

La Traviata

Opera Western Reserve is very excited about its first main stage production of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* which will take place at Stambaugh Auditorium on Friday, November 12th at 8PM. It was the dinner theatre production of *La Traviata* presented in the Ballroom of Stambaugh Auditorium seven years ago by the Youngstown Opera Guild that was the inspiration for creating the company. Our cast of young professionals will consist of both newcomers to our stage and some old favorites. All of our Young Artists will be seen on stage as well. Here is an introduction to our wonderful cast:

Timothy M.R. Culver (Alfredo)

Tenor, Timothy M.R. Culver, has performed with the Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Lansing Lyric Opera, Porthouse Theatre, Huron Playhouse and the Cleveland Orchestra. Some recent roles include Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Il duca di Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, and Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*. At Opera Theatre of Lucca in Italy, Mr. Culver performed and studied under the direction of internationally renowned baritone, Lorenzo Malfatti. He also sang in the U.S. premiere of Erwin Schulhoff's *H.M.S. Royal Oak* with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. In 2002, Mr. Culver began as an Assistant Professor of Voice at the Hugh A. Blausler School of Music at Kent State University, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Currently, he resides in Stow, Ohio with his wife and three children.



Victoria Fiutowski (Madame Prudence)

Victoria (Munoz) Fiutowski grew up in New York City where she sang in the Collegiate Chorale (an adult madrigal group) while still in high school. She later joined the Oratorio Society, and was a member of the Springfield (Massachusetts) Symphony Chorus and Richmond Symphony Chorus. While in college, she played the leading female role in the original musical, *Circus* by William Joel, to excellent reviews. She has studied voice under Adriana Harding in Washington, DC and Suzanne Peck (of the Waverly Consort) and is presently under the tutelage of Dr. Lee of YSU. Mrs. Fiutowski has worked as a high school art teacher and was a drama coach. She is a member of the Stambaugh Chorus.

Brian Keith Johnson (Germont)

As a member of Actors' Equity Association, Brian Keith Johnson, has performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in *Big River* to Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Operatic roles include: Tonio in *Pagliacci*, Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Marcello in *Rigoletto*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Opera Western Reserve; Henry Box Brown/Frederick Douglass in *Vanqui*, Opera Columbus; The Kaiser in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, Cleveland Public Theatre; Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Valentin in *Faust*, Cleveland Opera; Bellomy in *The Fantasticks*, Dewain in *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I saw the Sky*, Belcore in *Elixir of Love*, Figaro in *Barber of Seville*, Lyric Opera Cleveland; Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Giovanni in *Don Giovanni*, Peter in *Hansel und Gretel*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Duke Symphony Orchestra; Crown in *Porgy and Bess*, Michele in *Il Tabarro*, Union Avenue Opera. Mr. Johnson also has an extensive concert performance history.



Rachael Pavloski (Flora)

Rachael Pavloski, mezzo-soprano, has a master's in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Toledo. She recently made her Canton Symphony debut as an alto soloist in Bach's *Cantata No. 79* and was the mezzo-soprano soloist in Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*. She has performed in the Opera Cleveland Chorus for several seasons. In addition, Ms. Pavloski has also sung with the Cleveland Opera Chorus, Akron Symphony Chorus, and Akron Lyric Opera Theatre Chorus. In 2007, she was awarded The Daniel Curtin Award for chorister of the year by Opera Cleveland. Roles that she has performed include: Lucy in *Threepenny Opera*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly*, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Ramiro in *La Finta Giardiniera*, and various roles in the opera scenes at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Ms. Pavloski is also a vocal instructor at Hiram College.

Jessica Stecklein (Violetta)

Lyric Coloratura Soprano, Jessica Stecklein, was recognized by the Washington Post as "Washington's gift to opera," possessing a unique voice of angelic beauty imbued with a luscious richness that has always succeeded in moving and delighting her audiences. She has enjoyed popular and critical acclaim in all of her performances: the role of Gilda in the fourth act of *Rigoletto*, Essy Baker in the premier of *Democracy* and as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Washington National Opera; Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Opera International, as well as *Il Puritani* for their Operatic Vocal Gala. Ms. Stecklein performed Samuel Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915* with the National Symphony as the winner of their Young Soloists Competition at the Kennedy Center, and also performed Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and Gounod's *Messe Solonelle*. She recorded "Belle Nuit" from *The Tales of Hoffman* with Denyce Graves for PBS Television and performed with her in *Grendel* at Lincoln Center and at Los Angeles Opera where she was a Resident Artist. Other roles include Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* and Handel's *Messiah* performed at the Kennedy Center. Her most recent performance was *La Traviata*, Opera International at The Music Center at Strathmore in July.



2010 OPERA WESTERN RESERVE YOUNG ARTISTS



Enrique Bernardo (Gastone)

The Peruvian tenor/pianist has performed the roles of Nemorino, *Elixir of Love* with Undercroft Opera; Briguella, Tanzmeister, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Alfredo, *La Traviata* with Cleveland Institute of Music; and Count Almaviva, *Barber of Seville* with Erie Opera Theatre. He has performed with Pittsburgh Opera in several choruses. Bernardo will be joining OWR's Young Artist program this fall, singing the role of Alfredo in their Mini Main-Stage production of *La Traviata*.

Trevor Coleman (Dr. Grenvil)

Baritone Trevor Coleman is a major in Vocal Performance at Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music. Trevor was last seen in *The Mikado* as Pooh-Bah. He also performed in *The Tender Land* as Grandpa Moss. Trevor is a graduate of Boardman High School and has been seen in their productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Trevor has also performed at Bob Jones University in *Rigoletto*.



Karen Lyn DeBartolo-Fisher, pianist, is a life-long Boardman resident. Studying with Lucille Sheridan, she gave her own piano recital at age 8 at the Butler Institute of American Art, and began accompanying her school choirs as early as grade 4. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree, graduating Summa cum Laude, from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where her roommate was the now-famous Kathie Lee Gifford. There, Karen studied piano with Andrej Wasowski. From 1976-1993, Karen was the Vocal Music Director at Glenwood Middle School and Stadium Dr. Elementary School in the Boardman School system, teaching grades 3-8. As a church musician, Karen Lyn has been director of various choirs, and is a faculty accompanist for the Dana School of Music at YSU.

Shafica Kaleel (Annina)

Shafica Kaleel, soprano, graduated from Youngstown State University this past spring with a B.A. in English and a minor in Music. While at YSU, she performed in several opera productions. In 2008, Shafica sang selected opera scenes from *Eugene Onégin* and *Albert Herring* with the Dana Opera Workshop. She performed the role of Laurie Moss in *The Tender Land* and Yum Yum in *The Mikado* for YSU. In November of 2009, Shafica was in the chorus for Opera Western Reserve's Main Stage production of *Carmen* and sang the role of Frasquita for the Young Artist Mini-Main Stage production. In addition, Shafica was a member of the Dana Vocal Society and is actively involved in Opera Western Reserve's Young Artist Program.



Robert Pierce (Marquis D'Obigny)

Robert Pierce, baritone, is a native of Painesville, Ohio. He has sung the title role in Haydn's *The Apothecary*, Claudio *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, Mr. Ford *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Husband *Amelia Goes to the Ball*, and Frank *Die Fledermaus*. He has also sung in the Opera Cleveland chorus and as a soloist with the Westerville Symphony. In 2008, Mr. Pierce graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from Otterbein College, and he currently attends the Cleveland Institute of Music in the studio of Clifford Billions and is the Educational Outreach Associate Director for OPERA Western Reserve.

Max J. Pivik (Baron Duphoul)

Max J. Pivik, baritone, has appeared in productions with the Dana Performing Arts Series, Opera Circle of Cleveland, Valley Lyric Opera, and OPERA Western Reserve. Mr. Pivik is the Educational Outreach Director for OPERA Western Reserve. He currently serves as the Music Director and Choral Conductor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Youngstown Ohio. As a successful competitor Max has won numerous NATS competitions including, first Place at the 2009 Great Lakes Region NATS competition. He is also a winner of the Dana Young Artist Competition.



Anjin Stewart-Funai (Olimpia)

Anjin Stewart-Funai, soprano, has her Masters in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has sung several opera roles, including Partenope in *Partenope*, Suor Genovieffa cover in *Suor Angelica*, Italian Operatic Experience; Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, Gianetta in *L'elisir d'amore*, First Touriere in *Suor Angelica*, Cleveland Institute of Music; Adina cover in *L'elisir d'amore*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, Nerone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Italian Operatic Experience; Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Elisetta in *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, NEC Summer Opera Scenes; Pernile in *Captain Lovelock*, Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, Empress Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*; Tufts Opera Ensemble.

Save the Date...

Sept 23-26 Opera Cleveland	<i>The Pearl Fishers</i> Bizet Cleveland 216.575.0903	Sept 28 7:30PM Tuesday Musical	Marc-Andre Hamelin EJ Thomas Hall 330.761.3460
Sept 29 8:00PM Stambaugh Auditorium	City Music Cleveland (Free) 330.747.5175	Oct 8-10 Opera Circle Cleveland	<i>Die Fledermaus</i> Strauss 216.441.2822
Oct 9 8:00PM Cleveland Orchestra Chorus	<i>Carmina Burana</i> DeYor PAC 330.744.0264	Oct 9-17 Pittsburgh Opera	<i>The Barber of Seville</i> Rossini 412.281.0912
Oct 14 & 16 Pierce Opera House	<i>La Boheme</i> Valley Lyric Opera 724.962.5757	Oct 15 8PM Monday Musical Club	Los Lonely Boys Stambaugh Auditorium 330.743.2717
Oct 23 8:00PM A salute to Elton John	<i>Madman Across the Water</i> DeYor PAC 330.744.0264	Oct 31 3PM Warren Philharmonic Orchestra	Tricks and Treats: A Halloween Spectacular! 330.399.3606
Nov 3 Covelli Center	Transiberian Orchestra Youngstown 330.746.5600	Nov 5-21 Trumbull New Theatre	<i>Oklahoma!</i> Niles 330.652.1103
Nov 6 Stambaugh	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> Ballet Western Reserve 330.744.1934	Nov 6 8:00PM Youngstown Symphony Orchestra	<i>Echoes</i> DeYor PAC 330.744.0264
Nov 9 7:30PM Tuesday Musical	State Symphony Capella Chorus 330.761.3460	Nov 11-14 Opera Cleveland	<i>I Pagliacci</i> Leoncavallo Cleveland 216.575.0903
Nov 12 8PM Opera Western Reserve	<i>La Traviata</i> Stambaugh Auditorium 330.480.0693	Nov 12-21 University Theater	<i>Once on This Island</i> YSU Theater 330.941.3810
Nov 13-21 Pittsburgh Opera	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i> Donizetti 412.281.0912	Nov 14 12:15PM Sundays at Stambaugh	<i>Salute to Appalachia</i> Stambaugh Aud. 330.747.5175
Nov 19 & 20 Opera Circle Cleveland	<i>I Puritani</i> Bellini 216.441.2822	Nov 30 7:30PM Tuesday Musical	The Cleveland Orchestra 330.761.3460
Dec 3 8:00PM DeYor Performing Arts Center	Great Russian Nutcracker 330.744.0264	Dec 11 8:00PM DeYor Performing Arts Center	Sounds of the Season 330.744.0264
For YSU Dana School of Music Events Please call 330.941.3636		Tune into WYSU 88.5FM Mondays at 8PM for NPR World of Opera	*Sponsored by: Opera Western Reserve

THE YOUNGSTOWN OPERA GUILD UPDATE

The Youngstown Opera Guild is pleased to announce their new slate of officers:

President Carla L. Infante
Treasurer Jim Collier
Corresponding Secretary Corlis J. Green
OWR Liason Patricia Fleck Kavic

Vice President Ron L. Gould
Secretary Kathleen Dragoman
Data Base Manager Anthony Infante
Events Newsletter Veronica Torres

The Youngstown Opera Guild has decided not to present the Giorgio Tozzi Scholarship dinner this year. The YOG would like to invite you to become a member. Your presence and continued support not only helps us to bring opera to the community, to promote opera education, provide scholarships to qualified students at Youngstown State University, but it also strengthens our capacity to provide a venue to reach out to opera enthusiasts in the Youngstown area and neighboring communities.

For membership levels and inquiries, please contact Carla Infante at (724) 962-2336.

Opera Western Reserve would like to extend our sympathies to the family of Lydia Infante who passed away. Lydia Infante was on the board of the Youngstown Opera Guild and was a long-time volunteer at the Butler Museum of American Art



How we Spent our Summer

The Opera Western Reserve family has had a great summer! We are busily preparing for *La Traviata* and are looking forward to working with the wonderfully talented cast during the production in November.

We just finished wrapping up the Silent Auction at the Summer Festival of the Arts. We appreciate those of you who were generous with donations and volunteered your time. **David Vosburgh**, Production Director, has rapidly recovered from his hip replacement in July. He's back in the office, busy, working too hard as usual, and telling jokes to his Administrative Assistant, **Bernadette Lim**. Bernadette also took a break from the office at the end of August to engage in a 15 city tour in the South with her band, The Zou. Also, she was recently seen as Grazia at the Victorian Players' theater in *Death Takes a Holiday* and will be playing the role of Alice in *Closer* at the Oakland Center of the Arts.

After completing her Artist Diploma at CIM, **Diana Farrell** (Soprano, Countess Ceprano, *Rigoletto*, 2006; Educational Outreach Director 2007-09) was cast as part of the repertory company for New England Opera Theatre, based in Concord, New Hampshire where she appeared in several concerts this summer. She will be singing their Countess in next spring's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Currently, she is in the process of staging another production- her own wedding to Cleveland native, Nathan Taxel! The couple will be married this September 19, 2010 in Mantunuck, Rhode Island. **Phillipe Pierce** (Tenor, El Remendado, *Carmen* 2009) sang the role of Normanno in Opera Cleveland's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. **Tim Culver** (Tenor) will make his OWR debut as Alfredo in *La Traviata*. He sang Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and will be singing Eisenstein in Opera Circle Cleveland's production of *Die Fledermaus* and will be singing in Opera per Tutti's production of *Il Tabarro*. **Brian Keith Johnson** (Baritone, Sharpless, *Madama Butterfly*, 2008; The Count, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, 2006; Marcello, *La Boheme*, 2005; Tonio, *Il Pagliacci*, 2004) is also singing in *Il Tabarro* for Opera per Tutti. At the end of May, **Misook Yun** (Soprano, Cio Cio San, *Madama Butterfly*, 2008) won the Classical Singer Convention Competition and also the Audience Choice Award. At the convention, Opera Fort Collins offered her the title role in their production of *Madama Butterfly* on the spot as a surprise! **Maryann Madden** (Gilda, *Rigoletto*, 2007) opened up her own vocal studio in Pittsburgh. **Rachel Skiba** (Soprano, Mercedes, *Carmen*, 2009) spent two months in Italy with her husband, Scott working, teaching, and singing. She's looking forward to singing Micaela with Indianapolis Opera in Peter Brook's *La Tragedie de Carmen* as well as finishing up her doctorate. **Scott Skiba** (Baritone, Escamillo, *Carmen*, 2009; Monterone, *Rigoletto*, 2007; Figaro, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, 2006) also enjoyed his time in Italy, where he is the production manager for two touring opera productions in Tuscany and the stage director for the Scenes program for Oberlin in Arezzo, Italy. He is also on the voice and acting faculty for the Musica Nelle Marche program in Urbania, Italy. In October, Mr. Skiba will be directing *Die Fledermaus* for Opera Circle Cleveland and *Il Tabarro* for Opera per Tutti in collaboration with Cleveland Public Theater. He will also be directing *Il Segreto di Susanna* with Opera per Tutti in 2011.

Current Young Artist, **Shafica Kaleel** (Soprano, Frasquita, *Carmen* in Miniature, 2009) will be singing the role of Anina in this year's production of *La Traviata*. She has graduated from Youngstown State University this past spring with a B.A. in English and minor in Music. She will be substitute teaching this year and continuing her involvement as a Young Artist. This summer, **Max Pivik** (Baritone, El Dancairo, *Carmen*, 2009; The Bonze/Prince Yamadori, *Madama Butterfly*, 2008; Marullo, *Rigoletto*, 2007; Antonio, *Figaro*, 2006, Educational Outreach Director 2009-present) taught at the Dana Vocal Clinic at Youngstown State University. He will be singing the role of Frank in *Die Fledermaus* for Opera Circle Cleveland. He is currently teaching private voice lessons. New to our Young Artist Program, **Anjin Stewart-Funai**, graduated with her Masters in Vocal Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music in May. This summer, she sang the title role in the third act of Handel's *Partenope*, covered Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*, and participated in a vocal masterclass with Hershey Felder with the Italian Operatic Experience program in Mentecatini-Terne, Italy. We'd also like to welcome new Young Artist, **Enrique Bernardo**, who just finished working as vocal coach with the Carnegie Mellon Pre-College Program. He will be covering Alfredo in *La Traviata* as well as singing in the Chorus with Undercroft Opera in Pittsburgh. This month, he is singing with Erie Chamber Orchestra. He is also the Music Director of *Music in the Country Concert Series* which is a venue where local musicians are given the opportunity to perform. Currently, he serves as appointed voice faculty, pianist and staff accompanist for ballet and voice at Point Park University. Former Young Artist, **Lindsey Anderson**, recently graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She will be singing Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Seattle Opera as well as working with their Young Artist Program singing Pepitto in *Viva la Mamma!*

We hope you enjoyed our updates and hope to see you all in November!

Pre-Performance Dinner

in the Grand Ballroom of Stambaugh Auditorium, beginning at 6PM. Dinner will be catered by Fifth Season Catering. For details, call Stambaugh Auditorium at (330)747-5175.



OPERA WESTERN RESERVE

WILL DEDICATE THIS PERFORMANCE OF "LA TRAVIATA" TO THE MEMORY OF MEZZO-SOPRANO, BLANCHE THEBOM, 94 SEPTEMBER 19, 1915- MARCH 23, 2010 MS. THEBOM WAS AN INTERNATIONAL METROPOLITAN OPERA STAR WHO WAS RAISED IN CANTON, OHIO.



Opera Western Reserve wishes to acknowledge the support of Clifford Johnson who passed away, and extend our sympathies to his wife, Lillie Johnson, who is a faithful member of our Board of Trustees, and his son Brian Keith Johnson, a frequent performer with Opera Western Reserve.



LA TRAVIATA

8 p.m. Friday, November 12, 2010
Stambaugh Auditorium

Ticket Order Form

Box Office Opens October 4th
Call 330.480.0693 between 12 and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday for Further Information

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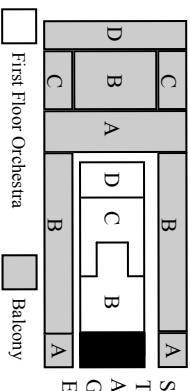
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Friday November 12, 2010 - 8 pm
Stambaugh Auditorium

Susan Davenny Wyner, Music Director
David Vosburgh, Stage Director

Giuseppe Verdi's

LA TRAVIATA



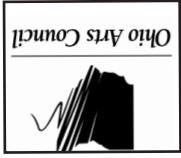
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We'd like to thank...

ACROSS THE FOOTLIGHTS

CONTENTS
THE CAST OF LA TRAVIATA
THE YOUNG ARTISTS OF 2010
EVENTS CALENDAR
YOUNGSTOWN OPERA GUILD UPDATE
HOW WE SPENT OUR SUMMER
A DEDICATION TO BLANCHE THEBOM
A TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD JOHNSON

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