

Artpark to present Puccini's 'Tosca,' conducted by Rose, featuring BPO

Artpark & Company Press Release and Photo

Celebrating its 50th season, Artpark & Company will present one of the world's favorite operas, Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca," in the Artpark Mainstage Theater at 7 p.m. Friday, July 12, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Tickets are now on sale. Reserved seats begin at \$39.

Following the success of Artpark's sold-out production of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" during the 2023 summer season, Artpark's opera programming will continue with a full production of the classic "Tosca," a story of love, lust and political intrigue with music by Puccini to an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Gouseppe Giacosa. The production will feature direct recreations of the original Adolf Hohenstein's set and costume designs from the opera's premiere at Teatro Costanzi in Rome in 1900. Audiences will discover a masterpiece of Belle Époque design with the timeless music drama that inspired it.

The full production will include internationally known opera soloists accompanied by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, under the direction of Grammy Award-winning Artpark Director of Opera and Sonic Explorations Gil Rose.

"Tosca" is a three-act opera set in Rome during the 1800s, just after the French Revolution. Napoleon has successfully taken France and has invaded Rome and created a new republic. The beloved opera singer, Floria Tosca, is in love with painter Mario Cavaradossi, and



here begins the story of how Chief of Police Baron Scarpia intersects with these lovers in drama, betrayal, revenge and murder.

Often referred to as "a musician helping to shape the future of classical music," Rose was acknowledged for his "sense of style and sophistication" by Opera News, noted as "an amazingly versatile conductor" by The Boston Globe, and praised for conducting with "admiral command" by The New York Times. He has been called "one of the most adventurous conductors in the world" by KUSC Radio. Over the past two decades,

he has built a reputation as one of the country's most inventive and versatile conductors. His dynamic performances on both the symphonic and operatic stages, as well as over 100 recordings, have garnered international critical praise.

Rose conducted Artpark's production of "Carmina Burana" in the 2023 season.

Stage director Michael Capaso is the general director of the New York City Opera. He has produced, directed and toured opera and musical theater productions in the U.S. and abroad for over 30 years. In 2014, along with philanthropist

Roy Niederhoffer, he led the successful effort to bring the New York City Opera out of bankruptcy, laying the artistic, administrative and fiscal groundwork for the company's upcoming seasons. The revitalized New York City Opera returned to the stage in 2016 with a celebratory production of "Tosca."

Capaso began his career producing and directing and co-founded New York's Dicapo Opera Theatre in 1981. In 1995, Capaso conceived and designed a permanent home and performance space for the company, repurposing the lower level of the St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church on Manhattan's East Side into a "jewel-box" theater. Over the 30 years of his leadership, Dicapo Opera Theater presented a diverse programming to the New York public, and, in cooperation with the Armel Festival, premiered three productions of contemporary American operas in Europe.

Associate set designer John Farrell is currently the director of production for New York City Opera. Since starting this position in 2015, he has been responsible for all aspects of the physical production of the company, and he has served as the resident scenic designer. During this time, he has designed more than 10 productions for the company. Also in New York, Farrell was the resident designer for Dicapo Opera where he created more than 90 productions from 1992-2013. At Radio City Music Hall, he was the scenic supervisor for the "Spring Spectacular" Easter show for two years and the "Christ-

mas Spectacular" show for one. He served as scenic supervisor for "Radio City Christmas Spectacular" shows in Chicago and Detroit.

Associate costume designer Ildikó Debreczeni has been designing costumes for theater, dance and film for more than 30 years. In 1995, she established Jelmez-Art Ltd. in her hometown of Szolnok, Hungary, where she produced costumes for local theaters. In 2007, through an association with the Armel Opera Festival, based in Budapest, Jelmez-Art began constructing costumes for international theaters and opera companies, a list which has grown to include the Bayreuth Festival, Bergen Festival, Graz Opera in Austria, Bergen National Opera, and opera companies in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland and the U.S.

Lighting designer Susan Roth has designed lighting for theater, opera and dance in the U.S. and abroad. International opera credits include Tobias Picker's "Emmeline" and Robert Ward's "The Crucible," which were televised throughout Europe on Mezzo TV as part of the Armel Opera Festival. She has designed for a number of opera companies in the U.S., including Tampa Opera, Augusta Opera, Orlando Opera and Toledo Opera, and was resident designer for Dicapo Opera.

Reserved seat tickets begin at \$39 and include a facility fee. Additional fees apply for online orders. Tickets are available for purchase online at ticketmaster.com. Visit artpark.net for more information.

SHE SAVED MY LIFE

North Tonawanda resident Dawn A. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, then she met Lockport's very own Stacey Austin.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like cleaning and doing laundry were overwhelmingly painful. "How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it is like walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes one size too big, so that nothing would 'touch' her feet. Unfortunately, Dawn's story is all too familiar for the over 20 million people in the US suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you are unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis; you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping, or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you that 'you just have to live with the pain,' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, Dawn read an article about Stacey and the work she and her staff were doing to treat those suffering from neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Stacey, founder of Stacey Austin Acupuncture in Lockport, is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA, to assist in increasing blood flow and nutrients to expedite recovery and healing, to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night, I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs." Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving treatments. "I can wear socks and shoes! It is life altering, Stacey saved my life!"

Stacey has been helping the senior community for over 13 years using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Niagara County.

If you've missed too many tee times because of your pain or you've passed on dancing at your granddaughters wedding because you're afraid of falling, it is time to call Stacey and the staff at Stacey Austin Acupuncture.

It is time to let your golden years BE GOLDEN! Stacey is accepting new patients, and for a limited time will be offering \$30 consultations, so call us before January 1st to schedule your consultation.

Call us at 716-628-3802 to learn more and schedule your consultation today.

