



# High Notes

A Periodic Newsletter for Portland Opera Volunteers August 2017



## 2018 Season

Portland Opera's 2018 season has been announced, and it is going to be spectacular. It's not too soon for you to think about what and when you want to volunteer for next year. We will send out the call for volunteers via email approximately one month before each show. We look forward to our volunteer participation to make 2018 another successful year! Thank you for all you do!!!

**WINTERREISE/Schubert**  
Feb 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 2018  
Hampton Opera Center

**BIG NIGHT CONCERT**  
April 14, 2018  
Keller Auditorium

**RIGOLETTO/Verdi**  
May 4, 6, 10, 12, 2018  
Keller Auditorium

**FAUST/Gounod**  
June 8, 10, 14, 16, 2018  
Keller Auditorium

**LA CENERENTOLA/Rossini**  
July 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 28, 2018  
Newmark Theatre

**ORFEO/Gluck**  
July 27, 29, 31, Aug 2, 4, 2018  
Newmark Theatre

Go to <http://portlandopera.org/production/2018-season/> for more information and to see Portland Opera's exciting new look.

### Volunteer Appreciation Event

Plans are underway for our volunteer appreciation event that will occur in the fall. This luncheon will honor those who participated during the 2016 and 2017 seasons, so if you volunteered during that time, watch your email for an invitation! This is always a fun event, with an opportunity to get to know your fellow volunteers, enjoy good food and wine, and, of course, hear some wonderful singing!

### Opera a la Cart

Do you know about this newest Portland Opera venture? Opera a la Cart is an award-winning mobile music venue inspired by Portland's food cart culture and designed to bring live opera performances directly into our community. Opera a la Cart made its debut in the summer of 2016, presenting free performances in public spaces in all quadrants of Portland, as well as McMinnville, Hillsboro, Sherwood, Gresham and Vancouver, WA.



Photo: Jonathan Ley

### Opera a la Cart (continued)

Starting with a used box truck purchased by Portland Opera, PSU architectural students and local company Figure Plant designed and created this portable opera venue. The cart features a fold-out stage and a chalkboard “menu” of operatic specials du jour. Audience members “order” songs from the menu. The charismatic young singers include main stage performers from current and past opera seasons, current members of Portland Opera’s Resident Artist program and opera chorus, and other local talent, performing along with a pianist. The repertoire includes well-loved classics from opera and musical theatre, such as *Musetta’s Song* from *La Boheme*, the *Toreador Song* from *Carmen*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, and other recognizable pieces.

In addition to favorable audience response, Opera a la Cart has received a Juice award from the Regional Arts and Culture Council in recognition of Portland Opera’s partnership with PSU. ArtsHacker also recognized Opera a la Cart for creativity in Artistic Administration. To find this year’s Opera a la Cart appearances go, to <http://portlandopera.org/alacart/>

### Antonia Tamer: Opera above All

Antonia Tamer has always wanted to be a singer. Luckily for us, that path eventually brought her to Portland as a Portland Opera Resident Artist for the 2017 season.



Antonia was born in Germany, living in Goettingen and Frankfurt until age 12. Her family then moved to London, where she began lessons at age 14. After moving to Cincinnati at age 16, Antonia really

began to develop her voice and take it seriously. She always focused on classical-style singing, never pop, jazz, or musical theatre. She also played the violin for seven years, which helped her with pitch.

Antonia earned a BA in voice from Miami University in Ohio, followed by an MA in voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Antonia then participated in summer programs at Chautauqua Opera and Caramoor Opera in New York. She also performed with the Natchez Festival of Music in Mississippi and Opera San Jose in California. As is typical for young singers, this period of time also included voice lessons, auditioning, and a fair amount of waiting.

Antonia met her husband, Tim Bankroff, in college. Tim is an energy efficiency consultant who works from home, so he was able to move to Portland with Antonia in January. “It was a very easy transition to move here,” she says. She feels that all four Resident Artists get along very well. “It feels like everything really came together for us. I think we have great chemistry.”

Antonia’s first performance with Portland Opera was in Monteverdi’s *Songs of Love and War* in February. She sang in the Big Night Concert in April, covered the role of Mimi in *La Boheme* in May, and had a role in *Man of La Mancha*. Her full, lovely soprano voice was spectacularly showcased as Fiordiligi in *Cosi Fan Tutte* in July. Antonia’s recital on June 13 gave us another opportunity to hear her range and beauty (see page 3).

In her spare time, Antonia enjoys playing with her dog, cooking, and hiking with her husband. As to other possible professions, she hasn’t really considered it. “I thought at one time about marine biology, and I minored in fine arts administration, but they’re not really my thing,” she says. “I suppose I could be a voice teacher or work in opera administration. It would absolutely have to be related to opera.”

### Portland Opera’s Mission

*Portland Opera exists to inspire, challenge and uplift our audiences by creating productions of high artistic quality that celebrate the beauty and breadth of opera.*

### Resident Artist Recitals

Beginning in April, this year's recitals have been some of the best presented. Each concert features a single resident artist, along with Nicholas Fox, Portland Opera Chorus Master & Assistant Conductor, on piano. These are evenings of beautiful and emotional art song, with Mr. Fox providing insights about the music and composers.



Aaron Short, tenor, sang a selection of songs by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Richard Strauss in the first half of his April 4 concert. After intermission, he sang a trio of Spanish zarzuela songs, followed by several songs by Stephen Foster. This diverse program showcased Aaron's beautiful, strong voice, which both moved and entertained us with some light-hearted moments.

On May 2, Kate Farrar, mezzo-soprano, gave an exciting recital that was compelling, expressive, and thoroughly enjoyable. She performed songs by Felix Mendelssohn, Claude Debussy, Johannes Brahms, Alban Berg, and Jake Heggie. Kate's emotional, rich mezzo voice shined during the evening's performance. In addition to Nick Fox on piano, this concert included Hillary Oseas, principal violist of the Portland Opera Orchestra.

June 13 brought an evening of song by Antonia Tamer, soprano. Beauty is the one word that describes this concert. Hearing Antonia's lovely voice and watching her expressive face emphasized the moving themes in songs by Johannes Brahms, Samuel Barber, Tom Cipullo, and Francis Poulenc. Upon leaving this concert, one just has to say "ah" with a fulfilled feeling.

Ryan Thorn, baritone, and Nicholas Fox, piano, delivered the final 2017 recital. Ryan's ambitious program included songs by Robert Schumann, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Francis Poulenc, and Mark Carlson and exercised the full baritone range. Not only were the songs in four languages, they ranged in mood: lively, melancholy, wistful, and a little bit naughty. Ryan's animated delivery added to the delight. This program featured a first for a recital – a solo piano piece of Robert Schumann played by Nicholas Fox. It was a very special treat and well received by the audience.

### A Grand Finale for the 2017 Season

The last two operas of the 2017 finished their run in August. The Newmark Theatre proved a perfect venue for Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* and David Lang's double bill of two short operas: *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* and *The Little Match Girl Passion*.

Director Roy Rollo gave us a slightly different take on the Mozart opera, moving from the traditional setting to one that is very Portland. This was a unique presentation of *Così*, full of fun and evoking much amusement from the audience. Rear projection was effectively used, as well as a number of surprising costume changes. Many of the people who designed this new production are local Portlanders, including the costume designer, scenic designer, and video designer. Performances ran through July 29, with an outdoor simulcast of the July 26 show.

David Lang is a modern composer who wrote both of the featured operas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Although both stories are from long ago (the first from the slave period and the other a Hans Christian Anderson tale), they are relevant today and pack an emotional punch. Performances ran through August 5.

Volunteer support to bring these performances to fruition was greatly appreciated. Thank you!

*Join the Conversation!*

You can find out more about the subjects in these articles, as well as much more, at:

- Portland Opera website: [www.portlandopera.org](http://www.portlandopera.org)
- Volunteer information: [www.portlandopera.org/volunteer](http://www.portlandopera.org/volunteer)
- Marilyn Crilley (volunteer coordinator): [mcrilley@portlandopera.org](mailto:mcrilley@portlandopera.org)
- Brita Enflo (staff volunteer liaison): [benflo@portlandopera.org](mailto:benflo@portlandopera.org)

You can also share your thoughts with other opera lovers on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/PortlandOperaAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandOperaAssociation) and follow us on Twitter@PortlandOpera. Join the conversation and share your own posts!

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