

Livermore Valley Opera NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2022

Livermore Valley Opera Announces 2022-2023 Season

LIVERMORE, CALIF. – The Tri-Valley's own professional opera company, the Livermore Valley Opera, announces its 31st season featuring two fully-staged operas: Donizetti's comic opera *The Elixir of Love* and Puccini's passionate drama *Tosca*. Tickets are available for performances at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. Details and other special events are as follows:

The Elixir of Love by Gaetano Donizetti

- October 1, 7:30pm; Opening night
- October 2, 2pm
- October 8, 7:30pm
- October 9, 2pm
- Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 4:00pm. (Separate ticket purchase required.)

Tosca by Giacomo Puccini

- March 4, 2023; 7:30pm, Opening night
- March 5, 2023; 2pm
- March 11, 2023; 7:30pm
- March 12, 2023 2pm
- Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 4:00pm. (Separate ticket purchase required.)

About The Elixir of Love (L'elisir d'amore)

Love potion or snake oil? When poor Nemorino fails in his attempt to woo the lovely and wealthy Adina, he turns to quack Dr. Dulcamara, purveyor of phony potions, who assures him that his brew will do the trick. But when it comes to love, the couple learns that the real thing – love that is – beats any elixir the doctor can concoct. Donizetti's beloved comic opera will charm you with laughs and memorable music, featuring one of opera's greatest tenor arias.

Stage director Robert Herriot returns to LVO to direct a stellar cast including tenor **Christopher Bozeka**, soprano **Elena Galván** and bass-baritone **Samuel Weiser**. The performances will be expertly accompanied by a full orchestra, conducted by LVO's maestro, Alex Katsman. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

About Tosca

An opera diva, Floria Tosca, her lover and political activist, artist Mario Cavaradossi, and the corrupt Chief of Police, Baron Scarpia, tangle in this intense drama set in 19th century Rome. Puccini's tour de force, in a tale that barely spans 24 hours, is replete with love, jealousy, betrayal, torture and murder. It will grip you with its intense drama, passionate arias, and unforgettable melodies.

Stage director Bruce Donnell will direct a powerful and talented principal cast who have thrilled LVO audiences over the years: soprano **Ann Toomey**, tenor **Alex Boyer**, and bass-baritone **Philip Skinner**. The performances will be expertly accompanied by a full orchestra, conducted by LVO's maestro, Alex Katsman. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Special Events

Opening Night Dinner at Uncle's Yu's at the Vineyards

Opening Night Dinner events 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 musical conductor Alexander Katsman.

Tickets are \$95, and are available through Bankhead Theater box office. Opera performance tickets are a separate purchase.

Pre-opera talk

Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks 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-\$98. Tickets can be purchased through the LVO website at www.LVOpera.com. Special ticket pricing: \$20 for age 20 and younger; \$40 for age 40-20.

Performance & Box Office Location:

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

Additional Events

The Italian Affair: February 11, 2023

LVO's major fundraiser of the season will celebrate Puccini's *Tosca*, opening March 4, 2023. It's a glamorous evening that promises music and entertainment in the beautiful Club at Ruby Hill in Pleasanton. This magical evening begins with a sparkling wine reception, tasty hors d'oeuvres, games of chance and a musical concert featuring the three principal artists of *Tosca*.

Student and Community outreach programs

Livermore Valley Opera continues to visit schools and expose younger generations to the art of opera. This season the program will reach 10,000 students in area schools. Principal artists from each production participate in masterclasses for middle and high school choirs, and they perform in Tri-Valley senior facilities.

About LVO

Livermore Valley Opera was founded in 1992, and presents fully-staged operas at Livermore's Bankhead Theater in the spring and fall. This gem of a theater features excellent lines of sight and acoustics, helping the opera to attract talented singers and stage directors for their performances.

LVO's Artistic Director Erie Mills was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Artist of The American Prize in recognition of an outstanding career which evidences "sustained artistic excellence." In 2021, LVO was named the winner of The American Prize in the Professional Opera division for its March 2020 double-bill performances of Zemlinsky's *A Florentine Tragedy* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. The American Prize is the nation's most comprehensive series of non-profit competitions in the musical and theater arts.

LVO's mission is to enrich the 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.

LVO is a professional opera company and a 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable arts organization. For more information, visit LVOpera.com.

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