

Opera Las Vegas



Tosca

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica

Friday, 10 June, 7:30 pm

Sunday, 12 June, 2:00 pm

Judy Bayley Theatre, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV

This performance is 2 hours and 40 minutes long and is performed with two 15 minute intermissions

These performances are dedicated to the loving memory of the founder of

Opera Las Vegas:

Gloria Marinacci Allen 1930 - 2021

Welcome Letter from our General Director, Jim Sohre



Welcome to all the friends of Opera Las Vegas, old and new. We are so thrilled you have joined us to experience one of the most famous and beloved operas in the canon, Puccini's immortal *Tosca*.

There are few operas that pack so much intrigue, passion, conflict, and explosive outcomes into a two-hour performance, all the while regaling audiences with some of the most ravishing and dramatically compelling music ever written. When I was a wee tadpole at University, *Tosca* is the piece that hooked me on opera, thanks to a recording with the legendary Zinka Milanov as the titular "dangerous diva."

Over the ensuing decades, countless sopranos have assumed the role of *Tosca*, and we are especially proud that rising star Shannon Jennings is making her company debut with this OLV production. It certainly won't be her last triumphant outing in this iconic role.

It is hard to believe we have made it to the climax of our Twenty-third Anniversary Season. It hasn't always been easy. With the production of *Don Pasquale* in June 2021, we (like the rest of the world) thought we were out of the Covid woods. Woo-hoo, vaccines, no masks, clear sailing!

Sadly, we learned that was not to be true. Although we doggedly persevered this season, there were few productions that were not challenged by pandemic incursions. Including *Tosca*. You will note that our attractive choristers and extras will be heard (to wonderful effect) but not fully seen. In order to safeguard the health and careers of our professional singers, some of tonight's cast will performed masked.

But there is no masking the excellence of this group of soloists, choristers, creative team, and orchestra (the superlative members of the LV Philharmonic). We hope you are as thrilled as we are with the profusion of talent we have assembled for this performance of *Tosca*. And we hope you will watch with eager anticipation to learn about our plans for 2022-2023. Thanks for joining us! And watch out for the diva!

Best, Jim Sohre

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Cast & Company

Tosca

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica

Time: The year 1800

Place: Rome

Running Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes with two 15 minute intermissions

Floria Tosca: Shannon Jennings

Mario Cavaradossi: Dominick Chenes

Baron Scarpia: Daniel Sutin

Cesare Angelotti: Paul Houghtaling

Sacristan: Adelmo Guidarelli

Spoletta: Travis Leon

Sciarrone: Marshall Morrow

Jailer: Chase Gutierrez

Shepherdess: Lily Robin (Friday), Yna Ocan (Sunday)

Chorus Featuring Members of the Las Vegas Master Singers

Claudia Affan

Brian Eiffes

Erickson Franco

Genevieve Fulks

Chase Gutierrez

Elaine King

Maureen Seymour

Rachelle Sproul

Ashley Stone

Cody Stover

Tyler Urbano

Andrew Cassiell Williams

Cardinal, Clerics, Roberti, Soldiers, Police Agents, Sergeant, Servants,
Henchmen:

Dean Perry

Greg Van Cott

Brian Eiffes

Erickson Franco

Genevieve Fulks

Chase Gutierrez

Cody Stover

Tyler Urbano

Andrew Cassiell Williams

Cast & Company

OLV Youth Chorus

Athena Mertes, Director

Abigail Coeto Juarez

Addisyn Hughes

Alexis Prieto

Angelina Grande Forbes

Ava Angotti

Isabella North

Leilani Kim-Manning

Lily Robin

Maggie McLaughlin

Natalie Galindo

Pax Kurr

Roxy Martinez

Sylvia Lenker

Trenton Mellen

Yna Ocan

Zoe Perez

Creative

Conductor: Joshua Horsch

Director: Octavio Cardenas

Chorus Master: Joseph Svendsen

Youth Chorus Master: Athena Mertes

Production Pianist: Spencer Baker

Stage Manager: Bonita Bunt

Assistant Stage Manager: Rachelle Sproul

Scenery by Utah Festival Opera Company, Designer Jim Lyden

Costume Coordinator and Designer: Abby Stroot

Costumes Courtesy of Tri-Cities Opera Company, Inc.

Costumes Designed by Sandra Vest and Heather Leigh Thomson

Lighting Designer: Ginny Adams

Surtitles Created by Paul Houghtaling and Christopher Withrow

Surtitles Operator: Suzanne Stone

Technical Director, UNLV Performing Arts Center: Lynn Ware

Cast & Company

Orchestra Featuring Members of the Las Vegas Philharmonic

Violin I

DeAnn Letourneau, Concert Master

Martha Gronemeier

Jennifer Eriksson

Ferenc Cseszko

Violin II

Shakeh Ghoukasian

Eric McAllister

Kay Sanderson

Lee Schreiber

Viola

Sharon Street-Caldwell

Hope Bowden

Ian Long

Kimberly Johnson

Cello

Andrew Smith

Moonlight Tran

Elena Kapustina

Flute

Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye

Bass

Tyler Gordon

Oboe

Coreen Levin

Horn

Frank Joyce

Eric On

Clarinet

Jay Savoy

Paiz Shafaei

Trumpet

Thomas Wright

Bassoon

Lindsey Bartlett

Trombone

Allan Quan

Tympani & Percussion

Patrick Bowen

Harp

Kimberly Glennie

Keyboard

Spencer Baker

Our Heartfelt Thanks

We are deeply grateful to the Las Vegas Philharmonic for being such wonderful collaborators during the 2021-2022 season and beyond!

With additional special thanks to:

Las Vegas Little Theatre

Parents and Supporters of the Opera Las Vegas Youth Chorus

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and Pastor, Father Courtney Krier

ACRO Gymnastics Las Vegas

William Schroder

House Staff and Technical Crew of the Judy Bayley Theatre

Summary

Careful not to mess with the diva! In Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, a fiery prima donna struggles to free her true love from the clutches of a ruthless police chief.

This evergreen audience favorite is filled with iconic arias and impressive musical moments, and a rousing score brings emotional extremes into sharp relief as the story rushes towards its thrilling conclusion. The crackling melodrama grabs hold from the get-go, which not only makes *Tosca* ideal for anyone who loves drama and music but is also a great night out for the first-time operagoer. (The English translation for this fast-paced shocker is projected above the action – instant understanding!)

Tosca is structured as a series of duets, each of which is actually an entertaining competition. The affectionate friction between the two lovers, the opera diva Tosca and artist Cavaradossi is at least as compelling as the fierce and deadly battle between the malevolent police chief Scarpia and his prey, Tosca—a competition which, her final line threatens, might just continue in the next world.

Biographies



Shannon Jennings: Floria Tosca

Praised by *The Washington Post* for her dramatic intensity and vocal ability, soprano Shannon Jennings continues to wow critics and audiences alike. Most recently, she joined Palm Beach Opera where she sang Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* and covered Mimì in *La bohème* and Nedda in *Pagliacci* and returned to Wolf Trap Opera to sing Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* in recital, the title role in Viardot's *Cendrillon* and the Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*. Other recent credits include

Micaëla in *Carmen* and the title role in *Tosca* with Annapolis Opera. In 2022, she looks forward to reprising the role of *Tosca* with Opera Las Vegas and performing Mimì in *La bohème* with Newport Classical and Kentucky Opera.

A Capitol District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Ms. Jennings' apprenticeships include Santa Fe Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, and San Francisco's Merola Opera Program.

Biographies



Dominick Chenes: Mario Cavaradossi

Reviewed in the Huffington Post as a “breakout star” and “powerhouse lyric tenor”, tenor Dominick Chenes’ many recent engagements include debuts with Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège as Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Alfredo in *La Traviata* for Tokyo New National Theatre, Lyric Opera of Chicago for Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and *Attila*, Odyssey Opera for the Earl of Essex in Britten’s *Gloriana*, a debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in concert arias, and Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. This season Dominick debuts Oper Leipzig in Bellini’s *Norma* (Pollione), a role he will also perform in

Hong Kong later this season... Other future engagements include a return to Seattle Opera as Cavaradossi in *Tosca* and a return to Utah Opera for Nicias in Massenet’s *Thaïs*. Mr. Chenes also returns to Lyric Opera of Chicago to cover Cavaradossi.

Most recent performances include Seattle Opera as Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Opera Colorado as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, New Orleans Opera as Turiddu *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Valencia as Carlo in *I Masnadieri* conducted by music director Roberto Abbado, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* with the Reading Symphony, Musica Viva Hong Kong, for Pinkerton and Rodolfo, and *La Reine de Saba* with Odyssey Opera.

Dominick’s Lyric Opera of Chicago debut was in the role of *Faust* (cover). He has performed Don Jose in *Carmen* with Palm Beach Opera, Alfredo in *La Traviata* at the Pa Skaret Opera Festival in Sweden, Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Austin Lyric Opera, debuted Grand Theatre de Genevre as Lopas in *Les Troyens* with Maestro Dutoit, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* with the Minnesota Opera, Pinkerton for Austin Lyric Opera, Don Jose with Utah Opera, and Rodolfo with the Welsh National Opera.

Dominick is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts where he has performed Rodolfo in *La Bohème* conducted by Christofer Macatsoris. Other roles at AVA include Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Gherman in *Pique Dame*, and Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. He made his Alice Tully Hall debut with the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, as well as a concert for the Gerda Lissner Foundation in Zankel Hall.

Biographies



Daniel Sutin: Baron Scarpia

Baritone Daniel Sutin recently sang the role of the villainous police chief Baron Scarpia in the Northern Lights Music Festival's critically acclaimed production of *Tosca*, the first North American opera production to be performed with social distancing. Upcoming engagements include Don Fernando in *Fidelio* with Polish National Opera, and the title role in *Rigoletto* with Opera North. In 2019-20, Mr. Sutin covered the title role in *Wozzeck* at the Metropolitan Opera. The 2018-19 season marked his debut with Arizona Opera as Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata*. In 2017-18, Mr. Sutin's engagements included Baron

Scarpia in Boston Lyric Opera's new production of *Tosca*, Giacomo in *Giovanna d'Arco* with Odyssey Opera, and his return to Chicago to cover Alberich in *Siegfried*. He also debuted with San Francisco Opera to cover Alberich in their complete Ring Cycle.

In 2015-16, Daniel debuted the role of Jokanaan in *Salome* with the Detroit Symphony, sang Don Fernando in *Fidelio* with Cincinnati Opera, Iago in *Otello* with the Phoenix Festival of Voice, Enrico Ashton in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Boheme Opera of New Jersey, and covered the title role of *Wozzeck* and Alberich in *Das Rheingold* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Alberich in the complete *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at Washington National Opera. In 2014, Daniel Sutin sang the title role of *Wozzeck* at the Metropolitan Opera, stepping in at the last moment for an indisposed Thomas Hampson, and was the One-Eyed Brother in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Other engagements for the 2014-15 season included Biterolf in *Tannhäuser* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* (Hawaii Opera Theatre). In 2013, he sang Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata* (Savonlinna Opera Festival, Finland), the title role of *Rigoletto* (Musica Viva, The Opera Society of Hong Kong), Konrad Nachtigall in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), Tonio in *I Pagliacci* (Austin Lyric Opera), and Valentin in *Faust* (Boheme Opera of New Jersey). Highlights of the 2011-12 season include Mr. Sutin's debut at Boston Lyric Opera in the title role of *Macbeth*, and Marcello in Opera Fairbanks' production of *La Boheme*.

Biographies



Adelmo Guidarelli: Sacristan

GRAMMY award winning Baritone Adelmo Guidarelli is one of opera's busiest singing actors sought after for the Italian character parts in operas by Donizetti, Rossini, and Mozart such as the title role in Don Pasquale, Dulcamara in The Elixir of Love, Don Magnifico in La Cenerentola, Bartolo in The Barber of Seville and Le Nozze di Figaro, Leporello in Don Giovanni and Don Alfonso in Così Fan Tutte. Other notable roles include Falstaff in Falstaff, Gianni Schicchi in Gianni Schicchi, the Sacristan in Tosca, Benoit and Alcindoro in La Bohème, and Sulpice in The Daughter of the Regiment.

Notable companies in which he has appeared include Palm Beach Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Opera Tampa, Opera Las Vegas, New Jersey State Opera, Salt Marsh Opera, Syracuse Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Shreveport Opera, Pensacola Opera and Central City Opera to name a few. Globally he has appeared in Greece, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Vienna, Austria, Prague, Slovakia, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in various productions, concerts and festivals.

In addition to opera, Mr. Guidarelli landed two national TV commercials for SONY's PS4 Pro "Opera Campaign," one of which debuted during the 2018 Super Bowl game day coverage on NBC. He is a featured soloist on the GRAMMY award winning album "All The Sounds" by Lucy Kalantari and The Jazz Cats as "Mr. Opera Man" and has hosted a TV show called "Voices Among Us." He won The MAC Award for "Best Comedy Performer" for the opera comedy show OPERATION OPERA, was invited by Ryan Seacrest to perform Mozart's "Non più andrai" on his E! Channel series Bank of Hollywood, was featured on BBC Scotland live from Edinburgh, was heard on a national commercial for Lidia's Italian Gourmet Kitchen, and is a featured soloist on a German Children's CD called "Der Kleine Tanzbar Schubidu." He is also part of the SONY MBA (Music Business Association) catalog singing the seasonal hits "A Christmas Toast" and "Sing Your Song." His debut solo album titled "Treasured Songs of Italy & Germany" spawned an International Association of Independent Recording Artists (IAIRA) certified International #1 hit for his dual language version of "Funiculi, Funicula", and he is a voting member of The Recording Academy and an annual participant at the Grammy Awards.

Biographies



Paul Houghtaling: Cesare Angelotti

Bass-baritone **Paul Houghtaling** has sung a diverse repertoire throughout the U.S. and abroad. Career highlights include the Philip Glass soundtrack to Reggio's film *Naqoyqatsi* for SONY, on which he is a feature vocalist; several Carnegie Hall solo appearances with Cecelia Chorus of New York, American Composers Orchestra, and others; U.S. tours with the Waverly Consort, including Kennedy Center appearances; and "*Opera Buffa: Comedy On Stage*" on Lincoln Center's "Meet the Artists" series. Recent seasons included Ko-Ko in *The Mikado* with Anchorage Opera, Natchez Opera, and Opera Saratoga; Sir Joseph in *H.M.S.*

Pinafore for Nashville Opera; a return to Mobile Opera as stage director and Angelotti in *Tosca*; and his debut with Opera Birmingham as Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore*. He has also appeared with the Central City, Baltimore, Boston Lyric, Knoxville, Long Beach, Natchez, Opera on the James, and Santa Fe Operas, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild, among others, and has created roles in works by Philip Glass, Lee Hoiby, Michael Ching and others.

Biographies



Travis Leon: Spoletta

Travis is thrilled to be making his Opera Las Vegas debut this season. “Opera Legends in Black is a wonderful program to honor the many artists that paved the way for singers of color today.” A native of Lansing, Michigan, Travis holds degrees from Lansing Community College, Western Michigan University, and will be finishing his master’s degree in vocal performance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, this spring. He currently studies under the guidance of Dr. Alfonse Anderson. He would like to thank his teachers, friends, and family for their undying love and support. Travis will be seen later this season when

he makes his professional role debut as Spoletta in Opera Las Vegas’s production of Tosca.

Biographies



Marshall Morrow: Sciarrone

Marshall Morrow has recently performed Schaunard in Vegas City Opera's La Boheme, along with Tom/John (The Face on the Barroom Floor), The Pirate King (Pirate of Penzance), Corporal and Sulpice (Daughter of the Regiment), Escamillo (Carmen), Marcello (La Bohème in Concert), Gamekeeper (Cunning Little Vixen), Father (Hansel and Gretel), and Papageno (The Magic Flute). Opera News stated Marshall Morrow "tall, thin and hilariously snooty, showed real comic skill" (Isouard's Cendrillon). Previously Marshall performed the role of Rambaldo in La Rondine as a Young Artist at Lidal North in Oslo,

Norway. His roles include Don Magnifico in La Cenerentola, Dandini in Isouard's Cendrillon and the summer of 2017, Marshall performed the role of Le Surintendant des plaisirs in Massenet's Cendrillon the role title of Don Giovanni at Trentino Music Festival. Other performance credits include the role of Miton in the U.S. premiere of Delibes' Le Roi L'a Dit. Marshall performed/ created the role of Gregory in a workshop of Vera by Matthew Barnson in collaboration with American Opera Project. Marshall has sung with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Alan Gilbert.

Biographies



Chase Gutierrez: Jailer

Baritone, Chase Orlando Gutierrez, a Las Vegas native young artist whose personable and charismatic singing has taken him from Las Vegas to Spain. Mr. Gutierrez has performed in numerous operas throughout the years: Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutte*, Jupiter in *Orpheus in the Underworld* (English), The Notary in *Don Pasquale*, The Notary/Buoso Donati in *Gianni Schicchi*, Thierry in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (English), Quartet Chorus of *Dido and Aeneas*, Chorus of *Pirates of Penzance*, and Chorus of *La Cenerentola*. In concert Chase has performed as the baritone soloist in Charpentier's *Te Deum*, and has sung spirituals throughout Spain and Portugal. Chase is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at UNLV under the supervision of Dr. Alfonse Anderson. Outside of the world of opera Chase is a multimedia specialist as the onsite audio engineer and photographer in his studio.

Biographies



Joshua Horsch: Conductor

Praised for conducting with "steady acumen and considerable aplomb" and "awesome control" (*Opera Today*), **Joshua Horsch** is an extremely versatile operatic and symphonic conductor. A two-time winner of the American Prize in Opera Conducting, Joshua serves as Music Director and Principal Conductor of Opera Las Vegas.

Joshua's recent and upcoming conducting engagements include appearances with Atlanta Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Orlando, Mobile Opera, Pacific Opera Project, Opera Las Vegas, and Tri-Cities Opera. With a diverse repertoire of over sixty operas and a broad spectrum of orchestral and choral works, Joshua has recently held positions as a conductor and pianist/coach on the music staff of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Austin Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Florida Grand Opera, North Carolina Opera, Opera Saratoga, Pensacola Opera, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Newport Music Festival. Joshua studied conducting and piano at the University of Colorado Boulder, the Pennsylvania State University, and Ithaca College.

Biographies



Octavio Cardenas: Director

Stage director Octavio Cardenas captivates audiences with his visionary, visceral, and physical style of directing. Opera News has praised him for creating “an immersive theater experience” while the Dallas Morning News hailed him for bringing “every character and situation to life.” Recent projects include Lohengrin by Salvatore Sciarrino as a pop-up digital opera installation: a site-specific opera for COVID times in collaboration with artist Lance McGoldrick and Opera Southwest, Cruzar la cara de la Luna with Opera Santa Barbara, and the World Premiere of Zorro with Fort Worth Opera, Barber of Seville with

Opera Delaware, and Florencia en el Amazonas with Opera at Chapman.

Mr. Cardenas’ recent productions of Silent Night for Fort Worth Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City were described as “a breathtaking realization” with “many brilliant touches.” The Kansas City Star called the Lyric Opera’s production “one of its finest performances in recent memory.” Other recent productions include La boheme for Minnesota opera to which the Start Tribune acclaimed, “what makes the production a success, is Octavio Cardenas’ staging.” His production of As One for UrbanArias was acclaimed by MD Theater Guide, “Under the direction of Octavio Cardenas, the two stars playfully make great use of both stage and energetic space—it seemed the theatre condensed and expanded with Hannah’s journey.”

He has served as the Director of Baylor Opera, Head of Directing Staff at Des Moines Metro Opera and has also been on the directing staff at Chautauqua Opera. Mr. Cardenas is currently the Visiting Director of Opera at Chapman University and will be joining the Faculty at Eastman School of Music this coming Fall.

Biographies



Joseph Svendsen: Chorus Master

Joseph Svendsen an American conductor, tenor, and academic with experience in a diverse array of vocal music performance, study, and leadership. He serves as Co-Director of Choral Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Director of Choirs and Devotional Music at Faith Community

Lutheran Church in Summerlin.

Svendsen has performed or conducted professionally in Ireland, England, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Czechia, South Korea, and Canada, as well as many of the finest performance venues across the United States. A *leggero* tenor,

he specializes in Baroque repertoire and chamber choir, performing with various professional ensembles across the United States and Europe.

Svendsen's academic experiences are wide-ranging, teaching high school, college, church, and professional ensembles. He has presented at state, regional, national, and international professional conferences and symposia, with emphases in critical pedagogy in the choral rehearsal and sacred choral music. Svendsen specializes in repertoire from before 1800 and sacred music from a variety of faith and spiritual traditions, particularly Lutheranism.

Svendsen holds a Doctor of Music in Conducting from Texas Tech University, a MM from the University of Illinois, and BAs from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.



Save the Dates

Stay tuned for the announcement of our exciting 2022-2023 season!

Information will be available at www.operalassvegas.com

About Opera Las Vegas

Opera Las Vegas heads into 2021-22 — its 23rd year — of enriching the cultural landscape of Southern Nevada by strengthening our Las Vegas communities' relationship to the art of opera through accessible, engaging, and high caliber performance experiences.

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Sheronda McKee-Dollar, Diversity Coordinator

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