

**December 19, 2016 - For Immediate Release**

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**Pittsburgh Opera presents As One,  
by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed  
*The story of a transgender person named Hannah***

<b>What:</b>	<b>As One</b> , by Laura Kaminsky, Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed
<b>Where:</b>	George R. White studio at Pittsburgh Opera headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue
<b>When:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sat, Feb. 18, 2017 * 8:00 PM</li> <li>• Tue, Feb. 21, 2017 * 7:00 PM</li> <li>• Fri, Feb. 24, 2017 * 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Sun, Feb. 26, 2017 * 2:00 PM</li> </ul>
<b>Run Time:</b>	1 hours, 15 minutes, with no intermission
<b>Language:</b>	Sung in English with English texts projected above the stage
<b>Tickets:</b>	Most tickets are \$40. Group Discounts available. Call 412-456-6666 for more information or visit <a href="http://pittsburghopera.org/tickets">pittsburghopera.org/tickets</a> .
<b>Media Events</b>	<p>Please contact <a href="mailto:ccox@pittsburghopera.org">ccox@pittsburghopera.org</a> for reservations</p> <p>Photo Call (Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM) – location TBD</p> <p>Full Dress Rehearsal (Thursday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM), Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters</p>
<b>Related Events</b>	<p>Brown Bag Concert (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>Opera Up Close (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>), including Sensory Workshop</p> <p>WQED Preview (Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>Meet the Creators (Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>Meet the Artists (Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>)</p> <p>Audio Commentary (Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>)</p>
<i>See pages 4-6 of this release.</i>	



Artwork created by Crème Fraiche Design.

Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburgh Opera continues its 78th season with the Pennsylvania premiere of **As One**, a chamber opera for two voices and string quartet, by composer Laura Kaminsky and co-librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed, at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters February 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**As One** tells the story of the transgender protagonist, Hannah, as she tries to reconcile the discord between herself and the outside world. With humor and empathy, **As One** traces Hannah's experiences from her youth in a small town to her college years on the West Coast, and finally to Norway where she is surprised at what she learns about herself.

**As One** will star Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists Brian Vu as 'Hannah before' and Taylor Raven as 'Hannah after'. It will be performed in the intimate environs of Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

On stage February 18, 21, 24 & 26, 2017, **As One** is described by the [New York Classical Review](#) as "everything that we hope for in contemporary opera: topical, poignant, daring, and beautifully written." Most tickets are \$40 and are [available online](#).

## Fascinating Facts about As One

1. The vast majority of new operas are never performed again after their premiere. **As One** has already been performed by nine different opera companies throughout the United States and beyond since its 2014 premiere.
2. **As One** is based very loosely on some of the experiences of Kimberly Reed. Kimberly produced and directed the film [Prodigal Sons](#). The movie shows Kimberly returning home to a small town in Montana for her high school reunion, and her attempts at reconciliation with her long-estranged adopted brother, Marc. Kimberly discussed her experiences and the movie on [Oprah](#) in 2013.
3. [Taylor Raven](#), the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist who is singing the role of Hannah after, sang the role with Seattle Opera in November.
4. **As One** Co-librettist Mark Campbell is involved with not one, but two of Pittsburgh Opera's 2016-17 operas. He also contributed additional lyrics and dramaturgical advice to Pittsburgh Opera's world premiere of [The Summer King – the Josh Gibson Story](#), which features music by Daniel Sonenberg.

## The story, in brief

From the [libretto available for free download](#) at [American Opera Projects' website](#):

**Part I** In “Paper route,” Hannah rides around her suburban neighborhood delivering newspapers and revels in her more feminine impulses. Her youthful challenges in conforming to gender norms are related in “Cursive,” “Sex ed,” “Entire of itself” and “Perfect boy”—in such disparate subjects as handwriting, sex, a John Donne poem, and exemplary male behavior. However, in “To know,” she discovers that she is not alone in the world and seeks understanding about herself at a local library.

**Part II** During her college years, Hannah struggles with her bifurcated existence in “Two cities,” but also encounters the joy of being perceived as she wishes in “Three words.” In “Close,” she has made the decision to undergo hormone therapy and briefly suffers its vertiginous effects before feeling at one with her own body. “Home for the holidays,” “A Christmas story” and “Dear son” all occur around the Christmas season and relate Hannah’s growing distance to her family and her past, which is countered by an immediate connection with a stranger in a local café. In “Out of nowhere,” Hannah escapes a harrowing assault that prompts her to find a link to the larger trans community and end her self-imposed alienation. Reacting to the conflicting voices in her head, she finally resolves to escape in the fragment, “I go on to...”

**Part III** “Norway.” In this extended aria, Hannah finds, in Nature, solitude and self-reflection, the simple yet surprising equation that will help her achieve happiness.

For additional information, videos, musical samples, and cast biographies, visit [pittsburghopera.org/One](http://pittsburghopera.org/One).

## Tickets and Group Discounts

- Most tickets to **As One** are \$40
- All performances are in the George R. White studio at Pittsburgh Opera headquarters, 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District
- To purchase tickets, call 412-456-6666, visit the Theatre Square Box Office, or buy online at [https://opera.culturaldistrict.org/production/47961/list\\_performances](https://opera.culturaldistrict.org/production/47961/list_performances).
- Group discounts are available. For discounted group tickets (6 or more), contact Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, x 213

## Sponsors

- The 2016-17 Pittsburgh Opera season is generously supported by [PNC](#)
- [WQED-FM](#) is Season Media Sponsor
- Tuesday performance sponsor: [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#).

## Cast and Artistic Team

Hannah before  
Hannah after

[Brian Vu](#)\*  
[Taylor Raven](#)\*

Conductor  
Stage Director  
Stage Manager  
Set Designer  
Lighting Designer

[James Lesniak](#)  
[Frances Rabalais](#)\*  
Cindy Knight  
Chen-Wei Liao  
Todd Nonn

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

## Related Events for As One

### ***February Brown Bag concert***

**Saturday, February 4th, 2017 Noon - 1:00PM**

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

You're invited to Pittsburgh Opera's free February Brown Bag concert. The program includes some of our 2016-17 Resident Artists' favorite selections. It's free and open to everyone. Bring a friend and bring a lunch! Meet the Resident Artists afterward in an informal reception.

Doors open at 11:30AM. Handicapped parking is available by reservation. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/february-brown-bag-concert1>.

## ***Opera Up Close: As One***

**Sunday, February 12th, 2017 from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

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

Opera Up Close is an in-depth look at the music and story of **As One**, with singers and directors from the production. Admission is \$5; free to members of [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) and \$50+ donors. Handicapped parking is available by reservation. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/opera-up-close-as-one>

## ***As One - Sensory Workshop for patrons with visual impairments***

**Sunday, February 12th, 2017 4:00 - 6:00 PM**

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

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to offer, free of charge, a unique sensory workshop about **As One** prepared for our patrons with visual impairments. The workshop is in partnership with members of Blind Outdoor Leisure Development, the Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, and their companions. Participants will have a chance to meet artists and explore the set, props, and costumes. Light refreshments will be served.

The Set Tour and Sensory Workshop will begin at 4:00PM, following the conclusion of Opera Up Close. To register, call Marilyn Egan at 412-281-0912 ext. 242.

## ***As One Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and WQED.ORG***

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM and**

**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

Hosted by WQED, and broadcast over the airwaves on WQED-FM 89.3 as well as the WQED website, the **As One Preview** gives listeners an engaging introduction to the singers, music, and story of the opera. For more information:

<http://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/wqed-preview-as-one>

## ***Meet the Creators: As One***

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:00PM**

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

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to host **As One's** composer Laura Kaminsky and co-librettists Kimberly Reed and Mark Campbell for our opening night performance on Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. They will give a special pre-opera talk, hosted by Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn, starting at 7:00 PM. After the performance, audience members can mingle with them at a free reception. All ticketholders to the Saturday performance are invited.

**Audio Commentary: As One****Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 7:00 PM**Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

Ticketholders with visual impairments are invited to use Pittsburgh Opera's Audio Description service at our Tuesday performances. Trained volunteers describe the scenery, costumes, and stage action. The listeners hear these descriptions via assistive listening devices. Those wishing to use Audio Description should reserve seats to the Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> performance by contacting Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, ext. 213 or [groups@pittsburghopera.org](mailto:groups@pittsburghopera.org). Braille and large-print programs are also available at all performances.

**Meet the Artists of As One****Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017****Immediately following the opera**

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> performance of **As One** are invited to remain in their seats immediately following the performance for interviews with [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) and the stars of the opera. This event is free to all Tuesday performance ticketholders.

## Performance History

**As One** is a chamber opera for two voices and string quartet

- Music & Concept by [Laura Kaminsky](#)
- Libretto by [Mark Campbell](#) & Kimberly Reed
- By arrangement with [Bill Holab Music](#)

Commissioned and developed by [American Opera Project](#), **As One** received generous funding from [OPERA America's Opera Discovery Grants for Female Composers Program](#), supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works, Dr. Coco Lazaroff, Lynn Loacker and Judith O. Rubin.

**As One** premiered at [BAM Fisher Center](#) in Brooklyn, NY in September, 2014. It has subsequently been performed across the country and internationally.

**COMING UP NEXT for Pittsburgh Opera:  
Puccini's [Turandot](#), March 25<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 78th season in 2016-17. 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.

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