Washington National Opera presents

Verdi’s towering masterpiece

Don Carlo

Returning to the Kennedy Center for the first time in nearly 20 years, this new WNO co-production features a cast of some of the biggest stars in opera including Leah Crocetto, Jamie Barton, Eric Owens, Quinn Kelsey, and Andrea Silvestrelli

March 3–17 in the Kennedy Center Opera House

(WASHINGTON)—Washington National Opera (WNO) continues its 2017–2018 season with Giuseppe Verdi’s grand opera of forbidden passion and political intrigue—Don Carlo, March 3–17, in the Kennedy Center Opera House. Set during the Spanish Inquisition and based on historical characters and events, Don Carlo features some of Verdi’s most beautiful music woven together with a story of personal, political, and theological conflicts. Don Carlo returns to the Opera House for the first time in 17 years in a new WNO co-production directed by Tim Albery, with the WNO Orchestra conducted by Music Director Philippe Auguin.

Family ties fray and unravel in Verdi’s grand spectacle set at the height of the Spanish Empire. Don Carlo, the King of Spain’s son, laments that the woman he loves, Elisabeth of Valois, has been forced to marry his father in order to forge peace with France. With everyone under the watchful eye of the Grand Inquisitor, tension and

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paranoia run rampant, leading the king to suspect his wife of infidelity with Carlo. What follows is a fierce struggle between father and son, allegiance and devotion, honor and heart. An emotional portrait of a family faced with mounting moral crises and an epic exploration of the burden and pitfalls of power, make the drama of *Don Carlo* unforgettable.

This new co-production with Opera Philadelphia and Minnesota Opera offers a powerhouse cast with some of the biggest stars in all of opera. Soprano Leah Crocetto, who was riveting as WNO’s Aida and as Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, returns to WNO to take on the role of Elisabeth of Valois, the heart of the opera’s love triangle. She is joined by mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton (Waltraute and Second Norn in 2016’s *Ring Cycle*), who sings the role of the fiery Princess Eboli. Bass-baritone Eric Owens, who starred in WNO’s *Lost in the Stars* and *The Flying Dutchman*, sings the role of King Philip II. Tenor Russell Thomas makes his WNO debut as Don Carlo, having recently sung the role for the first time at Deutsche Oper Berlin to great acclaim. Also making his WNO debut is Quinn Kelsey, one of the leading Verdi baritones of today, as the trusted Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa. Rounding out the cast is legendary bass Andrea Silvestrelli, last seen at WNO as Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, as the Grand Inquisitor.

Additionally, bass Peter Volpe, last seen as Daland in WNO’s *The Flying Dutchman*, is the Friar. A pair of Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists take on supporting roles: mezzo-soprano Allegra De Vita is Tebaldo, and soprano Leah Hawkins is the Celestial Voice.

A special cast takes the stage for the Friday, March 16 performance. Soprano Melody Moore, a veteran of WNO’s *Ring Cycle* and *Florencia in the Amazon*, returns as Elizabeth of Valois. Mezzo-soprano Daryl Freedman, a recent alumna of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program who starred as Suzuki in last season’s *Madame Butterfly*, returns as Princess Eboli. Tenor Rafael Davila, who was last seen at WNO as Don José in *Carmen* and Don Alvaro in *The Force of Destiny*, is Don Carlo. Baritone Troy Cook, who made his WNO debut as Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly*, is Rodrigo. Bass Peter Volpe switches roles to King Philip II, and Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Timothy J. Bruno adds the Friar to his long list of WNO credits.
Celebrated British director Tim Albery, who has staged numerous productions for the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, and Lyric Opera of Chicago, directs this new production, with WNO Music Director Philippe Auguin conducting the WNO Orchestra.

The creative team also includes scenic designer Andrew Lieberman, costume designer Constance Hoffman, and lighting designer Thomas Hase, all making their WNO debuts. Hair and makeup designer David C. Zimmerman completes the creative team.

*Don Carlo* opens on Saturday, March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Opera House and runs for seven performances, including March 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, and 17. The opera’s running time is approximately three hours and 15 minutes, including one 25-minute intermission. *Don Carlo* is performed in Italian with projected English titles. Visit WNO’s [website](#) for complete production details and casting information.

Washington National Opera’s 2017–2018 season continues with Rossini’s delightful comedy *The Barber of Seville* and Bernstein’s biting satire *Candide*. The season also features a concert on February 15 featuring Marian Anderson Vocal Award winner, countertenor John Holiday, as well as other special events. [Tickets](#) are available now.

**Don Carlo Performance and Ticket Information**

Saturday, March 3 at 7 p.m. • Monday, March 5 at 7 p.m.  
Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. • Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. • Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

Tickets start at $45 and are available [online](#), in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, and by calling (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.
**Don Carlo Production Information**

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Joseph Méry and Camille du Locle

New WNO Co-Production with Opera Philadelphia and Minnesota Opera

Performed in Italian with Projected English Titles

March 3, 5, 8, 11m, 14, 16, and 17, 2018

**Cast and Creative Team**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actors</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elisabeth of Valois</td>
<td>Leah Crocetto, Melody Moore (3/16)</td>
<td>Conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princess Eboli</td>
<td>Jamie Barton, Daryl Freedman ± (3/16)</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Carlo</td>
<td>Russell Thomas *, Rafael Davila (3/16)</td>
<td>Set Designer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa</td>
<td>Quinn Kelsey *, Troy Cook (3/16)</td>
<td>Costume Designer</td>
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<td>Philip II, King of Spain</td>
<td>Eric Owens, Peter Volpe (3/16)</td>
<td>Lighting Designer</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Grand Inquisitor</td>
<td>Andrea Silvestrelli</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friar</td>
<td>Peter Volpe</td>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tebaldo</td>
<td>Allegra De Vita ±</td>
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<td>Celestial Voice</td>
<td>Leah Hawkins ±</td>
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* Washington National Opera Debut
± Alumnus of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program
‡ Current member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program
Don Carlo Related Programs and Events

Exploring Don Carlo with Philippe Auguin
Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m.  Kennedy Center Terrace Gallery
Enjoy Don Carlo’s return to the Kennedy Center after 17 years with an insider session led by WNO Music Director and Don Carlo conductor Philippe Auguin. The maestro takes patrons inside the music to explore and deepen their knowledge of one of Giuseppe Verdi’s mightiest creations—perfect for both experienced Verdians and those new to this operatic masterwork. Tickets are $12.

Opera Master Class with Eric Owens
Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m.  Kennedy Center Family Theater
Witness how great performers are made, hear opera’s voices of tomorrow, and observe the making of opera. At this special event, emerging artists hone their craft under the guidance of Eric Owens, one of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program’s Artists-in-Residence for the 2017–2018 season and the star of WNO’s Don Carlo. This master class for pre-professional singers offers an intriguing peak behind the curtain of the creative process. Tickets are $12.

National Symphony Orchestra: Noseda conducts Verdi’s Requiem
Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 24 at 8 p.m.  Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Opera Insights before every performance  Kennedy Center Opera House
WNO presents a free pre-performance education event prior to every performance of Don Carlo, hosted by music administrator Ken Weiss. These events begin one hour prior to curtain in the Opera House and last approximately 20–25 minutes. (The O-Zone lecture with musicologist Saul Lilienstein on Thursday, March 8 begins at 6:15 p.m. and lasts approximately 45 minutes.)

Artist Q&As: Don Carlo
Immediately following the performances  Kennedy Center Opera House
Monday, March 5 and Sunday, March 11
Join WNO artistic staff for a wide-ranging discussion with the artists of the production. These events are free to patrons presenting a ticket from any performance of Don Carlo.

About Washington National Opera
Washington National Opera (WNO) is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Francesca Zambello since 2012, the company presents a diverse season of grand opera—including both classics from the repertory and more contemporary pieces—plus several newly commissioned American works and a variety
of special concerts and events. The WNO Orchestra is led by Music Director Philippe Auguin. Founded in 1956 and an affiliate of the Kennedy Center since 2011, WNO has a storied legacy of world premieres, new productions, international tours, live recordings and radio broadcasts, and innovative education and community-engagement programs. Throughout its history, WNO has been led by titans in the opera field, including the legendary Plácido Domingo, who headed the company from 1996 to 2011.

WNO contributes to the future of opera through two signature artist-development programs. The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, now in its 16th season, has become one of the nation’s most competitive and comprehensive professional training programs for young singers and collaborative pianists. Alumni of the program have won major competitions and gone on to successful careers at major opera houses in the U.S. and abroad. The WNO Opera Institute nurtures the ambitions of high-school-age singers from across the nation during an intensive three-week summer program held at American University in Washington.

Among the company's most successful recent programs is the 2012 launch of the American Opera Initiative, a comprehensive commissioning program that works to expand the American operatic repertory, to give WNO’s young artists the chance to collaborate with living composers and librettists on new works, and to make American opera more relevant to 21st-century audiences. The most popular of WNO's community-engagement programs is Mars Incorporated Opera in the Outfield, during which an opera is broadcast live from the Kennedy Center Opera House stage to the high-definition scoreboard at Nationals Park. The company's other education programs include the Kids Create Opera program at local elementary schools, Look-In performances for students in grades 4-8, and the Student Dress Rehearsal Program for middle and high school students. The company also offers free Opera Insights programs before every performance in the Opera House.

In July 2018, WNO welcomes Timothy O’Leary as its General Director. O’Leary joins WNO from Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (OTSL), where he has served as its General Director since 2008. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of OPERA America, the national service organization for opera. Prior to his appointment as OTSL General Director, O’Leary was part of the management team at New York City Opera under General and Artistic Director Paul Kellogg; he was also the first Managing Director of New York’s Gotham Chamber Opera, where collaborations included the Lincoln Center Festival and the Spoleto Festival USA. As an assistant stage director, he worked for the New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and others.

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#DonCarloDC

**FUNDING CREDITS**

Major support for WNO is provided by Jacqueline Badger Mars.

**David M. Rubenstein** is the Presenting Underwriter of WNO.
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WNO’s Presenting Sponsor
General Dynamics

Generous support for WNO Italian Opera is provided by Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello.

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