

February 27, 2025

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Pittsburgh Opera announces its 87th Season

Pittsburgh, PA... [Pittsburgh Opera](#) announces its 2025–26 season, the company's 87th. The season showcases Pittsburgh Opera's commitment to producing world-class operas ranging from classical works to a world premiere.

Pittsburgh Opera will be producing five operas, which will be performed across a total of four different venues—the Benedum Center, the Byham Theater, Pittsburgh Opera's headquarters the Bitz Opera Factory, and for the first time Calvary Episcopal Church. The different venues give audiences a chance to experience opera on both a grand and intimate scale.

Season Overview

[La Bohème](#)

Music by Giacomo Puccini; libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, downtown Pittsburgh

October 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 2025

[Fellow Travelers](#)

Music by Gregory Spears with a libretto by Greg Pierce, based on the novel by Thomas Mallon

Byham Theater, downtown Pittsburgh

November 14, 15, 16, 2025

[Curlew River](#)

Music by Benjamin Britten, with a libretto by William Plomer

Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside

January 24, 27, 30, February 1, 2026

[Time to Act](#) – World Premiere!

Music by Laura Kaminsky with a libretto by Crystal Manich

Bitz Opera Factory, in Pittsburgh's Strip District

February 28, March 3, 6, 8, 2026

[Falstaff](#)

Music by Giuseppe Verdi, with a libretto adapted by Arrigo Boito from the play *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and scenes from *Henry IV, Part 1 and Part 2*, by William Shakespeare

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

April 28, 30, May 1, 3, 2026

<p>Special Events:</p>	<p>Bravo Academy (summer camp for ages 11-15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1: Monday, July 7, 2025 – Friday, July 11, 2025 • Week 2: Monday, July 14, 2025 – Friday, July 18, 2025 <p>70th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Celebration – Saturday, October 11, 2025</p> <p>Fashion Show – Monday, March 23, 2026</p> <p>Maecenas XLI – Saturday, May 16, 2026</p>
<p>Free, Low Cost, and Other Events:</p>	<p>FREE Pre-Opera Talks- one hour before each performance</p> <p>FREE Meet The Artists - following each Tuesday evening performance unless otherwise indicated</p> <p>FREE Rising Stars concert – Sept. 28, 2025 at the Bitz Opera Factory</p> <p>FREE Song Shop concerts - selected Saturdays during the season at the Bitz Opera Factory</p> <p>FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera events</p> <p>Pittsburgh Opera New Guard events</p> <p>WQED previews and broadcasts</p>
<p>Tickets:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season tickets (subscriptions) are now available. Subscription packages range from \$35.50 - \$581. • Pittsburgh Opera’s Opus Pass lets patrons see as many live opera performances as they want all season. For one low monthly price, passholders get a year’s worth of unlimited admission to every performance of every opera, subject to availability. • Single ticket sales begin in August • Group discounts, including student discounts, are available. Children and teens ages 6–18 are half-off for all operas.
<p>Sponsors:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNC is Pittsburgh Opera’s 2025–26 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. • Sponsorship opportunity information is on page 13.

THE OPERAS

La Bohème (1896)

Music by [Giacomo Puccini](#); libretto by [Luigi Illica](#) and [Giuseppe Giacosa](#)

At the [Benedum Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage

- *Last performed by Pittsburgh Opera in [2019](#)*

Performances

- Saturday October 18, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, October 21, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Thursday, October 23, 2025 * 10:30 AM Student Matinee
- Friday, October 24, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, October 26, 2025 * 2:00 PM

Overview

When a candle flickers, love sparks.

Set against the backdrop of 1830's Paris, *La Bohème* follows four impoverished artists surviving with little more than friendship, passion, and their love for art.

When Roldolfo, a poet, and Mimì, a young seamstress, meet, the two are drawn into a tumultuous and passionate affair with a love that can only be broken by death.

La Bohème will make you laugh, and bring you to tears, with its timeless story and captivating music. Emotional and dramatic, it's no wonder Puccini's most celebrated opera has transcended the genre, inspiring both a ballet and the Broadway hit musical RENT.

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera's annual Student Matinee will introduce 2,500+ school students grades 3–12 to this lively, colorful opera on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Tickets are reserved through Pittsburgh Opera's Education Department. For more information, please [contact Marilyn Egan, Ph.D., Director of Education via email](#).

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team

Marcello	Zachary Nelson
Rodolfo	Daniel O'Hearn**
Colline	Matthew Soibelman*
Schaunard	Erik Nordstrom*
Benoit/Alcindoro	Kevin Glavin**
Mimì	Vuvu Mpofu
Musetta	Brittany Olivia Logan⁺
Parpignol	Logan Wagner**
Child	Pittsburgh Youth Chorister

Prune man TBA
Customs Officer TBA
Sergeant TBA

Conductor [Antony Walker](#)
Stage Director [Kristine McIntyre](#)
Scenery designed by TBA
Costumes designed by TBA
Lighting Designer TBA
Wig & Make-up Designer TBA
Assistant Conductor [Glenn Lewis](#)
Chorus Master [Mark Trawka](#)
Associate Coach/Pianist [James Lesniak](#)
Assistant Stage Director [Dana Kinney*](#)
Stage Manager TBA

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Alumnus

Fellow Travelers (2016)

Music by Gregory Spears with a libretto by Greg Pierce, based on the novel by Thomas Mallon

At the Byham Theater, downtown Pittsburgh

Sung in English, with supertitles projected above the stage

- *These are the first performances by Pittsburgh Opera*

Performances

- Friday, November 14, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 15, 2025 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 16, 2025 * 2:00 PM

Overview

The Red Scare, tinted lavender.

At the height of the McCarthy era, naive college graduate Timothy Laughlin comes to Washington eager to join the crusade against communism. But a chance encounter with a handsome State Department official, Hawkins Fuller, leads to Tim's first job—and his first relationship with a man.

Under the threat of increased government scrutiny, this complicated and clandestine affair will put both men's loyalties and convictions to the ultimate test. As the poisonous political climate pollutes their relationship, love becomes a casualty of what it takes to "play the game" in Washington.

Based on Thomas Mallon's 2007 gut-wrenching novel, *Fellow Travelers* was praised as "a near-perfect example of fast-flowing musical drama" by *The New York Times* and is already widely considered a contemporary classic.

Cast and Artistic Team

Timothy Laughlin	Logan Wagner*
Hawkins Fuller	Erik Nordstrom*
Mary Johnson	Shannon Crowley*
Senator Charles E. Potter/General Airlie/Bartender - TBA	
Estonian Frank/Interrogator/Senator Joseph McCarthy - TBA	
Potter's Assistant/Bookseller/Party Guest/Technician/French Priest -	Matthew Soibelman*
Tommy McIntyre	Yazid Gray**
Miss Lightfoot	Lauryn Davis*
Lucy	Audrey Welsh*
Conductor	Antony Walker
Original Stage Director	Brian Staufienbiel+
Scenery Designer	TBA
Costume Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA
Wig & Make-up Designer	James Geier
Stage Manager	TBA
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Director of Musical Studies	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Dana Kinney*

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumnus

Curlew River (1964)

Music by Benjamin Britten, with a libretto by William Plomer
Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside
Sung in English

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

Performances

- Saturday, January 24, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 27, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, January 30, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, February 1, 2026 * 4:00 PM

Overview

Flow with fate.

A woman driven mad by the mystery of her lost son learns of her boy's unfortunate fate from a chance encounter with a Ferryman while crossing a river.

Based on the Japanese Noh play *Sumidigawa River*, Curlew River retells this story as a Christian parable. Written in the style of monastic plain song and laden with musical symbolism, this piece artfully melds theatrical simplicity with ecumenical grandeur.

In keeping with these themes and this opera's history, Curlew River will be staged at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside.

Cast and Artistic Team

The Ferryman	Erik Nordstrom*
The Madwoman	Logan Wagner*
The Traveler	Yazid Gray**
The Abbot	Matthew Soibelman*
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Dana Kinney*

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumna

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumnus

Time to Act – World Premiere!

Music by Laura Kaminsky with a libretto by Crystal Manich
At the Bitz Opera Factory, in Pittsburgh's Strip District
Sung in English, with supertitles projected above the stage

Performances

- Saturday, February 28, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Friday, March 6, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, March 8, 2026 * 2:00 PM

Overview

Build the world you want to see.

A group of high school students prepares for a production of Sophocles' *Antigone*, joined by a new student, Alona, who comes with a formidable secret.

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to present this world premiere production. *Time to Act* demonstrates how the arts can uplift and unify victims of trauma, empowering them to act,

while giving voice to the young citizens who have been most impacted by an ongoing cycle of devastating school violence.

Time to Act is composed by Laura Kaminsky, whose acclaimed opera *As One* has become the most-produced modern opera in America. Emmy Award nominee Crystal Manich, the librettist, is a Pittsburgh Opera mainstay whose works for stage, film, and circus have been seen across the United States, Europe, Argentina, and Australia.

These performances are sponsored in part by New Music USA's Organization Fund and OPERA America's Opera Fund. The commissioning of Laura Kaminsky for *Time to Act* received funding from OPERA America's Opera Grants for Women Composers program supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Time to Act is a Co-Commission by Pittsburgh Opera, Opera Montana and Boston Conservatory at Berklee, with additional funding by Opera Santa Barbara.

Cast and Artistic Team

Alona, the new girl	Audrey Welsh*
Tyson, an injured football player	Erik Nordstrom*
Bailey, a responsible and sweet spirit	Shannon Crowley*
José, an actor	Logan Wagner*
Robin Grace, the drama teacher	Yazid Gray**
Conductor	Michael Sakir⁺
Stage Director	Amy Hutchison⁺
Scenery Designer	TBA
Costumes Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA
Wig & Make-up Designer	TBA
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Director of Musical Studies	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Director	Dana Kinney*
Stage Manager	TBA

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

** Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumnus

Falstaff (1893)

Music by Giuseppe Verdi, with a libretto adapted by Arrigo Boito from the play *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and scenes from *Henry IV, Part 1 and Part 2*, by William Shakespeare
At the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
Sung in Italian, with English supertitles projected above the stage

Performances

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 * 7:00 PM

- Thursday, April 30, 2026 * 10:30 AM Student Matinee
- Friday, May 1, 2026 * 7:00 PM
- Sunday, May 3, 2026 * 3:00 PM

Overview

Laugh last, laugh best.

Beloved buffoon Sir John Falstaff has fallen on hard times. But being a ladies' man (or so he'd like to think), he drunkenly schemes to cash in on his wit and charm by wooing the wealthy wives of Windsor, Alice Ford and Meg Page. However, when these women uncover that he has sent them both identical love letters, they hatch a plan of their own to teach Falstaff a lesson he won't soon forget!

The music matches the merriment and mischief of this madcap romp. See why Verdi's buoyant comedy, based on Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, is considered one of the best comedic operas of all time.

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera's will have a special bonus Student Matinee performance on Thursday, April 30, 2026. Tickets are reserved through Pittsburgh Opera's Education Department. For more information, please contact Marilyn Egan, Ph.D., Director of Education [via email](#).

These performances are sponsored in part by The Gailliot Fund.

Cast and Artistic Team

Sir John Falstaff, a knight	Michael Chioldi
Ford, a wealthy man	Blake Denson ⁺
Alice Ford, his wife	Danielle Pastin ^{**}
Nannetta, their daughter	Natasha Te Rupe Wilson ^{**}
Meg Page	Audrey Welsh [*]
Mistress Quickly	Marianne Cornetti ^{**}
Fenton, one of Nannetta's suitors	Logan Wagner [*]
Dr Caius	Joseph Frank
Bardolfo, a follower of Falstaff	Michael Pegher ⁺
Pistola, a follower of Falstaff	Matthew Soibelman [*]
Conductor	Antony Walker
Stage Director	Crystal Manich
Scenery Designer	TBA
Costume Designer	TBA
Lighting Designer	TBA
Wig & Make-up Designer	TBA
Assistant Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Director of Musical Studies	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Assistant Stage Director	Dana Kinney [*]

- + Pittsburgh Opera debut
- * Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bravo Academy

Week 1: Monday, July 7, 2025 – Friday, July 11, 2025
Week 2: Monday, July 14, 2025 – Friday, July 18, 2025
Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's summer camp, designed for rising 6th-9th graders, [Bravo Academy](#) offers two, 1-week programs (9:30 am – 4:00 pm) in July where students receive invaluable hands-on experiences with leading opera industry professionals and performers. Focusing on musical theater, opera, and art song favorites, Bravo Academy ensures that all participants will have a chance to shine in the limelight.

70th Annual Diamond Horseshoe Celebration

Saturday, October 11, 2025
Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera's season kick-off soiree with live Resident Artist performances, a silent auction, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres

Fashion Show

Monday, March 23, 2026

Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))
Combining fashion and opera, our annual fashion event is sure to dazzle and delight

Maecenas XLI

Saturday, May 16, 2026
Carnegie Music Hall ([4400 Forbes Avenue](#))

A very special edition of our signature black-tie event with dinner, dancing, and awards to celebrate a successful season

FREE, LOW COST, & OTHER EVENTS

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 at the Benedum Center, Byham, and Calvary Episcopal. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera. These talks are free to all ticketholders.

FREE Meet the Artists

After one performance of each opera, patrons are invited to join [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) immediately following the performance to enjoy lively repartee, as Mr. Hahn interviews the stars of the production. This event is free, and takes place following the Tuesday performance of each opera unless otherwise indicated.

Meet the Artists Dates 2025–26

- *La Bohème* – Tuesday, October 21, 2025
- *Fellow Travelers* – Friday, November 14, 2025
- *Curlw River* – Tuesday, January 27, 2026
- *Time to Act* – Tuesday, March 3, 2026
- *Falstaff* – Tuesday, April 28, 2026

FREE Rising Stars Concert

Sunday, September 28, 2025

George R. White Opera Studio, Bitz Opera Factory ([2425 Liberty Avenue](#))

Pittsburgh Opera hosts its annual *Rising Stars* concert on Sunday, September 28, 2025 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 singer 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.

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 free, informal Song Shop concerts feature the [Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera](#). Beginning at 12:00 PM on selected Saturdays of each month, October 2025–May 2026, 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. Themes vary from concert to concert. The December Song Shop will be Pittsburgh Opera's "Holiday" concert, featuring holiday favorites and a sing-along for the whole family. The final Song Shop of the season, on May 9, 2026, will celebrate America's sesquicentennial with an "America 250" theme.

Song Shop Concert Dates 2025–26

October 4, 2025

November 22, 2025

December 13, 2025 – Holiday concert

February 7, 2026

April 4, 2026

May 9, 2026 – America 250 concert

[FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) Events

[FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera](#) (FPO) schedules events geared toward fellowship, fundraising, and opera scholarship during the year. Events for 2025–26 include summer Garden Parties, a Season Welcome Party, a Holiday party, salon-type events, and talks by opera aficionados and scholars.

FPO Events:

- Summer 2025: Garden Parties
- September 14, 2025: Season Welcome Party
- December 7, 2025: Holiday Party

'FPO Presents Speakers Series' Events:

These events are the education component of the FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera. Created to enlighten, engage, and inform members and their guests, this series presents various topics related to the 2025–26 Opera Season. Dates, speakers, and topics to be announced.

[Pittsburgh Opera New Guard](#) Events

The Pittsburgh Opera New Guard is a community for young professionals, ages 21–45, 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 also get free admission to all New Guard events, such as our happy hours at locations such as Evangeline at the Distrikt Hotel and Andys at the Fairmont Pittsburgh. [Visit our website](#) or [join our Facebook group](#) for future event details.

WQED BROADCASTS/PREVIEWS

Pittsburgh Opera 2024–25 Season Performances on WQED-FM 89.3 and [wqed.org/fm](#)

Pittsburgh Opera, in collaboration with Classical WQED-FM 89.3, will broadcast the 2024–25 season productions, giving listeners an opportunity to enjoy the operas all over again. The broadcasts are at 1:00 PM, unless otherwise noted, on consecutive Saturdays from September 13th through October 11th, 2025.

- *Tosca* – Saturday, September 13
- *Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci* – Saturday, September 20
- *Armida* – Saturday, September 27
- *Madama Butterfly* – Saturday, October 4
- *Woman With Eyes Closed* – Saturday, October 11

Pittsburgh Opera 2025–26 Previews 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. Unless otherwise noted, the Saturday broadcasts are at 12:30PM, and the weeknight broadcasts are at 7:00PM.

- ***La Bohème*** – Saturday, October 11 & Friday, October 17, 2025
- ***Fellow Travelers*** – Saturday, November 8 & Thursday, November 13, 2025
- ***Curlew River*** – Saturday, January 17 & Friday, January 23, 2026
- ***Time to Act*** – Saturday, February 21 & Friday, February 27, 2026
- ***Falstaff*** – Saturday, April 18 & Monday, April 27, 2026

TICKETS

Opus Pass

Pittsburgh Opera's [Opus Pass](#) lets patrons see as many live opera performances as they want all season. For one low monthly price, passholders get a year's worth of unlimited admission to every performance of every opera, subject to availability.

Subscriptions

Subscription packages range from \$35.50 - \$581.

Subscribers enjoy the benefits of:

- The best seats at the best prices
- Easy, flexible, free ticket exchanges
- Split-Pay Plan for Early Birds: up to 4 months to pay for the subscription
- Discounted reserved parking at Theater Square Garage
- 15% discount on additional single tickets to all operas
- Money-Back Guarantee – if subscribers are not satisfied with their first opera, Pittsburgh Opera will refund the balance of the subscription

Group Tickets

Pittsburgh Opera makes opera accessible to all groups in the Pittsburgh area by providing great discounts and special services 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 for details.

For more information about [group ticket services and discounts](#), contact Wendy Parkulo at (412) 281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org.

Single Tickets

[Single ticket](#) sales begin in August. Tickets for kids and teens ages 6–18 are half price. Subscribers save 15% on single ticket purchases beyond what's in their subscription package. For tickets, call (412) 456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.

SPONSORSHIPS

Pittsburgh Opera's season is made possible, onstage and off, by support from all corners of the community. 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 \$10,000.*
- **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 \$1,000.*

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

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