

GUERRILLA OPERA AND
THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM PRESENT

BETH WIEMANN'S

I GIVE YOU MY HOME

A WORLD PREMIERE CHAMBER OPERA

*BASED ON THE LIFE OF ACTIVIST
ROSE STANDISH NICHOLS*

FRIDAY, JUNE 3 | 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 | 4:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 | 4:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM





NICHOLS
HOUSE
MUSEUM

A NOTE FROM THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

Welcome to the Nichols House Museum! We appreciate your help in maintaining safety and this historic museum space by following these guidelines:

- Please do not touch or lean on the museum collection including walls, chairs, and other furniture. Feel free to use the handrail in the stairwell.
- Please follow the instructions of museum and/or opera staff in the spaces. You are welcome to visit the rest of the museum on a future [guided tour](#).
- Please keep flash off for any photos and keep all food and drink outside or in the lobby.
- Please wear your mask over your nose and mouth while inside the museum.

ABOUT ROSE & THE MUSEUM

Rose Standish Nichols (1872–1960) lived at 55 Mount Vernon Street from age 13–88. She became a social reformer, hosting weekly discussions over tea in the parlor and joining or founding suffrage and peace movement organizations. As a garden designer, she planned over 70 large scale gardens, wrote 3 books on European landscape design and published dozens of articles. Evidence of her other pursuits are visible in the house through hand carved furniture, elaborate embroidery, and tastefully designed rooms.

The Nichols House Museum preserves and interprets the home of Rose and her family. In 1885, her parents, Dr. Arthur Nichols and Elizabeth Nichols purchased this 1804 townhouse on Beacon Hill. The house was where their three daughters matured into designers, writers, and social activists. In 1930, Rose inherited the property and began laying the plans for its establishment as a museum. Soon after her death in 1960, the Nichols House Museum opened to the public. Today, the Nichols family home and its original art and furnishings provide a glimpse into life on historic Beacon Hill from the mid-19th to mid-20th century. The Museum welcomes virtual and in-person visitors for tours, programs, and special events.



COMPANY HISTORY

Guerilla Opera is one of Boston's most thrilling young companies creating brave new works.

Founded in 2007, the ensemble has accumulated a repertoire of 40 new works, which continues to grow, by the most exciting composers of our generation. In daring performances, they have garnered a national reputation for innovative contemporary opera, with The Boston Globe raving that "radical exploration remains the cornerstone of everything it does."

This artist-led ensemble wields a mission to commission and reenvision new experimental works that are custom-tailored to their artists; champion cutting-edge music; immerse audiences in profound experiences; be a model for creative authenticity and inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA); and inspire, influence and amplify emerging generations of artists.

Their vision is to generate a unique body of work that ferociously confronts the status quo, eschews antiquated and stereotypical traditions of the art form of opera, examines stories through culturally focused and contemporary lenses, and brings new music to new audiences.

Guerilla Opera is a BIPOC organization, Boston's only experimental chamber opera company, and one of only a few in the world with a mission to exclusively present only new works. The Boston Musical Intelligencer wrote that GO is "one of the most ambitious groups of Boston's lively new music scene".

Their works investigate and explore what is "operatic," which allows them to explore, bend and break traditional and stereotypical notions we inherit with euro-centric opera. Opera News writes: "Guerilla Opera redefines the opera experience."

STAFF

Aliana de la Guardia

Artistic Director & Co-Founder

Sarah Schneider

Artistic Projects and Production Manager

Keithlyn B Parkman

Associate Producer

Alexis Peart

Development & Marketing Coordinator

Magdalyn Chauby

Artistic Associate

Julia Noulín-Mérat

Artistic Advisor

Mike Williams

Artistic Advisor & Co-Founder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nathan Troup

President

Aliana de la Guardia

Treasurer

Mike Williams

Clerk

Dana Grider

Director

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Bob Lord

CEO, PARMA Recordings

Nicholas Martinez

Multi-Instrumentalist, Vocalist, & Accessibility

Erin Padilla

Director of Creative Haverhill & Cogswell ArtSpace

I GIVE YOU MY HOME

MONODRAMA FOR SOPRANO, SAXOPHONE, PERCUSSION,
AND PRE-RECORDED SOUND

BETH WIEMANN
Music, Libretto, & Sound Design

CARA CONSILVIO
Stage Direction

PERFORMING ENSEMBLE

ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA.....Rose
ALEXA CADETE.....Rose's Mother
MIKE WILLIAMS.....percussion
PHILIPP STÄUDLIN.....saxophone

PRODUCTION

BETH WIEMANN.....Composer/Librettist/Electronic Sound Design
CARA CONSILVIO.....Stage Director
JOLIE FRAZER-MADGE.....Stage Manager
CAROLINE SEELEY.....Costume Designer
SERGIO PERDIGUER.....Scenic Designer
JEFFREY MEANS.....Sound Engineer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I Give You My Home is supported by an Opera Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors award from OPERA America, a Live Arts Boston grant award from The Boston Foundation and their partners the Barr Foundation and Dunamis Boston, and a CIP Projects grant award from Mass Cultural Council. The development of the opera has been in partnership with the University of Maine, Orono with assistance from the Cultural Affairs Fund, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, the UMaine Arts Initiative, and the Hamm Campus Fund, The Switchboard artist residency program in Haverhill, MA, the Nichols House Museum, Saint-Gaudens National Park, the Path of Life Sculpture Garden and Hedge Maze, and Naulakha (the Rudyard Kipling House) and Scott Farm Orchard.

Guerilla Opera would like to thank Linda Marshall and Barbara Callahan from the Nichols House Museum, Vicky Pittman from the Colonial Performing Arts Center, Kerstin Burlingame from the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, Craig and Nicki Carmody from Great River Outfitters, Michele Powers from the The Landmark Trust USA, Simon Renault from the Scott Farm Orchard, Rebecca Shannon Butler, and Theatre KAPOW.

Beth Wiemann would also like to thank the Visby International Centre for Composers, the Hambidge Arts Center and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, where she worked on the first draft of *I Give You My Home*.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Guerilla Opera and the Nichols House Museum would like to recognize that it is located on original homelands of the Mashpee Wampanoag, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Massachusetts tribal nations. We acknowledge the truth of violence to these Peoples perpetrated in the name of this country. We acknowledge the truth of the enslavement of African people and the violence perpetrated to them in the name of this country.

The land we each stand on, wherever we are, holds deep history. It holds success, pain, connection, partnership, life, death, love, abuse, growth, genocide, discovery, community, and violence. The history of the space that we occupy has meant different things to different people who have occupied that same space throughout its history. By acknowledging the land and all that it holds, we will learn and care more deeply about the places we occupy and the people who are our neighbors.

ABOUT THE OPERA

Welcome to the world premiere of Beth Wiemann's *I Give You My Home*. *I Give You My Home* is a site-specific chamber opera inspired by Rose Standish Nichols and the Nichols House Museum in Boston and produced by Guerilla Opera in collaboration with the Nichols House Museum. This world premiere opera paints a portrait of Rose, a real-life professional Bostonian woman, and highlights her efforts to affect change through activism in the Women's Peace Movement, Women's Suffrage, and in her professional work as a landscape architect. The opera takes place inside the home where she lived most of her life, the present-day Nichols House Museum.

Scene 1

Rose welcomes guests to her Sunday "salon," makes a special "announcement," and describes the house and the art in it for new guests.

Scene 2

Rose recalls her childhood education in New England and Paris and how formative those experiences were.

Scene 3

Rose reflects on her artistic journey. Inspired by her "Uncle Gus" (Augustus Saint-Gaudens), she explores the artistic outlets that lead her to garden and landscape design.

Scene 4

Rose muses on the importance of order and how designing a garden is like designing a life.

Scene 5

Rose recalls her years in peace and suffrage activism, and women's roles in the war.

Scene 6

Rose makes her announcement to the guests: she will make her house a museum that is open to people always.

A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

I first went to the Nichols House Museum about 5 years ago mainly out of curiosity, as it wasn't a familiar pretend-you're-a-tourist place in Boston for me. Having taken the tour, and then followed up with reading about Rose Standish Nichols online, I became convinced that her story would make a good monodrama, particularly if it could be set in her actual home on Beacon Hill. The fact that Guerilla Opera also saw this possibility gave me the amazing opportunity to write the work you'll hear today.

One of the things that impressed me about Rose Nichols is that, despite being hemmed in by expectations coming from living during a very specific historical period, she went after things with great passion and intent – which made writing music for her a lot of fun. She was someone that wanted to experience the whole world, while also having the chance to have her own spotlight in her home, her family, and in her weekly salons. She was a big character, with staying power.

I'd like to thank Linda Marshall, Barbara Callahan, and Laura Cunningham of the Nichols House Museum for their help with finding writings about Rose along with her family letters. I especially want to thank Aliana De La Guardia for taking this piece on for Guerilla Opera and for herself.

– Beth Wiemann

MEET THE ARTISTS

BETH WIEMANN

Composer & Librettist

Beth Wiemann was raised in Burlington, Vermont, studied composition and clarinet at Oberlin College, and received her PhD in theory and composition from Princeton University. Her works have been performed in New York, Boston, Houston, San Francisco, Washington DC, the Dartington Festival (UK), the "Spring in Havana 2000" Festival (Cuba), and elsewhere by the ensembles Continuum, Parnassus, Earplay, ALEA III, singers Paul Hillier, Susan Narucki, DiAnna Fortunato and others. Her compositions have won awards from the Opera Vista Chamber Opera Competition, the Orvis Foundation, Copland House, the Colorado New Music Festival, American Women Composers, and Marimolin as well as various arts councils. A founding member of Griffin Music Ensemble, a contemporary music group in Boston, she premiered many clarinet works and conducted composer-in-the-schools workshops in the Boston and Worcester public schools. A CD of Wiemann's music, *Why Performers Wear Black*, was released on Albany Records in 2004. Songs of hers appear currently on the Capstone, Innova and Americus record labels. (bethwiemann.com)

CARA CONSILVIO

Stage and Film Director

Cara Consilvio is a director and producer of opera, theater, and film. Recent directing credits include *Il Trovatore* for Opera in the Heights, *Scalia/Ginsburg* for Chautauqua Opera and the world premiere of *Our Trudy* for the Ad Astra Music Festival. In the Spring of 2021, she directed the chamber opera season at Grand Rapids Opera, which included *Penny*, an opera film, and *Second Nature*. In January of 2021, Cara directed and edited *Bernadette's Cozy Book Nook*; a world premiere opera film for Fort Worth Opera. In 2020, Cara directed *Scalia/Ginsburg* for Opera Carolina and Opera Grand Rapids, and the world premieres of *The Leader* and *Kassandra* for Opera in the Heights. Other stage directing engagements include new productions of Philip Glass's; *Hydrogen Jukebox* at Chautauqua Opera, *An American Dream* at Anchorage Opera, *The Threepenny Opera* for Syracuse Opera, *Suor Angelica* and *Glory Denied* at Tri-Cities Opera, and *The Elixir of Love* for Piedmont Opera. Cara is a co-founder of Hup! Productions and is currently in post-production on her feature film directing debut, a feature documentary called *For the Love of Friends*, which will premiere on the film festival circuit in 2022.

ALIANA DE LA GUARDIA

Artistic Director and Soprano (Rose)

Aliana de la Guardia is a multifaceted Cuban-American artist and entrepreneur. She is an ensemble member, co-founder and Artistic Director of Guerilla Opera, with which she has produced and performed in many new operas, oversees a virtual performance series, professional development programs for artists, and community outreach.

As an arts leader she was selected to participate in the 2022 Nonprofit Learning Institute (Philanthropy MA) and CCI Changemakers (ECCF), 2020 Mentorship for Women in Opera (OPERA America) and Double Edge Theatre Mentorship, received a Public Art Learning Fund Grant award (NEFA), and is a member of OPERA America's Membership council.

As a new music and operatic soprano, she has enjoyed collaborations with Beth Morrison Projects, Center for Contemporary Opera, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston New Music Festival, Dinosaur Annex, Enigma Chamber Opera, Ludovico Ensemble, Monadnock Music, New Gallery Concert Series, Transient Canvas, Winsor Music, and can be heard on Navona and Ravello Records, BMOP Sound and independent labels. She has additionally collaborated on genre-bending works with Mountain Time Arts and Atlas UNLIMITED, and can be seen on ABC's "Body of Proof."

She is an active voice teacher in Haverhill, MA, was treasurer of the NATS Granite State chapter (2019-2022), has been a guest artist/lecturer at Harvard University, Lawrence Conservatory, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Universities of Maine and Memphis, and Regional Dance Development Initiative (NEFA), with speaking engagements at Washington National Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Singers Resource, and Classical Singer and National Opera Association conventions. (alianadelaguardia.com)

ALEXA CADETE

Actor (Rose's Mother)

Alexa is a Boston based actor and is thrilled to be working with Guerilla Opera on their production of Beth Wiemann's "I Give You My Home." Favorite credits include Doubt, A Parable (Sister Aloysius), One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest (Nurse Ratched) and Hurly Burly (Donna). Alexa has a degree in Theatre from Green Mountain College, she has trained at the Dorset Theatre Festival Conservatory, and she recently completed an apprenticeship with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. (alexacadete.com)

MIKE WILLIAMS

Artistic Advisor and Percussion

Hailed by The Boston Globe as "one of the city's best percussionists," Mike Williams has performed throughout North America and Europe and is a regular performer in Boston. An advocate for contemporary music, he is a founding member of Guerilla Opera and served as its artistic director for eleven seasons. Williams has worked with many of the leading composers of our time including Pierluigi Billone, Philippe Leroux, Salvatore Sciarrino, Gunther Schuller, Roger Reynolds and Michael Finnissy, and he has been involved in numerous recordings on labels such as Cantaloupe, BMOP/sound, Albany, and Northwest Classics. He was a fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center and has performed at festivals including the Festival de Mexico, Gaudeamus Music Week, Festival Internacional Cervantino, Monadnock Music, New Hampshire Music Festival, and SICPP at New England Conservatory. Williams studied at Boston Conservatory, winning top prize in the concerto competition, and the Amsterdam Conservatory during which time he regularly performed with the Netherlands Radio Chamber Orchestra under Peter Eötvös. Williams is on the music theory faculty at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

PHILIPP STÄUDLIN

Saxophone

Philipp Stäudlin is an award-winning virtuoso saxophonist who has performed hundreds of concerts throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. His characteristic tonal qualities, deep sense of phrasing, and superb technical skills make him one of the most unique voices in today's classical saxophone world.

A native of Friedrichshafen, Germany, Stäudlin has appeared as a soloist with the Sinfonieorchester Basel, Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), Sound Icon ensemble, White Rabbit Ensemble (former ensemble-in-residence at Harvard University), Niederrheinische Sinfoniker, Callithumpian Consort, Bielefelder Philharmoniker, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, Tufts University Orchestra, Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Providence Singers. He has also performed with the Harvard Group for New Music, EQ ensemble, ECCE ensemble, Talea Ensemble, Steamboat Switzerland, Dinosaur Annex, Ensemble White Rabbit, Ludovico Ensemble, IGNM Basel, Alea III, Back Bay Chorale, and many others.

A graduate of Musikhochschule Basel, Stäudlin received a Soloist Diploma, having studied with Marcus Weiss and Iwan Roth. He was awarded a full scholarship two years in a row from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to study with Kenneth Radnofsky at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, where he received an Artist Diploma as well as the Victor Rosenbaum Medal.

SERGIO PERDIGUER

Scenic Designer

Sergio Perdiguer is an architect, artist, and set designer. He earned a BA and a Master in Architecture from the University of Zaragoza, with academic exchange programs in Karlsruhe (Germany) and Rhode Island. His international profile has pushed him to do research and work on city+art in Tehran, Shanghai, Ahmedabad and Mexico City. His research 'Kunst und Stadt' ("City and Art") speaks of his interest in cities and spaces dedicated to art. His practice is in between video-installation, set design, and architectural interventions.



INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING GUERRILLA OPERA?

Our donors are representatives of a vital community who support creators of new works and who love the process of bringing vivid and intimate new operas to life. Make a gift today to make a huge impact!

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

BECOME A PATREON MEMBER

Join our Patreon for access to exclusive Guerilla Opera content, early access to our online tickets and events, and more! Your monthly contribution is vital to the continuation of Guerilla Opera.

REVOLUTIONARY

\$7.50

PER MONTH

WHAT YOU GET:

- Patron-Only Posts and Video Updates
- Patron-Only giveaways (tix and merch)
- Patron-Only Live Streams
- Patron-Only Invites to Live and Virtual Gatherings
- Patron-Only Artist Hangouts via Zoom (after 45 patrons)
- Patron-Only Invites to Podcast Interviews (after 50 patrons)
- Early Access to the Guerilla Opera Podcast (after 50 patrons)
- Early Access + Discounts to The Guerilla Underground Festival Passes (beginning in 2023)
- Early Access + Discounts to Live Shows Ticketed through the Guerilla Box Office
- Discounts to Guerilla Professional Development Programs and Initiatives
- Discounts on Guerilla Shop Merchandise

[JOIN OUR PATREON](#)



NICHOLS
HOUSE
MUSEUM

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM?

Members and donors are the heart of our organization, providing critical support for the ongoing programming and preservation initiatives at the Nichols House Museum. Help us to preserve this Beacon Hill legacy by becoming a member today.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

All memberships include these Core Benefits:

- Advance notification and discounted tickets to many programs and events
- Invitations to exclusive member events
- 15% off in the Museum gift shop

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual - \$45

- Unlimited free admission for one adult

Family - \$75

- Unlimited free admission for two adults and any accompanying children under 18

Friend - \$125

- Unlimited free admission for four adults and any accompanying children under 18
- **North American Reciprocal Membership (NARM)** benefits such as free admission and shop discounts at over 1,000 institutions across North America

Sponsor - \$300

- Unlimited free admission for six adults and any accompanying children under 18
- **North American Reciprocal Membership (NARM)** benefits such as free admission and shop discounts at over 1,000 institutions across North America

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA

@nicholshousemuseum



nicholshousemuseum.org

GUERRILLA OPERA SOCIAL MEDIA

@guerillaopera



guerillaopera.org