

BAY RIDGE ARTS AND CULTURAL ALLIANCE CONCERT AT VESUVIO RESTAURANT

**Musical artists: sopranos Jennifer Moore, Rachel Hippert; tenor Jax Hassler;
baritone Handong Fu; flutist Richard Paratley; pianist Catherine Miller**

(Jennifer) *Je veux vivre* **Roméo et Juliette** Gounod
Juliet sings of the freedom and joys of her youth. She would love to live in this daydream that intoxicates her, a sweet flame which she keeps in her heart like a treasure. Alas, this rapture of youth lasts only a day. Once love comes, happiness flees. She must enjoy this dream and youth before they fade.

(Jax) *La fleur que tu m'avai jetée* **Carmen** Bizet
Flower Song - Corporal Don Jose wound up in jail for allowing Carmen to escape arrest. Before her arrest, Carmen had flirted with Don Jose by tossing a flower at him. Now he has been released and, showing her the flower she had thrown at him, now tells her how that flower had comforted him while he was in prison.

(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!

(Rachel, 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.

(Jennifer, Rachel) *Sull'aria* **Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart
The Count has been making advances toward his wife's maid, Susanna. The Countess and Susanna have decided to trick the Count. Susanna will write a note making an appointment to meet the Count in the garden. However, the Countess, dressed as Susanna, will keep this rendezvous.

(Jennifer, Handong) *Bei Männern* **Magic Flute** Mozart
Men who love have a gentle heart. Women's duty is to share these sweet desires. Love sweetens all sorrows. We rejoice in love, which adds spice to our lives. Nothing is more noble than man and wife.

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(Rachel) *Senza Mamma* **Suor Angelica** Puccini
Sister Angelica, a nun, has learned that her illegitimate child, had died several years ago, while she was in the convent, but no one had even told her. She sings about the child who died without even knowing his mother's love. The child is now in heaven, looking down on her.

(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) *Era eguale la voce* **Gianni Schicchi** Puccini
The wealthy Buoso Donati has died, leaving everything to the Church. Gianni Schicchi has a plan to alter the will. When the doctor arrives to see how Buoso is doing, Schicchi copies Buoso's voice. He explains: tell the notary Buoso is dying and wants to make his will. When the notary arrives, the in the dark room, in the bed, instead of Buoso, it will be Schicchi, impersonating Buoso, and re-making the will. A great deception!

(Jennifer) *E Strano! 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.

(Jax, 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.

(Ensemble) Quartet Act 3 **La Bohème** Puccini
Mimi has overheard that Rodolfo loves her, but he fears he cannot provide for her, as she is ill. She is returning to Paris alone and asks him to gather her few little things and send them to her. But he can keep her bonnet as a souvenir of their love. They sadly recall the sweet moments and say goodbye to quarrels and jealousy. But as Marcello and Musetta's spat spills out of the tavern, Rodolfo and Mimì decide to remain together until the spring.

(Richard) Waltz of the Flowers **The Nutcracker** Tchaikovsky

(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; I'd stay below your window when night comes and the sun has set.

(Rachel) Lover, Come back to me **The New Moon** Romberg

(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.

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