Shreveport Opera & Shreveport Symphony celebrate 75 years together

A Diamond Jubilee Concert

September 29, 2023 • 7:30pm
The Strand Theatre

Joe Illick
Conductor

Jonathan Burton
Tenor

Greer Grimsley
Bass-Baritone

Lisa Chavez
Mezzo-Soprano

Eleni Calenos
Soprano
48th Annual

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Shreveport Opera Presents

A Diamond Jubilee Concert

Friday, September 29 * 7:30 p.m.
The Strand Theatre

Conducted by Joe Illick

Starring
Jonathan Burton, Tenor
Eleni Calenos, Soprano
Lisa Chavez, Mezzo-Soprano
Greer Grimsley, Bass-Baritone

Featuring the Shreveport Opera Xpress (SOX) Artists
Logan Dell’Acqua, Baritone
Mariam Mouawad, Mezzo-Soprano
Nathan Schafer, Tenor
Taylor See, Soprano

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
## PROGRAM

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## INTERMISSION

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PERFORMERS

Jonathan Burton ................................................................. Tenor
Eleni Calenos ................................................................. Soprano
Lisa Chavez ............................................................... Mezzo-Soprano
Greer Grimsley ............................................................ Bass-Baritone

FEATURING THE 2023-24
SHREVEPORT OPERA XPRESS (SOX) ARTISTS

Logan Dell’Acqua ................................................................. Baritone
Mariam Mouawad ............................................................... Mezzo-Soprano
Nathan Schafer ................................................................. Tenor
Taylor See ................................................................. Soprano

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Artist Biographies
Joe Illick served as the Artistic Director of Fort Worth Opera from 2017 to 2022, having served for fifteen seasons as Music Director and Principal Conductor. He has also served as Artistic Director of the Lake George Opera Festival, as Interim Artistic Director of Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), Music Director of the Pittsburgh Opera Theater, Artistic Director of Shreveport Opera and Principal Guest Conductor of the Teatro Lirico d’Europa. He has also conducted for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Opera Carolina, San Francisco Opera (Merola), Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Augusta Opera, Opera Omaha, Skylight Opera Theater, Eugene Opera, Nevada Opera Theater, Minnesota Opera National Tour, Pittsburgh Opera Theater, Stadttheater Aachen, Vienna Chamber Opera and the Covent Garden Ensemble.

His operas include *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*, *Stone Soup*, *Bernadette’s Cozy Book Nook*, *Ricky, Feel the Tango*, *UnShakeable*, and *Stand Up*. 
Tenor Jonathan Burton is engaged to sing the most demanding roles in the tenor repertoire including Cavaradossi in Tosca, Calaf in Turandot, Dick Johnson in Fanciulla del West, and Radames in Aida. He regularly receives rave reviews for his “…bright, heroic tone, [and] clarion power…”. For his performance as Cavaradossi with Opera Omaha, one reviewer said: “Tenor Jonathan Burton was revelatory as the painter and revolutionary sympathizer. His voice never faltered through the demands of the role and his tortured humanity was palpable.” The 2023-24 season will see Burton on stage as Canio in Pagliacci at Nashville Opera and Austin Opera, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly with Virginia Opera, a return to Palm Beach Opera in Tosca as Cavaradossi, and he will join the Madison Symphony as the tenor soloist in Verdi’s Requiem. He also debuts at the Washington National Opera as Calaf in Turandot.
Eleni Calenos, soprano, was born in Thessaloniki. She obtained a Cello Performance diploma at the Municipal Conservatory of her hometown, and her Vocal Performance diploma from the National Conservatory of Athens, Greece. She completed her postgraduate studies in vocal performance at Queens College in New York and at the Opera Institute of Boston University. She performs worldwide, but mainly in Europe and the United States. Her repertoire includes numerous leading roles - almost 30 - such as Madama Butterfly, Tosca, Mimi (Bohème), Countess (The Marriage of Figaro), Liu (Turandot), Desdemona (Othello), Nedda (Pagliacci), Santuzza (Cavalleria), Antonia (The Tales of Hoffmann), Michaëla (Carmen), Donna Anna and Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni), etc. She appears with major orchestras in major theaters worldwide (Glyndebourne, Wiesbaden Staatstheater, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Avery Fisher Hall, Greek National Opera, State Symphony Orchestra of Athens and Thessaloniki, Megaron Concert Hall of Athens & Thessaloniki etc). She also appears as a soloist in oratorios, symphonies, requiems and recitals, singing works ranging from the Baroque era to the 20th century and contemporary music. She has recorded Mascagni’s opera Zanetto with the Boston Odyssey Opera, as well as Giorgos Tsontakis’ work Mirologia with the Albany Symphony Orchestra and KOCH International Classics. She has won numerous awards.
This February Lisa Chavez made her company and role debut with Opera Tampa singing Adalgisa in *Norma*. In March she embodied the title role in Massenet’s rarely performed *Thérèse* with Sarasota Opera, immediately followed by a Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Knoxville Opera.

Chavez was seen in a “star turn” as Maggie in the premiere of Bell and Campbell’s *Stonewall* with New York City Opera. Other roles performed with the company include Dolores in *Dolores Claiborne*, Paula in *Florecia en el Amazonas*, Carmen in *Carmen*. To date, Ms. Chavez has performed 10 roles with Sarasota Opera, consisting of 8 role debuts. Roles with Sarasota Opera include the title in *Carmen*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Sevillia*, Fenena in *Nabucco*, Madame de Croissy in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*. For the 2013-2015 seasons Chavez was a principal resident artist with Opera San José. Highlights of her tenure include; Isabella in *L’Italiana in Algeri*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, and Maddalena in *Rigoletto*.

Other memorable roles include; Federico García Lorca in *Ainadamar*, Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*, Marquise de Berkenfield in *La fille du régiment*, and Elizabeth Proctor in Robert Ward’s *The Crucible*. 
Greer Grimsley is internationally recognized as an outstanding singing actor and one of the most prominent Wagnerian singers of our day. Continuing his reign as a leading interpreter of the god Wotan, he sang the eminent role once again this past Spring 2019 for The Metropolitan Opera’s Der Ring des Nibelungen in the reprisal of Robert Lepage’s landmark production from 2013. His interpretation of Wotan has also brought him to multiple esteemed international opera houses; some highlights of this include his portrayal of the role in the entirety of Der Ring des Nibelungen with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Comunale di Bologna under Gatti’s baton, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, New National Theatre Tokyo, the Nikikai Opera Foundation in Tokyo, San Francisco Opera, and for Seattle Opera in 3 complete cycles over the past decade.

Last summer, he made his long-awaited debut at the Bayreuther Festspiele as the title role in Der fliegende Holländer and as Wotan in Die Walküre, his performance as the Dutchman praised for its “particular humanity,” subsequently returning Summer 2019 as Kurwenal in Tristan und Isolde. Other engagements this past season in addition to The Metropolitan Opera’s Ring Cycle included the title role in Der fliegende Holländer with Dallas Opera and a return to the Teatro Real in Madrid for their production of Wagner’s Das Rheingold. Upcoming engagements this season include Wotan in Die Walküre for the Royal Opera Stockholm Wanderer in Siegfried for the Bregenzer Festspiele. Future engagements include multiple returns to the Metropolitan Opera, and performances with Opera Oviedo, Staatsheater Stuttgart, Orchestra of the Music Makers in Singapore, and a return to the Metropolitan Opera.
Hailing from Traverse City, baritone Logan Dell’Acqua recently performed as an apprentice artist in Des Moines Metro Opera’s 2023 season where he covered “Leandro” (The Love for Three Oranges). Previously, he was a Mary Ragland Emerging Artist with Nashville Opera where he made his role debut as “Marullo” (Rigoletto). Other credits include “Marcel” in a new adaptation of Beauty and the Beast (Opera Iowa/DMMO) and “Bob” in The Old Maid and the Thief (Seagle Music Colony). He received his MM from the University of Michigan under the direction of Stephan Lusmann & George Shirley. While pursuing his degree, Logan performed the roles of “Dr. Falke” (Die Fledermaus) (canceled due to Covid), “Marcello” (La bohème), “Bob” (Highway One) and “der Lautsprecher” (Der Kaiser von Atlantis). While living in southeast Michigan, Logan has been a featured soloist in many concert engagements including Handel’s Messiah, Finzi’s Requiem da Camera and Mendelssohn’s Elijah.
Born and raised in the city of Zahle, Lebanon, mezzo-soprano Mariam Mouawad moved to the United States at the age of 13. She is the First Place Winner of the 2023 MTNA Young Artist Competition (Voice) and the First Place Winner of the 2022 La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Young Artist Competition. A recent graduate of the University of Houston with the Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy, Ms. Mouawad was featured in numerous roles with the Moores Opera Center, including Federico Lorca in Osvaldo Golijov’s Ainadamar, Charlotte in A Little Night Music, Tolomeo in Giulio Cesare, and Adélaïde in La Belle et La Bête. A participant of the 2022 NEO program (cover Ariodante), she received her Bachelor of Music in Voice from San Diego State University where she was featured in diverse repertoire of Massenet’s Cendrillon, Jonathan Dove’s Flight, and Gluck’s Orfeo ed Euridice. Ms. Mouawad is delighted to be joining Shreveport Opera as one of their 2023-2024 Resident Artist.
Revered by critics for his “strong clear tenor voice”, Nathan Schafer “sings with clarity and warmth.” (KDHX). This season Mr. Schafer will sing Rodolfo in La bohème and Ferrando in Così fan tutte with Shreveport Opera. Mr. Schafer will also be a soloist for the 75th Anniversary Concert with the Shreveport Symphony. Last season, Mr. Schafer made his company debut as Alfredo in Verdi’s La traviata and made his professional debut at Winter Opera of St. Louis as Ruggero in Puccini’s La rondine. Broadway World News said “His voice is perfect for the role” Mr. Schafer has performed with prominent opera houses such as The Dallas Opera, Central City Opera, Tulsa Opera, and Fort Worth Opera. Mr. Schafer’s other performance history includes the roles of Pinkerton (Madama Butterfly), Luigi (Il tabarro), Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni), Alfred (Die Fledermaus), Pirelli (Sweeney Todd), Hooker (Emmeline), and Beppe (Pagliacci).
Taylor See, soprano, a native of Las Vegas, NV, is recognized as a Western Region Special Encouragement Award Winner and a San Francisco District Winner of The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition and a First Place winner of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) Concerto Competition. Taylor was an apprentice artist this past summer with Santa Fe Opera and is an alumni of the Houston Grand Opera Young Artists Vocal Academy.

Taylor has sung the roles of Cleopatra in Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* at SFCM, Contessa Almaviva in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* at SFCM, Euridice (cover) in Monteverdi’s *L’Orfeo* with Santa Fe Opera, Adelaide Mills/Miss Thompson/Helen Mills in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The House without a Christmas Tree* with Opera Las Vegas, Lucy in Menotti’s *The Telephone* with Vegas City Opera, Bellangère in Dukas’s *Ariane et Barbe-bleue* with West Edge Opera, and Sister Felicity and Sister Valentine (cover) in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with San Francisco Opera, to name a few.

Taylor is a graduate of SFCM, earning her Master of Music and Bachelor of Music in voice under the tutelage of Cesar Ulloa and Deborah Voigt.
Pianist **Ah Young Kim**, a native of South Korea, maintains a diverse range of musical experiences. As a collaborative pianist, she played for studios, including that of cellist János Starker, at Indiana University, where she received a master’s degree. Ms. Kim has also played for singers at masterclasses led by Alan L. Smith, Donna Racik, Dwayne Croft, Twyla Robinson, and the late Nico Castel. As an operatic pianist and coach, her previous credits include Aspen Music Festival Opera Coach Fellow (CO), Charlottesville Opera (Ash Lawn Opera, VA), Fort Worth Opera (TX), Musiktheater Bavaria (Germany), Opera North (Lebanon, NH), and UNT Opera (Denton, TX). Ms. Kim began her musical training in South Korea and received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. Her teachers include Pamela Mia Paul, Shigeo Neriki, Stephen Dubberly, and Elvia Puccinelli. She made a presentation at the MTNA National Conference (Baltimore, MD) and Louisiana Tech University (Ruston, LA). She also participated in the Mozarteum Summer Academy (Salzburg, Austria) and the International Keyboard Institute & Festival (IKIF, New York, NY).
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Chorus Master; SOX Music Director

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Kennon Comegys
Betty Cummings
Kathleen Cush
Destiny Garcia
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Jerry McClarty
Marcia Moffatt
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Ranelle Ramsey
Donnovan Roe
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Daisha Togawa
Steve Valenzuela
Robert Wright
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Masha Popova, Principal
Jennifer McRae

**Oboe**
Theresa Bridges, Principal
Leah Forsyth

**Clarinet**
Scot Humes
Cheyenne Cruz

**Horn**
Tom Hundemer, Principal
Kristine Coreil
James Boldin
Colin McRae

**Trumpet**
Rick Rowell, Principal
Michael Scarlato

**Trombone**
Jeremy Dowden
Andrews Eden

**Bass Trombone**
John Mark Thomspson, Principal

**Timpani / Percussion**
Chandler Teague, Principal
Anthony Robinson

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TCHAIKOVSKY’S 4TH
September 23 at 7:30 PM
Simone Porter, violin
MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto

ELVIS IS IN THE BUILDING
October 21 at 7:30 PM
Victor Trevino, Jr., Graceland’s Ultimate Elvis Tribute Champion

RHAPSODY IN BLUE
November 18 at 7:30 PM
Jeffrey Biegel, piano
GERSHWIN Rhapsody in Blue
BOYER Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue

HOLIDAY POPS WITH BROADWAY STAR LAURA OSNES
December 16 at 7:30 PM

SPECIAL EVENT! THE MUSIC OF DEF LEPPARD
with vocalist Justin Sargent
January 13 at 7:30 PM

BRAHMS & THE BANDONEON
January 27 at 7:30 PM
Richard Scofano, bandoneon/composer
SCOFANO La Tierra sin Mal
BRAHMS Symphony No. 1

JOHN WILLIAMS: MOVIE MASTERPIECES
March 2 at 7:30 PM

DYNAMIC DUOS
March 23 at 7:30 PM
Double concertos with SSO musicians

BEETHOVEN & RACHMANINOFF
May 4 at 7:30 PM
Alessio Bax, piano
RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, “Eroica”

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upcoming performances

the nutcracker
december 9-10, 2023

beauty and the beast
april 6-7, 2024

2023
- Animaniacs in Concert
  Friday, September 8, 2023 – 7:00 PM
- Haunted Illusions starring David Caserta
  Friday, October 27, 2023 – 7:00 PM
- Coco Live-to-Film Concert
  Sunday, November 5, 2023 – 4:30 PM
- A Charlie Brown Christmas: Live on Stage
  Friday, December 1, 2023 – 7:00 PM

2024
- On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan
  Friday, January 26, 2024 – 7:30 PM
- The Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston
  Friday, February 2, 2024 – 7:30 PM
- The Simon & Garfunkel Story
  Friday, March 22, 2024 – 7:30 PM
- 360 Allstars
  Sunday, April 7, 2024 – 7:00 PM

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