Dear Donors, Subscribers and Audience Members,

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy. I am delighted to be able to invite you to join us for our 2020–2021 Virtual Season. Our talented singers, staff and our guest conductor, Mr. David Agler are all working very hard to bring you a season of outstanding virtual opera performances.

As a test virtual production we presented Rossini’s Il viaggio a Reims (https://vimeo.com/468653248) and were delighted to have 3,500 viewers for our three performances. We have now been able to organize our first virtual season and are offering a subscription series for the remaining six upcoming performances in our 2020–2021 season.

Our first Concert of Operatic Excerpts will take place on Sunday, November 22 with two casts performing; one at 2 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. Excerpts will be taken from Dido and Aeneas, Così fan tutte, Lucia di Lammermoor, I Pagliacci, Lakmé, Samson et Dalila, Simon Boccanegra, Tosca, HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, The Gondoliers and Candide.

Our next fully staged opera is based on the Jane Austen novel of the same name: Mansfield Park. The touring opera company Heritage Opera commissioned the work from British composer Jonathan Dove in 2008. The opera tells the story of the young heroine, Fanny Price, who is a poor relation of Sir Thomas Bertram, the wealthy owner of the family estate (Mansfield Park) and a plantation in Antigua. Treated more as a servant than a relative, the opera follows Fanny’s journey into adulthood. Austen’s views of theatrical performance, society, religion, women’s rights and slavery as depicted in the novel were diversely interpreted by critics and readers at the time, and many of these problems have been highlighted in several later adaptations of the story for the stage and screen. While the novel was written in 1814 with a second edition published in 1816, it did not receive any public reviews until 1821. The opera’s music, reminiscent of renowned contemporary composers Britten and Glass, both honours its 19th-century origins and adds an unmistakable flair of the 21st-century. This combination creates a truly inspiring musical and dramatic piece that allows the audience to experience Mansfield Park as never before.

Dove’s chamber opera is a rich blend of beautiful solos, duets and full ensemble pieces originally written to be accompanied by piano four hands. It has been presented in many heritage and university venues in England, Australia, the United States, and Canada. Performances are currently scheduled for January 30, 31, February 2, 3, 5, and 6. Due to these uncertain times please check the UBC Opera Website for any unexpected changes in dates.

March 2021
On Sunday, March 21, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., two separate casts of UBC Opera Ensemble singers will present A Concert of Operatic Excerpts, including excerpts from Albert Herring, Rape of Lucretia, Suor Angelica, Oberon, I Lombardi, and more.

April 2021
On Sunday, April 11, we will present an Opera Tea to promote our upcoming production of Le nozze di Figaro. If the weather and health protocols allow, we will hold the Tea in an outside location and hope that our loyal Opera Tea audience will be allowed to attend. Please follow the UBC Opera Website, Facebook or Instagram to check for location and any news of allowances for in-person attendance.

On Wednesday, April 14, The Singer Behind the Song will feature Vancouver’s own Simone Osborne (UBC Opera Alumna) and her husband, baritone Gordon Bintner, for this very special homecoming for them both. The two opera stars currently reside in Frankfurt, Germany and we are delighted to welcome them back home to Canada. This wonderful afternoon consisting of a mini-recital, a conversation with the two rising stars, and a Masterclass with our talented UBC singers, will surely brighten any Spring day.

May 2021
Le nozze di Figaro will close our 2020–2021 Season. The production is currently slated to be presented on May 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22, 2021, but dates may change depending on the state of the pandemic. Two casts will delight audiences with Mozart’s masterpiece. Please check the UBC Opera Website to confirm virtual performance dates or if BC health protocols allow, in person performances.

I hope that you will join us for our 2020–2021 season and celebrate our talented young opera singers and our artistic and production colleagues as we all work together to keep opera on the stage!

All the best and stay safe,

Nancy Hermiston, O.C.

Support UBC Opera
IL VIAGGIO A REIMS
(The Journey to Reims)

OPERA IN THREE ACTS
SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

Gioachino Rossini | Composer
Luigi Balocchi | Librettist

OCT 16, 17, 18, 2020
AT THE CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Composed in 1825 for the coronation of King Charles X in Reims, France, this Rossinian masterpiece is filled with music fit for a king, complete with all the chaos and light-hearted fun for which Rossini’s operas are famed. Originally limited to only four performances, Il viaggio a Reims was lost to history until musicologists pieced together the original manuscript in the 1970s. Since then, the piece has enjoyed a growing presence on the operatic stage, beloved for its impressive vocal fireworks and its tour-de-force of an ensemble cast working together to present a fast-paced, fun-filled plot.

To celebrate his coronation, King Charles X has invited aristocrats from all over the world to Reims to attend his medieval-themed Coronation and Masquerade Ball. The staff of the Golden Fleur-de-lys Hotel and Spa work frantically to prepare the hotel, but nothing could prepare them for the guests themselves. Chaos is quick to present itself: missing luggage, a lack of transportation, and the antics of a bevy of men all courting the same three women combine to prevent the honoured guests from reaching their destination. Some steadfast thinking from the Barone di Trombonok, the hard work of Madame Cortese and her hotel staff, and the announcement of a Festival in the wake of the King’s Coronation ease the madness. A celebratory banquet at the hotel is met with joy from the travellers, who resolve their differences, commenting on the folly of lovers and the beautiful insanity of the world. The banquet culminates in a harmonious presentation of songs from all the countries of those represented, ending the night joyfully as everyone sings to the glory of the King.

This event has already taken place.

David Agler | Conductor
Nancy Hermiston | Director
MANSFIELD PARK

CHAMBER OPERA IN TWO ACTS
SUNG IN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

Jonathan Dove | Composer
Alasdair Middleton | Librettist

Based on the 1814 novel of the same name by Jane Austen

JAN 30, FEB 2, 5 — 7:30 P.M. | JAN 31, FEB 3, 6 — 2:00 P.M. | 2021
LOCATION AND STREAMING DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Commissioned by Heritage Opera barely a decade ago, Jonathan Dove’s chamber opera *Mansfield Park* is a delicate blend of the past and present, both historical and contemporary in nature. The plot and setting, taken directly from Jane Austen, root the opera in the early 19th century; the music, reminiscent of renowned contemporary composers Britten and Glass, both honours these origins and adds an unmistakable flair of the 21st century.

Based on Jane Austen’s beloved third novel of the same name, *Mansfield Park* transports the viewer back to early 19th century England as we explore the life of young Fanny Price, who has been brought to live at her uncle Sir Thomas Bertram’s estate, Mansfield Park. Hopelessly in love with the one member of the family who treats her kindly, her cousin Edmund, Fanny becomes entangled in the complex social dynamics of the young adults of Mansfield Park. The arrival of the wealthy siblings Henry and Mary Crawford sparks infatuation in the Bertram household, to Fanny’s dismay, leading to a series of events that threaten to ruin the Bertrams’ reputation along with any hope for a relationship between Fanny and Edmund.

Purchase single tickets: General $20 | Student $10
Or click here to purchase a $90 Season Subscription which includes this event

David Agler | Conductor
Nancy Hermiston | Director

UBCOPERA.COM | 5
Based on Beaumarchais’ stage comedy, Le nozze di Figaro was the first of three collaborations between Da Ponte and Mozart. On May 1, 1786, it had its successful premiere in Vienna. In December of the same year it received its Prague debut. Critics reported “a masterpiece […], no piece has ever caused such a sensation.” This sensation led to the commissioning of another famous Mozart/Da Ponte opera, Don Giovanni. Le nozze di Figaro is regarded as a cornerstone of the standard operatic repertoire, appearing sixth on the list of the most-performed operas worldwide.

The story revolves around engaged and soon-to-be-married Figaro and Susanna, servants of the Count and Countess Almaviva. The Count has grown bored with his marriage and looks to re-engage the act of primae noctis, in which he instead of the husband would consummate the marriage on the couple’s wedding night. Through the clever manipulations of Susanna, Figaro, and the Countess, that right is never restored, and the Count’s love for his Countess is finally rekindled. Adding to the confusion, the stress, and the fun are the antics of an amorous teenager, a scheming old maid aided by a doctor/lawyer, a drunken gardener, and a silly young girl. Much happens on a single “folle journée” – a crazy day.

Purchase single tickets: General $20  |  Student $10
Or click here to purchase a $90 Season Subscription which includes this event.
Concert of Operatic Excerpts

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | SUNDAY, MARCH 21 | 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.
LOCATIONS AND STREAMING DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Our first Concert of Operatic Excerpts will take place on Sunday, November 22, and present two casts performing excerpts from Dido and Aeneas, Così fan tutte, Lucia di Lammermoor, I Pagliacci, Lakmé, Samson et Dalila, Simon Boccanegra, Tosca, HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, The Gondoliers and Candide.

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Or click here to purchase a $90 Season Subscription which includes this event

Opera Tea

SUNDAY, APRIL 11 | 2 P.M.
LOCATION AND STREAMING DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

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Purchase single tickets: General $20 | Student $10
Or click here to purchase a $90 Season Subscription which includes this event
The Singer Behind the Song

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 | 2 P.M.
LOCATION AND STREAMING DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Simone Osborne & Gordon Bintner

On Wednesday, April 14, The Singer Behind the Song will feature Vancouver’s own Simone Osborne (UBC Opera Alumna) and her husband, baritone Gordon Bintner, for this very special homecoming for them both. The two opera stars currently reside in Frankfurt, Germany and we are delighted to welcome them back home to Canada. This wonderful afternoon consisting of a mini-recital, a conversation with the two rising stars, and a Masterclass with our talented UBC singers, will surely brighten any Spring day.

Celebrated for her resplendent vocal timbre, exceptional musicality and unparalleled dramatic instincts, Canadian soprano Simone Osborne is establishing herself as one of the most exciting emerging artists in the opera world. Simone was one of the youngest Grand Prize winners in the history of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and has gone on to debut on opera and concert stages across the globe. A proud graduate of the Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio, Simone has made over a dozen role debuts with the company in recent years.

The Grand Prize Winner of the OSM Standard Life Competition (2011) and First Prize and People’s Choice Award recipient of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio Competition (2012), Canadian Bass-Baritone Gordon Bintner appears internationally in a wide-range of Operatic and concert repertoire.

Purchase single tickets: General $20 | Student $10
Or click here to purchase a $90 Season Subscription which includes this event

These events are generously supported by the Sonya and Charlotte Wall Arts Fund

THE SONYA AND CHARLOTTE WALL ARTS FUND
Streaming FAQ

For the 20/21 Season, we are using a new digital streaming platform to bring incredible performances directly to you. Thank you for your patience while we work to make this experience as seamless as possible for you!

Any questions not answered here, please contact our Ticket Office at chan.tickets@ubc.ca.

How do streaming tickets work?
Streaming tickets work in the same way as regular UBC Tickets event tickets!
You will receive a confirmation email once your purchase or registration is complete.
Simply click the link in your confirmation email or go to watch.chancentre.com and enter in your login details in the Ticket Holders Login section. The email address (username) and password for the platform are the same as your UBC Ticket credentials used to purchase or register for the event.

Do I need a UBC Tickets account to stream performances?
Yes, in order to purchase or register for an event, you will need to create an account at tickets.ubc.ca so that you receive a link and password to view each performance. Our ticketing platform and streaming platform are connected so your login details will be the same.

Help! I forgot my password!
Go to UBC Tickets to recover your password before attempting to login to the viewing platform at watch.chancentre.com. Once you have validated your email address in UBC Tickets and created a new password, you will be able to login with those same credentials at watch.chancentre.com to view Dot Com Series performances. Still experiencing a problem? Email us at chan.tickets@ubc.ca. While working remotely, we will strive to respond as quickly as possible.

Help! I’m locked out of my account!
Don’t worry, we can unlock your account for you!
Contact us at chan.tickets@ubc.ca. While working remotely, we will strive to respond as quickly as possible.

What do I need in order to view?
You can watch on any internet-connected device. That could be your phone, laptop, desktop computer, TV, tablet, etc. View technical requirements here.

Help! My video won’t cast to my TV
Please ensure that “mirroring” is turned off on your device and that you are using the cast or Airplay button to stream. Apple does not support the mirroring of encrypted video. View technical requirements here.

Ticket Pricing

This season UBC Opera will be offering three options:

Individual purchase per performance ($20/show, $10/show for students), the UBC Opera Virtual Season General Subscription ($90), and the UBC Opera Virtual Season Supportive Subscription ($180). The two subscription packages will include access to all performances from the moment they are streamed live until September 1st, 2021 (with the exception of Mansfield Park, which will be available for one week after its closing performance).

Tickets are available through our website at www.ubcoperatickets.com
Please contact our box office through email at ubcopera.tickets@ubc.ca or call us at (604)822-6725. Please be aware that due to the COVID-19 pandemic we will be working on reduced hours. If you leave a message our employees will get back to you!

*Please note that on demand viewing will not be available until November 24, 2020.

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