUPPORT THE UBC OPERA ENSEMBLE

The Westin Wall Centre, Richmond Airport Hotel
3099 Corvette Way, Richmond, BC
Thursday, September 21, 2017

Reception: 6:30 p.m. | Concert: 7:00 p.m. | Dinner: 8:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE UBC OPERA ENSEMBLE ARE JOINED BY

James Westman
Baritone

Michael Colvin
Tenor

To celebrate the beginning of the 2017-2018 opera season we offer you an Opera Gala at The Westin Wall Centre, Richmond Airport Hotel, with baritone James Westman and tenor Michael Colvin. The UBC Opera Ensemble will join these two international stars for an evening of operatic favourites from La Bohème, The Pearl Fishers, Carmen, and many more of the opera classics we all know and love. Exquisite music, beautiful singing, and excellent cuisine will await our guests. All proceeds from this gala will go to support the UBC Opera Ensemble.

Tickets $250 per person. Complimentary Valet Parking
A $185 tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price in accordance with CRA guidelines.

The Singer Behind the Song

Join us for musical selections performed by international artists as well as insights into their art and their lives. An informative and exciting Masterclass will also be held with members of the UBC Opera Ensemble. Canadian baritone Russell Braun will be our first guest artist on January 20, 2018. A further Singer Behind the Song event will be scheduled in the spring. Our guest artist for this event will be announced shortly.

RUSSELL BRAUN

Renowned for his luminous voice, baritone Russell Braun rightfully claims his place on the concert, opera and recital stages of the world. His intelligent and thoughtful portrayals of Chou En-lai, Billy Budd, Prince Andrei, Figaro, Papageno, Count Almaviva, Don Giovanni, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, and The Traveller have captivated audiences at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, l’Opéra de Paris, the State Opera in Vienna, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Los Angeles Opera, La Scala in Milan, and at the Salzburg and Glyndebourne festivals.

The highlight of Russell’s 2017 season is the title role of the Canadian Opera Company’s new production of Louis Riel in Toronto at the Four Seasons Centre and in Ottawa with the National Arts Centre Orchestra presented as part of the celebrations surrounding Canada’s 150th Anniversary.

Mini concert with Russell Braun and the UBC Opera Ensemble, Reception and Masterclass with members of the UBC Opera Ensemble.

Saturday, January 20, 2018
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
The Old Auditorium
Tickets: $28/$23/$15 or $19 for subscribers

Presented in partnership with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

UBCOPERA.COM | 9
Opera Teas bring you closer to the performers onstage. Enjoy a concert of opera arias and song favourites in a casual setting in our theatre or the UBC Botanical Garden. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served.

September will feature our new students. It is always exciting to meet and hear these talented young singers who have joined us from all over the world. In October, we will preview our first opera production, Orfeo ed Euridice, to give you an insight into this masterwork. November will be a celebration of Canada’s 150th Anniversary. We have a rich heritage of Canadian operas that are largely neglected. UBC’s Dr. Stephanie Nakagawa, a recent graduate, devoted her doctoral thesis to the creation of a “Canadian Opera Anthology for Soprano”. She will join us in featuring excerpts from several Canadian works to celebrate our operatic cultural heritage. January will feature a preview of Rossini’s hilarious opera La Cenerentola, March and April will bring shortened versions of some favourite operas, including Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Der Rosenkavalier and Die Gärtnerin aus Liebe.
**Opera Ball Fundraiser**

WITH MEMBERS OF THE DAL RICHARDS ORCHESTRA

**MARCH 16, 2018**

6:30 p.m. Cocktails // 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Enjoy a delicious 3-course dinner on the stage of the Chan Centre with serenades from our young stars. Cap off the evening with an incredible night of dancing to the fantastic music of members of the Dal Richards Orchestra.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. A $115 tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price in accordance with CRA guidelines. For Opera Ball tickets purchased by credit card, the donation will appear as a separate transaction. For Opera Ball payment by cheque please contact the Box Office.

**The Chan Turns 20**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF UBC OPERA AT THE CHAN

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 — 7:30 p.m.**
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

As a sign of the deep gratitude we feel towards the Chan Family who made this facility possible, on April 3 we will celebrate twenty years of opera at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. This glorious theatre has changed the cultural fabric of Vancouver, Canada and the world! The UBC Opera Ensemble will present an evening of excerpts featuring many of the operas that we have presented on this stage. Come and join the celebration!

**About Our Artist**

Roan Shankaruk is a UBC School of Music Opera Performance major in her fourth year of study. Roan is also a composer and has been studying with UBC’s Dr. Stephen Chatman, with whom she is working on a short opera. On her weekends she performs at Granville Island as a busker specializing in vintage songs from the 1920s-1940s accompanying herself on ukulele.

In addition to music, Roan has always been an avid visual artist and has made several award-winning animations. She has often drawn scenes from her various musicals and operas and this has led to several commissions for posters and program art. She is honoured to have been asked to draw the artwork for UBC Opera’s 2017-2018 season.
Ticket Nitty-Gritty

Single tickets go on sale in September. Subscriptions are now available. Buy tickets for the Old Auditorium online at [www.ubcoperatickets.com](http://www.ubcoperatickets.com), by phone 604.822.6725, or in-person at the Old Auditorium box office. Box office hours vary, please phone to confirm opening times.

**THE OLD AUDITORIUM: 6344 Memorial Road**
(across the plaza from the UBC School of Music)

**MAIN OPERAS**
- Orfeo ed Euridice
- La Cenerentola
- Il Tabarro / Gianni Schicchi

**OPERA TEA & SINGER BEHIND THE SONG**
- Opera Tea in the Garden
- Opera Tea on the Stage

**CHAN 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**
- Chan 20th Anniversary Concert

**PARKING AT UBC**
For performances in the Old Auditorium, 24-hour secure parking is available at the Fraser River Parkade, a short 2-minute walk from the theatre. The Armories Parking Lot adjacent to UBC Music Building is open to the public after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. For UBC Opera performances in the Chan Centre, event parking is adjacent to the venue at the Rose Garden Parkade.

For all UBC Opera events, parking is available at these lots for 50% off the posted rate. Prepaid parking is available for subscribers with pre-registration of a licence plate number – please use the attached order form or contact the box office for details.

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**2017–2018 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

**STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE**

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<th>OPERA</th>
<th>THURSDAY 7:30 PM</th>
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<th>SATURDAY 7:30 PM</th>
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<td>Orfeo ed Euridice</td>
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**SUBSCRIPTION**

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**STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR SEATS**

**CHAN CENTRE**
- check your preferred seating areas
- Section A
- Section B
- KEEP MY SEATS

**OLD AUDITORIUM**
- check your preferred seating areas
- Section A
- Section B
- KEEP MY SEATS

**STEP 3: ADD-ONS**
Subscribers have the opportunity to add individual tickets for the Opera Tea Series and Singer Behind the Song to their subscription for only $19 each! Or add tickets to the Opera Gala, the Opera Ball and the Chan 20th Anniversary Concert. Subscribers can also pre-purchase parking at 50% off and bypass the parking machine. See page 14 for further details.

**Opera Tea**
- Sep 17 $19
- Apr 15 $19

**Opera Gala**
- Sep 21 $250
- Nov 19 $250
- Jan 14 $250
- Mar 11 $250

**Opera Ball**
- Mar 16 $200

**Singer Behind the Song**
- Jan 20 $19
- Date TBA $19

**Chan 20th Anniversary Concert**
- Apr 3 $15–$35

**Prepaid Parking**
- 3 Operas ($12)
- Oct 15 Opera Tea ($4)
- Nov 19 Opera Tea ($4)
- Jan 14 Opera Tea ($4)
- Mar 11 Opera Tea ($4)

**PRICEQUANTITYTOTALS**

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<td>Chan 20th Anniversary Concert</td>
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**Your licence plate # is required.**

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*Please note that UBC students are $15.00, Non UBC students $20.00*
ADD UBC THEATRE TICKETS AT SPECIAL RATES

Happy Days (Frederic Wood Theatre) Sept 27–30, 2017 Preferred Date*
by Samuel Beckett

Wives and Daughters (Frederic Wood Theatre) Nov 9 –25, 2017 Preferred Date
*No performances Sundays – Tuesdays

She Kills Monsters (Telus Theatre; Chan Centre) Jan 18 – Feb 3, 2018 Preferred Date*
*No performances Mondays – Tuesdays

King Arthur’s Night (Frederic Wood Theatre) Jan 31 – Feb 4, 2018 Preferred Date*
Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival
*No performances Monday – Tuesday / Sunday Feb 4th – 2 pm matinee

Naked Cinema IV** January 29 & 30, 2018 Preferred Date

The Crucible (Frederic Wood Theatre) March 15–31, 2018 Preferred Date*
*No performances Sundays – Tuesdays

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PRICE QUANTITY TOTALS
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Adult $20 x ________ =
Adult – Happy Days $15 x ________ =
Senior (65+) $14 x ________ =
Senior (65+) – Happy Days $10 x ________ =
Student $8 x ________ =
Student – Happy Days $10 x ________ =
**Naked Cinema $10 x ________ =

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STEP 4: CONTACT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ____________________________ Prov _________ Postal Code ________________
Phone ____________________________ Email _________________________________

Yes! I would like to add a tax-deductible donation to the UBC Opera Ensemble

GRAND TOTAL ________________________________

Method of payment: □ VISA □ MasterCard □ Cheque

Name as it appears on Credit Card ____________________________________________
Credit Card Number _________________________________________________________
Expiry Date (mm/yy) ____________

Prices include all applicable taxes and fees. Prices subject to change. All purchases are non-refundable and non-transferable. All purchases are subject to our ticket policy and privacy policy. For credit card transactions, a separate total for UBC Theatre tickets will appear on your statement.

Support Us

Did you know that current students and alumni of the UBC Opera Ensemble are performing and teaching in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa? Our singers are having success all over the world!

Every year people ask me how they can support the UBC Opera Ensemble and help to give our singers the best possible education. I believe that along with the excellent academic education our singers receive here at UBC, it is imperative that our students also receive an outstanding experiential education as well.

This key element of their education is provided through our three productions per year, our European tour providing our students with European performance experience and exposure, the collaboration with the Vancouver Opera and the Vancouver Opera Orchestra for our productions, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Bard on the Beach. Students are provided with the opportunities to work with international opera professionals such as: conductors David Agler, Jonathan Darlington, Neil Varon, Robert Tweten, Leslie Dala and Gordon Gerrard; coaches Carol Isaac, Craig Rutenberg, and Denise Gaudry; and singers including Judith Forst, Ben Heppner, Gerald Finley, Sondra Radvanovsky and Adrianne Pieczonka. These outstanding artists help to instruct, mentor and guide our singers on their career path.

This very important part of their education is provided through funds raised from donations and revenues earned from our performances at UBC and within the community.

I would like to say a very sincere word of appreciation to all of our faithful donors, subscribers and our enthusiastic audience, who, through your support, have made it possible to transform our students’ education. Please consider becoming a donor, a subscriber or a regular audience member. Your donation or ticket purchase makes the education of these talented young singers and their future careers possible. Your support helps make the stars of tomorrow!

With appreciation,

Nancy Hermiston
Connect with UBC Opera

CALL  604.822.6725 (box office)
       604.827.4937 (administration)

FAX   604.822.4884

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       www.twitter.com/ubcopera

EMAIL info@ubcopera.com