Maryland Lyric Opera
announces its expanded 2019–2020 season

Featuring the 78-member strong
MDLO Orchestra
along with established opera stars and
the rising singers of the MDLO Young Artist Institute

*Il Tabarro/Cavalleria Rusticana*
in concert at Strathmore

A new fully-staged production of *Thaïs*
at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

*Le Nozze di Figaro*
launches a new fully staged Mozart/Da Ponte cycle
at The Clarice, directed by Ruggero Raimondi

plus

The MDLO Orchestra in two concerts at Strathmore
with pianists Leon Fleisher and Cecile Licad

and

Two Young Artist gala concerts at Strathmore
featuring the MDLO Orchestra

~ more ~
(BETHESDA, MARYLAND)—Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) continues the resolute growth of its programming with the announcement of its 2019–2020 season, increasing the number of full-scale opera productions and orchestra performances in the Washington-Baltimore region, and featuring some of the most accomplished stars of opera alongside rising young singers nurtured by the company’s rigorous artist-development program.

The season’s expanded opera programming includes a concert-version double bill of Puccini’s Il Tabarro and Mascagni’s Cavalleria Rusticana, September 14 and 15, 2019, at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda; a new, fully-staged production of Massenet’s Thaïs, January 30 and February 1, 2020, at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center’s Kay Theatre in College Park; and the launch of a new fully-staged cycle of the three iconic Mozart/Da Ponte operas, beginning with Le Nozze di Figaro, June 10, 12, and 14, 2020, at The Clarice’s Kay Theatre.

New this season is a series of two orchestral concerts featuring the MDLO Orchestra in performance at Strathmore, the region’s acoustical gem. On November 12, 2019, the Orchestra will be joined by legendary pianist Leon Fleisher for a concert featuring the works of Mozart, Debussy, and Sibelius. At the performance on April 22, 2020, the Orchestra welcomes renowned soloist Cecile Licad to the piano for a performance of works by Brahms, Bartók, and Gershwin.

The rising young stars of the MDLO Young Artist Institute will take center stage for two gala concerts with the MDLO Orchestra on November 1, 2019, and April 1, 2020, at Strathmore. The fall performance will feature some of opera’s most beloved arias and ensembles, while the spring performance will be a semi-staged, double bill of two popular one-act operas: Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi and Ravel’s L’heure Espagnole. These gala performances will showcase the artistic development of the developing singers in MDLO’s growing Young Artist Institute.

Maryland Lyric Opera will continue to employ the finest freelance artists in the region for its Orchestra. Led by Music Director Louis Salemno—who conducts all performances—the MDLO Orchestra attracts local players who have prominent positions in ensembles such
as the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera Orchestra, the Wolf Trap Opera Orchestra, the Washington Concert Opera Orchestra, and the National Philharmonic, among others. José Miguel Cueto returns this season as Concertmaster. The MDLO Chorus, also comprised of local artists who sing in the region’s many fine choral ensembles, will number up to 80 for some productions; the Chorus is led by Chorus Master Steven Gathman.

“I am thrilled that our new season expands our artistic footprint both on the opera stage and in concert, and will bring more joyful music to our community. Our Music Director Louis Salemno has planned an incredibly rich and musically diverse season,” said MDLO Founder and Artistic Director Brad Clark. “I am especially proud that we will be building new productions of Thaïs and Figaro especially for the Kay Theatre stage. At a time when many classical music institutions are struggling, we are doubling down on our mission of providing employment opportunities for the talented musical artists in our region, to training the next generation of opera singers, and to providing outstanding and memorable musical experiences for our audiences.”

“The 80-piece orchestra, trusted with most of the opera’s heavy lifting, played its collective heart out under MDLO Music Director Louis Salemno, who conducted with authority and conviction.”

— The Washington Post’s rave review of MDLO’s La fanciulla del West

The MDLO 2019–2020 Season

Il Tabarro/Cavalleria Rusticana in Concert, September 14 and 15, 2019
The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda

Music Director Louis Salemno opens the MDLO season with a magnificent pairing of two celebrated one-act operas: Il Tabarro by Giacomo Puccini, followed by Pietro Mascagni’s haunting Cavalleria Rusticana. Susan Bullock, Mark Delavan, Jonathan Burton, Jill Gardner, Yi Li, and other artists return to the MDLO stage after their triumphs in La
Fanciulla del West last season. The Maryland Lyric Opera Orchestra appears on stage with the principal singers and 80-member MDLO Chorus.

**Il Tabarro**
- Michele: Mark Delavan
- Giorgetta: Jill Gardner / Susan Bullock
- Luigi: Yi Li *± / Jonathan Burton
- La Frugola: Allegra De Vita ±
- Talpa: Jake Gardner
- Tinca: Joseph Michael Brent*

**Cavalleria Rusticana**
- Santuzza: Susan Bullock / Jill Gardner
- Turiddu: Jonathan Burton / Yi Li *±
- Lucia: Allegra De Vita ±
- Alfio: Mark Delavan
- Lola: Joowon Chae

Conductor: Louis Salemno
Chorus Master: Steven Gathman

* Alumnus of MDLO Young Artist Institute
± Alumnus of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

Tickets start at $35 and are on sale NOW visit www.MDLO.org or (301) 581-5100.

**MDLO Young Artist Institute Fall Gala**, November 1, 2019
The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda

The MDLO Young Artist Institute Fall Gala stars six rising young talents from the MDLO Young Artist Institute, supported by the full MDLO Orchestra on stage at Strathmore, conducted by Music Director Louis Salemno. This gala concert features excerpts from six operas in three different languages: Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, Gounod’s *Faust*, Verdi’s *Falstaff*, Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*, Bizet’s *Carmen*, and Strauss’s *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Young Artists include sopranos Alexandra Razskazoff and Sarah Joyce Cooper, mezzo-soprano Olga Syniakova, tenor Yi Li, baritone Christian Bowers, and bass Michael Pitocchi.

Tickets start at $25 and are on sale NOW visit www.MDLO.org or (301) 581-5100.
**MDLO Orchestra Inaugural Concert with Soloist Leon Fleisher**

November 12, 2019

The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda

The MDLO Orchestra, one of the region’s premier professional ensembles, takes its rightful place center stage for its very first symphonic concert. A varied repertoire is anchored by Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 12, featuring the legendary pianist—and Maryland resident—Leon Fleisher at the piano. MDLO Music Director Louis Salemno conducts the evening.

- MOZART Overture from Le Nozze di Figaro
- MOZART Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major
- DEBUSSY Prélude à l’apres-midi d’un faune
- SIBELIUS Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 43

**Tickets** start at $25 and are on sale NOW visit www.MDLO.org or (301) 581-5100.

**New Production Premiere: Massenet’s Thaïs**

January 30 and February 1, 2020

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center’s Kay Theatre in College Park

A new production of Massenet’s rarely produced Thaïs will be presented in The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center’s intimate Kay Theatre in College Park, January 30 and February 1, 2020. Claudia Zahn directs this new production in collaboration with scenic and lighting designer Harry Feiner. Sarah Joy Miller, a rising American soprano who made her Metropolitan Opera debut last season, sings the iconic title role. Louis Otey co-stars as Athanaël, and MDLO Young Artist Institute alumni Joseph Michael Brent, Hunter Enoch, Caroline Hewitt, Sarah Joyce Cooper, and Hayan Kim round out the cast. Music Director Louis Salemno leads the MDLO Orchestra in interpreting Massenet’s powerful score.

- Thaïs: Sarah Joy Miller
- Athanaël: Louis Otey
- Nicias: Joseph Michael Brent*
- Palémon: Hunter Enoch*±
- Albine: Allegra De Vita
La Charmeuse: Sarah Joyce Cooper*
Myrtale: Caroline Hewitt*
Crobyle: Hayan Kim*

Conductor: Louis Salemno
Stage Director: Claudia Zahn
Set & Lighting Designer: Harry Feiner
Chorus Master: Steven Gathman

* Alumnus of MDLO Young Artist Institute
± Alumnus of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

Tickets start at $25 and will be on sale soon.

Contact mdlo@marylandlyricopera.org or call (240) 427-5568 for more information.

**MDLO Young Artist Institute Spring Gala**
April 1, 2020
The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda

MDLO has devised a twist for the annual spring showcase of the rising stars of its Young Artist Institute. Rather than presenting an evening of opera excerpts, MDLO will instead present a double-bill of two comic one-act operas in a performance semi-staged by Director **Harry Silverstein** with the MDLO Orchestra led by Music Director Louis Salemno: Ravel’s *L’heure Espagnole* and Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*. Fresh off his MDLO debut as Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* last season, **Daniel Scofield** leads a cast of MDLO Young Artists.

**L’heure Espagnole**
Conception: Alexandra Razskazoff*
Torquemada: Mauricio Miranda ±
Gonzalve: Yongxi Chen*
Inigo: Michael Pitocchi*

**Gianni Schicchi**
Gianni Schicchi: Daniel Scofield
Lauretta: Hayan Him*
Rinuccio: Yongxi Chen*
Nella: Alexandra Razskazoff*
Ciesca: Melissa Mino*
Marco: Jose Sacín*
Simone: Michael Pitocchi*

* Alumnus of MDLO Young Artist Institute
± Alumnus of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

Tickets start at $25 and will be on sale soon.

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MDLO Orchestra Concert with Soloist Cecile Licad

April 22, 2020

The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda

For its second symphonic concert of the season, the mighty MDLO Orchestra is joined by renowned pianist Cecile Licad for a diverse evening of musical entertainment, conducted by MDLO Music Director Louis Salemno.

- BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15
- BARTÓK: Concerto for Orchestra
- GERSHWIN: An American in Paris

Tickets start at $25 and will be on sale soon.

Contact mdlo@marylandlyricopera.org or call (240) 427-5568 for more information.

New Production Premiere: Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro

June 10, 12, & 14, 2020

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center’s Kay Theatre in College Park

The first installment of MDLO’s brand new and fully staged Mozart/Da Ponte cycle is Le Nozze di Figaro in The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center’s intimate Kay Theatre in College Park, June 10, 12, and 14, 2020. The acclaimed Italian Ruggero Raimondi directs this new production in collaboration with scenic designer Daniel Bianco, Artistic Director of the Teatro Del La Zarzuela in Madrid, Spain, with lighting by Joan Sullivan-Genthe. Bianco, a regular collaborator of Raimondi’s, will design all three operas in the iconic Mozart/Da Ponte cycle (Don Giovanni will premiere in 2021, followed by Cosi Fan Tutte in 2022.)

Figaro boasts an all-star cast of the leading young artists of the day, many of whom will be familiar to Washington-Baltimore audiences from their time in Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. Hunter Enoch, an alumnus of the MDLO Young Artist Institute, leads the production in the title role, paired with the Susanna of Irish soprano Helen Kearns, who recently performed the role under the direction of Ruggero
Raimondi in Spain and who will be making her anticipated American debut with this production. MDLO Institute alumnus Mary Feminear returns to sing the role of the Countess Almaviva, while Count Almaviva is performed by Christian Bowers, who has recently sung a Mozart/Da Ponte cycle over three seasons at Teatru Manoel in Malta. Aleks Romano makes her MDLO debut as Cherubino, a role she has performed on the main stage at Washington National Opera. Music Director Louis Salemno conducts the MDLO Orchestra.

Figaro: Hunter Enoch *
Susanna: Helen Kearns
Count Almaviva: Christian Bowers *
Countess Almaviva: Mary Feminear *
Cherubino: Aleks Romano ±
Dr. Bartolo: Steven Condy
Marcellina: Luretta Bybee
Don Basilio: Joseph Michael Brent *
Antonio: Michael Pitocchi *
Barbarina: Melissa Mino *
Don Curzio: Mauricio Miranda ±

Conductor: Louis Salemno
Stage Director: Ruggero Raimondi
Set Designer: Daniel Bianco
Lighting Designer: Joan Sullivan-Genthe
Chorus Master: Steven Gathman

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ABOUT MARYLAND LYRIC OPERA
Maryland Lyric Opera, founded in 2014 by Brad Clark and reorganized for expansion in 2017, has produced fully-staged performances of Lucia di Lammermoor, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Roméo et Juliette, and Amahl and the Night Visitors; presented an acclaimed concert performance of La Fanciulla del West; as well as concert performances of excerpts by Mozart, Puccini, and Verdi. The 2019–20 season includes two fully-staged new opera productions, three performances of opera in concert, two orchestral concerts featuring world class soloists, and other performances featuring the stars of opera alongside MLDO’s young artists. MDLO’s flagship Young Artist Institute has shown exponential growth since its creation in 2017. Boasting a music staff led by Louis Salemno, William Stone, Husan Park, and Christopher Koelzer, the MDLO Institute provides professional experience to its Institute Artists for daily, consistent, essential training. In previous seasons, MDLO hosted a national vocal competition that drew an impressive field
of emerging artists; held master classes for young singers with opera luminaries Sherrill Milnes and Aprile Millo; and presented a variety of gala performances, recitals, and holiday programs. With the continued execution of its new strategic plan, MDLO will further expand its career-development programs for young artists, produce more fully staged productions, and grow its outreach programs to the local community.

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#MDLO1920

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