

PITTSBURGH OPERA

December 14, 2021

Contact:

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Pittsburgh Opera to perform fairy tale opera *The Rose Elf* and world premiere of *In a Grove* at Bitz Opera Factory this winter

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) will be performing two operas this winter at its Bitz Opera Factory headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District.

The first opera is [The Rose Elf](#), based on the fairy tale [The Elf of the Rose](#) by Hans Christian Andersen. Demonstrating that not all fairy tales have happy endings, a carefree Elf loses its innocence after witnessing a despicable crime, and resolves to give closure to the victim's Beloved.

The Rose Elf's performance dates are:

- Sat., Jan. 22, 2022 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Jan. 25, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Jan. 28, 2022 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Jan. 30, 2022 * 2:00 PM

The second opera is the world premiere of [In a Grove](#). *In a Grove* is based on the short story by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, which inspired Kurosawa's renowned film *Rashomon*. Set in 1920s rural Oregon, *In a Grove* is an innovative murder mystery which shows the elusive nature of truth.

In a Grove's performance dates are:

- Sat., Feb. 19, 2022 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Feb. 22, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Feb. 25, 2022 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Feb. 27, 2022 * 2:00 PM
- Tues., March 1, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Thurs., March 3, 2022 * 7:30 PM

Each opera's run time is approximately 60 minutes. Additional details about each opera can be found on the pages below.

Pittsburgh Opera is requiring both mask-wearing and proof of COVID vaccination for all audience members. Full details on Pittsburgh Opera's robust safety measures, along with protocols for medical/religious exemptions, are online at pittsburghopera.org/covid.

Tickets to each opera are \$50. Tickets for kids and teens ages 6-18 are \$25. Group, student, and other discounts are available. See pittsburghopera.org/tickets for details.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 83rd season in 2021-22. 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, outstanding 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.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

The Rose Elf

Words and music by [David Hertzberg](#), based on the fairy tale [The Elf of the Rose](#) by [Hans Christian Andersen](#)

Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage

Four performances at the George R. White Opera Studio in the Bitz Opera Factory (the [new name](#) for Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue)

- *Run time: 1hr (approx.)*
- *These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera*

Overview of *The Rose Elf*

A carefree Elf witnesses a despicable crime. Forever changed, he resolves to give closure to the victim's Beloved.

Based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Rose Elf* takes you to a world where a tiny elf lives happily and contently in the protective petals of a beautiful rose. When the flower closes one night before the Elf returns home, the Elf seeks shelter in some nearby honeysuckle.

There, the Elf overhears the Girl and her Beloved exchange tender goodbyes, as the Beloved prepares for a lengthy journey. After the Beloved embarks, the Elf watches in horror as the Brother brutally murders the Beloved and buries him beneath a linden tree. The Elf whispers the truth to the Girl while she sleeps, leaving her a leaf from the linden tree to convince her that his message was not a dream. When she awakens, the Girl pursues the terrible truth, even though it could destroy her.

Join us for the Pittsburgh premiere of [David Hertzberg](#)'s hauntingly beautiful opera *The Rose Elf*. *The New Yorker* says its music "blooms with warmth and depth", and *OperaWire* praises Hertzberg as "masterful at using a minimal number of instrumentalists to create gargantuan sound."

The Rose Elf is sponsored in part by a gift from Peter S. Greer. Developed through Opera Philadelphia's [Double Exposure](#) program in 2016 and 2018, *The Rose Elf* premiered on June 6, 2018 in the catacombs of Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, in a production by [R.B. Schlather](#). These will be the opera's second-ever performances.

Cast and Artistic Team: *The Rose Elf*

The Elf	Madeline Ehlinger *
The Beloved (Horus)	Andrew Turner *
The Girl (Luna)	Véronique Filloux *
The Brother	Jeremy Harr *
Conductor	James Lesniak
Stage Director	Kaley Karis Smith *

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Set Designer
 Costume Designer
 Lighting Designer
 Projection Designer
 Stage Manager

[Samantha Pollack](#)
[KJ Gilmer](#)
[Todd Nonn](#)
 Joe Spinogatti
 Alex W. Seidel

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

In A Grove - World Premiere

Music by [Christopher Cerrone](#), libretto by [Stephanie Fleischmann](#), based on [the short story](#) by [Ryūnosuke Akutagawa](#)

Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage

Six performances at the George R. White Opera Studio in the Bitz Opera Factory (the [new name](#) for Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue)

- *Run time: 1hr (approx.)*

Performances of *In A Grove*

- Sat., Feb. 19, 2022 * 8:00 PM
- Tues., Feb. 22, 2022 * 7:00 PM
- Fri., Feb. 25, 2022 * 7:30 PM
- Sun., Feb. 27, 2022 * 2:00 PM
- Tues., March 1, 2022 * 7:00 PM
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Overview of *In A Grove*

A silent, expectant grove. A violent encounter between a man, a woman, and a notorious brigand.

Seven testimonies, each proposing a different perspective on the crime. Akutagawa's classic short story "In a Grove," which inspired the plot of Kurosawa's renowned film *Rashomon*, offers a searing investigation into the impossibility and elusiveness of truth.

Epic and intimate, timeless and devastatingly timely, the story's structure lends itself powerfully to music's ability to conjure—via repetition and variation—how human perception, memory, and desire are fallible, imprecise, and subject to interference.

Join us for this unique world-premiere experience in a place where the ground shifts beneath your feet—a space of ambiguity and clarity, of beauty and menace, and of fragility and strength.

This production is sponsored in part by the Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera.

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Cast and Artistic Team: *In A Grove*

Woodcutter / The Outlaw (Luther Harlow) [Yazid Gray*](#)
 Priest / Medium [Chuanyuan Liu+](#)
 Policeman / The Man (Ambrose Raines) [Andrew Turner*](#)
 Leona Raines / Leona's Mother [Madeline Ehlinger*](#)

Conductor [Antony Walker](#)
 Stage Director [Mary Birnbaum+](#)
 Assistant Stage Director [Kaley Karis Smith*](#)
 Set Designer [Mimi Lien](#)
 Costume Designer [Oana Botez](#)
 Lighting Designer [Yuki Nakase](#)
 Stage Manager Alex W. Seidel
 Assistant Stage Manager Hannah Nathan

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

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