



OUR 55TH SEASON 2024-2025

---

Giacomo Puccini

# *Tosca*



November 16, 17, 23, & 24, 2024, at 3 PM

Open public dress rehearsal with piano

November 9, 2024, at 3 PM

Open public dress rehearsal with orchestra

November 14, 2024, at 7 PM

## OFFICERS and ARTISTIC STAFF

Francine Garber-Cohen ..... President  
Linda Cantoni ..... Exec. VP/Secretary/Legal Advisor/Assoc. Stage Director  
Joseph Delfausse ..... Treasurer  
Scott Jackson Wiley ..... Principal Conductor  
Linda Lehr ..... Principal Stage Director

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer..... Francine Garber-Cohen  
Conductor ..... Scott Jackson Wiley  
Stage Director ..... Sabrina Palladino  
Production Design ..... Sabrina Palladino, Richard W. Evans, Wayne Olsen  
Lighting Design ..... Lauren Bremen  
Stage Manager ..... Samuel Flores  
Rehearsal Pianists ..... Emily Loa-Swain, Timothy Moody, Violetta Zabbi  
Costumes ..... Marcia C. Kresge, Barbara Grant-D'Avola, Lisa Ingrisani  
Asst. Stage Manager/Properties Manager ..... Thomas Geib  
Supertitles/Program/Website ..... Linda Cantoni  
Supertitles Operator ..... Gavin Cappon  
Stage Crew ..... Patrick Blue  
Publicity ..... Francine Garber-Cohen  
Set/Publicity Graphic Design ..... Wayne Olsen  
Guild Membership Coordinator ..... Julia Cornely  
Volunteer Staff, Box Office, & Mailing List Manager ..... Joe Delfausse  
Volunteers: Barbara Becker, Jack & Enid Benzera, Susan Carlson, Julia Cornely, Christine Kawar, Thomas Lenihan, Charles Liebov, Glenn Mintz, Charles Monto, Don Paluh, Richard Redmond, Santo Trapani  
Program Printed by ..... The Ink Shop

All performances at Our Lady of Perpetual Help C.A.B.,  
5902 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Brooklyn

## REGINA OPERA COMPANY

P.O. Box 150253, Brooklyn, NY 11215 - (718) 259-2772

**E-mail:** [info@ReginaOpera.org](mailto:info@ReginaOpera.org) **Website:** [www.ReginaOpera.org](http://www.ReginaOpera.org)

**X/Twitter:** [@ReginaOperaCo](https://twitter.com/ReginaOperaCo) **Facebook:** Regina Opera Company

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/reginaoperacompany>

**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 edition by Bryan Higgins, by arrangement with Motet Music Publishing Company.

# THE CAST

Tosca.....	Tara Jamshadian (Nov. 9 & 24) Audrey DuBois Harris (Nov. 14 & 17) Sara Beth Pearson (Nov. 16 & 23)
Cavaradossi.....	Jax Hassler (Nov. 9 & 24) Christopher Trapani (Nov. 14 & 17) Paolo Buffagni (Nov. 16 & 23)
Scarpia.....	Joseph Gansert (Nov. 9 & 24) Eliam Ramos (Nov. 14 & 17) Peter Hakjoon Kim (Nov. 16 & 23)
Angelotti .....	Richard Agster (Nov. 9 & 17) Robert Garner (Nov. 14 & 24) Gennadiy Vysotskiy (Nov. 16 & 23)
Sacristan.....	Gary Giardina (Nov. 9, 16, & 23) John Schenkel (Nov. 14 & 17) Gennadiy Vysotskiy (Nov. 24)
Spoletta .....	Troy Freeman (Nov. 9 & 17) Ethan Ellis (Nov. 14 & 24) Thibault Courtois (Nov. 16 & 23)
Sciarrone .....	Elijah John-Burnley (Nov. 9 & 17) Henry Horstmann (Nov. 14 & 23) Daniel Chiu (Nov. 16 & 24)
Jailer.....	Isaac Schwartz (Nov. 9, 17, & 24) Warren B. Harding (Nov. 14, 16, & 23)
Shepherd .....	LeeAuna Harris (Nov. 9, 14, & 17) Charly Rentz (Nov. 16, 23, & 14)

**Ensemble:** Isabella Bernal, Patrick Blue (Priest), Foléi Browne, Thomas Geib (Roberti/Guard/Firing Squad), Catherine Greco, Sydney Guthrie, Emily J. Ham, Laura Ann Heckmann, Yvonne Jur, Ayako Landsberg, Nicole Magallón, Morgan Mooney, Izaya Perrier (Guard/Firing Squad), Samuel Roth (Guard/Firing Squad), Marc Eliot Stein (Guard/Firing Squad), Anne Elise Teeling

**Altar Children:** Athena Courtois, LeeAuna Harris

# THE STORY

**Act I - The church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, Rome, June 1800.** Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner, rushes into the church. His sister has hidden the key to the Attavanti family chapel. He finds it and hides just as the Sacristan enters. The Sacristan sourly comments on having to clean brushes for Cavaradossi, an artist who is painting a portrait of Mary Magdalene. The Sacristan kneels to pray. Cavaradossi returns to work on the portrait, the model for which is an unknown woman who has been praying in the church. Cavaradossi contrasts the beauty of the blue-eyed Magdalene with that of his lover, the dark-eyed Floria Tosca ("Recondita armonia"). When the Sacristan leaves, Angelotti ventures out and tells Cavaradossi of his escape. But Angelotti must hide again as Tosca is heard calling outside. Cavaradossi lets Tosca into the church. She jealously questions him about his delay in answering the door. She softens when he tries to kiss her. She prays to the Blessed Virgin, and then seductively reminds him of their tryst that night. Recognizing the likeness of the Marchesa Attavanti in the painting, she explodes with renewed suspicions, but Cavaradossi tenderly reassures her. When Tosca finally leaves, Cavaradossi summons Angelotti, whose sister – the Marchesa Attavanti – has hidden a dress and a fan in the chapel so Angelotti can disguise himself as a woman. Cavaradossi vows to help him stay out of the clutches of Baron Scarpia, the evil chief of police. When a cannon shot signals that the police have discovered Angelotti's escape, the two rush off to hide in Cavaradossi's country villa. The Sacristan returns with a group of choristers who are to sing a Te Deum in celebration of the reported retreat of Napoleon. Their excitement is silenced by the entrance of Scarpia, who is in search of Angelotti. He questions the Sacristan, who is astounded to find that the chapel is open. Scarpia finds the fan, which has the Attavanti crest on it, and recognizes the Marchesa in the portrait. Now Scarpia knows that Angelotti must have been here. Tosca comes back looking for Cavaradossi. Scarpia insinuates to her that Cavaradossi has had a tryst with the Marchesa. When she demands proof, he shows her the fan. Tosca tearfully vows vengeance and leaves as the church resounds with the Te Deum. Scarpia orders his men to tail her. He is ecstatic, for he plans to have Tosca for himself ("Va, Tosca").

**Act II - Scarpia's apartments in the Palazzo Farnese, later that night.** Scarpia sends a note to Tosca asking her to meet with him. He vows to bend her to his will ("Ha più forte sapore"). Spoletta arrives and reports that Tosca was followed to a country villa. The agents scoured the property for Angelotti, but found only Cavaradossi, whom they arrested. Cavaradossi is questioned, but he denies all knowledge of Angelotti's whereabouts. Tosca enters as her lover is being taken to an adjoining room for torture. Unnerved by Scarpia's insistent questioning and Cavaradossi's screams, she finally reveals Angelotti's hiding place, in a well in the garden of Cavaradossi's villa. The

torture stops. Cavaradossi is carried in. Tosca rushes to him, and lies when he asks her if she revealed anything. But Scarpia tells Spoletta to go to the well in the garden. Realizing what has happened, Cavaradossi rages at Tosca. Then Sciarrone rushes in to announce that Napoleon has won the Battle of Marengo, a defeat for Scarpia's side. Cavaradossi shouts his defiance ("Vittoria!") and is carried off to be executed. Tosca asks Scarpia, "How much?" But he does not want money, he wants her. Her cries for help inflame his passions even more. He reminds her that Cavaradossi has just one hour to live. Tosca asks God why this is happening to her, for she has always dedicated her life to art and love, and always had faith ("Vissi d'arte"). Tosca then begs Scarpia, on her knees, to spare Cavaradossi. But Scarpia will do so only if she gives herself to him. Then Spoletta interrupts to say that Angelotti has killed himself, and that everything is ready for Cavaradossi's execution. Desperate, Tosca agrees to Scarpia's bargain. Scarpia orders a mock firing squad execution for Cavaradossi. At Tosca's insistence, Scarpia prepares a safe-conduct for the lovers so they can leave the country. As he writes it out, Tosca notices a knife on the dinner-table. Scarpia, safe-conduct in hand, tries to embrace her. Tosca suddenly stabs him and taunts him as he bleeds to death. She wrenches the safe-conduct from his stiffening hand and, placing candles at his head and a crucifix on his chest, slips quietly out.

### **Act III - The parapet of the Castel Sant'Angelo, early the next morning.**

In the distance, a young shepherd sings a sorrowful song. A jailer prepares for Cavaradossi's execution. Cavaradossi bribes him with a ring to let him write a farewell note to Tosca. As he writes, he is overcome with memories of love, and gives way to despair ("E lucevan le stelle"). Suddenly Tosca runs in and excitedly tells him what she has done. Cavaradossi caresses the hands that committed murder for his sake ("O dolci mani"), and the two hail their future freedom. Tosca then coaches Cavaradossi on how to fake his death convincingly. After another tender love scene, the firing squad arrives. Tosca watches, admiring her lover's acting skill. The soldiers fire; Cavaradossi falls; the soldiers depart. Tosca waits until it is safe, then urges Cavaradossi to hurry. But when he fails to move, she realizes that Scarpia has betrayed her in the end: the bullets were real. Spoletta rushes in to arrest her for Scarpia's murder. She climbs the battlements and, crying out that she will meet Scarpia before God, leaps to her death.



## INTRODUCING . . .

**RICHARD AGSTER** (Angelotti) provides “excellent comic relief” and a “warm basso voice and persona.” Rick most recently covered the role of Captain Dick Scott in the world premiere of the opera *Beyond the Horizon* by Nicolas Flagello with Teatro Grattacielo; appeared as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with Amore Opera and in several other productions in the US and Europe; as Aruspice in *La Vestale* with Teatro Grattacielo; and as Zuniga in *Carmen* in Greece. In May 2025, look for Rick as Doctor Grenvil in *La Traviata* with Regina Opera. [www.RickAgster.com](http://www.RickAgster.com).

**PAOLO BUFFAGNI** (Cavaradossi) - 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*). Paolo currently studies with Arthur Levy. The versatility of his voice, the power of his stage presence, and his gifted acting have earned him attention and praise. [www.paolobuffagni.com](http://www.paolobuffagni.com).

**DANIEL CHIU** (Sciarrone) is a baritone from East Setauket, NY. He studied at the Manhattan School of Music (MM, 2021) and SUNY New Paltz (BS, 2018) Daniel was last seen singing the role of Masetto in Amore Opera’s production of *Don Giovanni*. Daniel has also sung Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Bob (*The Old Maid and the Thief*), Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*), and Gabriel von Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*). Daniel would also like to give a word of gratitude to his mentor Kent Smith, who teaches at SUNY New Paltz.

**THIBAUT COURTOIS** (Spoletta) - Originally from Besançon, France, Thibault Courtois is a Brooklyn-based tenor who focuses mostly on 19<sup>th</sup>-Century repertoire. He has recently appeared in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Regina Opera, and *La Bohème* with Amore Opera.

**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** (Spoletta), a native of Overland Park, Kansas, resides in Manhattan, NY. A current student of Richard Barrett, he is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music's with a Masters in Classical Voice. Past roles 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). He was previously seen at Regina Opera in the role of Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

**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.

**SAMUEL FLORES** (Stage Manager) is a Latin-American baritone who currently resides in Brooklyn, NY, and can be seen performing locally. Samuel is making his debut as Stage Manager with Regina Opera and is excited to be taking on a different role in the world of opera. He began working for the Metropolitan Opera as an Administrative Associate in 2018 and has participated in training programs including the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, St. Petersburg Opera: Emerging Artist program, the New York Conservatory summer opera program, and others.

**TROY FREEMAN** (Spoletta) 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.

**JOSEPH GANSERT** (Scarpia) is excited to return to Regina Opera this season, reprising one of his favorite roles, Baron Scarpia. Currently residing in New Jersey, Joseph is a dramatic baritone who has performed with many New York Metro area opera companies, with roles including Rigoletto, Scarpia, Sharpless, Giorgio Germont, and Michele in *Il Tabarro*. His concert repertoire includes, amongst others, Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. He is very thankful to his voice teacher Braeden Harris and coach Susan Morton for all their help, and to his friends and family especially his wife, Nicole, for their support and encouragement.

**ROBERT GARNER** (Angelotti) 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) 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*.

**GARY GIARDINA** (Sacristan) is equally at home on the operatic or musical theater stage. Across the US and in Europe he has appeared in a wide range of roles, in such familiar operas as *Aida* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, and such obscure works as *Una Cosa Rara* and *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. He made his New York City Opera debut as Emile DeBecque in *South Pacific*, a role he has performed frequently around the country. Gary is an undefeated *Jeopardy!* champion.

**WARREN B. HARDING** (Jailer), a native of Brooklyn, NY, has performed as an ensemble cast member in a number of productions with Regina Opera and Liederkranz Opera Theatre: *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Lucia di Lamermoor*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Faust*, *La Traviata*, *Susannah*, and *The Tales of Hoffman*. His roles include Morales in *Carmen*, Spinelloccio/Amantio di Nicolao in *Gianni Schicchi*, the Sergeant in *La Bohème*, and Martin in *Candide* with The Heights Players in Brooklyn. He has also performed as a soloist in Fauré's *Requiem* at September 11 memorial services.

**AUDREY DUBOIS HARRIS** (Tosca) - 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](http://www.AudreyDuBoisHarris.com).



**LEEUNA HARRIS** (Shepherd) is a young multifaceted artist making her opera and company debut in the role of the Shepherd in Regina Opera's production of *Tosca*. Earlier this year, she participated in a series of masterclasses and workshops that culminated in a performance at Carnegie Hall. As a singer, dancer, actor, and pianist, LeeAuna has appeared in recitals, concerts, and dance performances in NYC, Dallas, and Montreal. Her upcoming performance will be in concert with The Radio City Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall later this year.

**JAX HASSLER** (Cavaradossi) 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.

**HENRY HORSTMANN** (Sciarrone) is a baritone based out of Glen Cove, NY. His 2024 credits include: Don Giovanni at MPOC; Gianni Schicchi at QSVI; Gaston at Merrick Theater; Dr. Malatesta at WHMF; Strepchon at GASLOCOLI; Lord Mountarat (cover) at Bronx Opera; Filiberto/Marco at Bronx Opera. He is thrilled and excited to be making his debut at Regina Opera in such a special opera. He wishes all the best for his fellow cast and crew mates, and hopes you are moved by this performance!

**TARA JAMSHADIAN** (Tosca) was last seen singing Gerhilde in *Die Walküre* this summer at New Jersey Opera Theater, which earned her a notable mention in *The Wagner Journal*. Tara was also selected to play Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* with The Metropolitan Opera Guild, and recently sang selections from *Tosca* in concert with Heartbeat Opera. Tara will return to NJ Opera Theater to sing the role of Brünnhilde in Wagner's *Siegfried* in 2025. Tara sang Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*'s Act 1 with The Boston Wagner Society, led by Jane Eaglen, and is a graduate of The New England Conservatory of Music.

**ELIJAH JOHN-BURNLEY** (Sciarrone) is making his role debut in this production. Last season, he played an ensemble villager in Regina Opera's production of *Cavalleria Rusticana*. At the Aaron Copland School of Music, Elijah played Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (scenes) and sang in the ensemble in *The Merry Widow* by Franz Lehár. While attending Juilliard Pre-College, Elijah was a finalist at the Schmidt Vocal Competition at Opera America 2018.

**PETER HAKJOON KIM** (Scarpia) 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 (*I Pagliacci*), 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.

**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.

**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 Mimì 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*.

**SARA BETH PEARSON** (*Tosca*) is known for her dramatic interpretations of the great Italian heroines including Puccini's *Tosca*, Mimì, and Suor Angelica, Verdi's Leonoras in *Il Trovatore* and *La Forza del Destino*, and Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, among others. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, Ms. Pearson has performed extensively with Baltimore Opera, Annapolis Opera, Washington National Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera. Recent appearances include the "Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde* in concert with

Litha Symphony Orchestra, the role of Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* with New Rochelle Opera, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* with On Site Opera, and Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Regina Opera.

**ELIAM RAMOS** (Scarpia) 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, Puerto Rico and México. His artistic engagements range from traditional opera and symphonic concerts to zarzuelas and modern compositions. The Metropolitan Opera Guild featured Mr. Ramos in their Verdi's Baritones Series in their 2022-2023 season, in which he also made his Carnegie Hall debut in Clif Hardin's *Requiem*.

**CHARLY RENTZ** (Shepherd) is in her third year of the Vocal Performance program at New York University, where she studies under Dr. Errik Hood. Originally from just outside of Anchorage, Alaska, she has participated in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions for ten years, in Northwestern, Eastern, and National divisions throughout the U.S. Recently, Rentz made her international performance debut in Vicenza, Italy with International Lyric Academy's Young Artist Program. She works as an assistant at the Frederick Loewe Theater in NYU Steinhardt, and has performed in the school's chamber groups.

**JOHN SCHENKEL** (Sacristan) - Roles include Uberto in *La Serva Padrona*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Baron Zeta in *The Merry Widow*, Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Bartolo and Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Koko in *The Mikado*, Mr. Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* and Britten's *The Beggar's Opera*, and Wozzeck in *Wozzeck*. He created roles in Lependorf's *American Lit*, *The Art of Eating*, *If I Could Sit, If I Could Stand*, and *Say it with Flowers*.

**ISAAC SCHWARTZ** (Jailer) is a portfolio manager at Robotti & Company, an investment adviser. Since 2007, he has run Robotti Global Fund, a private partnership focused on financial services, logistics, and consumer companies. In 2017, Isaac started the New Silk Road Forum (Instagram @nsrforum), an investor education community that hosts an annual summit. He earned a BS in Economics from the Wharton School. Isaac is an avid backcountry skier and loves studying languages, especially French, Mandarin, Turkish, and (for singing!) Italian. From 1991 through 1996, Isaac sang in the Children's Chorus of the Metropolitan Opera.

**CHRISTOPHER TRAPANI** (Cavaradossi) – *Opera News* writes, “an artist to watch with his clear and vibrant upper voice.” Roles include Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juiliette* and *Faust*, Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Manrico in *Il trovatore*, Don José in *Carmen*, Rodolfo in *La*

*bohème*, Luigi in *Il tabarro*, Turiddu in *Cavalleria rusticana*, Alfredo in *La traviata*, Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. He has also performed as soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, *Elijah*, and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. He has sung with Santa Fe Opera, Sarasota Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Regina Opera, and Opera in the Heights.

**GENNADIY VYSOTSKIY** (Angelotti/Sacristan) was born in Odesa, Ukraine, and graduated from the Odesa School of Music. He became interested in acting at an early age and participated in numerous musical theater performances and major motion pictures. Mr. Vysotskiy graduated from the University of California at Davis, earning a double degree in Economics and Mathematics. In the last few years he has participated in productions of *The Magic Flute* and *Macbeth* with San Francisco Lyric Opera. New York performances include the Commendatore and Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Colline (*La Bohème*), Dulcamara (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and Mr. Kofner (*The Consul*).

**SCOTT JACKSON WILEY** (Conductor) is delighted to have been reappointed to the position of Principal Conductor of Regina Opera and is honored to follow maestros José Alejandro Guzmán and Gregory Ortega in that role. Formerly the Music Director of Long Island's South Shore Symphony, during his twenty-five-year tenure he brought the orchestra to regional prominence and was recognized with the title of Conductor Laureate upon stepping down last June. Currently, Mr. Wiley is also Music Director of the Centre Symphony Orchestra in Manhattan and Principal Conductor of the Staten Island Philharmonic.

---

**We've been nominated for Best Local Live Theatre -  
vote for us daily until Dec. 31!**



**REGINA OPERA COMPANY, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Francine Garber-Cohen - Chair  
Linda Cantoni  
Joseph Delfausse  
Thomas Lenihan

**REGINA OPERA GUILD**

C. Antignani  
Rita Antomez\*  
Mildred Barletta  
Richard & Sera Barry\*  
Jack & Enid Benezra\*  
Judith Berman  
Domenica Caridi\*  
Patrick Cheng & Michael Bothroyd\*  
Lucy & Vincent Cimino\*  
Paul & Marie Cohen  
Richard Faraino & Joel La Force\*  
Sidney & Ann Feldman\*  
Marie Figueroa\*  
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Fox\*  
John Galazin & Clara DiGiorgio\*  
Andrew Gallina\*  
Ruth Gastel  
Trudy Geisner  
Patricia Gelpi & Liane Heller\*  
Barbara Germack\*  
Barbara Gershuny\*  
Frank Guerrasio\*  
Nancy Hemmes  
Lois Honig  
Bernard & Phyllis Katz\*  
Leo & Olga Kearney  
Joan Kligman & Linda Lucardi\*

Vicki Panvini Lane  
Marilyn Levy & Josephine Brillante\*  
Charles & Nancy Liebov\*  
Edward Mafoud\*  
Victoria McFadyen\*  
Marsha Menkes\*  
Cary Monica  
Donald Nier & Miguel Pineiro\*  
Susan & Chris O'Connor  
Wayne & Phyllis Olsen  
Linda Orlando  
John Papandrea\*  
Theresa & Peter Polito\*  
Deborah Pope\*  
Jo Ann Radioli  
Dean & Helen Rasinya\*  
Linda Raymond  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Romano\*  
Patricia Rosenberg  
Janet Schoor\*  
Mary Stanton  
Veronica Tizio  
Santo Trapani\*  
Jeremy Woodoff\*  
Tony & Barbara Zeppetella\*

**\*Diamond Horseshoe Member**

---

## **Join the Regina Opera Guild**

You'll be supporting our programs and be able to reserve seats – use the application on the back cover of this program to join now!

# REGINA OPERA THANKS



## PUBLIC, CORPORATE, & FOUNDATION SPONSORS

New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the  
Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature  
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with  
the City Council

NYC Council Member Alexa Avilés  
NYC Council Member Justin Brannan  
Donald C. Brace Foundation  
Con Edison  
Investors Foundation  
Citizens Philanthropic Foundation  
Ezra Jack Keats Foundation  
New York City Tourism Foundation

### ARCHANGELS (\$1,000+)

Donald C. Brace Foundation  
Gary Giardina  
Estate of Roger Herz  
Charles Monto  
Dino Veronese  
Jerry & Jane Wolff

### SUPER ANGELS (\$500+)

Richard Agster  
Sidney & Ann Feldman  
Saul Raw  
Janet Schoor  
Sung Shin

## ANGELS (\$100+)

Rita Antomez  
Rosemary Assenso  
Richard & Sera Barry  
Barbara Bonhomme &  
Ricardo Figueroa  
Richard Cohen & Sue Carlson  
David Dean  
Richard Faraino &  
Joel La Force  
Stephen Geraci  
Molly Kuribayashi

Cary Monica  
Susan O'Brien  
Nino & Judy Pantano  
Peter & Theresa Polito  
Jeff Raheb  
Gerard Schoenacher  
Cheryl Smith  
Kathleen R. Watson  
Anthony Zeppetella

## PATRONS (\$25+)

Jack & Enid Benezra  
Judith Rosner Berman  
Linda Faust  
Marie Figueroa  
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Fox  
Anthony Furio  
Trudy Geisner  
Barbara Gershuny  
Lois Honig  
Bernard & Phyllis Katz  
Olga & Leo Kearney  
Thomas Lenihan  
Thomas Massey

Dyana Neal  
Joan Nissen  
Rhonda Nixon  
Susan & Chris O'Connor  
Judith Panzer  
Dean & Helen Rasinya  
Linda Redmond  
Joseph Romano  
Ella Schneyderman  
Lola Short  
Accursia Sichenze  
Santo Trapani

---

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. The Regina Opera Company's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Major support is provided by New York City Council Members Alexa Avilés and Justin Brannan, the Donald C. Brace Foundation, Con Edison, Investors Foundation, Citizens Philanthropic Foundation, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, and the New York City Tourism Foundation.

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 Nov. 9 Open Dress Rehearsal: Violetta Zabbi**

## **Violin I**

Veronica Carpenter –  
concertmaster

Glenna Cureton

Yeji Pyun

Bryn Digney

Curtis Klippel

Lizzie Klippel

## **Violin II**

Mikhail Parkhomovsky

Max McLoughlin

Angela Lipnitskiy

Jocelyn Rosado

## **Viola**

Joshua Hunton

Rayna Fishman

Katherine Topping

Maxim Estevez-Curtis

## **Cello**

Halie Morris

Jim Pederson

Stephen Dorff

Najette Swain

## **Double Bass**

Ian Fales

Jess Block

## **Flute**

Richard Paratley

## **Oboe**

Ellen Gruber

## **Clarinet**

Scott Gerhardt

Youngwoo Jeon

## **Bassoon**

Lauren Hallonquist

## **Horn**

Alina Eckersley

Aliyah Danielle

## **Trumpet**

Nate McKinstry

## **Trombone**

Gregory Briggler

## **Harp**

Anna Lien

## **Organ/Celeste**

Michelle Wong

## **Timpani**

Jerry Neuhof

## **Percussion**

Mike Sirotta



Open 7 AM to 5 PM daily

309 Court Street, Brooklyn

(718) 875-5403

[info@damicocoffee.com](mailto:info@damicocoffee.com)

Shop online at [damicocoffee.com](http://damicocoffee.com)

---

## **REGINA OPERA'S 55<sup>TH</sup> SEASON CONTINUES IN 2025!**

### **I PAGLIACCI + CONCERT**

March 1, 2, 8, & 9, at 3 PM

### **LA TRAVIATA**

May 10, 11, 17, & 18, at 3 PM

### **SUNDAY MATINEE CONCERTS**

Feb. 2 at 3 PM

Apr. 6 at 3 PM

**Plus FREE performances throughout the year!**

More info: [www.ReginaOpera.org](http://www.ReginaOpera.org), [info@reginaopera.org](mailto:info@reginaopera.org), or  
(718) 259-2772



# GENEROSO'S

**Bakery | Cafe | Pizzeria**

**5812 5th Avenue, Brooklyn  
(718) 492-0895**

---

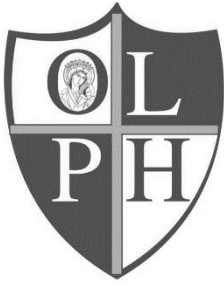


**“The Regina Opera is a New York City treasure!!!”**

the red hook

# STAR★REVUE

**LOCALLY PRODUCED JOURNALISM**



# **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy of Brooklyn**

**Register Now**

**“Achieve Personal Excellence”**

**• Enter to Learn Christ • Leave to Serve Christ •**

**Educating Children in Grades Nursery – 8th  
in a Faith-Based, Safe, and Nurturing Environment since 1903**

- Samsung Galaxy Tablets
- New Indoor Early Childhood Playroom
- Middle States Accredited
- State of the Art Computer Lab
- Smart Boards in all classrooms
- Fully Equipped Science Lab
- Art – Gym – Music
- Band/Violin Program
- Tuition Assistance Available to Qualified Families
- National Junior Honor Society
- Student Council
- Extracurricular Activities & Clubs
- Math & Spelling Bees
- Religion, Social Studies, & Science Fairs
- Oratorical, Essay, Art Contests
- Title I Services: ELA, Math, Guidance & Pre-K
- Full-Time Nurse
- School Breakfast/Lunch Program
- Afterschool Program

**For Registration Information or to  
Schedule a Tour, Please Call  
(718) 439-8067**

**5902 6th Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11220  
www.olphcab.org • olph5902@aol.com**

# ***Greenhouse Café***

**Continental Cuisine**

**Three Dining Rooms - Full Bar  
Party Services & Catering Services  
Bereavement Services**

Monday-Friday 12PM-9:30PM

Saturday 11AM - 9:30PM

Sunday 11AM-8PM

7717 Third Avenue · Brooklyn

(718) 833-8200

[www.greenhousecafe.com](http://www.greenhousecafe.com)

---

# ***Casa Vizja***

**Authentic Mexican Cuisine**

6007 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn

(718) 439-3502

Monday-Friday 11AM–12AM

Saturday-Sunday 10AM–1AM



**FINE GREEK CUISINE  
IN DYKER HEIGHTS  
SINCE 2004**

6601 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn  
(718) 234-6393

Tuesday–Thursday, 11AM–9:30PM  
Friday & Saturday, 11AM–10PM  
Sunday, 11AM–9:30PM  
Closed Mondays

[www.mezeny.com](http://www.mezeny.com)

# THE INK SHOP

Printing and Photo Offset  
While-U-Wait Service - Complete Typesetting and Art

PRINTING ★ PHOTOCOPIES  
LETTERPRESS ★ THERMOGRAPHY

Business Cards ★ Stationery ★ Envelopes ★ Circulars  
Labels ★ Brochures ★ Business Forms ★ Resumés  
Weddings ★ Bar Mitzvahs  
Social and Business Announcements

1219 Gravesend Neck Road, Brooklyn  
(718) 627-1020

---

## The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation

If you like music, then you, your children,  
and your grandchildren love books.

For books to love, visit our website:  
[www.Ezra-Jack-Keats.org](http://www.Ezra-Jack-Keats.org)



# REGINA OPERA GUILD

Join the Regina Opera Guild to support our great performances!

**A Gold Curtain Membership includes:**

- ❖ Reserved seating (call 2 weeks in advance)
- ❖ **FREE admission to one Sunday Concert of your choice**
  - ❖ **FREE beverages during opera performances**
- ❖ **Acknowledgment in opera programs and on our website**

**Diamond Horseshoe Membership includes all the above PLUS  
priority reserved seating closer to the stage.**

**Membership fee does NOT include ticket price.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Curtain Single - \$45

Diamond Horseshoe Single - \$60

Gold Curtain Couple - \$55

Diamond Horseshoe Couple - \$75

Mail this form and a check payable to:

**Regina Opera Guild  
c/o Joe Delfausse  
580 - 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215-3707**

For more information:

(718) 259-2772

[info@reginaopera.org](mailto:info@reginaopera.org)

[www.ReginaOpera.org](http://www.ReginaOpera.org)