

# North American premiere of La Fura dels Baus' 'Carmina Burana' at Artpark sells out

2,400 guests celebrate Carl Orff's popular masterpiece in spectacular style



"Carmina Burana" photos by Jordan Oscar // Artpark & Company

## Press Release

The North American premiere of La Fura dels Baus' production of "Carmina Burana" performed to a sell-out crowd of 2,400 at Artpark on Saturday, July 29, marking the return of opera to the performance venue after a three-decade hiatus.

"By all accounts, Saturday was a resounding success and turned a page in Artpark's history, where opera and multiple artistic disciplines can be celebrated on a global scale," Artpark President Sonia Clark said. "We are grateful to our artists, staff, funders, and the public for the support. It takes a very special community to lift a program such as we are having for our 50th season." Barcelona-based theatrical troupe La Fura dels Baus' production of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," one of the most beloved and recognizable pieces of music ever composed, involved more than 200 performers from Western New York and around the world, including members of the Catalan troupe and director Carluss Padrissa, Tanzen Dance, a youth choir, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, all under the baton of Artpark Opera Curator and Conductor in Residence Gil Rose.

"I can't think of a better way to bring back opera in Artpark style than with 'Carmina Burana,' à La Fura dels Baus," Rose said. "The energy was palpable and the evening one to remember."

This production marked an unforgettable moment in the storied venue's 50th consecutive season of public art and performance.

"This was a one-night-only, once-in-a-lifetime performance," Clark added, "but now our guests and patrons can count on a permanent home for opera here at Artpark."

## Strates Shows midway returns to Erie County Fair

The James E. Strates Shows will again head to the Erie County Fair this August, commemorating 100 years in business and a "Centennial of Smiles." Strates Shows will bring over 70 rides, games and attractions to complete the mile-long midway in Hamburg.

A press release noted, "2023 also marks the 99th year of a historic relationship between the Erie County Agricultural Society (host of the Erie County Fair) and the James E. Strates Shows. This partnership is a historical milestone in the modern amusement industry as it is considered the longest continuous run of any carnival midway in the United States."

### Erie County Fair Special Offers & Events

√ Strates Shows is offering weekday one-price ride days at for \$35 per wristband. Fairgoers can avoid the lines and purchase wristbands in advance online at [www.ECFair.org](http://www.ECFair.org) or in-person at Strates booths. Wristbands are not shareable.

√ Strates Shows is also offering "Fun Cards," which can be reloaded and shared. They are available online in advance at [www.ECFair.org](http://www.ECFair.org) or in-person at Strates booths.

√ On Friday, Aug. 18, Jimmy Strates of the James E. Strates Shows will provide a historical talk for fairgoers to enjoy at the Heritage Building at 6:15 p.m.

### 'Top 10 Rides'

The following is the Erie County Fair's rundown of the "Top 10 Rides" experienced by fairgoers during the 2022 event – returning to the midway this August. The ranking is based on individual wristband and "Fun Card" ticket scans.

Per the Erie County Fair organizers:

• **Giant Wheel:** Truly the "King of the Midway!" At 105 feet in height, Strates Shows majestic Giant Wheel dominates the fair-

grounds and the surrounding community. A spectacular sight day or night, the Giant Wheel comes alive when the sun goes down with a spectacular display of LED lighting. It is the best ride to take an awesome selfie with friends, as you'll have a one-of-a-kind view behind you! From the top, check out unmatched views of downtown Buffalo and nearby Lake Erie! (Riders must be 48 inches tall, minimum, unless accompanied by an adult).

• **Wave Swinger:** This ornately decorated giant swing set takes riders flying above the carnival crowds below. Riders are seated in one of the ride's many suspended basket seats. As the Wave Swinger starts up, the whole structure rises and begins to rotate clockwise. When it reaches its maximum height, the ride tilted to provide an added thrill! (42 inches minimum, 230 pounds maximum)

• **Musik Express:** Music, lights and sounds – get ready for spinning action as the up-and-down motion of the ride keeps you rocking and rolling. (52 inches minimum and age 8; 78 inches maximum)

• **Pirate:** Ahoy, mateys! Welcome aboard the biggest ship on the midway. But look out, as there are rough seas ahead! This is not a kiddie cruise, but a thrilling experience for mature family members. The ride's up and down, swinging pendulum movement will provide plenty of zero-gravity thrills at the 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock positions. (48 inches minimum; 39 to 48 inches may ride with an adult on an inside seat)

• **Venetian Double Carousel:** For over three decades, Strates Shows signature merry-go-round has been a memory-maker for fairgoers of all ages. This unique, two-story, hand-painted carousel is a timeless favorite on the midway and has become one of the "first" midway rides ever enjoyed by thousands of children and their

parents. (42 inches minimum, unless accompanied by an adult)

• **Sky Flyer:** High-altitude fun! Newly refurbished for 2022, this 98-foot-high vertical swing can be seen "dancing in the sky" above the Strates Shows carnival. As 24 riders slowly rise to the top, the tower begins to rotate and centrifugal force kicks in! The Sky Flyer offers adventure thrills as well as a panoramic view of the midway. Fairgoers on the ground will be sure to have their cameras out to capture the Sky Flyers' dazzling array of LED lighting. (48 inches minimum, 79 inches maximum)

• **The Claw:** Experience the ultimate sensation of speed, rotation and swing on one ride! As its large arm lifts into the air, those daring enough to ride from one of its suspended seats will get a 360-degree view of the surroundings ... but only if they can keep their eyes open! (48 inches minimum, 77 inches or 220 pounds maximum)

• **Scooter/Bumper Cars:** Driver's licenses not required! There is no way better to get your traffic jam frustrations out than a ride on this carnival classic. These bumper cars let riders travel over the floor while bumping, dodging, and

crashing along the way. (48 inches minimum to drive, or 42 inches minimum to ride)

• **The Wacky Worm:** The perfect "first coaster" for young riders, this colorful caterpillar will have all ages laughing with delight as it weaves its way along gentle slopes and a winding track. (42 inches minimum, or 36 to 42 inches may ride with an adult)

• **Dream Wheel:** Enjoy a panoramic view of the midway from 72 feet above the ground while riding in a family-sized gondola. At night, the Dream Wheel's translucent tubs absorb the multiple colors of the super spectacular LED lighting. (40 inches minimum; 40-56

inches must be accompanied by a responsible patron)

A complete list of the nearly 50 rides coming to the midway (including height requirements) is now available online at [www.ECFair.org](http://www.ECFair.org). Riders are determined by height, not age.

The ride list is subject to change without notice.

This year's Erie County Fair will be held Aug. 9-20. Visit [www.ECFair.org](http://www.ECFair.org).

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