

February 21, 2018

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**Pittsburgh Opera presents *The Elixir of Love*,
a comic love story full of light-hearted fun**

What:	The Elixir of Love Music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Felice Romani
Where:	Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, Downtown Pittsburgh
When:	Saturday, April 21 - 8:00 PM Tuesday, April 24 - 7:00 PM Student Matinee- Thursday, April 26 - 10:30 AM Friday, April 27 - 7:30 PM Sunday, April 29 - 2:00 PM
Run Time:	2 hours and 38 minutes, including one intermission
Language:	Sung in Italian with English texts projected above the stage
Tickets:	Single tickets for adults start at \$12 for all performances; tickets for children 18 and under start at \$6. Group Discounts available. Call 412-456-6666 for more information or visit pittsburghopera.org/tickets .
Media Events	<i>Please contact ccox@pittsburghopera.org for reservations</i> Photo Call (4/9, 12:30 PM) – location TBA Full Dress Rehearsal (4/19, 7:00 – 10:00 PM), Benedum Center
Related Events <i>See pages 5-7 of this release.</i>	An evening with Paolo Pecchioli (4/4) Brown Bag concert (4/7) Opera Up Close (4/8) WQED Preview (4/14 & 4/20) Meet the Artists (4/24) Audio Commentary (4/24)



Photography by Lynn Lane for Houston Grand Opera

Pittsburgh, PA...

Pittsburgh Opera concludes our 2017-18 season with Donizetti's **L'elisir d'amore - The Elixir of Love**, a fun romantic comedy about a traveling medicine show huckster who claims to possess a love potion.

The story concerns a "little nobody" named Nemorino. Nemorino is smitten with the beautiful and wealthy Adina, who appears to be completely out of his league. His prospects are further diminished when the handsome and dashing Sergeant Belcore arrives.

But when Doctor Dulcamara rolls into town and sells Nemorino a bottle of his dubious Elixir of Love, things get very interesting. Why is Nemorino suddenly popular with every girl in the village? Will he win Adina's love before it's too late?

Pittsburgh Opera will be performing a sunny 1950s-style production that's new to Pittsburgh, complete with Vespa scooters and a hot air balloon. [The Guardian](#) described it as "a Fellini-esque vision of scooters, cappuccino machines and champagne fountains, set on a sun-washed hotel terrace overlooking the sea..."

On stage April 21, 24, 27 & 29, **The Elixir of Love** is full of charming romance, visual comedy, and light-hearted fun. Adult tickets start at just \$12 – with children's tickets for those ages 18-and-under starting at just \$6 - and are [available online](#).

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera's annual [Student Matinee](#) will introduce 2,000+ school children grades 3-12 to this lively, colorful opera on Thursday, April 26 at the Benedum Center. Pittsburgh Opera's [Resident Artists](#) take lead roles in the Student Matinee, and are accompanied by the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, in yet another opportunity to hone their performance skills.

Fun facts about *The Elixir of Love*

1. The most well-known aria in **The Elixir of Love** is “Una furtiva lagrima” (A furtive tear), which Nemorino sings when he spies Adina weeping. [Luciano Pavarotti](#) is just one of many tenors who helped [popularize the song](#).
2. People have pinned their romantic hopes on magic love potions for thousands of years. The term ‘aphrodisiac’ comes from the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. Songs about love potions include “*Love Potion Number 9*”, which was originally performed by the Clovers in 1959, and Tone Lōc’s 1989 platinum hit “*Funky Cold Medina*.” “*Love Potion #9*” was also a 1992 rom-com movie starring Sandra Bullock.
3. **The Elixir of Love** was Donizetti’s 36th opera. He reportedly wrote the entire score in less than a month.

The story, in brief

Act 1

Scene 1. Nemorino, whose name accurately describes him as a “little nobody,” is smitten with the wealthy Adina, but can’t inspire love in her heart. Nemorino sees Adina reading a book in the village square and wonders how a fool like him could possibly win her love. Everyone begs Adina to tell the story, so she reads the tale of Tristan, who bought a love potion from a magician in order to win the hard-hearted Isolde. If only they knew how to get the recipe!

A drum roll signals the arrival of a platoon of soldiers headed by handsome Sergeant Belcore. Arrogantly likening himself to Paris wooing a goddess, Belcore immediately proposes to Adina, much to Nemorino’s dismay. But when Adina says she needs time to think it over, Nemorino seizes the moment and declares his undying love for her once again. Irritated, Adina declares that she is capricious and fickle—he should look for love elsewhere.

Scene 2. Dr. Dulcamara, a fast-talking quack, arrives and sings the praises of his amazing elixir, guaranteed to cure all diseases—and even chase away mice and bugs! Nemorino, who falls for the con like everybody else, asks if Dulcamara carries Isolde’s love potion. Dulcamara gives Nemorino a bottle of Bordeaux, warning him that it will only take effect after twenty-four hours (giving Dulcamara time to get away) and that he must keep it a secret. Nemorino drinks enough to get tipsy, so when Adina comes by he is so full of confidence that he pretends to ignore her. Aggravated to find her swain so impervious to her charms, she promises to marry Belcore in six days. Nemorino isn’t worried because the elixir will be in effect the next day.

But Belcore receives orders to leave the village in the morning, so Adina agrees to marry him immediately. Now that Nemorino is really desperate, Adina enjoys his torment. She invites everyone to the marriage feast, and they all mock the dunce who thought he could defeat the dashing Belcore.

Act 2

Scene 1. While Belcore and Adina are waiting for the notary to arrive at the wedding, Dr. Dulcamara entertains everyone with a comic song. Adina, however, hesitates to continue because Nemorino isn't there—she wants to complete her revenge. After the company goes off for the wedding toast, Nemorino sneaks in and begs Dulcamara for help. Always obliging, he prescribes another dose, but Nemorino is broke. Belcore finds Nemorino alone and talks him into signing up—what a victory to enlist your own rival! Nemorino accepts, hoping the elixir will work before he leaves with the soldiers.

Scene 2. Rumor has it that Nemorino's uncle has died, leaving him as heir to a fortune. All the girls flirt with Nemorino, who doesn't know about the inheritance and thinks the potion is finally working. Adina is astonished at his popularity and realizes that she is jealous. When Dulcamara brags that it was his elixir that worked the miracle, Adina also learns that Nemorino has sold his freedom for her. She realizes that she is in love with him, and Nemorino is delighted to see her shed a tear on his behalf. Adina takes action, buying back the enlistment papers from Belcore and admitting to Nemorino that she loves him. When Dulcamara tells everyone about Nemorino's inheritance, Dulcamara claims the credit—his elixir is so powerful, it can make rich men out of poor ones! As he leaves town in triumph, everyone wishes him well, except Belcore.

~Taken from Pittsburgh Opera's 2007 **The Elixir of Love** Study-Guide

For more complete plot information, plus videos, musical samples, and cast biographies, visit www.pittsburghopera.org/elixir.

Tickets and Group Discounts

- Tickets to all performances of **The Elixir of Love** start at \$12; tickets for children 18 and under start at \$6.
- All performances are at the [Benedum Center](#), 7th Street and Penn Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Cultural District
- To purchase tickets, call 412-456-6666, visit the Theatre Square Box Office, or buy online at https://opera.culturaldistrict.org/production/51767/list_performances.
- Group and student discounts are available. For discounted group tickets (6 or more), contact Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, x 213

Sponsors

- [PNC](#) is the 2017-18 Pittsburgh Opera Season Sponsor
- [WQED-FM](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's Media Sponsor
- Tuesday performance sponsor: [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#).

Cast and Artistic Team: *The Elixir of Love*

Adina	Ekaterina Siurina ⁺
Nemorino	Dimitri Pittas ⁺
Belcore	Zachary Nelson
Dr. Dulcamara	Paolo Pecchioli
Giannetta	Shannon Jennings [*]
Conductor	Christian Capocaccia
Stage Director	Daniel Slater
Set and Costume Designer	Robert Innes Hopkins
Wig and Make-up Designer	James Geier
Choreographer	Tim Claydon
Lighting Designer	Simon Mills
Stage Manager	Cindy Knight
Asst Conductor	Glenn Lewis
Chorus Master	Mark Trawka
Associate Coach/Pianist	James Lesniak
Asst Stage Director	Frances Rabalais [*]

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

Related Events for *The Elixir of Love*

An evening with Paolo Pecchioli
Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 - 9:00PM
Hosted by Cindy & Murry Gerber

Spend a night in Italia with the [FRIENDS of Pittsburgh Opera!](#)

Enjoy a recital, dinner, and discussion with the one-and-only [Paolo Pecchioli](#), who will be singing the role of traveling medicine show huckster Dr. Dulcamara in our production of [The Elixir of Love](#).

[The party](#) is graciously hosted by Cindy and Murry Gerber. Entrance is \$150/person. RSVP by March 28th to Ronna Pratt at 412-281-0912 ext. 225 for full details.

April Brown Bag concert
Saturday, April 7, Noon - 1:00 PM
George R. White Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters, [2425 Liberty Avenue](#)

You're invited to Pittsburgh Opera's free April Brown Bag concert, our final one of the season. The program includes some of our 2017-18 Resident Artists' favorite selections. The concert is free and open to everyone. Bring a friend and bring a lunch! Meet the Resident Artists afterward at an informal reception.

Doors open at 11:30 AM. Handicapped parking is available by reservation. For more information: 412-281-0912 or <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/april-brown-bag-concert2>

Opera Up Close: *The Elixir of Love*
Sunday, April 8, 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 Donizetti's [The Elixir of Love](#), with singers, the production's conductor, and more. Panelists will include Maestro [Christian Capocaccia](#), TBA cast members and more.

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 <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/opera-up-close-the-elixir-of-love>.

***The Elixir of Love* - Previews on WQED-FM 89.3 and WQED.ORG**
Saturday, April 14, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM and
Friday, April 20, 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Hosted by WQED's Anna Singer, and broadcast over the airwaves on WQED-FM 89.3 as well as the WQED website, WQED's preview of **The Elixir of Love** gives listeners an engaging introduction to the singers, music, and story of the opera. For more information: <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/wqed-preview-the-elixir-of-love>

Pre-opera Talks for *The Elixir of Love*
One hour prior to each performance
Benedum Center

Ticketholders are invited to attend a free [Pre-Opera Talk](#) one hour before each performance's curtain in the Main Floor/Orchestra section of the Benedum Center. Learn about the composer, the story, and some juicy details about the opera!

Pre-Opera Talks are free to all ticketholders at all performances.

Audio Commentary: *The Elixir of Love*
Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 PM
Benedum Center

Ticketholders with visual impairments are invited to use [Pittsburgh Opera's Audio Description service](#) at our Tuesday performances. Trained volunteers describe the supertitles, 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, April 24th performance by contacting Regina Connolly at 412-281-0912, ext. 213 or groups@pittsburghopera.org. Braille and large-print programs are also available.

Meet the Artists of *The Elixir of Love*
Tuesday, April 24
Immediately following the performance, in the Benedum Center's Lower Lobby

Ticketholders for the Tuesday, April 24 performance of **The Elixir of Love** are invited to gather in the Benedum Lower Lobby immediately following the performance when [General Director Christopher Hahn](#) interviews the stars of the opera. This event is free to all Tuesday performance ticketholders. Learn more at <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/calendar/detail/meet-the-artists-the-elixir-of-love>

COMING UP NEXT for Pittsburgh Opera:

Our [80th Season](#), 2018-19

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 79th season in 2017-18. 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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