



OUR 55TH SEASON 2024-2025

Leoncavallo's
I PAGLIACCI



March 1, 2, & 8, 2025, at 3 PM, with Mozart Concert

March 9, 2025, at 3 PM,
with Memorial Concert for Phyllis Falletta

Open dress rehearsal of *I Pagliacci* with piano,
and Memorial Concert for Phyllis Falletta

February 22, 2025, at 3 PM

Open dress rehearsal with orchestra

February 28, 2025, at 7 PM

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Program Printed by The Ink Shop

All performances at Our Lady of Perpetual Help C.A.B.,
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SPECIAL THANKS to the Very Rev. Robert Wojtek, C.Ss.R, Pastor, & Br. Augustus J. Riviere, C.Ss.R., Rector, OLPH Parish; Ralph Nofi, Ph.D., Chairperson, & Kristen Lavelle, Principal, OLPH Catholic Academy of Brooklyn; Ana Ruth Leon de Santos, OLPH Parish Secretary; Isidro, Raul, and Steven, OLPH Maintenance Staff; Barry Cohen; Peter C. Orlandi, CPA; and The Ink Shop. Orchestral reduction for *I Pagliacci* by Marc Cerri.

MOZART CONCERT
March 1, 2, and 8, 2025

Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major
for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K. 364
Veronica Carpenter, Violin; Joshua Hunton, Viola



MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR
PHYLLIS FALLETTA

February 22 and March 9, 2025

Ah, non credea - I Puritani
Casta diva - Norma
Regnava nel silenzio - Lucia di Lammermoor
Alleluja from Exsultate, Jubilate - Mozart
Caro nome - Rigoletto
Duet: Viens, Mallika - Lakmé
Duet: Verranno a te - Lucia di Lammermoor

February 22:
Jennifer Moore and Yujin Zeng – sopranos
Lara Tillotson – mezzo-soprano
Jax Hassler – tenor

March 9:
Makila Kirchner and Jennifer Moore – sopranos
Joan Callaghan – mezzo-soprano
José Heredia = tenor

Accompanists: Richard Paratley, flutist; Violetta Zabbi, pianist

THE CAST OF *I PAGLIACCI*

Canio Jax Hassler (Feb. 22 & Mar. 9)
José Heredia (Feb. 28 & Mar. 2)
Paolo Buffagni (Mar. 1 & 8)

Nedda Audrey DuBois Harris (Feb. 22 & Mar. 9)
Rachel Hippert (Feb. 28 & Mar. 2)
Yeawon Jun (Mar. 1 & 8)

Tonio Seungchan Hong (Feb. 22 & Mar. 9)
Robert Garner (Feb. 28 & Mar. 2)
Peter Hakjoon Kim (Mar. 1 & 8)

Silvio Chris Drago Fistonich (Feb. 22, Mar. 2 & 9)
Andrew Wannigman (Feb. 28)
Eliam Ramos (Mar. 1 & 8)

Beppe Troy Freeman (Feb. 22 & Mar. 9)
Doohyun Yoon (Feb. 28 & Mar. 2)
Ethan Ellis (Mar. 1 & 8)

First Villager Samuel Flores (Feb. 22 & 28, Mar. 8)
Thomas Geib (Mar. 1, 2, & 9)

Second Villager Ethan Ellis (Feb. 22, Mar. 2 & 9)
Troy Freeman (Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 8)

Ensemble

Isabella Bernal, Foléi Browne, Daniel Chiu, Samuel Flores, Thomas Geib, Gabriella Giangreco, Zoe Gonatas, Simone Gonzalez-Nagy, Catherine Greco, Emily J. Ham, Laura Ann Heckmann, Ayako Landsberg, Sara Laszlo, Morgan Mooney, Izaya Perrier, Charly Rentz, Samuel Roth, Daniel Rothstein, Sam Elliott Siddiqui, Marc Eliot Stein, Anne Elise Teeling, Katherine Thompson

THE STORY OF *I PAGLIACCI*

Prologue: Tonio the clown pokes his head through the curtain to greet the audience. What will follow is not merely a play, he says – it is a slice of real life.

Act I: Excited villagers gather to greet the arrival of a traveling theater troupe. Canio, the star, announces a grand show that night, featuring the travails of Pagliaccio (his starring role) and the intrigues of Tonio. Canio delights the crowd when he jokingly slaps Tonio for paying too much attention to Nedda, Canio’s wife and leading lady. Tonio stomps off into the theater, muttering threats. A group of villagers invites Canio to have a drink with them. But when Canio invites Tonio to join them, he refuses. A villager jokes that Tonio might be staying behind to flirt with Nedda. But Canio doesn’t think it’s funny. The theater and life are not the same thing, he warns. If he ever caught Nedda with a lover in real life, the story would end very differently. Then Canio says that he was only joking, and that he adores his wife. Canio and Beppe go off to the tavern. The villagers indulge in a folk dance, then go to church. Nedda worries that Canio might have discovered her secret. She shakes off these thoughts and enjoys the sun, envying the birds who are free to soar (“Stridano lassù”). She catches Tonio spying on her. He tries to tell her that he loves her, but she mocks him. When he tries to force a kiss on her, she hits him with a whip. He stumbles away, vowing revenge. Silvio – Nedda’s secret lover – arrives. She chides him for his imprudence, but he knows they will be safe, because Canio and Beppe are at the tavern. She warns him that he almost ran into Tonio. He dismisses Tonio as a harmless fool. Nedda, however, warns Silvio that Tonio could be dangerous because he is in love with her. Silvio begs her to run away with him, reminding her that Canio never loved her and that she hates the life of a traveling performer. Nedda begs him not to tempt her into ruining her life for a mad dream. Tonio arrives and eavesdrops on them. Thrilled at having caught Nedda, Tonio sneaks off to get Canio. Nedda finally gives in to Silvio. As they share a passionate kiss, Tonio returns with Canio, who can barely contain himself. Silvio urges Nedda to meet him that night. She agrees, and vows to be his forever. Canio flies at Silvio, who escapes, with Canio in hot pursuit. Tonio laughs at Nedda’s discomfiture. Canio returns and demands that Nedda tell him her lover’s name. She refuses, even when he threatens her with a knife. Beppe arrives and takes the knife away from Canio. He reminds him that they must get ready for the show. Nedda goes off to change into her costume. Tonio promises to

keep an eye on the lovers and suggests that the man might come to the show. Beppe and Tonio leave to get ready for the performance. Alone, Canio despairs of being able to perform under such strain. But then he remembers that he is a clown. He must put on his costume, and he must laugh, even as his heart is breaking (“Vesti la giubba”).

Act II: The show is about to begin. Silvio slips into the theater with the noisy crowd. The curtain goes up. Colombina, played by Nedda, is waiting for her lover, as her husband, Pagliaccio, will be out until late. Arlecchino, played by Beppe, serenades her. Meanwhile, Taddeo, played by Tonio, peaks through the door and admires Colombina. He tries to make love to her, but she rebuffs him. To Nedda’s annoyance, he goes on and on about her “chastity.” Arlecchino then kicks him out, to the enthusiastic applause of the crowd. Colombina and Arlecchino sit down to a cozy dinner. Arlecchino gives Colombina a sleeping-potion with which to drug Pagliaccio, so they can elope while he is sleeping. Taddeo breaks in to warn them that Pagliaccio is on the way; then he hides. Canio, as Pagliaccio, arrives just in time to hear Colombina say exactly what Nedda had said earlier to Silvio. Pulling himself together, Canio steps onstage. He accuses Colombina of infidelity and drags Taddeo out of his hiding place. When Taddeo/Tonio sneeringly protests that Colombina is “pure,” Canio can no longer restrain himself. He demands the name of Nedda’s lover. Desperately trying to keep him in character, Nedda reminds him that he is “Pagliaccio.” But Canio tears off his wig. He is not Pagliaccio; he is the man who rescued her from the streets when she was dying of hunger. The crowd is enthralled with the realism of the play, but Silvio is worried. Canio recalls how he had hoped that Nedda would at least be kind to him, but now he sees that she is a worthless whore. The crowd goes wild at this bravura “performance.” Nedda tells him to send her away if he thinks she’s unworthy. Canio laughs cynically at her attempt to get what she really wants. He again demands the man’s name. Nedda tries to defuse the situation by returning to the play. As Colombina, she explains that she was only having dinner with the harmless Arlecchino. The audience laughs but stops when Canio again demands that she tell him her lover’s name. Nedda absolutely refuses, and at last the audience understands that this is real. Nedda tries to run offstage, but Canio grabs her and plunges a knife into her. As she falls dying, she calls for Silvio. Silvio rushes to her, but Canio stabs him. Tonio’s revenge is complete. The comedy is over.

INTRODUCING . . .

PAOLO BUFFAGNI (Canio) - Praised for the authenticity of his classic “verismo” tone, he has sung the lead tenor roles in Puccini (*La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Gianni Schicchi*), Verdi (*La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Aida*), Gounod (*Faust*), Mascagni (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Bizet (*Carmen*), Ponchielli (*La Gioconda*), and Leoncavallo (*I Pagliacci*). His vast repertoire also includes Donizetti (*Il Furioso all’Isola*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Poliuto*). The versatility of his voice, the power of his stage presence, and his gifted acting have earned him attention and praise. www.paolobuffagni.com.

JOAN CALLAGHAN (Memorial Concert – Mezzo-Soprano) has performed with a variety of regional opera companies, in both leading opera roles and as a soloist in concerts, with The New York Grand Opera, The Bronx Symphony Orchestra, Opera in the Slope, The New Jersey State Opera, Regina Opera Company, One World Symphony, New York Concert opera and the Richmond Choral Society. Her wide repertoire of mezzo roles includes the title role in *Carmen*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Nicklaus in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, and Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*.

VERONICA CARPENTER (Mozart Concert – Violin) is Regina Opera’s concertmaster and an impassioned violinist and music educator. Career highlights include performing alongside musical greats such as Andrea Bocelli, Rachel Barton Pine, and Chris Thile. She is also a dedicated music educator and long-time faculty at the Bloomingdale School of Music and the Harmony Program. In addition to her role in Regina Opera, Veronica serves as concertmaster for the Centre Symphony and performs regularly with the Chelsea Symphony and New Amsterdam Opera. An Arizona native, she received a Bachelor of Music from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Music from the Boston Conservatory.

BARBARA GRANT D’AVOLA (Costumer) – Barbara’s lifelong love of dress and fabric design fueled her 30-year career, starting in Chicago and blooming in New York City. When COVID altered the garment industry, Barbara decided to live out another dream: to educate and build skills of young adults with home-based textile art and sewing classes for theatre. Based on the success of those classes, she became a special education teacher’s assistant with NYC’s Department of Education. Barbara’s love of music and costuming drew her the Regina Opera Company, where her artistic skills help support its mission to share our love of opera with our local community.

ETHAN ELLIS (Beppe) is a tenor from Overland Park, Kansas. He received an MM in Classical Voice from the Manhattan School of Music and currently

studies with Richard Barrett. He has enjoyed past roles with Regina Opera as Spoletta in *Tosca* as well as Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Other highlights include Peter Quint in *The Turn of the Screw*, Schoolmaster in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Jupiter in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Ruggiero in Caccini's *La Liberazione di Ruggiero*, Gastone in *La Traviata*, Basilio in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Valetto in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, and Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* (cover). ethanellismusic.com

RICHARD EVANS (Production Design) is a retired electronics engineer. He and his wife Lynn sold their home of 40+ years in Connecticut and moved to Brooklyn in 2014 so that they could attend more operas and Off-Broadway shows and enjoy the Brooklyn vibe. Looking for things to do, Richard worked at restoration on the old tanker ship *Mary A. Whalen* in Red Hook for a few years. He then responded to Regina Opera's call for help and joined as a stagehand. He is now the company carpenter and set designer.

CHRIS DRAGO FISTONICH (Silvio) is a Ph.D. immunologist and cybersecurity researcher turned opera singer. Chris has been hailed as a "voluminous, beefy baritone" with "supple variation of dynamics" (*South Florida Classical Review*), and as "strong" (*Schmopera*). Recent engagements include Escamillo in *Carmen* with Lighthouse Opera, Baron Scarpia in *Tosca* with Center Stage Opera, and the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Music on Site. Originally hailing from Los Angeles, California, Chris received his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics in 2012 from UCLA. After graduating from UCLA, Chris attended Yale University, earning a Ph.D. in Immunobiology in 2018.

SAMUEL FLORES (Stage Manager/Villager) is a Latin-American baritone who currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. He has been working for the Metropolitan Opera as an Administrative Associate since 2018 and has participated in training programs such as the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, the St. Petersburg Opera: Emerging Artist program, and many more. He is the Stage Manager for Regina Opera's 2024-2025 season and has stage-managed for Proscenium Theatre Company. Roles performed include: Morales in Bizet's *Carmen*, Plutone in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, Marullo in *Rigoletto*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, Mars in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and Schaunard in *La Bohème*.

TROY FREEMAN (Beppe) is a tenor from Brenham, Texas. He received an MM in Opera Performance from Oklahoma City University, where he sang roles such as Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, The Witch in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and George in *Sunday in the Park with George*. He has also performed in the ensemble of concerts around the country, such as Follies in Concert at Carnegie Hall, and An Evening with Kelli O'Hara with the OKC Philharmonic.

ROBERT GARNER (Tonio) previously appeared with Regina Opera as Gianni Schicchi, Enrico in *Lucia di Lamermoor*, and Di Luna in *Il Trovatore*. Recent engagements include the title roles of *Don Giovanni*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Nabucco*, and *Rigoletto*. Since 2007, Mr. Garner has been a member of The Metropolitan Opera extra chorus, having appeared in over 25 operas including *Aida*, *Boris Godunov*, *Carmen*, *Don Carlo*, *Fidelio*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Mefistofele*, *Otello*, *Parsifal*, and *Turandot*. Upcoming with Regina he will appear as Tonio in *I Pagliacci* and Germont in *La Traviata*.

THOMAS GEIB (Properties Manager/Villager) is excited to be a part of another Regina Opera production. Previous opera/operetta roles include the Organ Grinder in *Il Tabarro*, Dancaïro in *Carmen*, Vespone in *La Serva Padrona*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Imperial Commissioner/Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Customs Sergeant in *La Bohème*, Amelia's Servant in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Bogdanowitsch in *The Merry Widow*, and Fezziwig/Charwoman in *Scrooge & Gilbert & Sullivan*.

AUDREY DUBOIS HARRIS (Nedda) - With a lustrous voice of extraordinary beauty and artistry of great dramatic depth, award-winning Haitian-American soprano Audrey DuBois Harris has graced the stages of the world. Tosca is both a role and company debut for her. This year, she portrayed Nedda (*I Pagliacci*) with New Rochelle Opera. Other performances include the title role in *Aida*, Mimi (*La Bohème*), and Tigrana (*Edgar*). Her portrayal of Micaela (*Carmen*) was called "A showstopper. Brava!" by *Opera Online*. She has also sung Bess (*Porgy and Bess*) and other contemporary operas. DuBois Harris returns to Regina Opera as Nedda (*I Pagliacci*) in March 2025. www.AudreyDuBoisHarris.com.

JAX HASSLER (Canio/Memorial Concert - Tenor) is a young tenor, born in the mountains of Montana, known for his fine work in the lyric and dramatic Italian and French repertoire. He is applauded by his colleagues and audiences for his methodical work, pleasant demeanor, and dedication to craft. He has been praised by critics for his "Soaring high notes" "generous volume" and "beautiful phrasing." Jax currently lives in NJ, studying with world-class tenor and Maestro di Canto Arturo Spinetti, and frequently coaching with pianist Mitchell Cirker.

JOSÉ HEREDIA (Canio/Memorial Concert - Tenor) - After his 2014 operatic debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* in the Dominican Republic, tenor José Heredia has sung the lead roles in *Il Tabarro*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Un Ballo in maschera*, *L'Elisir d'amore*, *La Bohème* (Leoncavallo), *Tosca*, *Aida*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Pagliacci*. In 2023, Mr. Heredia made his Singapore debut with the Singapore Lyric Opera, singing the roles of Turiddu and Canio in their double-bill production of

Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci. He also sang the title role of Jesus de Nazaret in the Spanish opera *El caminante de Nazaret* by Dominican composer Rafael Danilo Grullón.

RACHEL HIPPERT (Nedda) has recently performed with the Amore Opera Company of New York as Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Mimì in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen*, and Rosalinda in Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. Ms. Hippert has released two albums of original music by Colombian composer Julián De La Chica: *Profanum* (2019), and *Experimentelle und unbestimmte Lieder*, Op. 9 (2017), along with a single "Io sono la musica" (2017). She is delighted to be making her debut with Regina Opera in *I Pagliacci* this season.

SEUNGCHAN HONG (Tonio) - South Korea-born baritone Seungchan Hong holds a Professional Studies Diploma in Voice at Mannes School of Music, where he was a full scholarship recipient studying under Arthur Levy. Hong performed the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff* with the Milnes Voice Studio and performed in a double bill of *Gianni Schicchi* (Giacomo Puccini) and *Buoso's Ghost* (Michael Ching) with Montclair State University. His performance credits include Germont in *La Traviata* and Renato in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, both with Manhattan School of Music. He is looking forward to singing the Mandarin in *Turandot* at Lyric Opera of Kansas City in May.

JOSHUA HUNTON (Mozart Concert – Viola) is Regina Opera's principal violist and is also an avid freelancer, having performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Barclays Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, National Sawdust, and other venues. He can also be heard on "Losing My Mind: A Sondheim Disco Fever Dream," from Broadway Records, and in Netflix's "Hun qiu xi men (Green Door)." Mr. Hunton serves as Chamber Music Coordinator and is on the string faculty at Church Street School for Music and Art, serves as School Coordinator and string faculty at FiDiCreatives/Music Beans, and teaches with Third Street Music School Settlement and Brooklyn Music School.

YEAWON JUN (Nedda) is a lyric coloratura soprano born in Seoul, South Korea, who is now based in New York City. She has performed roles such as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), the Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Mimì and Musetta (*La Bohème*), Luigia (*Viva la Mamma*), Sophie (*Werther*), Cunegonde (*Candide*), and Tytania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Yonsei University under tenor Moolim Kang and completed a PDPL at Mannes School of Music under soprano Diana Soviero. Currently, she is pursuing a DMA in voice performance at Rutgers University with Professor Judith Nicosia.

PETER HAKJOON KIM (Tonio) attended the Juilliard School, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He was also a recipient of the Lucrezia Bori Grant. He has performed as a leading baritone the title roles of *Don Giovanni*, *Nabucco*, and *Rigoletto*, as well as the roles of Amonasro (*Aida*), Tonio (*IPagliacci*), Germont (*La Traviata*), Conte di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), Iago (*Otello*), Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), and Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) with Tulsa Opera, Union Avenue Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Opera in the Heights, Regina Opera, Chelsea Opera, and the Martina Arroyo Foundation.

MAKILA KIRCHNER (Memorial Concert – Soprano) is an emerging young classical artist known for her “distinctive and thrilling” lyric-coloratura soprano voice. She appeared as Lucia in Regina's production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* last season. Makila is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where she earned her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. Most recently, she received an Encouragement award from the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. Makila's scene work includes Gounod's *Faust* (Marguerite), Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lucia), Strauss's *Arabella* (Arabella), Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna), Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Contessa), and Verdi's *Falstaff* (Nannetta).

MARCIA C. KRESGE (Costume Design) began as a teen sewing her own clothes and grew to making costumes and headpieces. As a designer, dancer, teacher, and performing artist, she collaborates with directors (and artists) to realize the vision of a time period, the emotions, and the characters, whether played by schoolchildren or by professional singers and dancers. She designed and performed in *The Seagull*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, many classic ballets with American Ballet Russe, the modern-dance Freeman Repertory Dance Company, and the Folk Dance Theatre. She has been with Regina Opera since 2016.

JENNIFER MOORE (Memorial Concert – Soprano) began her career in the International Opera Studio at Zurich Opera after graduating from New England Conservatory and Rice University. Jennifer has sung Gilda in Regina Opera's *Rigoletto*; Mimì (*La Bohème*) and the title role in *Dinorah* with Amore Opera; Ninetta (*La Gazza Ladra*), Mimì, and Violetta (*La Traviata*) with Bronx Opera; Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) and Blanche (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) with dell'Arte Opera Ensemble; and Aspasia (*Mitridate*) and Léontine (*L'Amant Anonyme*) with Little Opera Theatre of NY. Other roles include Leonora (*Il Trovatore*), Anna (*Anna Bolena*), Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), and Fiordiligi (*Così Fan Tutte*).

WAYNE OLSEN (Production & Graphic Design), a Bay Ridge resident, holds degrees in Fine Art and Art History from Brooklyn College where he graduated summa cum laude, as well as a degree in Graphic Communications from Brooklyn Technical College. Mr. Olsen has received a CLIO Award, and

his work has appeared in *Graphis*. Mr. Olsen has also designed sets for opera and Off-Broadway theater productions of *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Impresario*, *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Don Pasquale*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Honeymoon in Hades*, *The Ring Cycle*, and *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

SABRINA PALLADINO (Stage Director) fell in love with opera at a young age when her mother would start off Easter morning by blasting a recording of *Cavalleria Rusticana* in their apartment. She made her singing debut as Mimi in *La Bohème* and has sung the role, among many others, countless times, including at Regina Opera. She is fluent in Italian, a history fanatic, and a film buff. She is a Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute alumna and a TV commercial director/producer, and has directed several operas, including Montclair Opera Theater's debut production of *Nabucco* and Amore Opera's 2023 production of *La Bohème*.

ELIAM RAMOS (Silvio) is a Puerto Rican singer with a rich bass-baritone voice who has performed opera and concert works with companies in the United States, Spain, Israel, Mexico and Puerto Rico and was featured in The Metropolitan Opera Guild's Verdi's Baritones Series in 2022-2023. He recently performed Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Scarpia in *Tosca* with Regina. Mr. Ramos's engagements for 2024-2025 include the Doctor in the world premiere of *The Extinctionist* with Heartbeat Opera, Bach's Cantata 82 with Bach in Baltimore, Beethoven 9th with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra, and the world premiere of Aiken's *Missa Pro Terra* at Carnegie Hall.

LARA TILLOTSON (Memorial Concert – Mezzo-Soprano) - Ms. Tillotson's first venture into bel canto was as Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera New Hampshire, and in the same season (2018-19) she sang the dramatic role of Azucena in Regina Opera's *Il Trovatore*. For Sarasota Opera, Ms. Tillotson sang Rosalia in the company's first production of Albert's *Tiefland* and covered the title role in *Carmen*. She also performed with Opera Teatro Lirico d'Europa and Regina Opera in *Rigoletto* as Maddalena. For Regina Opera, she sang the role of Carmen in 2019 and Madame Flora in *The Medium* in 2022.

ANDREW WANNIGMAN (Silvio) - Lauded for his "fine dramatic skill" and "engaging baritone" (*Broadway World*), Andrew Wannigman's 2024-25 season includes a Celebration of Gershwin Classics with New Rochelle Opera, highlighting the centennial of George and Ira's collaborative works. He also returns to the Queens College Choral Society under the baton of Dr. James John to sing the baritone solos for Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Joseph Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. Opera roles include the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Off Brand Opera. This summer he returns to New Rochelle Opera to sing operatic highlights to mark their 40th Season.

SCOTT JACKSON WILEY (Conductor) - In addition to being Principal Conductor of Regina Opera, Mr. Wiley is Music Director of the Centre Symphony Orchestra in Manhattan and frequently conducts the Staten Island Philharmonic. Music directorships Mr. Wiley has held include the South Shore Symphony, Greenwich Village Orchestra, Inwood Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, and Long Island Lyric Opera. His orchestra conducting teachers included Michael Charry, under whom he earned a master's degree at the Mannes College of Music, and his father, Jackson Wiley. Mr. Wiley was a close friend and colleague of maestro José Alejandro Guzmán, the longtime former music director of Regina Opera, the Centre Symphony, and the Staten Island Philharmonic.

DOOHYUN YOON (Beppe) - Born in South Korea and now based in the United States, Doohyun Yoon is a dedicated tenor active in the world of music. He has participated in operas such as *La Bohème*, *Turandot*, and *Rigoletto* in both Italy and Korea. Currently in his second year of Artist Diploma program under the mentorship of renowned Professor Beth Roberts, he earned a master's degree from Boston NEC and further refined his skills at Manhattan School of Music. With an unwavering passion for vocal excellence and a desire to spread the beauty of music, he looks forward to enchanting audiences with captivating performances.

VIOLETTA ZABBI (Piano Accompanist) - A native of Odessa, Ukraine, Violetta Zabbi is an accomplished pianist and coach. Dr. Zabbi has been involved in over 100 different opera projects while living in New York for the past 27 years. She is currently on the faculties of Adelphi University, Brooklyn College, Summer program in Kiev, Ukraine, and the Oyster Bay Festival in Oyster Bay, Long Island. She is the music director and conductor with Vocal Productions NYC, New York Opera Studio, and the Delaware Valley Opera. She appears as a pianist and coach with Regina Opera, Hofstra University, and Opera Manhattan Repertoire.

YUJIN ZENG (Memorial Concert – Soprano) is a soprano currently based in New York City. Last season, she sang the role of Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Regina Opera and appeared at Utah Valley Operafest as Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*. Prior to the 2023-24 season, Yujin made her professional NYC debut as Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Opera Camerata and covered Gilda in *Rigoletto* at New Jersey Lyric Opera. Yujin has been seen as La Princesse, Le Feu, and Le Rossignol in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* with Chautauqua Opera and the Manhattan School of Music.

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A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained by contacting us at Regina Opera, P.O. Box 150253, Brooklyn, NY 11215, or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10005, (212) 416-8401.

REGINA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Scott Jackson Wiley, Conductor

Pianist for Feb. 22 Open Dress Rehearsal: Violetta Zabbi

Violin I

Veronica Carpenter –

Concertmaster

Glenna Cureton –

Co-Concertmaster

Yeji Pyun

Bryn Digney

Lizzie Klippel

Curtis Klippel

Violin II

Mikhail Parkhomovsky

Max McLoughlin

Angela Lipnitskiy

Jocelyn Rosado

Viola

Joshua Hunton

Rayna Fishman

Katherine Topping

Maxim Estevez-Curtis

Cello

Halie Morris

Stephen Dorff

Najette Swain

Jim Pederson

Double Bass

Ian Fales

Jess Block

Flute

Richard Paratley

Elena Harroun

Oboe

Ellen Gruber

Clarinet

Scott Gerhardt

Youngwoo Jeon

Bassoon

Sage Helinski

French Horn

Torrin Hallet

Aliyah Danielle

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Nate McKinstry

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Harp

Violetta Norrie

Timpani

Jerry Neuhof

Percussion

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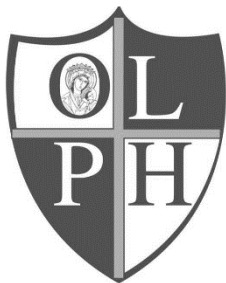


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