

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

**February 15, 2023**

**Contact:**

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## Pittsburgh Opera presents Verdi's epic *Il Trovatore* for the first time in 20 years March 25–April 2

<b>What:</b>	<a href="#">Il Trovatore</a> Music by <a href="#">Giuseppe Verdi</a> , with a libretto by <a href="#">Salvadore Cammarano</a>
<b>Where:</b>	Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, downtown Pittsburgh
<b>When:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday, March 25, 2023 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tuesday, March 28, 2023 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Friday, March 31, 2023 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sunday, April 2, 2023 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul>
<b>Run Time:</b>	Currently anticipated to be 2 hrs. 37 mins, which includes one intermission
<b>Language:</b>	Sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage
<b>Tickets:</b>	<p>Tickets for adults start at \$15; tickets for kids and teens ages 6–18 are half-price. For tickets call 412-456-6666, visit the Benedum Center Box Office, or order online at <a href="http://pittsburghopera.org/tickets">pittsburghopera.org/tickets</a> or <a href="http://CulturalDistrict.org">CulturalDistrict.org</a>.</p> <p>Tickets as part of a subscription package are available at <a href="http://pittsburghopera.org/subscribe">pittsburghopera.org/subscribe</a>.</p> <p>Group discounts, including student discounts, are available. Email <a href="mailto:groups@pittsburghopera.org">groups@pittsburghopera.org</a> for details.</p>
<b>Media Event</b>	Full Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, March 23, 7:00 PM, Benedum Center
<b>Related Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">A Special Evening with Lester Lynch, Baritone</a> (3/10)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Opera Up Close</a> (3/12)</li> <li>• <a href="#">WQED Preview</a> (3/18 &amp; 3/24)</li> <li>• <a href="#">LGBTQ+ Ally Night</a> (3/25)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Audio Commentary</a> (3/28)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Meet the Artists</a> (3/28)</li> </ul>

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*Illustration by Pittsburgh Opera.*

## Revenge is a dish best served hot

Pittsburgh Opera continues its 2022–23 season with [// \*Trovatore\*](#), an epic tale of love and sacrifice, deception, and vengeance, March 25–April 2 at the Benedum Center.

A mother's tragic past returns to haunt her as she struggles to protect her son in Verdi's powerful masterpiece. Famous for its thunderous "Anvil Chorus," [// \*Trovatore\*](#) is opera at its most operatic—a hot-blooded, high-stakes drama replete with rivalry and revenge.

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to present the sweeping, majestic opera *// Trovatore* for the first time since 1999.

Tickets for adults start at \$15; tickets for kids and teens ages 6–18 are half-price. English supertitles are projected above the stage.

## Fun facts about *// Trovatore*

1. Even if you have never been to an opera in person, you no doubt will recognize *// Trovatore's* "[Anvil Chorus](#)", which has been featured in countless TV commercials, TV shows such as *The Muppet Show* and *Sesame Street*, and movies including *Babe: Pig in the City*, *Bad Santa*, and two Marx Brothers films.
2. Two Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumnae with local roots have big roles in these performances:
  - Pittsburgh resident Marianne Cornetti is not just internationally recognized as one of the leading Verdi mezzo-sopranos of her generation, but has turned Azucena into her signature role. She's performed it at the Teatro alla Scala in

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Milan, the Metropolitan Opera, and such cities as Verona, Toyko, Beijing, Sao Paolo, and Tel Aviv.

- Canonsburg, PA native Alexandra Loutsion is returning to the Benedum for the first time since the COVID pandemic began. Her most recent Pittsburgh Opera performance was in the title role of 2019's [Florenxia en el Amazonas](#).

3. *Il Trovatore*, which in English means “The Troubadour”, premiered in 1853 to almost instant acclaim. It remains one of the most popular operas in the world.

## The story

### ACT I

Spain, early 19th century, during the Peninsular War. The commander of the Royalist Aragon troops, Count di Luna, is obsessed with Leonora, a young noblewoman in the queen’s service, who does not return his love. Outside the royal residence, his soldiers keep watch at night. They have heard an unknown troubadour serenading Leonora, and the jealous count is determined to capture and punish him. To keep his troops awake, the captain, Ferrando, recounts the terrible story of a Romani woman who was burned at the stake years ago for bewitching the count’s infant brother. The woman’s daughter then took revenge by kidnapping the boy and throwing him into the flames where her mother had died. The charred skeleton of a baby was discovered there, and di Luna’s father died of grief soon after. The daughter disappeared without a trace, but di Luna has sworn to find her.

In the palace gardens, Leonora confides in her companion Ines that she is in love with a mysterious man she met before the outbreak of the war, and that he is the troubadour who serenades her each night. After they have left, Count di Luna appears, looking for Leonora. When she hears the troubadour’s song in the darkness, Leonora rushes out to greet her beloved but mistakenly embraces di Luna. The troubadour reveals his true identity: He is Manrico, leader of the partisan rebel forces. Furious, the count challenges him to fight to the death.

### ACT II

During the duel, Manrico overpowered the count, but some instinct stopped him from killing his rival. The war has raged on, with the Royalist forces victorious in the most recent battle. Manrico was badly wounded, but his mother, the Romani woman Azucena, has nursed him back to health in a camp in the mountains.

A band of Romani gathers at its mountain hideout. Azucena is the woman for whom di Luna has been searching. Her life is scarred by the memory of her mother’s death and the terrible revenge she exacted. Manrico, who has never heard the full story, is determined to finally know the truth. Azucena tells him how she stole the older count’s infant son but, in her manic rage, accidentally murdered her own child instead. When Manrico demands to know who he truly is, Azucena is evasive: All that matters is the mother’s love she has shown him all his life and that he does not fail to take revenge on the house of di Luna. A messenger arrives with news that Leonora, believing that Manrico has fallen in battle and hoping to escape di

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Luna's grasp, is entering a convent. Azucena pleads with Manrico to stay, but he resolves to go to her immediately.

Di Luna arrives at the convent with his troops to take Leonora by force, but his attempt to seize her is foiled when Manrico and his men attack. In the ensuing chaos, the lovers escape.

## ACT III

Di Luna has laid siege to the fortress where Manrico has taken refuge with Leonora. Soon, soldiers bring in Azucena, whom Ferrando and his men have captured wandering nearby. When she hears di Luna's name, her reaction arouses suspicion, and Ferrando recognizes her as the murderer of the count's brother. Azucena cries out to Manrico to rescue her, and di Luna realizes that he now has his enemy in his hands. He orders a pyre built for Azucena before the walls of the fortress.

Inside the castle, Manrico and Leonora are preparing to be married. She is frightened, but he assures her of his love even in the face of death. When news of Azucena's capture arrives, Manrico summons his forces and prepares to attack.

## ACT IV

Manrico's army has been defeated, and he and Azucena are being held captive in di Luna's castle. Leonora has escaped and now comes to the prison to pray for Manrico's salvation. When di Luna orders the execution of Manrico and Azucena at sunrise, Leonora offers herself to the count in return for her lover's life; however, she secretly takes a slow-acting poison, sealing her fate.

In their cell, Manrico tries to comfort Azucena, who is terrified of the stake and the fire that await her. Leonora appears to tell Manrico that he is saved and urges him to escape. Understanding that she has promised herself to di Luna, he denounces her and refuses to flee. But the poison is already taking effect, and Leonora dies in his arms, just as di Luna arrives. He sends Manrico to his execution. Azucena cries out that her mother is avenged: di Luna has killed his own brother.

*-Adapted from [The Metropolitan Opera](#)*

## Cast and Artistic Team

Conte di Luna	<a href="#">Lester Lynch</a>
Manrico	<a href="#">Jonathan Burton</a>
Azucena	<a href="#">Marianne Cornetti**</a>
Leonora	<a href="#">Alexandra Loutsion**</a>
Ferrando	<a href="#">Ashraf Sewailam</a>
Ines	<a href="#">Emily Richter*</a>
Ruiz	<a href="#">Daniel O'Hearn*</a>
Old Romani	Jesse Davis
Messenger	David Scoville

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Conductor	<a href="#">Antony Walker</a>
Stage Director	<a href="#">Daniel Rigazzi</a>
Set Designer	G. Alen Rusnak
Costume Designer	Howard Tsvi Kaplan
Lighting Designer	Cindy Limauro
Wig and Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Assistant Stage Manager	Hannah Nathan
Assistant Stage Manager	Emily Grand
Assistant Conductor	<a href="#">Glenn Lewis</a>
Chorus Master	<a href="#">Mark Trawka</a>
Associate Coach/Pianist	<a href="#">James Lesniak</a>
Assistant Stage Director	<a href="#">Haley Stamats*</a>
Fight Choreographer	Tonya Lynn
Fight Captain	Ryan Bergman

Sets provided by the New Orleans Opera Association  
Costumes provided by Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

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## Ticketing Information

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Tickets as part of a subscription package are available at [pittsburghopera.org/subscribe](http://pittsburghopera.org/subscribe).

Pittsburgh Opera is continuing its no-hassle refund policy for all 2022–23 operas. Pittsburgh Opera will offer full refunds for any patrons who notify us that they need to cancel their tickets at least one hour prior to their performance start time.

Pittsburgh Opera is committed to making opera accessible to all groups by providing great discounts and special benefits to group ticketholders. A group at Pittsburgh Opera can be as few as 6 people! In addition, college and university students, faculty, and staff are eligible for our [Cheap Seats program](#)—see [pittsburghopera.org/CheapSeats](http://pittsburghopera.org/CheapSeats) for details. For more information about [group ticket services and discounts](#), contact Wendy Parkulo at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or [groups@pittsburghopera.org](mailto:groups@pittsburghopera.org).

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## Sponsors

- [PNC](#) is the 2022–23 Pittsburgh Opera Season Sponsor.
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- These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.