



**Washington National Opera**  
The Kennedy Center

**Timothy O'Leary**  
General Director

**Francesca Zambello**  
Artistic Director

Press Release

January 29, 2019

**Washington National Opera presents**

## ***Eugene Onegin***

**Tchaikovsky's inspired masterpiece based on Pushkin's beloved  
verse novel returns to the WNO stage after a 30-year absence**

**Anna Nechaeva and Igor Golovatenko— Two stars from Bolshoi Opera—  
make their U.S. and WNO debuts in signature roles as Tatiana and Onegin**

**March 9–29, 2019  
in the Kennedy Center Opera House**

(WASHINGTON)—With dances, duels, and orchestration delights, Washington National Opera brings the emotional and melodic [Eugene Onegin](#) back to the Kennedy Center Opera House after a more than 30-year absence from its repertoire. *Eugene Onegin* is a multi-faceted masterpiece combining the artistic prowess of two Russian luminaries: Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky's music and libretto based on Alexander Pushkin's celebrated poem. A tale of rejection and regret, *Eugene Onegin* explores a society divided between rural austerity and aristocratic extravagance as maturity shifts desires—once devastated by his refusal of her youthful affections, Tatiana rebuffs Onegin's newfound proposal upon his return years later. Complete with lush period costumes and majestic ballroom scenes, *Eugene Onegin* is performed in Russian with projected English titles. Performances run March 9–29 with tickets starting at \$45.

Two lead soloists with the Bolshoi Opera make their highly-anticipated American and WNO debuts with baritone [Igor Golovatenko](#) in the title role as the bored aristocrat and [Anna Nechaeva](#) as the young but strong Tatiana. Golovatenko has quickly made a name for himself on both the concert and operatic stages since his debut in the 2006 Russian premiere of Delius's *Eine Messe des Lebens* with the Russian National Philharmonic Orchestra, plus other appearances at Glyndebourne and Bayerische Staatsoper; his debut at LA Opera is scheduled this summer.

With a career featuring nearly 30 lead roles in productions for the Bolshoi Opera, Nechaeva makes these important debuts Stateside in a role she's also taken to Festival d'Aix en Provence and the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

In his WNO debut, American conductor [Robert Trevino](#) leads the WNO Orchestra; he studied with David Zinman at the Aspen Music Festival and Michael Tilson Thomas at the New World Symphony before bursting onto the international scene. Trevino was recently named *MusicalAmerica's* Artist of the Month for October 2018 and the new Chief Conductor of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra. Returning to helm this production is Peter McClintock, an assistant director at the Met for more than 30 years with directorial appearances on opera stages worldwide. Local audiences last saw McClintock direct Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila* in 2005 and Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* in 2002 in the Kennedy Center Opera House.

The creative team for *Eugene Onegin* also features set and costume designer Michael Levine (WNO debut), lighting designer Christine Binder, choreographer Serge Bennathan (WNO debut), and hair and make-up designer David Zimmerman. This production was originally created for the Metropolitan Opera by director Robert Carsen.

The opera's running time is approximately three hours and 36 minutes, plus one 25-minute intermission, and runs for six performances. Visit WNO's [website](#) for more information.

Washington National Opera's 2018–2019 season continues with Gounod's devilishly entertaining *Faust* (March 16–30, 2019) and Puccini's towering masterpiece *Tosca* (May 11–25, 2019), as well as a special Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist performance *A Concert of Comic Masterpieces* (May 24, 2019) and other exciting vocal events. [Tickets](#) are available now.

### **Eugene Onegin Performance and Ticket Information**

Saturday, March 9 at 7 p.m. ▪ Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. ▪ Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m.  
Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. ▪ Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

### **Ticket Information**

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. Groups of 10 or more receive discounts up to 25% for *Eugene Onegin* purchases. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets. *MyTix* discounts will be available for select performances. For more information, visit [kennedy-center.org/mytix](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix)

### **Eugene Onegin Production Information**

Music and Libretto by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky / Based on the novel by Alexander Pushkin

In Russian with projected English titles

Canadian Opera Company Production. This production of *Eugene Onegin* was originally created for The Metropolitan Opera

March 9, 17m, 20, 23, 25 and 29

### **Cast and Creative Team**

(Cast in order of vocal appearance)

Tatiana	Anna Nechaeva *	Conductor	Robert Trevino *
Olga	Lindsay Ammann	Director	Peter McClintock
Madame Larina	Elena Zarembo *	Original Director	Robert Carsen *
Filippievna	Victoria Livengood	Set and Costume Designer	Michael Levine *
Lensky	Alexey Dolgov	Lighting Designer	Christine Binder
Eugene Onegin	Igor Golovatenko *	Choreographer	Serge Bennathan *
Captain	Samuel Weiser ‡	Hair and Make-up Designer	David Zimmerman
Monsieur Triquet	Joshua Blue ‡	Stage Manager	Lynn Krynicki
Zaretsky	Joshua Conyers ‡		
Prince Gremin	Eric Halfvarson		

\* Washington National Opera Debut

‡ Current member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

### **Eugene Onegin Related Programs and Events**

#### **Opera Insights before every performance, Kennedy Center Opera House**

WNO presents a free pre-performance education event prior to every performance of *Eugene Onegin*. These events begin one hour prior to curtain in the Opera House and last approximately 20–25 minutes. Musicologist Saul Lilienstein's Opera Insights on Wednesday, March 20, begins at 6:15 p.m. and lasts approximately 35-40 minutes.

#### **Guided Rehearsal: *Eugene Onegin***

#### **Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7 p.m., Kennedy Center Opera House**

*Explore the Arts.* Audience members get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a world-class opera production through this unique open rehearsal experience. Using audio headsets, attendees can learn more about the production via expert commentary while watching a rehearsal with piano and the professional cast. Visit the [WNO website](http://WNO website) for ticket information.

#### **Musical Preview of *Eugene Onegin* and *Faust***

### **Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 6 p.m., Kennedy Center Millennium Stage**

Enjoy a free preview of musical highlights from two of opera's grandest works: Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Gounod's *Faust*, running concurrently this March. This special program features the vocal talents of WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists performing each opera's most famous works.

### **Artist Q&As: *Eugene Onegin***

### **Sunday, March 17, and Monday, March 25, post-performance, Kennedy Center Opera**

Following the performances on Sunday, March 17 and Monday, March 25 in the Kennedy Center Opera House, please join WNO artistic staff for a wide-ranging discussion with the artists for an inside scoop on the production. These events are free to patrons presenting a *Eugene Onegin* ticket and begin immediately after the performance.

### **“Touch Cart” and Audience Experience**

### **Wednesday, March 20, and Friday, March 29, pre-performance, Kennedy Center Grand Foyer**

WNO's Touch Cart will be open one hour prior to the performances on Wednesday, March 20 and Friday, March 29 to experience first-hand real props and costume items featured in the opera. WNO's Education Department invites patrons to come early to touch and explore items from the production.

### **ABOUT WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA**

Washington National Opera (WNO) is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Under the leadership of 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 Heinz Fricke and 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.

Discover [Washington National Opera](#) on social media:



**#EugeneOneginDC**

**FUNDING CREDITS**

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WNO's Presenting Sponsor is General Dynamics.

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**TICKETS & INFORMATION**

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