



## Livermore Valley Opera NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Livermore Valley Opera Presents a 2023-24 Season of Contrasts From Stark Reality to Flights of Fancy***

LIVERMORE, CALIF. – The Tri-Valley’s own professional opera company, the Livermore Valley Opera (LVO), announces its 32<sup>nd</sup> season featuring two fully-staged operas. In October, 2023, LVO opens the season with Carlisle Floyd’s compelling adaptation of John Steinbeck’s novella *Of Mice and Men*, a tragic American story of shattered dreams, and then in March, 2024, LVO presents Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, a fairy tale for all ages and one of the greatest operas ever written. In a recent TV30 interview segment of “Conversations with Mel McKay,” LVO Board President Keith Sawyer expressed his tremendous pride in being part of “this hidden gem of arts that we have in our community,” a world-class opera company that attracts “phenomenal talent.” Tickets are on sale now at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, and ticket buyers who purchase both operas together will receive the best seats at a 10% discount. Both operas will be sung in English and expertly accompanied by the LVO orchestra, conducted by maestro Alexander Katsman.

### **About *Of Mice and Men***

Stage Director Marc Jacobs will bring the forceful tale of two depression-era farm workers whose dream of owning their own land one day ends in tragedy. Carlisle Floyd, arguably the greatest of America’s 20th Century opera composers, adapts to the operatic stage a vivid representation of John Steinbeck’s story that will grip audiences with its powerful music and timeless themes. In the opinion of the late composer himself, this is his greatest operatic achievement. In addition, LVO is thrilled to be partnering with the **National Steinbeck Center ([www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org))** located in Salinas, with the mutual goal of building community bridges and forging connections between arts and cultural organizations. Details as follows:

- Saturday, October 7, 7:30pm; Season Opening Night
- Sunday, October 8, 2pm
- Saturday, October 14, 7:30pm
- Sunday, October 15, 2pm
- Season Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard, 4:00pm. (Separate ticket purchase required at a price of \$125 per person by visiting [www.lvpac.org](http://www.lvpac.org).)

### **Season Opening Night Dinner at Uncle's Yu's at the Vineyards**

Before the first *Of Mice and Men* performance, join fellow opera lovers for the Season Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, conveniently located one-half block from the Bankhead Theater. Welcome reception with wines sponsored by local vintners, and appetizers begins at 4pm with dinner seating at 4:30pm. Guests will have a chance to meet the Stage Director and LVO's Music Director, Alexander Katsman. Tickets available now online through the Bankhead Theater box office ([www.lvpac.org](http://www.lvpac.org)) at a price of \$125 per person. Opera performance tickets are a separate purchase.

### **About *The Magic Flute***

Follow a Prince and Princess through a magical land of fantasy in their quest for truth, love and enlightenment in Mozart's crowning operatic achievement. Stage Director Candace Evans' staging will enhance the beautiful music and some of the most memorable arias in opera, paired with a cast of fanciful characters, make this Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's crowning operatic achievement.

Details as follows:

- Saturday, March 2; 7:30pm, Opening Night
- Sunday, March 3; 2pm
- Saturday, March 9; 7:30pm
- Sunday, March 10, 2pm

### **Pre-Opera Lecture**

Included in the ticket price are pre-opera lecture held one hour prior to curtain time. LVO's traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

### **Ticket Pricing**

Adults \$20-\$105. Tickets can be purchased through the LVO website at [www.LVOpera.com](http://www.LVOpera.com). Special ticket pricing: \$20, ages 20 and younger; \$40, ages 20-40

### **Performance & Box Office Location:**

Bankhead Theater  
2400 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550  
Bankhead Ticket Office: 925-373-6800

### **Special Events**

#### **"Opera in the Vineyard" at Garré Vineyard & Winery, Livermore Sunday, August 27 5 to 8pm (gates open at 4:15pm)**

Join Livermore Valley Opera for its second "Opera in the Vineyard" program at Garré Vineyard & Winery on Sunday., August 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 pm. This stunning location creates an inviting backdrop for a relaxing, casual experience where wine, music and community harmoniously intertwine. The melodic voices of LVO's gifted singers, paired with the natural beauty of the vineyard, create an unforgettable symphony for the senses. As guests listen to the beautiful voices soar across the vineyard, they will be transported to a world of musical splendor. For this program, guests will be swept away by baritone **Andrew Pardini**, tenor **Chester Pidduck**, soprano **Shawnette Sulker**, and mezzo-soprano **Molly Mahoney**. Accompanying the performers is LVO's own Music Director & Conductor, **Alexander Katsman**.

### **“Opera in the Vineyard” Tickets Available Online**

Individual seats at a table are \$80 each. Complete tables of ten may be purchased for \$800. Reservations close August 20<sup>th</sup>. Visit LVO’s website [www.LVOpera.com](http://www.LVOpera.com) to for more event information and to purchase tickets. Garré wines and tantalizing Charcuterie Boxes for \$25 each will be available for purchase. **No outside wine is permitted.**

### **LVO Fundraiser Event: “3 Redneck Tenors” to perform, February 17, 2024 at the Bankhead Theater**

A special fundraiser concert to be held on February 17, 2024, will feature the 3 Redneck Tenors, a new breed in the “tenor genre” – their musical comedy featuring classically trained veteran artists – is written by opera-veteran (and Tri-Valley native) Matthew Lord, with music arranged by award-winning composer Craig Bohmler, and starring Mr. Lord, Blake Davidson, and Jonathan Fruge. The 3 Redneck Tenors were top finalists on "America's Got Talent" and have been thrilling audiences since 2006. Tickets for this evening of fabulous entertainment go on sale November 1<sup>st</sup>. Prices are \$75, \$100, \$150 and \$200. Stay tuned for details to be posted on the LVO web site.

### **About LVO**

Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) strives is to enrich its community by producing world class operas and fostering the careers of professional opera singers. LVO encourages a wider appreciation of opera and the associated arts through community outreach and educational programs for youth in schools. Founded in 1992, Livermore Valley Opera presents fully-staged operas in the spring and fall at the Bankhead Theater, located in Livermore in the Tri-Valley area, just 45 miles east of San Francisco. The Bankhead Theatre features excellent lines of sight and acoustics, helping LVO to attract talented singers and stage directors. To attain its artistic goals, LVO combines the talents of professional musicians, stage directors, principal singers, and designers with the dedication and practical abilities of volunteers filling such critical roles as board members, chorus members, stage crew, and set builders.

Livermore Valley Opera is a 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable organization.

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