

REGINA OPERA'S 56th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

**Musical Artists: sopranos - Isabella Bernal and Yeawon Jun;
mezzo-soprano - Melina Jaharis; tenors - David Freides and Jax Hassler;
baritone Handong Fu; pianist Violetta Zabbi; flutist Richard Paratley**

(Yeawon, Devid) *Sempre libera* *La Traviata* Verdi
After a party at which she has met Alfredo, a young admirer, Violetta alone wonders if Alfredo could be the true love of whom she has dreamed. Then, shaking off her fancy and resigned to loneliness, she pledges herself to the pursuit of freedom and pleasure.

(Isabella) *Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante* *Carmen* Bizet
Micaela arrives at the smugglers' mountain camp. José's mother has sent her to look for him. But she is afraid, both of the smugglers and of Carmen, and asks God for protection

(David) *Donna non vidi mai* *Manon Lescaut* Puccini
Never did I behold so fair a maiden. To tell her "I love you" awoke my heart and soul to life and rapture. "Manon Lescaut is my name" How those words seemed laden with fragrance, to charm me. What throbs of passion are dancing in my veins! what music dwells in those entrancing tones! "Manon Lescaut is my name."

(Melina, Jax) *Tu qui Santuzza?* *Cavalleria Rusticana* Mascagni
Turiddu arrives, none too happy to see Santuzza. He tries to evade her attempts to speak to him, and when she tells him that he had been seen that morning near Lola's house, he accuses her of spying but she heard it from Alfio (Lola's husband). Turiddu, furious, asks her if she wants him to be killed. He denies being in love with Lola and derides her jealousy as she declares her love for him.

(Handong) *Hai gia vinta la causa* *Le Nozze di Figaro* Mozart
Before this scene, Marcellina had demanded that Figaro - who is engaged to Susanna - either repay the loan she made him, or marry her. Susanna intends to repay the loan with the dowry the Count had promised her, but the Count claims he cannot remember any such promise. She flirts with him, leading him to believe that she will yield to him if he gives her the money. But soon the Count overhears Susanna telling Figaro that "they have won the case." Enraged, the Count threatens to punish them for their betrayal.

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Regina Opera'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, Investors Foundation, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, and NY City Tourism Foundation.

(Yeawon) *Un bel di vedremo* **Madama Butterfly** Puccini
Cio-Cio-San's husband, an American naval officer, left her to return to America. Cio-Cio-San believes he will return to her. She tells Suzuki, her servant, that one lovely day, they will see his ship come into the harbor, and he will come to her.

(Melina) *Re dell'abisso affrettati* **Un Ballo en Maschera** Verdi
Ulrica calls upon the King of the Abyss to enter her dwelling so she can do his bidding.

(Yeawon, Handong) *Là ci darem la mano* **Don Giovanni** Mozart
Don Giovanni is attracted to Zerlina. Alone with her, he seduces her by telling her that she is destined for a more gracious life and promising to make her his bride. Zerlina hesitates to get involved with Giovanni, for fear of being deceived and being weak.

(Yeawon) *Funiculì funiculà* Turco and Denza
Funiculì funiculà was written in 1880 to commemorate the opening of the first funicular on Mount Vesuvius. A young man compares his sweetheart to a volcano, and invites her to join him in a romantic trip to the summit where her ungrateful heart will no longer pain him with her teasing.

----- INTERMISSION -----

(Richard) *Entr'acte* **Carmen** Bizet

(David, Jax) *O sole mio* di Capua
What a wonderful thing is a sunny day. The serene air after a thunderstorm. A party is already going on. But another sun, that's brighter still. It's my own sun that's in your face! When night comes and the sun has set, I start feeling blue; So I'll stay below your window

(Melina) *Voi lo sapete, o Mamma* **Cavalleria Rusticana** Mascagni
Santuzza tells Mamma Lucia her tragic story: Turiddu had been in love with Lola, but he went into the army. By the time he returned, she had married Alfio. Turiddu took up with Santuzza on the rebound, and Santuzza fell in love with him. But Lola was jealous and seduced Turiddu away from her, leaving Santuzza without love and without honor. She begs Mamma Lucia to pray for her while she tries to get Turiddu back.

(Jax) *Torna a Surriento* DeCurtis
I cross the ocean to behold you near me, to kiss you, and tell you of my love.. I start to weep, thinking of the hour of parting. Don't flee from me. Don't torment me. Come back to Sorrento; don't leave me.

(David, Handong) *O Mimi tu pui non torni* **La Bohème** Puccini
Marcello and Rodolfo, trying to hide their feelings from one another, sing of their continuing love for Musetta and Mimi, their former lovers.

(Melina, Jax) *Seguidilla* **Carmen** Bizet
Seguidilla - Army officer Don José has arrested Carmen for fighting. Carmen flirts with him hoping he will free her. She sings of a tavern outside of Seville, run by Lillias Pastia, where she goes to dance and sing. She'll meet her lover there, one of the many who admire her.

(David) *Core n'grato* Cardillo
Core n'grato - This Neapolitan song speaks of the pain, suffering and ungrateful heart of a lost love, Catari. The young man sings of the fact that his girlfriend has mistreated him. However, he still loves her.

(Yeawon, Melina) Flower Duet **Madama Butterfly** Puccini
Cio-Sio-San, Japanese wife of an American naval officer, has been waiting for three years for the return of her husband to Japan. At last his ship has been sighted in the harbor. She and her servant Suzuki prepare her home with flowers from her garden, awaiting his arrival.

(Isabella, David) *Parle-moi de ma mère* **Carmen** Bizet
José is shocked to see Micaela. She explains that she has come to find him for his mother's sake and begs him to return home.

(Jax) *Nessun Dorma* **Turandot** Puccini
After solving three riddles, the Unknown Prince has in his turn challenged Turandot: if she manages to find his name out before dawn, he shall be executed. "No one shall sleep ", Turandot has ordered, but the confident Prince already looks forward to victory.

(Handong) *Votre Toast* **Carmen** Bizet
Toreador Song - The bullfighters are like soldiers in battle. In the bullring, the crowd cheers him on. There is excitement, wagering, and wild frenzy. The day is filled with danger. It's the day of courageous men! Toreador, be brave. Dark eyes watch you from afar, and love will be yours tonight! Suddenly, there is silence. The bull enters, charges the picador, but the toreador brings him down. *Toreador, en garde!*

+++++

DON'T MISS.....Regina Opera's production of **CARMEN**

Ticketed performances: Saturday May 9, Sunday May 10, Saturday May 16, Sunday May 17 at 3PM - 5:15PM. Tickets available at the door (cash/check) or in advance online. Tickets: Adults - \$25; Senior Citizens - \$20; Teens - \$5. Kids- Free

Free Public Dress Rehearsals of CARMEN: Fully-staged
Saturday May 2 at 3PM - with Piano accompaniment
Thursday May 7 at 7PM - with Orchestra accompaniment
No tickets or reservations needed.