



Washington National Opera
The Kennedy Center

Timothy O'Leary
General Director

Francesca Zambello
Artistic Director

Press Release

May 3, 2019

Washington National Opera presents

The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program: Concert of Comic Masterpieces

**A lively night of comic chaos
in the Kennedy Center Opera House**

Friday, May 24, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

(WASHINGTON)—Washington National Opera closes out the 2018–2019 season with a sampling of famous works from three of opera's most iconic comedies. The rising stars of Washington National Opera's training program, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists, command the stage in a program entirely their own. Comedy and chaos ensue as the Young Artists perform a program of beloved comic scenes from three classic operas: Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, and Verdi's *Falstaff*. *Falstaff*, Verdi's final opera, is one of three operas he based on Shakespeare's work, the other two being *Macbeth* and *Otello*. WNO performs *Otello* this fall to open the 2019–2020 season. Joseph Colaneri conducts the WNO Orchestra for this program and David Paul directs.

The concert is a celebration of the impressive 2018–2019 season the Young Artists have had, from an exciting performance of *La traviata* on the Opera House stage in October to opening for the National Symphony Orchestra's concert at The Anthem last month. Each member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists sings on the program; full repertoire details are listed below.

The highly versatile Joseph Colaneri is comfortable on the podium leading operatic, oratorio, and symphonic repertoire; he has built a name for himself internationally due to his musical depth and knowledge. With an affinity for inspiring young musicians, Colaneri helped to revive the

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West Australia Opera’s Young Artists Program—it’s fitting he should lead the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists in their season-ending celebration. Colaneri has served as the music director of The Glimmerglass Festival since 2013.

Award-winning director David Paul—an alumnus of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists Program—has received praise from the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* for the energy, humor, and depth he brings to productions. Recently he has directed productions at LA Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera. Paul served as assistant director for the Broadway production of Terrence McNally’s *Master Class*. Much like Colaneri, Paul is committed to the training and education of the next generation of musicians, having a hand in various young artists programs across the country, such as the Houston Grand Opera’s Young Artists Program and the Juilliard School.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$15–\$35 and are available [online](#), in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, and by calling (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324. Groups of 10 or more may contact the Kennedy Center Group Sales office at (202) 416-8400. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Johann Strauss II (1825–1899)

Act I: Finale –“Drink, my darling, drink to me!”
from *Die Fledermaus*

Rosalinde: Marlen Nahhas
Alfred: Joshua Blue
Frank: Samson McCrady

Giocchino Rossini (1792–1868)

“Siete voi...Questo è un nodo avvilupato”
from *La Cenerentola*

Clorinda: Alexandra Nowakowski
Tisbe: Hannah Hagerty
Angelina: Eliza Bonet
Prince Ramiro: Arnold Livingston Geis
Dandini: Samson McCrady
Don Magnifico: Samuel J. Weiser

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Act I: Part One “Interior of the Garter Inn”
Part Two “Ford’s Garden”
from *Falstaff*

Alice: Alexandria Shiner
Nanetta: Alexandra Nowakowski
Meg Page: Eliza Bonet
Mistress Quickly: Hannah Hagerty
Fenton: Arnold Livingston Geis
Dr. Caius: Alexander McKissick
Bardolfo: Joshua Blue
Falstaff: Joshua Conyers
Ford: Samson McCrady
Pistola: Samuel J. Weiser

Giuseppe Verdi

Act III: Fugue—"Tutto nel mondo è burla"
from *Falstaff*

Alice: Alexandria Shiner
Nanetta: Alexandra Nowakowski
Meg Page: Eliza Bonet
Mistress Quickly: Hannah Hagerty
Fenton: Arnold Livingston Geis
Dr. Caius: Alexander McKissick
Bardolfo: Johua Blue
Falstaff: Joshua Conyers
Ford: Samson McCrady
Pistola: Samuel J. Weiser
Coro: Marlen Nahhas

ABOUT THE DOMINGO-CAFTRITZ YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

Founded by Plácido Domingo and currently in its 17th season, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program guides young singers and pianists/coaches on the verge of international careers. The program provides intensive study with renowned vocal and dramatic coaches and offers voice lessons, language classes, career guidance, and master classes with Washington National Opera staff and guest artists. The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists also have the opportunity to perform and cover roles in WNO productions, and to create new roles in WNO's new works program, the American Opera Initiative.

In addition to many performances on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists have performed at the White House, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Opéra de Monte-Carlo, the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, the United States Senate, the Supreme Court, the Music Center at Strathmore, the Smithsonian Institution, the Mexican Cultural Institute, with the Baltimore and Charleston Symphony orchestras, and at numerous embassies. They have also appeared in concert with Maestro Domingo at the Reignwood Theatre in Beijing.

Graduates of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program have gone on to successful careers including performances at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, LA Opera, New York City Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Santa Fe Opera, Seattle Opera, National Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Bayreuth Festival, the Glyndebourne Festival, Vienna State Opera, Berlin State Opera, English National Opera, Dutch National Opera, Teatro Real in Madrid, and Opéra de Monte-Carlo.

ABOUT WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

Washington National Opera (WNO) is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Under the leadership of newly appointed General Director Timothy O'Leary and world-renowned Artistic Director Francesca Zambello, the company presents a diverse repertory of grand opera across three main venues of the Kennedy Center. From classic operas to more contemporary pieces each season, WNO's artistic output also includes several commissioned American works and a variety of special concerts, youth operas, and events.

Recent celebrated productions have included the world premiere of Philip Glass's reconceived *Appomattox*, presented in conjunction with cultural events throughout Washington, D.C.; the powerful performances of Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars*; and the massive feat of WNO's first-complete *Ring* Cycle, which was helmed by Zambello and played to sold-out houses following international acclaim.

Founded in 1956 and an artistic affiliate of the Kennedy Center since 2011, WNO has a storied legacy of more than 100 new productions, plus world premieres, international tours, live recordings, and radio broadcasts, as well as 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 for 15 years, as well as luminaries such as Music Director Emeritus Heinz Fricke and former Director of Artistic Operations Christina Scheppelmann.

Among the company’s most successful programs is the *American Opera Initiative* (AOI), a commissioning program that develops new one-act works for WNO’s annual festival. By mentoring emerging composers and librettists, the Initiative works to expand the American operatic repertory and enhance its relevance to our time. Since its inception, AOI has commissioned 28 chamber opera world premieres, with some going on to future productions around the country.

With a commitment toward youth, WNO contributes to the future of opera through two signature artist-development programs. The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, now in its 17th season, is one of the nation’s most competitive professional training programs, providing two years of intensive study to a highly selective cadre of young singers and collaborative pianists. Alumni of the program have won major competitions and gone on to successful careers at major opera houses worldwide. 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.

The most popular of WNO’s community-engagement programs is *Opera in the Outfield*®, a free Kennedy Center Opera House production broadcast on 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 3–8, 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.

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FUNDING CREDITS

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David M. Rubenstein is the Presenting Underwriter of WNO.

WNO acknowledges the longstanding generosity of Life Chairman Mrs. Eugene B. Casey.

WNO’s Presenting Sponsor is General Dynamics

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PRESS CONTACT

Rachelle Roe
(202) 416-8443
rbroe@kennedy-center.org

TICKETS & INFORMATION

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324
www.kennedy-center.org/wno