

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a bottle of sparkling wine. The person is wearing a white dress shirt and checkered trousers. They are wearing a beaded bracelet on their left wrist and a watch on their right wrist. The bottle has a white label with the word 'L' visible. The background is a red and white checkered tablecloth.

All Fresco

ERIC FERRING

The
Florentine
Opera

Al Fresco: Eric Ferring

Thursday, August 17, 2023

6:30 PM Cocktail Hour, 7:30 PM Performance

Hosted at the River Hills Home of
Donna & Donald Baumgartner

Run Time: 75 minutes

Eric Ferring.....Tenor

Michael Banwarth.....Piano

This evening's program will feature songs by composers from Tchaikovsky and Delibes to Jake Heggie and Florence Price.

Songs will be announced from the stage.

About Al Fresco

The Al Fresco summer series are some of the best events located in some of the most beautiful and intimate gardens around Southeastern Wisconsin that feature some of opera's top talents.

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The
Florentine
Opera

GALA

WITH A
Twist

November 10, 2023
BRADLEY SYMPHONY CENTER

Cocktails at 5:30pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

Performance with Dessert

Complimentary Valet Parking

Sponsorship opportunities available.

Contact Gail Valenti, Director of Development

gvalenti@florentineopera.org

414-291-5700 x225

Table (\$5000) and individual seats (\$500/person) are available
by calling David Kortes

414-291-5700 x231 or via email at rsvp@florentineopera.org



Eric Ferring

Tenor Eric Ferring, a native of Dubuque, Iowa, graduated magna cum laude from **Drake University** with his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and **The Boston Conservatory** with his Master of Music in Opera Performance. He is a graduate of the **Lyric**

Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center and the **Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program**, a 2022 **George London Foundation** Award Winner, and the Top Prize Winner of the 2022 **Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition**.

Eric Ferring's 2022-23 engagements bring several exciting house and role debuts. He makes his first appearance at the **Opéra national de Paris**, as Lurcanio in Robert Carsen's new production of *Ariodante*, conducted by Harry Bricket. He also makes his company debut at **Opéra national du Rhin**, singing Tamino in a new production of *Die Zauberflöte*, and returns to **Opéra de Rouen** as Lysander in Carsen's iconic production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, conducted by Music Director Ben Glassberg. Ferring is also featured in recital at his alma mater **Drake University**, appearing as the featured artist for its distinguished *Jordan Concert Series*. The 2023-24 season will feature Eric's house debut with *Opéra de Lille* as Don Ottavio, before making his return to **Opéra de Rouen** in the same role.

His 2021-2022 season included appearances as Beppe in the **Lyric Opera of Chicago's** filmed production of *Pagliacci*, his anticipated **Metropolitan Opera** debut singing Pong in *Turandot*, and further performances at the Met as Tamino in a holiday performance of *The Magic Flute*, Arturo in a new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and a Royal Herald in *Don Carlos*. In the summer of 2022, he recorded an album entitled *No Choice but Love* with **Lexicon Classics**, performed Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with **Spoletto Festival USA**, and made his debut at **Santa Fe Opera**, singing Fenton in Sir David McVicar's new production of *Falstaff*.

ericferring.com

Mr. Ferring's COVID-19 impacted 2020-2021 season began with his debut as Walther in *Tannhäuser* with **Opéra de Rouen**, a fully-rehearsed production with performances unfortunately cancelled. He was also slated to make a repeat appearance with the **Jacksonville Symphony** as the tenor soloist for Handel's *Messiah* (performed), join **Florentine Opera** in recital (performed), and make his debut with **North Carolina Opera** as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (cancelled). Other originally scheduled engagements included his return to **Pittsburgh Opera** as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (cancelled), and covering the roles of Tamino and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* at the **Metropolitan Opera** (cancelled).

Previous notable engagements include his principal role debut at **Lyric Opera of Chicago** as Lurcanio in *Ariodante*, for which the **Chicago Tribune** declared him "the most noteworthy solo breakthrough of the production", and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* at the **Verbier Festival**. With **Pittsburgh Opera**, he appeared as The Protagonist in the world premiere of the one-man opera *Ashes & Snow* in collaboration with **American Opera Projects**, bowed as Nemorino in a student matinee performance of *L'elisir d'amore*, and sang Ricky in *The Long Walk* and Señor Alcalde in the world premiere of *The Summer King*.

Eric Ferring was an Apprentice Singer at **Santa Fe Opera**, where he was awarded the 2017 **Richard Tucker Memorial Scholarship**. He also participated in the **Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis'** Gerdine Young Artist Program, receiving a career award from the **Richard Gaddes Fund for Young Artists**, and was a Studio Artist at **Wolf Trap Opera**.



Michael Banwarth

Pianist and vocal coach Michael Banwarth is currently in his first season as ensemble pianist for the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago. He has held vocal piano and opera coaching fellowships at numerous festivals including Music Academy, the Bay View Music Festival, and the Atlantic Music Festival. A lover of the opera repertoire, Michael also enjoys opportunities to explore crossover, cabaret, and musical theater styles, and has a particular passion for the art song and vocal chamber music literature. Michael graduated with a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the New England Conservatory where he studied under Cameron Stowe and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein. At NEC he served as Teaching Assistant for the Song Lab initiative and appeared frequently in the Liederabend recital series and with the NEC Opera Department. He was a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship and the Gunther Schuller medal, awarded to a distinguished graduate student. Michael holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Iowa State University where he studied with Mei-Hsuan Huang.

SEASON AT A GLANCE



Spotlight on Marie-Eve Munger

Thursday, September 21, 2023

5:30pm

The Atrium



Elixir of Love

Friday, October 13, 2023, 7:30pm

Sunday, October 15, 2023, 2:30pm

Uihlien Hall, MPAC



Caroling at the Fireplace

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

7:30pm

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

SEASON AT A GLANCE



Carols and Classics

Thursday, December 14, 2023

7:30pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Songbird

Friday, February 16, 2024, 7:30pm

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 2:30pm

Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall, MPAC



Wanderlust

Thursday, March 21, 7:30pm

Friday, March 22, 7:30pm

Lueders Opera Center

SEASON AT A GLANCE



Spotlight on Chaz'men Williams-Ali

Thursday, March 28, 2024

5:30pm

Milwaukee County Historical Society



Bronzeville Bohème

Friday, April 19, 2024, 7:30pm

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 2:30pm

Uihlien Hall, MPAC



María de Buenos Aires

Friday, May 17, 2024, 7:30pm

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30pm

Turner Hall Ballroom