OPERA AMERICA Announces

NATIONAL OPERA WEEK 2018

October 26 – November 4 | OPERAAMERICA.ORG/OPERAWEK | #OPERAWEK

RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, Honorary Chair, Encourages Everyone to Experience Opera

Opera Advocacy Day 2018
Thursday, November 1

October 26, 2018 (New York) — Opera companies, schools and organizations across North America will celebrate the 10th annual NATIONAL OPERA WEEK (operaamerica.org/OperaWeek) from Friday, October 26 through Sunday, November 4, 2018, by hosting nearly 150 events in their communities, fueling social media conversations and posting video messages. Part of National Opera Week for the third year, OPERA ADVOCACY DAY (November 1) empowers individuals to encourage legislation that supports the arts. National Opera Week and Opera Advocacy Day are coordinated by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera and the nation’s leading champion for American opera.

OPERA America is delighted to announce that renowned bass-baritone RYAN SPEEDO GREEN is serving as the Honorary Chair of National Opera Week 2018, encouraging audiences to explore opera. “It’s such an amazing honor to be part of this special week because, for me, opera is the quintessential art form,” says Green. “When I went to my first opera at 15, I jumped through a door without knowing where it would lead. But when I got through that door, I was introduced to a world of complete majesty and beauty and history.”

Green welcomes audiences to National Opera Week in a video message, viewable at operaamerica.org/OperaWeek and on the organization’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/OPERAAmerica).

National Opera Week celebrates the vibrancy of opera in America today and conveys the excitement and importance of opera to a national and international audience. The strength and diversity of established opera companies, community opera ensembles, opera training programs and individual opera artists across North America will be on display through a wide array of activities.

This year’s Opera Week features an increased emphasis on social media, with an aim of broadening participation. Artists, opera staff and opera lovers are all invited to post video messages and lead social media conversations about the importance of opera in their lives. United behind the hashtag #OperaWeek, the opera community will demonstrate the excitement associated with this multimedia art form. Participants are also invited to apply a temporary Opera Week frame to their Facebook profile photos.
In-person events remain a valuable part of Opera Week, as well. This year, activities range from performances, family activities and lectures, to social events, behind-the-scenes tours and listening parties.

“Opera is thriving across the United States and Canada,” stated OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca. “Cities large and small are home to vibrant opera organizations that serve the public inside the opera house with resonant productions and in the community with meaningful relationships, performances in alternative venues, events for families and inspiring introductions to the magic of the art form. National Opera Week demonstrates and celebrates the diversity of our art form today.”

On Thursday, November 1, Opera Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for individuals who work in or love opera to urge federal, state and local lawmakers to support arts education, the cultural agencies and other policies and legislation that sustain opera and the performing arts. Facts, talking points and other resources are available on the National Opera Week website (operaamerica.org/OperaWeek) and through the Performing Arts Alliance (theperformingartsalliance.org), of which OPERA America is a founding member.

“Nothing makes a bigger difference than when policymakers hear from their constituents,” stated Brandon Gryde, director of government affairs at OPERA America. “Whether the issue being advocated for is arts education in our schools, visa processing for foreign guest artists or tax policies for nonprofits, change won’t happen if we don’t raise our voices. Opera Advocacy Day is a great opportunity for opera leaders, artists and lovers of the art form to share how opera and the performing arts make our communities healthier and more vibrant.”

Descriptions of select National Opera Week activities and lists of participating organizations and event locations may be found below.

Visit operaamerica.org/OperaWeek for a full listing of National Opera Week activities, a welcome video from Honorary Chair Ryan Speedo Green and Opera Advocacy Day resources.

Join the National Opera Week conversation on social media with #OperaWeek.

@OPERAAmerica #OperaWeek

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.
SELECT ACTIVITIES
See full National Opera Week activity listings at operaamerica.org/OperaWeek.

Boston Lyric Opera | Why Do the Arts Matter to You? (October 26)
BLO will ask its followers and staff to share why the arts matter to them and will then share pictures and videos using the hashtags #OperaWeek and #ArtsMatter. (online)

Opera Columbus | The Voice of Freedom (October 26)
This event introduces audiences to the operatic art form by celebrating African-American cultural history through song, including spirituals, gospel and works from the Harlem Renaissance.

Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts | OperaFest XI (October 27)
This two-day annual festival features CCPA graduate students performing opera at venues throughout the university. (Chicago, IL)

The Atlanta Opera | Belting on the BeltLine: Our Path to Healing (October 27)
This immersive performance and procession, which takes place on trails surrounding a civil rights exhibit, features narration from historian Karcheik Sims-Alvarado and musical performances from sopranos Jamye Alllaw and Minka Wiltz. (Atlanta, GA)

Minnesota Opera | Silent Night: A Soldier's Humanity and the Impact of WWI (October 29)
This free event includes a panel discussion exploring the intersection of art, war and humanity in the opera Silent Night. (Minneapolis, MN)

Opera Omaha: OPERAtion Storytime (October 29)
Presented in collaboration with the Omaha Public Library, this event introduces opera to the youngest audiences with a story time featuring an opera-themed book, as well as opera/vocal activities with an Opera Omaha Holland Community Artist Fellow. (Omaha, NE)

Virginia Opera: Student Night at the Opera (October 31 and November 2)
Virginia Opera welcomes student groups to the Harrison Opera House to enjoy final rehearsals of its operas. The October 31 date features not only fantastic opera, but also candy, costume prizes and unique selfie stations. (Norfolk, VA)

Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers: Six Centuries of Opera and Media Technology in New York (November 1)
Mark Schubin will host this webcast examining the evolution of media and opera technologies in New York. (online)

ACTIVITIES IN 34 STATES, DISTRICTS & PROVINCES

Alabama | Florida | Missouri | Pennsylvania
Alberta | Georgia | Nebraska | South Carolina
Arizona | Idaho | New Jersey | Tennessee
Arkansas | Illinois | New Mexico | Texas
British Columbia | Indiana | New York | Virginia
California | Louisiana | North Carolina | Washington
Colorado | Maryland | Ohio | Wisconsin
Delaware | Michigan | Ontario | Oregon
District of Columbia | Minnesota

List in formation.
Additional activities take place online.
# National Opera Week Partners

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Naxos of America
Nebraska Medicine Healing Arts Program
New Camerata Opera
New Georges
New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera
New York Dramatic Voices
New York Metropolitan Encores
New York Opera Alliance
Occidental College Glee Club
OPERA America
Opera at USC
Opera Atelier
Opera Birmingham
Opera Bracelets
Opera Colorado
Opera Columbus
Opera Grand Rapids
Opera Idaho
Opera Lafayette
Opera Memphis
Opera Omaha
Opera on Tap NYC
Opera Orlando
Opera Pomme Rouge
Opera Southwest
Opera Tampa
Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
Opera Volunteers International
OperaBuffs of WNY
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
Pacific Opera Project
Pacific Opera Victoria
Palm Beach Opera
Pensacola Opera
Rachel J. Peters
Petite Violette Restaurant
Piedmont Opera
Pittsburgh Opera
Portland Opera
Regina Opera Company
Ellen Reid
Reimagining Opera for Kids (ROK)
Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
Roosevelt University
Saddlebrook Branch, Omaha Public Library
San Diego Opera
San Francisco Opera
The Santa Fe Opera
Santa Fe Public Library, Southside Branch
Sarasota Opera
Sarasota Youth Opera
Mark Schubin
Seattle Opera
Shea's Performing Arts Center
Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, New York
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Birmingham)
Sarah Stephens
Stephens Nicolson Artists Management LLC
Straz Center
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
The Theatre at Ace Hotel
Timpano
Tri-Cities Opera
Turner-Fischer Center for Opera at LSU
University of Delaware
University of Delaware Chamber Orchestra
University of Minnesota School of Music
University of Mobile
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Vancouver Opera
Virginia Opera
Vortex Theatre
Washington Concert Opera
Washington Parks & People
Willa Cather Branch, Omaha Public Library
Yogini Rose
Young Voices of The Santa Fe Opera

List in formation.