



OUR 56TH SEASON 2025-2026



May 9, 10, 16, & 17, 2026, at 3 PM

**Free open dress rehearsal with piano
May 2, 2026, at 3 PM**

**Free open dress rehearsal with orchestra
May 7, 2026, at 7 PM**

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Francine Garber-Cohen.....President
Linda Cantoni..... Exec. VP/Secretary/Legal Advisor
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Scott Jackson Wiley..... Music Director

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Stage Director..... Helen Van Tine
Production Design..... Helen Van Tine, Richard Paratley
Lighting Design..... Joshua Groth
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Stage Manager..... Thomas Geib
Assistant Conductors..... Emily Lōa-Swain, Violetta Zabbi
Choral Conductor..... Emily Lōa-Swain
Rehearsal Pianists..... Emily Lōa-Swain*, Violetta Zabbi

*Pianist, May 2 Open Dress Rehearsal

Diction Coaches..... Thibault Courtois, Margaux Frohlich, Emily Lōa-Swain
Costume Supervisor/Choreographer..... Marcia C. Kresge
Technical Director..... Richard Evans
Set Assistant..... Jenna Corrado
Lighting Technician..... Hera Ford
Asst. Stage Manager/Props..... Sam Elliott Siddiqui
Supertitles Translation/Program/Website.....Linda Cantoni
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Volunteers: Jack & Enid Benezra, Susan Carlson, Julia Cornely, Christine Kawar,
Thomas Lenihan, Charles Lieboy, Glenn Mintz, Charles Monto, Don Paluh, Richard
Redmond, Alycia Scott, Santo Trapani

Program Printed by.....The Ink Shop

All performances at Our Lady of Perpetual Help C.A.B.,
5902 6th Ave., Brooklyn, New York

REGINA OPERA COMPANY

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SPECIAL THANKS to Br. Augustus J. Riviere, Rector, and Rev. Joseph Dionne, Parochial Administrator, OLPH Parish; Ralph Nofi, Ph.D., Chairperson, OLPH Catholic Academy of Brooklyn; Ana Ruth Leon de Santos, OLPH Parish Secretary; Deborah Ross, OLPH Parish Volunteer; Isidro, Raul, and Steven, OLPH Maintenance Staff; Barry Cohen; Peter C. Orlandi, CPA; and The Ink Shop. Orchestra reduction by Bryan Higgins, courtesy of Motet Music Publishing Company.

The Cast

MAY 2 OPEN PIANO DRESS REHEARSAL

Carmen: Junyue Gong
Don José: David Freides
Micaëla: Isabella Josephine Bernal
Escamillo: Handong Fu
Frasquita: Anne Elise Teeling
Mercédès: Shanelle Woods
Dancaïro: Samuel Roth
Remendado: Troy Freeman-Cheng
Zuniga: Gennadiy Vysotskiy
Morales: Warren B. Harding

MAY 7 OPEN ORCHESTRA DRESS REHEARSAL

Carmen: Melina Jaharis
Don José: Christopher Trapani
Micaëla: Yujin Zeng
Escamillo: Robert Garner
Frasquita: Veronica Mak
Mercédès: Grace Verbie
Dancaïro: Daniel Chiu
Remendado: Ethan Ellis
Zuniga: Marc Cioffi
Morales: Warren B. Harding

MAY 9 PERFORMANCE

Carmen: Lara Michole Tillotson
Don José: Jax Hassler
Micaëla: Yeawon Jun
Escamillo: Seoyong Lee
Frasquita: Veronica Mak
Mercédès: Manya Gaver-Holmes
Dancaïro: Keunwon Park
Remendado: Thibault Courtois
Zuniga: Victor Jaquez
Morales: Samuel Roth

MAY 10 PERFORMANCE

Carmen: Junyue Gong
Don José: Christopher Trapani
Micaëla: Isabella Josephine Bernal
Escamillo: Robert Garner
Frasquita: Katherine Thompson
Mercédès: Shanelle Woods

Dancaïro: Samuel Roth
Remendado: Troy Freeman-Cheng
Zuniga: Marc Cioffi
Morales: Handong Fu

MAY 16 PERFORMANCE

Carmen: Lara Michole Tillotson
Don José: David Freides
Micaëla: Yujin Zeng
Escamillo: Seoyong Lee
Frasquita: Anne Elise Teeling
Mercédès: Grace Verbic
Dancaïro: Keunwon Park
Remendado: Ethan Ellis
Zuniga: Gennadiy Vyotskiy
Morales: Handong Fu

MAY 17 PERFORMANCE

Carmen: Melina Jaharis
Don José: Jax Hassler
Micaëla: TBA
Escamillo: Robert Garner
Frasquita: Katherine Thompson
Mercédès: Manya Gaver-Holmes
Dancaïro: Daniel Chiu
Remendado: Thibault Courtois
Zuniga: Victor Jaquez
Morales: Warren B. Harding

Ensemble

Mina Azad, Jason Carrine, Margaux Frohlich, Robert Garner, Thomas Geib (Lillas Pastia), Queen Hamilton, Laura Ann Heckman, Elijah John-Burnley, Julia Johnstone, Yvonne Juris, Arthi Nandakumar, Wayne Olsen, Kyung (Jonathan) Pak, Renna Popli, Emma Ritto, Katherine Sharp, Sam Siddiqui, Rachel Spund, Marc-Eliot Stein, Lauren Stokke, Kenneth Wayne

Children

Mae Valentina Batista, Athena Courtois, Theo Courtois, Sebastian C.A. Jones

The Story of *Carmen*

Act I. A square in Seville, outside a cigarette factory. Morales and his soldiers idly watch people in the square. Micaëla, a young peasant girl, asks them about Don José. Morales informs her that Don José will return when the guard changes. He gallantly invites her to wait, but she finds it more prudent to come back later. Don José and Zuniga arrive, and Zuniga teases José about Micaëla. José admits that he loves her. The cigarette girls come out for their break, to the delight of the men. Then Carmen arrives, attracting all the attention to herself (“Habanera”). Her eye lights on the inattentive José. She tosses a flower at him and, as the factory bell rings, runs off with the other girls. José, left alone, picks up the flower. He is annoyed at Carmen but also intrigued by her. Micaëla arrives with a letter and a kiss from José’s mother. The kiss brings back memories of his home, but his thoughts turn to Carmen again. He sends Micaëla off with a message for his mother. As he reads his mother’s letter, he vows to marry Micaëla, and curses Carmen. Suddenly, the cigarette girls come out fighting wildly and blaming Carmen. Zuniga orders José to investigate. José returns with Carmen in custody; she has wounded another woman. When Zuniga tries to question her, she refuses to speak and strikes out at one of the women. Zuniga orders José to bind her arms and put her in jail. Carmen, unfazed, tells José that he will do her bidding, for he loves her. When he hotly denies it, she reminds him of the flower and coaxes him to come with her to Lillas Pastia’s tavern, where she will dance the “Seguidilla.” José resists at first but falls under her spell and frees her. Zuniga returns with the commitment order. Carmen whispers to José that she will pretend to push him and run off. Singing the “Habanera,” she ambles off in José’s custody, then suddenly shoves him down and escapes, laughing.

Act II. Lillas Pastia’s tavern outside Seville. Carmen, Frasquita, and Mercédès dance at the tavern. Zuniga invites the girls to come with him and his men, but Carmen won’t answer. He accuses her of being angry because José was sent to prison. She is happy to hear that José is now free. Escamillo the toreador sweeps in and recounts his latest triumph in the bullring (Toreador Song). He is immediately drawn to Carmen. She flirts with him, annoying Zuniga, who leaves in a huff. Escamillo then departs, bringing the crowd with him. Dancaïro and Remendado arrive and propose a smuggling venture. But Carmen will not go with them, because she is in love. José is heard singing a dragoon song in the distance. Dancaïro thinks he’ll make a good smuggler. Carmen promises to try to persuade him to come. The others then leave her to meet José alone. José is thrilled to see Carmen again but becomes jealous when she tells him that she sang and danced for the officers. To calm him, she does a castanet dance for him.

José hears a bugle and insists that he must return to quarters. Carmen flies into a rage. Showing her the flower she had thrown to him, he declares his passion for her (Flower Song). Carmen insists that he come with her to the mountains to live a life of freedom. He nearly succumbs but rouses himself and bids her farewell. As he is leaving, however, Zuniga drunkenly bursts in. They fight. Carmen calls for help. Dancaïro, Remendado, and the rest of the gypsies appear and disarm Zuniga. Now José now has no choice but to accompany the gypsies.

Act III. In the mountains. The gypsy smugglers make camp in their mountain hideaway. Carmen, annoyed at José's dejection, tells him to go home to his mother. He threatens her, and she replies that perhaps he will kill her. Frasquita and Mercédès read their fortunes in the cards, but Carmen sees only death in hers. Dancaïro returns to report that the road is clear, but there are three customs agents nearby. He orders José to go up the mountain to watch their belongings, while the women go off to take care of the customs agents. Micaëla now arrives to look for José. But she is afraid, both of the smugglers and of Carmen, and prays for protection ("Je dis"). She sees José in the distance but when he fires his gun she hides. José arrives, holding Escamillo at gunpoint. He identifies himself to José, who greets him warmly. Escamillo, who does not know who José is, explains that he is in love with a gypsy named Carmen, whose affair with a soldier is now over. José becomes enraged and threatens Escamillo, who now realizes who he is. They fight. Carmen and the other gypsies arrive and stop them. Escamillo invites everyone, especially Carmen, to the bullfight. José warns Carmen not to push him too far. Remendado then pulls Micaëla from her hiding-place. She begs José to return home, and Carmen urges him to do so. José accuses Carmen of wanting to run off with Escamillo. Micaëla now reveals that his mother is dying. As he leaves, he tells Carmen that they will see each other again.

Act IV. Outside the corrida in Seville. The bullfight is about to begin. Escamillo enters triumphantly with Carmen and goes into the stadium. Carmen is about to follow, but Frasquita and Mercédès warn her that José is in the crowd. Carmen calmly faces José alone and tells him that she is not afraid of him. He begs her to come away with him, even offering to become an outlaw again, but she refuses. She tries to enter the stadium, but José stops her and angrily asks her if she loves Escamillo. She defiantly declares that she does and contemptuously throws away a ring he had given her. As the crowd cheers Escamillo, she turns to go into the stadium, and José stabs her. He falls to his knees beside her body, and, as the crowd rushes out of the stadium, he confesses that he killed her and despairingly calls out to her.

INTRODUCING . . .

ISABELLA JOSEPHINE BERNAL (Micaëla) is a graduate of NYU Steinhardt, where she earned her Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Classical Voice. She has previously appeared with Regina Opera's in *La Traviata*, *I Pagliacci*, *Tosca*, and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Recent credits include *La Bohème* (Mimi cover), *Sounds of Spring Concert Series*, *Idomeneo* (Elettra), *Dido and Aeneas* (Dido), *Cavalleria Rusticana + I Pagliacci* (Lola), and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (Une Pastourelle). Choral works include Bach's *Easter Oratorio*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and *Carmina Burana* with the Houston Symphony.

DANIEL CHIU (Dancaïro) is a baritone from East Setauket, NY. He studied at Manhattan School of Music (MM, 2021) and SUNY New Paltz (BS, 2018). Daniel has sang 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.

MARC CIOFFI (Zuniga) is a bass-baritone currently pursuing his Master of Music in Vocal Arts at the Mannes School of Music under the guidance of Stephen Powell. His 2025 engagements included Colline in *La Bohème* with Regina Opera, Pantalone in Busoni's *Turandot* at Mannes School of Music, Vodník in *Rusalka* with LAHSOW at AVA, and the Marchese in *La Traviata* with New Jersey Opera Theater. Previous appearances include Melisso in *Alcina* (New York Opera Forum, 2024) and Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (LAHSOW at AVA, 2024).

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

ETHAN ELLIS (Remendado) received an MM in Classical Voice from Manhattan School of Music and 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 (Technical Director) 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.

TROY FREEMAN-CHENG (Remendado) is a tenor from Brenham, Texas. He earned his bachelor's in musical theater and master's in opera performance from Oklahoma City University. He has been heard in comprimario roles across New York state at companies such as Regina Opera Company, Bronx Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, and Arte Concert Opera. Every measure of music is dedicated to his wife, Megan.

DAVID FREIDES (Don José) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Classical Voice from Manhattan School of Music. Born in New York City and raised in New Jersey, David began as a trumpet player, but after sustaining an injury he switched to singing during his college years. Recently he performed as Alfredo in *La Traviata* with Regina Opera and as Luigi in Puccini's *Il Tabarro* at CLA Vocal Academy, where he was a resident artist during the 2024-2025 season. A student of Arturo Spinetti, David lives in Queens, New York, pursuing a career in music.

MARGAUX FROHLICH (Frasquita Cover/Diction Coach) is a Franco-American soprano based in New York City. She is thrilled to be covering the role of Frasquita in Regina Opera's *Carmen*. Recent highlights include Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica* with Regina Opera, Little Red in *Knightly News* with Delaware Valley Opera, and La Fée in Viardot's *Cendrillon* as a guest artist with Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. In July, Margaux will be returning to Delaware Valley Opera to perform Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*. She holds degrees from the Peabody Institute and Manhattan School of Music.

HANDONG FU (Escamillo/Morales) holds a Professional Studies Diploma from Mannes School of Music and a Master's Degree from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He has performed leading roles in *Die Zauberflöte* (Sprecher), *Madama Butterfly* (Sharpless), *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Count Almaviva, Figaro), *La Bohème* (Marcello), *Così Fan Tutte* (Don Alfonso), and *Gianni Schicchi* (Simone).

ROBERT GARNER (Escamillo) - Recent appearances at Regina Opera include: title role of *Gianni Schicchi*, Di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), Germont (*La*

Traviata), Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). Career highlights: title roles of *Eugene Onegin* and *Nabucco* at Union Avenue Opera of St. Louis to great critical acclaim, Ford (*Falstaff*) and Marcello (*La Bohème*) for Mississippi Opera. A member of The Metropolitan Opera extra chorus since 2007, he appears regularly in *Aida*, *Billy Budd*, *Boris Godunov*, *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Fidelio*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Mefistofele*, *Otello*, *Parsifal*, *Turandot*, and *Don Carlo* in New York and on tour in Japan.

MANYA GAVER-HOLMES (Mercédès) is delighted to join Regina Opera for her fifth show after appearing as Zia Principessa earlier this season. She enjoys performing in Gilbert and Sullivan, including as Little Buttercup at the International G&S Festival in Buxton, England. Manya recently appeared as the Sorceress in a sold-out performance of *Dido and Aeneas* with Opera Picciona, which she co-founded (www.opnyc.org). Favorite roles include Katisha (*Mikado*) and Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon*). She is excited to be running her first marathon in the fall! ManyatheMezzo.com

THOMAS GEIB (Stage 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*.

JUNYUE GONG (Carmen) is a Chinese mezzo-soprano who will make her 2026 house debut with Regina Opera in the title role of *Carmen*. She has recently captivated audiences as Carmen with Cincinnati Opera outreach and as the alto soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. Her versatile repertoire includes Ramiro in *La Finta Giardiniera*, Madame de la Haltière in *Cendrillon*, Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Bianca in *The Rape of Lucretia*. She has won the 2025 Third Prize (Tuesday Musical) and the 2024 Special Award (Laffont Competition, Nebraska District).

WARREN B. HARDING (Morales), a Brooklyn, NY, native, performed as the Jailer (*Tosca*) and the Marquis (*La Traviata*) last season with Regina Opera. His ensemble cast performances with Regina Opera and Liederkranz Opera Theatre include: *La Bohème*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Faust*, *Susannah*, and *The Tales of Hoffman*. Additional performances include Wolf in the children's opera *Knightly News* (Delaware Valley Opera Company), Martin in *Candide* (Heights Players, Brooklyn), Spinelloccio/Amantio di Nicolao (*Gianni Schicchi*), and guest soloist in Fauré's *Requiem*.

JAX HASSLER (Don José) 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.

MELINA JAHARIS (Carmen) - Heralded by *Opera News* for their “lush” voice, Melina Jaharis is a Greek-American with a “rich” mezzo soprano. 2025-26 started off with a world premiere in London with the Oxford Philharmonic in honor of Theodorakis’s centenary. Melina joined the Artemis Chamber Orchestra for a solo concert. This upcoming fall, they will make their role debut as La Zia Principessa here in New York. Last season included Marcellina and two world premieres with Teatro Grattacielo, the Page in *Salome* with Heartbeat Opera and Zita with Opera Company Middlebury.

VICTOR JAQUEZ (Zuniga) is a Certified Public Accountant by day and an opera singer by night. Previous credits include Sarastro with Amore Opera and Raimondo with the NYC Orchestra Project. Victor currently studies privately with Terence Goff. He is thrilled to be playing Zuniga with Regina!

YEAWON JUN (Micaëla) is a versatile artist known for her compelling stage presence. She holds degrees from Yonsei University and Mannes School of Music and is currently a DMA candidate at Rutgers University. Her extensive repertoire includes leading roles such as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Mimi and Musetta (*La Bohème*), Cunegonde (*Candide*), Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Leïla (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Liù (*Turandot*), and the title roles in *Suor Angelica* and *Madama Butterfly*. In the 2026 season, she will perform Micaëla (*Carmen*) with Regina Opera and return to the role of Cio-Cio-San with Opera Orlando.

MARCIA C. KRESGE (Costumes/Choreography) 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.

SEOYONG LEE (Escamillo), from South Korea, is a candidate for Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Cincinnati. Lee received his Bachelor of Music degree from Eastman and a Master of Music degree from Northwestern

University. He was an Apprentice Artist at Chautauqua Opera in 2025 and 2024. Roles include Colline and Marcello in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Vollman in *Lincoln in the Bardo* by Missy Mazzoli, Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Death in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, and bass soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

EMILY LŌA-SWAIN (Pianist, May 2 Open Dress Rehearsal/Assistant & Choral Conductor/Diction Coach) - Equally at home with chamber music, song, and operatic repertoire, Dr. Lōa-Swain has been especially passionate in coaching singers and working on orchestral reduction/realization on piano. Her operatic repertoire includes *Il Trittico*, *La Rondine*, *Armide*, *Rape of Lucretia*, *Così Fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *I Pagliacci*, and *La Traviata*. Since 2023, she has served as an independent contractor to Stony Brook University Music Department for mostly instrumental recital projects. At Regina Opera, she serves as rehearsal pianist, assistant conductor, choral conductor, and vocal coach.

VERONICA MAK (Frasquita) is a Chinese-American soprano based in New York City. She was recently featured in Regina Opera's production of *Suor Angelica* as Suor Genovieffa. Additional operatic credits include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Monica in *The Medium*, Laetitia in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Bastienne in *Bastien und Bastienne*, and Pyg in *Knighly News*. Ms. Mak will conclude her performance season with Spoleto Festival as a Chorus Fellow and Delaware Valley Opera in a featured recital.

WAYNE OLSEN (Publicity 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*, and *Hansel and Gretel*, among others.

KEUNWON PARK (Dancaïro) is a lyric baritone from South Korea known for his expressive tone and versatility in opera. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Voice from Seoul National University and is completing advanced studies at the Mannes School of Music in New York. His repertoire spans Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, and Verdi, alongside contemporary works such as *Vinkensport* and *The Dybbuk*. Fluent in Italian, German, and French, he brings stylistic depth to his performances. Recent roles include Schaunard in *La Bohème* with Regina Opera and Papageno with Amore Opera.

SAMUEL ROTH (Dancaïro), based in New York City, is thrilled to make another appearance with Regina Opera. He has previously performed at Regina as Schaunard in *La Bohème* and as Baron Douphol in *La Traviata*, and he sang in the choruses of *I Pagliacci* and *Tosca*. He also appeared with Amore Opera as the Imperial Commissioner/Official Registrar in their production of *Madama Butterfly*.

ANNE ELISE TEELING (Frasquita) is a charming soprano based in Brooklyn, New York. Frequenting the stage, she has appeared in featured roles with Lyric Opera Orange County, Opera Atlantic, The Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island, Opera in the Ozarks, and Chicago Summer Opera. Most recently, she sang Ishtar in the world premiere of Derrick Skye's opera, *Gilgamesh*, with Lyric Opera Orange County. Anne Elise is thrilled to sing her first Frasquita with Regina Opera Company.

KATHERINE THOMPSON (Frasquita) is a New York-based soprano, thrilled to make her role debut as Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen* with Regina Opera this season. She was recently seen as Suor Genovieffa in the company's production of *Suor Angelica*. Past operatic credits include Morgana in Handel's *Alcina*, Fortuna in Mozart's *Il Sogno di Scipione*, and Dorothée in Massenet's *Cendrillon*.

LARA MICHOLE TILLOTSON (Carmen) - Ms. Tillotson sang the bel canto role of Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera New Hampshire, and in the same season the dramatic role of Azucena in Regina Opera's *Il Trovatore*. She has since performed with Regina as Carmen, Madame Flora in *The Medium*, Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and Maddalena in *Rigoletto*. 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 in *Rigoletto* as Maddalena.

CHRISTOPHER TRAPANI (Don José) is acclaimed for "his clear and vibrant upper voice" and "endearing stage presence." Title roles include *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Faust*, and *La Clemenza di Tito*. Other roles: Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Manrico in *Il Trovatore*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Duke in *Rigoletto*, and Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. He performed as the tenor soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Beethoven's *9th Symphony*. He has sung with the Santa Fe Opera, Sarasota Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Tri-cities Opera, Opera in the Heights, and others.

HELEN VAN TINE (Stage Director) - After the joy of directing *Suor Angelica*, Helen is happy to direct *Carmen*, her second opera in collaboration with the excellent Regina Opera Music Director and Producer. She had a vast repertoire with the Amato Opera Theatre (NYC) and other NYC companies.

She has received critical acclaim in the *New York Times*, *Daily News*, *New York Sun*, and *Opera News* as a singer-actress with a “soaring mezzo” and “impeccable comic timing.” She believes all opera is “verismo.”

GRACE VERBIC (Mercédès) is a New York-based soprano recognized for her warm, expressive tone and engaging stage presence. She has performed a wide range of roles with organizations including Regina Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, and Manhattan School of Music. Recent highlights include Mercédès in *Carmen* and Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*. A graduate of Manhattan School of Music and DePaul University, she is known for her musical sensitivity, collaborative spirit, and genuine connection with audiences, bringing both elegance and emotional depth to her performances as she continues to grow her soprano repertoire.

GENNADIY VYSOTSKIY (Zuniga) was born in Odesa, Ukraine, and graduated from the Odesa School of Music. He began acting at an early age and participated in numerous musical theater performances and major motion pictures. He 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 (Music Director/Conductor) - In addition to his position as Music Director of the Regina Opera Orchestra, Mr. Wiley is Artistic Director and Conductor of the Centre Symphony Orchestra on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and a frequent conductor of the Staten Island Philharmonic. Mr. Wiley was a close friend of Maestro José Alejandro Guzmán, the longtime former Principal Conductor of Regina Opera and Music Director of both the Centre Symphony and the Staten Island Philharmonic.

SHANELLE WOODS (Mercédès) is a performer/educator with opera, musical, and concert credits. This season marks debuts as Mercédès (*Carmen*) with Regina Opera and Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. Recent highlights: Seattle Opera, *The Grey Land* (Colour of Music Festival), Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and National Sawdust. Roles: soprano soloist (Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*), Carmen (*Carmen*), Tituba (*The Crucible*), Jenny (*Threepenny Opera*), Alma Stinney (*Stinney*), Annie (*Porgy and Bess* at Spoleto Festival USA), and the world première of *Stomping Grounds* (Glimmerglass Festival).

VIOLETTA ZABBI (Assistant Conductor/Rehearsal Pianist) - A native of Odessa, Ukraine, Dr. Zabbi is currently Adjunct Professor and Vocal Coach at Adelphi University and Brooklyn College; summer program in Kiev, Ukraine;

and Oyster Bay Festival. She is the music director and conductor with Vocal Productions NYC, New York Opera Studio, and Delaware Valley Opera, and is a pianist and coach with Regina Opera, Hofstra University, and Opera Manhattan Repertoire. Dr. Zabbi has performed with DCINY International at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and other concert halls in NYC.

YUJIN ZENG (Micaëla) is a soprano based in New York City. This season, she appears as a fellow in the Manetti Shrem Opera Program at Festival Napa Valley and will perform Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with SAS Performing Arts. Recent roles include Violetta (*La Traviata*) and Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with Regina Opera, and Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*) at Utah Valley Operafest. Her repertoire also includes Musetta (*La Bohème*), Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and roles in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*.



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Christopher DiVincenzo
Vanda Pazsko

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Jocelyn Rosado
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Jessica Li
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Rayna Fishman
Katherine Topping
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David Jenkins

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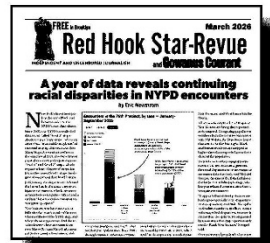


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