

## Media Release

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### Florentine Opera Launches 90th Season *23/24 Season: Opera With a Twist*

**March 15, 2023 (Milwaukee)**—Wisconsin's oldest fully professional performing arts organization, The Florentine Opera, announces its **90th season** of bringing opera to the stages. The Florentine Opera is the only producer of grand opera in the state. With nine decades of magnificent opera experiences behind us, the Florentine is thrilled to offer you four riveting mainstage performances this season: *Elixir of Love*, *Songbird*, *Bronzeville Bohème*, and *María de Buenos Aires*. Experience all of these classics with a fresh twist.

General Director & CEO, Maggey Oplinger shares, "As we dive into our next decade, the Florentine celebrates generations of great operas, of great talent developed here in Milwaukee, and how timeless this art form is...with a twist. After all, how could we not set an opera about wine in California? Or set an opera by the Can Can's composer in New Orleans? We can't wait to delight you with favorites, and surprise you with new ones."

Our mainstage series opens strong with the well-known *Elixir of Love*. A classic rom-com: Nemorino is desperately in love with Adina. Adina could not be less interested. After a second glass of wine (and a small inherited fortune he's unaware of, but the women in town found out about), now that sweet guy seems a little more interesting. Offenbach's *Songbird* is a reduced version of French operetta *La Périchole*. *Songbird* will celebrate graduates of the Baumgartner Studio Artist program, featuring rising star Lindsay Metzger (14/15), hilarious tenor Tom Leighton (15/16, 16/17, & Summer 17), Milwaukee's own Colleen Brooks (08/09) with our current class of talent.

Recently announced Music Director, Francesco Milioto takes the podium in the beloved and much anticipated *Bronzeville Bohème*, now set in Milwaukee's 1940s Bronzeville. Enjoy stage art created by **2019 Nohl Fellowship winner Ras 'Ammar Nsoroma**. **Bronzeville expert and dramaturg Sheri Williams Pannell** helps us explore this thriving-again city within our city, and the artists and citizens who built it. Original sets will bring Bronzeville alive for all of us to celebrate. Stepping out of the comfort of the Marcus Performing Arts Center, the gorgeous tango opera of *María de Buenos Aires* takes the stage at Turner Hall Ballroom. A poor girl comes to Buenos Aires and is drawn into a life of prostitution by the sound of the tango. She dies, her shadow continuing to stalk the city. Astor Piazzolla's sultry and passionate **nuevo tango** fuels the surreal story of María, **born "one day when God was drunk."**

In addition to our mainstage performances, the 23/24 Season features *Al Fresco* and *Spotlight* performances. Get a chance to hear a plethora of talent on the cusp of stardom in intimate settings, surrounded by fellow opera enthusiasts and appreciators of the arts alike.

Opera in Schools Tour continues with *The Child and the Enchantments*, an abridged version of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. 23/24 Baumgartner Studio Artists pack a visual punch in over-the-top costumes. Young audiences will enjoy the magic of opera in their schools and community centers.

**Announcing the Florentine Opera's Summer Studio Ensemble!** Mozart in the park- Hear some of Mozart's most beloved music while enjoying some fresh air. The Florentine Summer Studio Ensemble will bring opera scenes to life as part of Milwaukee's outdoor performance tradition. The ensemble will be performing at parks and festivals throughout the Milwaukee area and beyond this July and August.

## [Download the 23/24 Season Brochure](#)

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### The Florentine Opera's 23/24 Season at a Glance

**Mainstage Series: This season will feature four mainstage performances. A delightful mix of the classics you love with a twist. Beautiful scenery, new venues, and thrilling adaptations**



[Elixir of Love](#)- **October 13th & 15th, 2023** at the Marcus Performing Arts Center in Uihlein Hall. Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* takes audiences on a romantic and comedic journey that will sweep you off your feet, and leave you wondering about the power of wine!



[Songbird](#) - **February 16th & 18th, 2024** at the Marcus Performing Arts Center in the Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall. A tale of true love, capers, villains and confusion. Despite a series of dizzying events, they prove love conquers all.

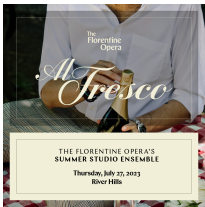


[Bronzeville Bohème](#)- **April 19th & 21st, 2024** at the Marcus Performing Arts Center in Uihlein Hall. Experience this beautiful powerhouse opera, now set in Milwaukee's 1940s Bronzeville. Luxuriate in the lush movie music and an all-star cast telling this double love story and bromance in a fresh way.

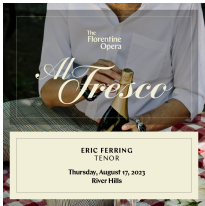


[María de Buenos Aires](#)- **May 17th & 19th, 2024** at Turner Hall Ballroom. Astor Piazzolla's sultry and passionate nuevo tango fuels the surreal story of María, born "one day when God was drunk." Explore this drama of seduction, depravity, redemption, and rebirth in Buenos Aires' urban underbelly.

**Al Fresco Series: Sellout summer series, located in some of the most beautiful and intimate gardens around SE Wisconsin, feature some of opera's top talent.**



[A Night of Opera](#) - **July 27th, 2023** in River Hills. Join us for an evening of opera scenes featuring Florentine Opera's Summer Studio Ensemble.



[Eric Ferring](#) - **August 17th, 2023** in River Hills. Audience favorite tenor Ferring is taking a detour from the world's greatest stages to sing his own favorites to you, hosted by the Baumgartners.

**Spotlight Series: Short, sweet and social gatherings in exclusive spots around town, getting a sneak peek at a star from our upcoming operas.**



[Marie-Eve Munger](#) - **September 21st, 2023** at the Atrium. Discover the sparkling voice and personality of this glorious soprano, who performed the Fairy in Lyric Opera's Cendrillon. This star will wow us in an intimate performance, before sweeping us away as Adina in this fall's *Elixir of Love*.



[Chaz'men Williams-Ali](#) - **March 28th, 2024** at Milwaukee County Historical Society. Returning from performing in Germany, Chaz'men's rich tenor will run the gamut from operatic hero to hero in this evening of fun. Meet him before he leads our Bohemians in song in *Bronzeville Bohème*.



[Wanderlust](#) - **March 21st & 22nd, 2024** at the Wayne and Kristine Lueders Opera Center in Riverwest. Spotlight on The Baumgartner Studio Artists with a theme of Wanderlust. An evening of songs from around the world, celebrating our love of travel and adventure.

We have been hard at work behind the scenes to ensure every patron gets the experience they deserve. Various subscription packages will be available to meet all of your show needs. **Subscriptions will be available to the general public on Wednesday, March 22nd at 10:00am.** Packages can be purchased by visiting <https://www.florentineopera.org/subscriptions>, emailing [tickets@florentineopera.org](mailto:tickets@florentineopera.org), or calling 414.291.5700 ext. 224. Single tickets will be available starting August 1, 2023.

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## **ABOUT THE FLORENTINE OPERA COMPANY**

We've been bringing a little bit of the world to Milwaukee since 1933. We're on a journey of discovery, exploring the glory of the human voice. We're a powerhouse for all different voices and stories, which have endured through the centuries and resonate with our humanity and passion. We're a live, supersized experience, created in-the-moment through theater, staging, lighting, lavish costumes, and beautiful song, bringing you the most immersive and all-encompassing artistic experience possible. Join us for a live performance that will sweep you off your feet.