

THE
AMERICAN
OPERA
PROJECT
PRESENTS

in association with
Opera on Tap



SING ME TO THE END OF LOVE

FEBRUARY 14, 2021 • 4PM

PROGRAM

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 14, 2021 • 4PM

PROGRAM ORDER IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Music as the Message Theme Song**Drew Hemenger
Adrienne Danrich, soprano
Drew Hemenger, piano

You Can't Stop The Beat.....Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman
Adrienne Danrich, soprano
Mila Henry, piano

I'm Yours (excerpt)*Jason Mraz
Scott Tomlinson, bass

You Are So Beautiful.....Billy Preston and Bruce Fisher
Eric McKeever, baritone
Dwight Howard, arranger / piano

Have I Told You Lately That I Love You.....Van Morrison
Brandon Snook, tenor
Paul Greenwood, arranger / piano

Stand by Me.....Ben E. King
Adrienne Danrich, soprano
Paul Greenwood, arranger / piano

Communication*Nikki Giovanni
Hai-Ting Chinn, mezzo-soprano

They Can't Take That Away From Me.....George and Ira Gershwin
Patrice P. Eaton, mezzo-soprano
Dwight Howard, arranger / piano

Nourishment.....Adrienne Danrich & Dave Hall
Chabelle Williams, soprano
James Moore, guitar

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PROGRAM

SUNDAY · FEBRUARY 14, 2021 · 4PM

· CONTINUED ·

La Vie en Rose.....Edith Piaf

Alicia Hall Moran, mezzo-soprano
Surprise Guest - Jason Moran, piano

Dance Me to the End of Love/La fleur que m'avais jetée*.....Leonard Cohen/George Bizet

Scott Tomlinson, bass
Kelly Hall-Tompkins, violin

Dancing Queens**..... arr. Kamala Sankaram

Dina Rose Rivera, dancer
Kamala Sankaram, soprano
Adrienne Danrich, soprano

Je vole.....Louane

Hai-Ting Chinn, mezzo-soprano
Mila Henry, piano

Ode to Joy**.....arr.Kamala Sankaram

Adrienne Danrich, soprano
Music as the Message Choir

No acabarán mis flores (You will not end my blooming)*.....Chief Nezahualcoyotl

Angelica Lara, actor

You Are The Light of the World.....Benjamin Kornelis

Adrienne Danrich, soprano
Music as the Message Choir
Brian Shankar Adler, percussion

* Spoken word

**Commissioned by The American Opera Project for Music as the Message



TEXT AND LYRICS

YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT

by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

You can't stop an avalanche
As it races down the hill
You can try to stop the seasons, girl
But you know you never will
And you can try to stop my dancin' feet
But I just cannot stand still

'Cause the world keeps spinnin'
Round and 'round
And my heart's keeping time
To the speed of sound
I was lost 'til I heard the drums
Then I found my way
'Cause you can't stop the beat

Ever since this whole world began
A woman found out if she shook it
She could shake up a man
And so I'm gonna shake and shimmy it
The best that I can today
'Cause you can't stop the motion of the ocean
Or the sun in the sky
You can wonder if you wanna, but I never ask why
And if you try to hold me down I'm gonna spit in your eye and say
That you can't stop the beat!

You can't stop the river as it rushes out to sea
You can try to stop the hands of time, but you know it just can't be!
And if they try to stop us, Seaweed, I'll call the N double A.C.P.
'Cause the world keeps spinnin' round and round
And my heart's keepin' time to the speed of sound
I was lost 'til I heard the drums, then I found my way
'Cause you can't stop the beat!

Ever since we first saw the light
A man and woman liked to shake it on a Saturday night
And so we're gonna shake and shimmy it and have some fun today!
'Cause you can't stop the motion of the ocean or the rain from above
You can try to stop the paradise we're dreamin' of
But you cannot stop the rhythm of two hearts in love to stay!
'Cause you can't stop the beat! Yeah!

I'M YOURS (EXCERPT)

by Jason Mraz

Well, open up your mind and see like me
Open up your plans and, damn, you're free
And look into your heart, and you'll find love,
love, love, love
Listen to the music of the moment, people
dance and sing
We're just one big family
And it's our God-forsaken right to be loved,
loved, loved, loved, loved

YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL

by Billy Preston and Bruce Fisher

You are so beautiful
To me
You are so beautiful
To me
Can't you see
You're everything I hoped for
You're everything I need
You are so beautiful
To me
You are so beautiful
To me
You are so beautiful
To me
Can't you see
You're everything I hoped for
You're everything I need
You are so beautiful
To me
You are so beautiful
To me
You are so beautiful
To me



TEXT AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY THAT I LOVE YOU

by Van Morrison

Have I told you lately that I love you
Have I told you there's no one else above you
Fill my heart with gladness
Take away all my sadness
Ease my troubles, that's what you do
For the morning sun in all its glory
Greets the day with hope and comfort, too
You fill my life with laughter
And somehow, you make it better
Ease my troubles, that's what you do
There's a love that's divine
And it's yours and it's mine
Like the sun
And at the end of the day
We should give thanks and pray
To the one, to the one
Have I told you lately that I love you
Have I told you there's no one else above you
Fill my heart with gladness
Take away all my sadness
Ease my troubles, that's what you do
For the morning sun in all its glory
Greets the day with hope and comfort, too
You fill my life with laughter
And somehow, you make it better
Ease my troubles, that's what you do
There's a love that's divine
And it's yours and it's mine
Like the sun
And at the end of the day
We should give thanks and pray
To the one, to the one
And have I told you lately that I love you
Have I told you there's no one else above you
You fill my heart with gladness
Take away all my sadness
Ease my troubles, that's what you do
Take away all my sadness, fill my life with gladness
Ease my troubles, that's what you do.

STAND BY ME

by Ben E. King

When the night has come
And the land is dark
And the moon is the only light we see
Oh I won't be afraid
No, I won't be afraid
Just as long as you stand, stand by me
So darling, darling
Stand by me, stand by me
Oh stand, stand by me
Stand by me

If the sky that we look upon
Should tumble and fall
And the mountains should crumble into the sea
I won't cry, I won't cry
No, I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand, stand by me
So darling, darling
Stand by me, stand by me
Oh stand, stand by me
Stand by me
Darling,
Stand by me, stand by me
Oh stand, stand by me, stand by me
Whenever you're in trouble won't you stand by me
Stand by me, oh stand, Stand by me...

COMMUNICATION

by Nikki Giovanni

if music is the universal language just think of
me as one whole note

if science has the most perfect language
picture me as MC squared

since mathematics can speak to the infinite
imagine me as 1 to the first power

what I mean is
one day I'm gonna grab your love
and you'll be
Satisfied



TEXT AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME

by George and Ira Gershwin

The way you wear your hat
The way you sip your tea
The memory of all that
No, no they can't take that away from me
The way your smile just beams
The way you sing off key
The way you haunt my dreams
No, no they can't take that away from me
We may never never meet again,
on the bumpy road to love
Still I'll always, always keep the memory of
The way you hold your knife
The way we danced 'til three
The way you've changed my life
No, no they can't take that away from me
No, they can't take that away from me

LA VIE EN ROSE

by Edith Piaf

Hold me close and hold me fast
The magic spell you cast
This is "La vie en rose"
When you kiss me, heaven sighs
And though I close my eyes
I see "La vie en rose"

When you press me to your heart
I'm in a world apart
A world where roses bloom
And when you speak, angels sing from above
Everyday words seem to turn into love songs
Give your heart and soul to me
And life will always be "La vie en rose"

His eyes make me look down
His laugh loses itself on his mouth
Here is the untouched portrait of the man to whom I
belong

Hold me close and hold me fast
The magic spell you cast
This is "La vie en rose"
When you kiss me, heaven sighs
And though I close my eyes
I see "La vie en rose"

Mm...And when you speak, angels sing from above
Everyday words seem to turn into love songs
Give your heart and soul to me
And life will always be
"La vie en rose"

NOURISHMENT

by Adrienne Danrich and Dave Hall

Love
Ah love you are the reason that I live
I could go without water
Food
Wine
Or even Joy
Pure love is the essence of life.
Take away all of the elements of this earth
And leave only, leave only love x2
That will be (x3) a great day

DANCE ME TO THE END OF LOVE

by Leonard Cohen

Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin
Dance me through the panic till I'm gathered safely in
Lift me like an olive branch and be my homeward dove
Dance me to the end of love
Oh, let me see your beauty when the witnesses are gone
Let me feel you moving like they do in Babylon
Show me slowly what I only know the limits of
Dance me to the end of love
Dance me to the wedding now, dance me on and on
Dance me very tenderly and dance me very long
We're both of us beneath our love, we're both of us above
Dance me to the end of love
Dance me to the children who are asking to be born
Dance me through the curtains that our kisses have outworn
Raise a tent of shelter now, though every thread is torn
Dance me to the end of love
Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin
Dance me through the panic till I'm gathered safely in
Touch me with your naked hand or touch me with your glove
Dance me to the end of love
Dance me to the end of love



TEXT AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

DANCING QUEENS

by Kamala Sankaram

Commissioned by The American Opera Project

Hellfire rages in my heart.
Death and destruction
Death and destruction flame in my soul.
He must feel
The awful pain of death.
The awful pain of death
Or my daughter
You'll no longer be.

Oh no!
No more!
Oh No!
Oh No!

My heart.
His throat.
Your knife...Disowned forever.
Lost forever
Destroyed forever
Disowned forever
Lost forever.
Destroyed forever.
Forever. Forever.
Oh no!
If you don't do what I say,
You'll hear my cry!
My cry!

JE VOLE

by Louane

My dear parents, I'm leaving
I love you, but I'm leaving.
You won't have a child anymore
Tonight
I am not fleeing, I'm flying
Understand well, I'm flying
Without smoke, without alcohol
I fly, I fly

She was watching me yesterday,
Concerned, troubled, my mother
Like she felt it
In fact she doubted
Heard.

I said that I was well
Everything seemed serene
She did nothing
And my helpless father
Smiled

Do not turn around
Distance yourself a bit more
There is the station, another station
And finally the Atlantic

My dear parents, I'm leaving
I love you, but I'm leaving
You won't have a child anymore
Tonight
I am not fleeing, I'm flying
Understand well, I'm flying
Without smoke, without alcohol
I fly, I fly

I ask myself on my path
If my parents suspect
That my tears cast
My promises and the desire to move forward

Only believing in my life
All that is promised
Why, where, and how
In this train so far away
Each instant

It's bizarre, this cage
That's blocking my chest
I can't breathe anymore
It keeps me from singing
My dear parents, I'm leaving
I love you, but I'm leaving
You won't have a child anymore
Tonight
I am not fleeing, I'm flying
Understand well, I'm flying
Without smoke, without alcohol
I fly, I fly
Lalalalalala
Lalalalalala
Lalalalalala
I fly
I fly



TEXT AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

ODE TO JOY

arr. by Kamala Sankaram

Commissioned by The American Opera Project

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

NO ACABARÁN MIS FLORES (YOU WILL NOT END MY BLOOMING)

by Chief Nezahualcoyotl

You will not cease my song
I, the voice, will rise
will give, will scatter
even when the flowers
dry and go yellow
they will be taken there
inside the house
of the great bird with golden wings // *this means heaven
for us*

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

by Benjamin Kornelis

You are the light of the world x3
You are the light,
so shine, shine, shine where you are
You are the light of the world x2
You are a city on a hill x3
You are a city,
so shine, shine, shine where you are
You are a city on a hill x2
You are a candle in the dark x2
You are a star in the night x3
so shine, shine, shine where you are
You are a star in the night x2
You are the light of the world x3
You are the light, so shine, shine, shine where you are
You are the light of the world x5

These compositions and arrangements were
commissioned by The American Opera Project
for Music as the Message:

MUSIC AS THE MESSAGE THEME SONG
DANCING QUEENS
ODE TO JOY



ARTISTS

CREATORS



Adrienne Danrich
Creator, Host,
& Executive Producer



Kimille Howard
Series Producer



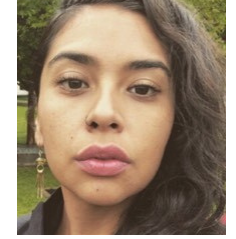
Alicia Hall Moran
Mezzo-soprano



Dina Rose Rivera
Dancer /
Choreographer



Kamala Sankaram
Soprano



Angelica Lara
Actor

MAM CHOIR



Chabelle Williams
Soprano



Hai-Ting Chinn
Mezzo-Soprano



Patrice P. Eaton
Mezzo-Soprano



Brandon Snook
Tenor



Eric McKeever
Baritone



Scott Tomlinson
Bass

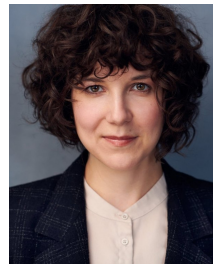
INSTRUMENTALISTS



Brian Shankar Adler
Percussion



Paul Greenwood
Arranger / Piano



Mila Henry
Piano



Dwight Howard
Arranger / Piano



James Moore
Guitar



Kelly Hall-Tompkins
Violin

CREATIVE TEAM

Adrienne Danrich, Creator, Host, & Executive Producer
Kimille Howard, Series Producer
Jascha Narveson, Audio & Video Engineer
Chris Comfort, Director, Videographer, Editor
Matt Gray, Co-Director
Mila Henry, Music Director
Kamala Sankaram, Commissioned Composer
Drew Hemenger, Composer of MaM Original Theme Song

Intuitive Production Management (IPM):

Robert Signom III, Director of Production
Scott H. Schneider, Production Manager
Marcie Friedman, Stage Manager
Rome Brown, Video Director
Monica Cook, Tech Support Production Assistant



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Founded in 1988, The American Opera Project (AOP) has been at the forefront of contemporary opera for over 30 years. The Brooklyn-based producing organization commissions, develops and produces music-theatre projects, trains emerging composers and librettists, and creates personal connections within its community. Its works have received critical acclaim at opera companies and venues around the world, establishing a new musical canon that recognizes the operatic story in every life. AOP further expands the operatic field through its training programs The NYU Opera Lab, in partnership with NYU and for students and alumni in The NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, and Composers & the Voice, AOP's in-house, two-year fellowship program for emerging composers and librettists.

More information can be found at www.aopopera.org



Opera on Tap (OOT) was born in 2005 at Freddy's Bar and Backroom in Brooklyn and incorporated in 2007 to promote opera as a viable, living and progressive art form and to support the developing artists who continue to keep the art form alive. What began as a small monthly gathering of ambitious, classically trained singers looking for more performance opportunities, has grown into a producing organization that has gained a loyal audience base and national recognition as an innovative force on the classical music scene. Through its Chapter program, which now has over twenty vibrant national (and international!) chapters, OOT has created a large network of performers, creators, and supporters. Our mission is to expose new audiences to opera and classical music by taking opera and classical music out of the concert hall and performing it in alternative venues, to aid young performers in their development by giving them the opportunity to perform and to promote and support them through our organization and to help promote new classical works of contemporary classical and operatic composers.

More information can be found at www.operaontap.org



UnLocal is a community-centered nonprofit organization that provides direct immigration legal representation, community education, outreach, and advocacy for New York's undocumented immigrant communities. UnLocal surveys the needs of immigrants and tailors its programming to identify and fill specific gaps in services. Through legal representation, education, outreach, and advocacy, UnLocal aims to address the fundamental injustices and structural inequities that disproportionately impact immigrant communities. For this special February 14th event, AOP is giving 50% of all donations raised to UnLocal.

More information can be found at www.unlocal.org

Past episodes of **Music as the Message** are available for viewing. To watch, or for more information, visit: <https://www.aopopera.org/music-message>

The American Opera Project's current season is made possible by generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Amphion Foundation, The BMI Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Music as the Message receives specific support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and from the generosity of these individuals:

Gezelle Harris
Tony Corey
Marilyn Portune
Amy Hutchison
Cyril Blosser
Ellen Manzo
Emily Farrell
Phyllis Chinn
Michele Freeman
Scott Levine
Carol Walker
Kearstin Brown
Kristin Marting
Dustin Simpson

Laura Portune Cordell
Thomas Gibson
Astrid Young
Charles Jarden
Rosemary Brunson
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Sadiyah Babatunde
Lorenzo De Los Angeles
Brynne Mosteller
Drew Hemenger
Geoffrey Burleson

Anna Rabinowitz
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Monica Moore
Susan Werbe
Jennifer Davison
Geoffrey Trotier
Worth Kramer
Mary Ploeser
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