

PITTSBURGH OPERA

August 13, 2019

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Pittsburgh Opera gives Mozart's Masterpiece *Don Giovanni* a stylish film noir look

What:	Don Giovanni Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart , Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
Where:	Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, downtown Pittsburgh
When:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat., Oct. 12, 2019 * 8:00 PM • Tues., Oct. 15, 2019 * 7:00 PM • Fri., Oct. 18, 2019 * 7:30 PM • Sun., Oct. 20, 2019 * 2:00 PM
Run Time:	3 hours, 10 minutes, with one intermission
Language:	Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
Tickets:	<p>Single tickets for adults start at \$14; tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are half-price. Student discounts available. Single tickets go on sale August 26. Call 412-456-6666 or visit pittsburghopera.org/tickets.</p> <p>Group tickets and subscription tickets are already for sale. Group Discounts available for groups of six or more. Contact Regina Connolly at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.</p>
Media Events	<p>Photo Call (Mon., Sept. 30, 12:30 PM) - location TBA</p> <p>Full Dress Rehearsal (Thurs., Oct. 10, 7:00 PM) - Benedum Center</p>
Related Events See pages 6-8 of this release.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising Stars Concert (9/22) • Market Square Farmer's Market Concerts (9/26 & 10/3) • Opera Up Close (9/29) • WQED Preview (10/5 & 10/11) • New Guard Lounge (10/12) • Audio Commentary (10/15) • Meet the Artists (10/15) • October Brown Bag concert (10/19)

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Photo by Cory Weaver for Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Overview of *Don Giovanni*

Charming nobleman. Serial womanizer. Sexual predator. Don Giovanni is all these and more. As the list of people out to get him grows longer, eventually his misdeeds are bound to catch up with him.

Don Giovanni leaves a trail of broken hearts, and worse, wherever he goes. He has his servant, the reluctant doorman Leporello, keep a journal of Don Giovanni's many romantic conquests. Completely without morals or a conscience, Don Giovanni sexually assaults Donna Anna, then kills her father the Commendatore, who had tried to come to her defense. He seduces young Zerlina on her wedding day. But all actions have consequences, as Don Giovanni is soon to learn.

An irresistible classic, Mozart's **Don Giovanni** seamlessly combines comedy and tragedy with one of the great musical scores of all time to create one of the world's favorite operas.

As always, English supertitles will be projected above the stage.

Single tickets for adults start at just \$14; kids and teens ages 6-18 are half-price. For tickets call 412-456-6666, visit the Box Office at Theater Square, or online at pittsburghopera.org or CulturalDistrict.org. Group discounts, including student discounts, are available.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Fun facts about *Don Giovanni*

1. The original/full title of the opera is “Don Giovanni, or The Libertine Punished.” As a morality tale, Don Giovanni ultimately pays for his evil actions with his life.
2. Movie buffs will love the opera’s stylish film noir look, with Easter Eggs paying homage to classic noir movies such as **Double Indemnity**, **The Third Man**, **Out of the Past**, **Kiss Me Deadly**, and **The Big Sleep**, among others. Director Kristine McIntyre explains the noir treatment in [this video](#).
3. As part of the film noir look, the entire opera — costumes and set — is black and white, with some intentional exceptions, adding to the eery, dark feeling of the show.
4. Don Giovanni was the first opera to use a trombone.

The story, in brief

Setting: America, 1950’s

Act I

At night, in the street outside the Commendatore’s house, Leporello bemoans his fate working for the dissolute Don Giovanni. Suddenly Giovanni runs into the street pursued by Donna Anna, the Commendatore’s daughter, who accuses him of trying to attack her. The Commendatore rushes to his daughter’s aid and is killed by Giovanni. Anna asks her fiancé, Don Ottavio, to avenge her father’s death.

At a café the next morning, Giovanni and Leporello encounter one of Giovanni’s former conquests, Donna Elvira, who is still angry at Giovanni’s betrayal. Leporello tries to discourage her from pursuing Giovanni by showing her his catalogue with the name of every woman Giovanni has seduced.

Meanwhile, Masetto and Zerlina celebrate their upcoming wedding with friends. Don Giovanni asks Leporello to get rid of the groom. Alone with Zerlina, Giovanni persuades her to come away with him. Before they can leave, Elvira interrupts them and leads Zerlina away. Momentarily thwarted, Giovanni greets the mourning Anna and Ottavio, only to be embarrassed by the persistent Elvira, who denounces him as a seducer. Trying to dismiss her as a madwoman, Giovanni ushers Elvira off. Anna, in horror, recognizes him as her father’s murderer and calls on Ottavio to avenge her honor.

Later that afternoon, Giovanni looks forward to an evening of partying he has arranged in Zerlina’s honor. Zerlina begs the furious Masetto to forgive her. Anna, Ottavio, and Elvira arrive in disguise, swearing vengeance, and Giovanni tells Leporello to invite them in.

Inside Giovanni’s nightclub, Leporello distracts Masetto while Giovanni dances with Zerlina, trying to drag her into an adjoining room. When Zerlina cries for help, Anna, Elvira, and Ottavio unmask and confront Giovanni, who escapes.

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Act II

Under Elvira's balcony, Leporello exchanges clothes with Giovanni to woo the lady in his master's stead. Leporello and Elvira go off, leaving Giovanni free to serenade Elvira's maid. When Masetto arrives with his friends to punish Giovanni, the disguised Don tricks Masetto and beats him up. Zerlina tenderly consoles him.

Elvira follows the disguised Leporello into a dimly lit church. Leporello tries to escape, but is discovered by Anna, Ottavio, Zerlina, and Masetto. Mistaking servant for master, they join in denouncing the supposed Don. Frightened, Leporello reveals his identity and manages to escape. Ottavio asks Zerlina and Masetto to comfort the distraught Anna and go to the authorities for help. Left alone, Elvira thinks about her love for Giovanni in spite of everything.

Leporello finds Giovanni in a cemetery, where a statue of the slain Commendatore warns Giovanni of his doom. The Don forces the terrified Leporello to invite the statue to dinner only to be surprised by the Commendatore himself.

Ottavio urges Anna to stop grieving and accept his love. She implores him to wait until her father is avenged.

Late that night in the empty club, Giovanni orders Leporello to serve supper. Elvira arrives and attempts to persuade Giovanni to reform his ways, but he sends her away. In a final confrontation with the Commendatore, Giovanni is finally forced to pay for his crimes.

- Courtesy of Kristine McIntyre

Ticketing Information

- Single tickets for adults start at \$14; tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are half-price. Single tickets go on sale August 26. Call 412-456-6666 or visit pittsburghopera.org/tickets.
- Group tickets and subscription tickets are already for sale. Group discounts, including student discounts, are available. For more information about [group ticket services and discounts](#) for groups of six or more people, contact Regina Connolly at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

Sponsors

- [PNC](#) is the 2019-20 Pittsburgh Opera Season Sponsor
- [WQED-FM](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's Media Sponsor
- [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#) is the Tuesday performance and 'Meet the Artists' post-show event sponsor

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Cast and Artistic Team: *Don Giovanni*

Don Giovanni
Donna Anna
Don Ottavio
Commendatore
Donna Elvira
Leporello
Masetto
Zerlina

[Craig Verm](#)**
[Rachelle Durkin](#)+
[Kang Wang](#)+
[Brian Kontes](#)
[Corrie Stallings](#)**
[Musa Nggungwana](#)
[Tyler Zimmerman](#)*
[Antonia Botti-Lodovico](#)*

Conductor
Stage Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Wig & Make-up Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Conductor
Chorus Master
Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Director
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

[Antony Walker](#)
[Kristine McIntyre](#)
R. Keith Brumley
Mary Traylor
Marcus Dilliard
James Geier
Cindy Knight
[Glenn Lewis](#)
[Mark Trawka](#)
[James Lesniak](#)
[Matthew Haney](#)*
Alex W. Seidel
Jin Ah Lee

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut
* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist
** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Related Events for *Don Giovanni*

Rising Stars Concert

Sunday, September 22, 6:00PM

George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert on Sunday, September 22 in the Opera's Strip District headquarters. *Rising Stars* is the community's first opportunity to meet the incoming [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists](#). This performance is free and open to everyone.

At *Rising Stars*, each Resident Artist first performs a selection of his or her own choosing, followed by one chosen by [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) and [Music Director Antony Walker](#). A final aria to conclude the concert is selected by the audience. Doors open at 5:00 PM. The program begins at 6:00 PM.

Pittsburgh Opera offers a free Audio Commentary of the *Rising Stars* concert to patrons with visual impairments. For details, please call Marilyn Michalka Egan, Ph.D., Director of Education, at 412-281-0912, ext. 242.

This free event is very popular. RSVP online at <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/rising-stars-concert1>, or call 412-281-0912 ext. 215. Please note that the Pittsburgh Opera garage is available only for handicapped parking, by reservation. Parking reservations must be received by 4:00 PM Friday, September 20. [Reserve a handicapped parking spot for Rising Stars](#), or call 412-281-0912 ext 215.

Open-Air Concerts at Market Square Farmers Market Thursday, September 26 and October 3, 11:30 AM Market Square, downtown Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Opera's 2019-20 Resident Artists will entertain Pittsburghers with free open-air concerts at Market Square during the Farmers Market on Thursday, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3.

Sample all that the Market Square Farmers Market has to offer while enjoying world-class singing of opera favorites by Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists!

Opera Up Close: *Don Giovanni*

Sunday, September 29, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Founders' Room, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

Join Robert Boldin, Artistic Administrator, and special guests from the production, for an in-depth look at Mozart's **Don Giovanni**. Stage Director Kristine McIntyre will speak about the sexism inherent in the story of **Don Giovanni**, and how she has approached this production to make it more equitable than it was originally.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Admission is \$5; free to members of [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) or the [New Guard](#), and \$50+ donors. Handicapped parking is available by reservation until 4PM on Friday, September 27. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/opera-up-close-don-giovanni>.

***Don Giovanni* Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and WQED.ORG**
Saturday, October 5, 12:30 - 1:00 PM
Friday, October 11, 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, and broadcast over the airwaves on WQED-FM 89.3 as well as the WQED website, WQED's preview of **Don Giovanni** gives listeners an engaging introduction to the singers, music, and story of the opera. For more information: <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/wqed-preview-don-giovanni>.

Pre-Opera Talks
1 hour before each performance, Benedum Center

All ticketholders are invited to attend a [Pre-Opera Talk](#) one hour before each performance's curtain in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

[Pittsburgh Opera New Guard](#) opening night lounge
Saturday, October 12 – prior to the performance and during intermission
South Lounge at the Benedum Center

The Pittsburgh Opera New Guard is a community for young professionals, ages 21-40, who have a passion for Pittsburgh Opera. Membership comes with free and discounted opera tickets, pre-sales or special rates for Pittsburgh Opera Special Events, and more.

Members can enjoy the private New Guard Lounge at the Benedum on opening night of all our operas. The Lounge is sponsored by [Porter Wright](#). [Visit our website](#) or [join our Facebook group](#) for additional event details.

Audio Commentary: *Don Giovanni*
Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 PM
Benedum Center

Ticketholders with visual impairments are invited to use [Pittsburgh Opera's Audio Description service](#) at our Tuesday performances. Trained volunteers describe the supertitles, scenery, costumes, and stage action. The listeners hear these descriptions via assistive listening devices. Those wishing to use Audio Description should reserve seats to

PITTSBURGH OPERA

the Tuesday, October 15 performance of **Don Giovanni** by contacting Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, ext. 213, or groups@pittsburghopera.org. Braille and large-print programs are available at all performances.

Meet the Artists of *Don Giovanni*
Tuesday, October 15, immediately following the performance
Benedum Center lower lobby

Pittsburgh Opera [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) interviews the stars of **Don Giovanni** in the Benedum Center lower lobby after the Tuesday evening performance. You can ask your own questions and mingle with the artists too! Free to all Tuesday ticketholders.

“Meet the Artists” is generously sponsored by Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center. Learn more at <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/meet-the-artists-don-giovanni>

Brown Bag concert
Saturday, October 19, Noon - 1:00 PM
George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

You're invited to our free October Brown Bag concert, our first of the season! Attracting approximately 200 people each month, these informal performances feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#).

The concert is free and open to everyone. Bring a friend and bring a lunch! Meet the Resident Artists afterward in an informal reception provided by [Friends of Pittsburgh Opera](#).

Doors open at 11:30 AM. Handicapped parking is available by reservation until 4PM on Friday, October 18. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/october-brown-bag-concert4>.

COMING UP NEXT for Pittsburgh Opera:

**The first Spanish-language opera in Pittsburgh Opera's 81-year history,
 Florencia en el Amazonas, Nov. 9-17**

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 81st season in 2019-20. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, internationally-recognized educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.

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