

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER AMERICA

Media Contact:

Patricia Kiernan Johnson

212.796.8628 (office) | 856.419.7083 (mobile) | PKJohnson@operaamerica.org

Media note: Digital headshots available.

Details Announced for OPERA America's ONSTAGE AT THE OPERA CENTER 2018–2019 Season

operaamerica.org/Onstage

Featured guests include

**Ryan Speedo Green, Greer Grimsley, Laura Kaminsky,
Paul Moravec and Gregory Spears**

Events are live streamed at operaamerica.org/Live

September 20, 2018 (New York) — OPERA America, the national service organization for opera and the nation's leading champion for American opera, announces its 2018–2019 season of *Onstage at the Opera Center*, beginning Thursday, September 27, 2018, and running through May 2019.

Onstage at the Opera Center is a unique series of public performances and discussions with today's leading singers and opera creators, presented at OPERA America's National Opera Center in Midtown Manhattan. The Opera Center's intimate Marc A. Scorca Hall provides the perfect setting for audiences to engage with guest artists; events are also live streamed for free around the world.

The 2018–2019 *Onstage at the Opera Center* season includes three distinct series:

- **Creators in Concert.** Performances of vocal works by leading American composers, followed by lively discussions with the creators.
- **Conversations.** Interviews with luminaries of the opera world, who share stories from their careers and provide insights into the intricacies of the field.
- **Emerging Artist Recitals.** Concerts featuring leading young artists from advanced training programs across the United States.

ONSTAGE AT THE OPERA CENTER: 2018–2019 SEASON DETAILS

DATES: See the event listings below for dates.

TIMES: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET
*Each Onstage event lasts approximately one hour.
Following every event, attendees are invited to enjoy a casual reception.*

LOCATION: OPERA America's National Opera Center
330 Seventh Avenue (at 29th Street) | New York, NY 10001
Situated just blocks from New York Penn Station, the Opera Center is easily accessible by subway, PATH, bus and train.

TICKETS: \$10 (members) | \$25 (non-members)
Purchase at operaamerica.org/Onstage.

LIVE STREAM: Watch each event live at operaamerica.org/Live.
Videos of past events from current and prior seasons are available at youtube.com/OPERAAmerica.

2018–2019 ONSTAGE EVENT LISTINGS

Creators in Concert

Acclaimed composers talk about their creative processes and present highlights from their latest vocal works.

Laura Kaminsky | Thursday, September 27, 2018

Laura Kaminsky, hailed as “one of the top 35 female composers in classical music” by *The Washington Post*, frequently addresses issues such as sustainability, war and human rights in her work. With co-librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, she created *As One* — the most widely produced contemporary opera in the U.S. and Canada during the 2017–2018 season — as well as *Some Light Emerges*, premiered by Houston Grand Opera in 2017, and the forthcoming *Today It Rains*, a co-commission of Opera Parallèle and American Opera Projects to premiere in 2019. Kaminsky is head of composition at the Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase and has served as the composer-in-residence at American Opera Projects.

Gregory Spears | Thursday, February 7, 2019

Gregory Spears is a New York-based composer whose work has been called “astonishingly beautiful” (*The New York Times*), “coolly entrancing” (*The New Yorker*) and “some of the most beautifully unsettling music to appear in recent memory” (*The Boston Globe*). In recent seasons, he has been commissioned by Lyric Opera of Chicago, Cincinnati Opera and Houston Grand Opera, among others. His latest evening-length opera, *Fellow Travelers*, created with librettist Greg Pierce, premiered at Cincinnati Opera in 2016 and has gone on to productions at the PROTOTYPE Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Minnesota Opera.

Paul Moravec | Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Moravec, whose music has been described as “tuneful, ebullient and wonderfully energetic” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), has composed more than 100 orchestral, chamber, choral, lyric, film and electro-acoustic works. His recent successes include the opera *The Shining*, with a libretto by Mark Campbell based on Stephen King's novel, which premiered at Minnesota Opera in 2016. Moravec's latest project, *Sanctuary Road* (featuring a Campbell libretto based on William Still's *The Underground Railroad*) was premiered by the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall in May 2018.

Conversations

Today's most thrilling performers join Marc A. Scorca, president/CEO of OPERA America, to talk about their pathways to the world's greatest stages.

Ryan Speedo Green, bass-baritone | Wednesday, October 17, 2018

In the 2018–2019 season, bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green returns to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the King in *Aida* and to the Wiener Staatsoper for roles including Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Der Einarmige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and Lodovico in *Otello*. Orchestral engagements include Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Ravinia Festival, a debut with the Mostly Mozart Festival singing Mozart's *Requiem*, a debut with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for Haydn's *Seven Last Words* with the Orion String Quartet, and a recital at the Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center.

Greer Grimsley, bass-baritone | Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Bass-baritone Greer Grimsley is internationally recognized as an outstanding singing actor and one of today's most prominent Wagnerian singers. His interpretation of Wotan has brought him to esteemed opera houses around the world, and he has sung the role in complete *Ring* cycles with the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin, among others. This summer, he made his long-awaited debut at the Bayreuth Festival in the title role of *Der fliegende Holländer*, earning praise for the particular humanity of his Dutchman, and also sang Wotan in the festival's *Die Walküre*. He has earned critical acclaim for his treatments of some of Wagner's other greatest characters, including Telramund in *Lohengrin*, Kurwenal in *Tristan und Isolde* and Amfortas in *Parsifal*.

Ryan Speedo Green and Greer Grimsley appear courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera.

Emerging Artist Recitals

These recitals, featuring the most promising young artists from leading institutions, introduce audiences to outstanding artists of the next generation.

Wolf Trap Opera | Friday, November 9, 2018

Wolf Trap Opera offers emerging professional singers one of the best career-development and performing experiences in the nation. Through a rigorous annual audition tour, the company selects its artists from among the best classical vocalists in the country. Rather than choosing singers based on casting requirements, WTO identifies the most promising artists and then selects repertoire that will best showcase their talents. This artist-centric, tailored approach to artist development makes WTO one of the most respected artist training programs in the country, and provides audiences with a variety of intriguing operas that play to the strengths of each season's distinct mix of talent.

Florida Grand Opera Studio | Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Florida Grand Opera Studio is the face of opera in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Studio artists spend the full season performing principal and supporting roles alongside FGO's roster of acclaimed directors, conductors and musicians. These emerging artists also bring opera to the community through a series of concerts and recitals at museums, bars, cultural and religious centers, and galas, as well as by touring a compact, English-language opera to local schools. With a focus on holistic skill development, Studio artists study vocal interpretation, acting, language, movement and personal business practices in individual coaching sessions and classes by accomplished industry colleagues.

Chautauqua Opera Young Artist Program | Thursday, March 14, 2019

Each year, 24 young artists are chosen to participate in the Chautauqua Opera Young Artist Program from mid-June to mid-August. These young artists make up the core of the company, appearing in three mainstage productions alongside leading professionals in the field, as well as singing in concerts with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, an opera for young audiences, a fully staged opera scenes program and other events. In addition, three young artists are chosen to perform world-premiere pieces written for them by the season's composer-in-residence. Established in 1968, the program is supervised by General and Artistic Director Steven Osgood and Music Administrator and Chorus Master Carol Rausch.

Opera Saratoga | Friday, April 12, 2019

Founded as the Lake George Opera Festival in 1962, Opera Saratoga is now located in Saratoga Springs, New York, and is home of the second-oldest young artist program in the country, with alumni singing around the world. Led by Laurie Rogers, program director and head of music staff, the program provides professional mentorship and extensive performance opportunities during Opera Saratoga's annual summer festival. Artists sing principal, supporting and cover roles, sing in the ensemble, and perform in multiple concerts each summer. In addition, artists participate in coachings and master classes throughout the season with music staff and guest artists.

For more Onstage at the Opera Center information and tickets, visit operaamerica.org/Onstage.

Onstage at the Opera Center is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by grants from the Amphion Foundation and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

For more about OPERA America, its many programs and the National Opera Center, visit operaamerica.org.



**@OPERAAmerica
#OAOnstage**

About OPERA America

OPERA America (operaamerica.org) leads and serves the entire opera community, supporting the creation, presentation and enjoyment of opera.

- Artistic services help opera companies and creative and performing artists to improve the quality of productions and increase the creation and presentation of North American works.
- Information, technical and administrative services to opera companies reflect the need for strengthened leadership among staff, trustees and volunteers.
- Education, audience development and community services are designed to enhance all forms of opera appreciation.

Founded in 1970, OPERA America's worldwide membership network includes 150 Professional Company Members, 250 Associate, Business and Educational Members, 1,200 Individual Members, and 18,000 subscribers to the association's electronic news service. In response to the critical need for suitable audition, rehearsal and recording facilities, OPERA America opened the first-ever **NATIONAL OPERA CENTER** (operaamerica.org/OperaCenter) in September 2012 in New York City. With a wide range of artistic and administrative services in a purpose-built facility, OPERA America is dedicated to increasing the level of excellence, creativity and effectiveness across the field.