



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarasota Opera to Salute the Stars

Sarasota, FL—The Sarasota Opera community will gather for Salute to the Stars to celebrate and honor this season's Artists at the Sarasota Yacht Club, at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 25.

Each year, Sarasota Opera honors a number of their outstanding Artists. Guests will enjoy a gourmet lunch with new and old friends and performances by the awardees. Awards will be presented through the legacy left by a number of visionary individuals as well as the Sarasota and Manatee Opera Guilds.

Patron level reservations at \$150 per person include premium seating and recognition in the event program. Standard reservations are \$85 per person.

Sarasota Opera has welcomed Apprentice Artists since 1982. The program helps train singers to make the important transition from student to professional life. It functions within the aesthetic of Sarasota Opera by focusing on the standard operatic repertoire from Mozart to Puccini.

During the winter season, young singers are encouraged to give impassioned performances through vocal expression with an understanding of the meaning of the text, the poetry, and the music. They receive private coaching and attend classes, where they hone their singing and acting skills.

Apprentice Artists form the chorus and perform in all main stage productions.

Studio Artists are members of the more advanced level of Sarasota Opera's two training programs. They receive the same intense training as the apprentices, but they participate in main stage productions by performing supporting roles and covering principal roles. With many roles needing covers each season and the company's extended performance schedule, they are often called on to substitute for an indisposed Principal Artist, sometimes with little notice. Studio Artists occasionally augment the apprentice artists in choruses for larger productions.

The Studio Artists are often Sarasota Opera's musical representatives outside the Opera House. Serving Sarasota and Manatee counties, they perform in various locations. These outreach initiatives take place in schools, retirement homes, community centers, and at guild meetings as well as other locations.

Studio Artists Program participants have often returned to Sarasota Opera as Principal Artists, and many have gone on to perform with major companies in the United States and internationally.

For tickets to Salute to the Stars, visit <https://event.sarasotaopera.org/salute-to-the-stars>, email SOAEvents@SarasotaOpera.org or contact Melissa Voigt directly at 941-366-8450, ext. 813 or mvoigt@sarasotaopera.org.

About Sarasota Opera

This is Sarasota Opera's 66th Season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984 the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater — now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company's Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive Youth Program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org.

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