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Pittsburgh Opera presents both old and new operas this winter

[Pittsburgh Opera](#) continues its 2023–24 Season with two intimate operas created 237 years apart.

The first, [Iphigénie en Tauride](#), was composed in 1779 by [Christoph Willibald Gluck](#). Based on Euripides' great Greek drama [Iphigenia in Tauris](#), it is the powerful Trojan War-era tale of a sister whose duty requires that she kill a man who turns out to be her brother.

The second, [Proving Up](#), premiered in 2016. Composed by Grammy Nominee [Missy Mazzoli](#), with a libretto by [Royce Vavrek](#) based on a short story by [Karen Russell](#), it “offers a surreal and disquieting commentary on the American dream through the story of a 19th-century Nebraskan homesteading family.”

[Iphigénie en Tauride](#) will be performed at the Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, downtown, on January 20, 23, 26, and 28, 2024.

[Proving Up](#) will be performed at the Bitz Opera Factory, in Pittsburgh's Strip District, on February 17, 20, 23, and 25, 2024.

Combined, these two operas showcase the art form's heritage and illustrate its continued relevance and staying power. They demonstrate opera's unique ability to combine music, singing, and stagecraft to tell compelling human stories.

Both operas showcase Pittsburgh Opera's award-winning [Resident Artists](#).

Tickets for both operas are available online at opera.culturaldistrict.org, by phone at 412-456-6666, or in-person at the [Theater Square Box Office](#), 655 Penn Ave downtown. Tickets for children and teens ages 6–18 are half-price. [Group discounts](#), [student discounts](#), and [other discounts](#) are available.

Detailed information about each opera, as well as other Pittsburgh Opera concerts and events this winter, can be found on the following pages.

Iphigénie en Tauride (1779)

Music by [Christoph Willibald Gluck](#), with a libretto by [Nicolas-François Guillard](#)

Sung in French with English supertitles projected above the stage

Four performances at Pittsburgh CAPA School Theater, downtown

- *These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera*
- *Pittsburgh Opera will mount a new production*

Performances of *Iphigénie en Tauride*

- Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, Jan. 26, 2024 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Iphigénie en Tauride*

Blood is thicker...

In the aftermath of the Trojan War, the priestess Iphigénie is tasked to kill any strangers who land on Scythia's shores. But as Fate would have it, her brother Oreste is the first to be shipwrecked on the peninsula and brought to the sacrificial altar.

The priestess believes her brother to be dead and responsible for the death of their mother. Oreste in turn believes that Iphigénie had been sacrificed to the goddess Diana by their father Agamemnon in return for favorable winds. The siblings fail to recognize each other yet Iphigénie feels a strange kinship with the ill-fated stranger. She wishes to spare him, but Oreste—driven mad by grief and guilt over his family's compounding tragedy—welcomes death. Will they discover the truth before it is too late?

Showcasing the transition from baroque to classical opera, Christoph Gluck reimagines Euripides' great Greek drama and reignites it in true operatic form.

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team: *Iphigénie en Tauride*

Iphigénie	Emily Richter *
Oreste	Brandon Bell *
Pylade	Fran Daniel Lauceric *
Thoas, King of Scythia	Evan Lazdowski *
Diana/Greek Woman	Julia Swan Laird *
Priestess	Jazmine Olwalia *
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Haley Stamats *
Set Designer	Johnmichael Bohach
Costume Designer	Laura Riviere

Lighting & Projection Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Conductor
Director of Musical Studies
Associate Coach/Pianist
Assistant Stage Manager

Tlálóc López-Watermann
TBA
[Glenn Lewis](#)
[Mark Trawka](#)
[James Lesniak](#)
Claire Young

*Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Proving Up (2016)

Music by [Missy Mazzoli](#), with a libretto by [Royce Vavrek](#), based on a short story by [Karen Russell](#)

At the Bitz Opera Factory, 2425 Liberty Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Strip District
Sung in English with supertitles projected above the stage

- *These will be the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera*
- *Pittsburgh Opera will mount a new production*

Performances of *Proving Up*

- Saturday, February 17, 2024 * 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 20, 2024 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, February 23, 2024 * 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 25, 2024 * 2:00 PM

Overview of *Proving Up*

An American Dream as fragile as glass

A family of Nebraskan homesteaders in the 1870s dreams of "proving up." They endeavor to obtain the deed to the land they've settled by fulfilling the requirements of the Homestead Act: five years of harvest, a sod house dwelling, and perhaps the most elusive element—a glass window.

With their eldest son incapacitated, Ma and Pa send their youngest living child Miles on a mission to share the valuable commodity with their distant neighbors who are expecting a visit from a government inspector. Miles' journey brings him face to face with the remnants of a shattered past—the ghost of a neighboring farmer driven mad by the requirements of "proving up." The willowy figure knows all too well the cost of the American Dream, and the coveted window soon becomes a broken mirror reflecting great tragedy.

- ❖ "A tense and creepy journey into the heart of Manifest Destiny's darkness" – [The New York Times](#)
- ❖ "Harrowing...powerful... a true opera of our time" - [The Washington Post](#)

Cast and Artistic Team: *Proving Up*

Miles Zegner
Mrs. Johannes "Ma" Zegner

[Fran Daniel Laucericca](#)*
[Emily Richter](#)*

Mr. Johannes “Pa” Zegner
Taller Zegner Sister
Littler Zegner Sister
The Sodbuster
Peter Zegner

[Brandon Bell](#)*
[Julia Swan Laird](#)*
[Jazmine Olwalia](#)*
[Evan Lazdowski](#)*
TBA

Conductor
Stage Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Conductor
Director of Musical Studies

[James Lesniak](#)
[Haley Stamats](#)*
Brett Rochford
Nancy Julian
Todd Nonn
Claire Young
[Glenn Lewis](#)
[Mark Trawka](#)

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Additional Pittsburgh Opera Events

FREE Song Shop Concerts

Selected Saturdays during the season, 12:00 PM
George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera’s popular Brown Bag concerts have a new name for 2023–24 to honor the Bitz Opera Factory’s industrial heritage—Pittsburgh Opera’s Song Shop concerts. The free, informal Song Shops feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#). Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays, September 2023–May 2024, these one-hour performances are free, fun, and open to everyone. Guests are encouraged to bring a friend and bring a lunch. [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) provide a reception after each Song Shop concert.

Song Shop Winter 2023-24 Concert Dates

- [December 9, 2023](#) (Holiday Concert)
- [February 3, 2024](#)

FREE Pre-Opera Talks

Ticketholders are invited to attend a [Pre-Opera Talk](#) one hour before each performance’s curtain at all Pittsburgh Opera performances of *Iphigénie en Tauride*. (There are no Pre-Opera Talks for *Proving Up*.) Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera! These talks are free to all ticketholders.

FREE Meet the Artists

Ticketholders for each Tuesday opera performance are invited to join [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) for [Meet the Artists](#), immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free, and is held

in the Black Box for CAPA performances, and in the performance space at the Bitz Opera Factory.

Iphigénie en Tauride – Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Proving Up – Tuesday, February 20, 2024

WQED-FM Pittsburgh Opera Previews Broadcast on WQED-FM 89.3 and wqed.org/fm

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, these half-hour previews of each upcoming opera are broadcast twice before each production opens, giving listeners an in-depth introduction to the opera's singers, music, and production.

Iphigénie en Tauride – 12PM Saturday, January 13 & 7PM Friday, January 19, 2024

Proving Up – 12:30PM Saturday, February 10 & 7PM Friday, February 16, 2024

Sponsorships

Pittsburgh Opera's season is made possible, onstage and off, by support from all corners of the community.

- [PNC](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's 2023–24 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.
- [Natural Awakenings Magazine](#) is the Song Shop Concerts sponsor.
- Pittsburgh Opera programs are generously supported by [Allegheny Regional Asset District](#) and the [Pennsylvania Council on the Arts](#).

Pittsburgh Opera offers a range of flexible gift options and potential tax benefits for individuals, local businesses, and corporations. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Production Sponsorships** – *Help bring a production to life while pulling back the curtain and entertaining clients or friends. Gifts begin at \$20,000.*
- **Resident Artist Sponsorships** – *Support future opera stars while building personal relationships with artists. Gifts begin at \$10,000.*
- **Family Day & Community Programs** – *Underwrite free or low-cost concerts, because everyone deserves access to opera. Gifts begin at \$5,000.*
- **Parties & Events** – *Sponsor Galas, networking events, parties, and happy hours. Gifts begin at \$1,500.*

To learn more about becoming a sponsor, contact Pittsburgh Opera at 412-281-0912 x226 or development@pittsburghopera.org.

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