

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 7, 2024

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## Tickets for Sarasota Opera’s Fall Verdi Concert on Sale

**Sarasota, FL** — Sarasota Opera is world-renowned for its Verdi Cycle. Between 1989 and 2016, the company performed every note that Giuseppe Verdi wrote. It is in that spirit that Sarasota Opera will launch its 2024-2025 season with its fall concert, *The Music of Giuseppe Verdi*.

Scheduled for Nov. 15 and 17, the concert will include selections from the great Italian composer’s operas, beloved by Sarasota audiences. Artistic Director and principal conductor Victor DeRenzi will conduct the Sarasota Orchestra and returning artists soprano Virginia Mims, soprano Rochelle Bard, baritone Jean Carlos Rodriguez, tenor Victor Starsky and base Young Bok Kim.

Verdi is one of the most popular composers and his many works are included in the repertoire of most opera companies. *The Music of Giuseppe Verdi* will feature arias, duets, and ensembles from a range of Verdi Operas, nine in all, spanning most of Verdi’s career. The earliest is *I Lombardi alla prima crociata* (1843), the latest, *Aida* (1871). In between, there will be moments from such beloved works as *Rigoletto* (1851), *La Traviata* (1853), and *Don Carlo* (1867). It will offer the audience new perspectives on his music.

Selections will include “Celeste Aida” from *Aida*, “Tardo per gl’anni e tremulo” from *Attila*, “Ella giammai m’amò” from *Don Carlo*, “Bella figlia dell’amore” from *Rigoletto* and more.

Maestro DeRenzi chose this concert’s selections for a specific reason. “There are some familiar arias and duets in our concert, but I tried to find works that aren’t often done out of context, like the duet that ends the concert, ‘Piangi, fanciulla,’ for Rigoletto and his daughter, Gilda. It’s one of the great moments in opera, but it’s not usually performed outside the complete opera. And ‘Ella giammai m’amò,’ from *Don Carlo*. The character who sings this moment was perhaps the most important leader in the world at the time, King Philip II of Spain, but he feels the same things we all do. To me, *Don Carlo* is one of the first works of ‘Verismo’. That term is often used and discussed, but if it indicates truth of emotions, there is no work that shows the human condition more than this,” DeRenzi said.

### The Cast

Soprano Virginia Mims made her debut with Sarasota Opera in 2024 as Lucia in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She has sung the role of Zemfira in Rachmaninoff’s *Aleko* and Cleopatra in Händel’s *Giulio Cesare* with IU Opera Theater, Susanna in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Brevard Music Center, and Mary Bailey in Jake Heggie’s *It’s A Wonderful Life* with IU Opera Theater.

Soprano Rochelle Bard made her debut with Sarasota Opera in 2019 as Abigaille in Verdi’s *Nabucco*. She has sung the title role in Verdi’s *Aida* with Washington Opera Society, the title role in Puccini’s *Tosca* with Hawaii Opera Theater and the Opera Theater of Connecticut, and Rosalinda in Johann Strauss II’s *Die Fledermaus* with Opera Tampa.

Baritone Jean Carlos Rodriguez made his Sarasota Opera debut last season as Enrico in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He has sung Paris in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* and Fiorello/Ufficiale in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Tampa. He was also accepted into the prestigious Sherrill Milnes' Savannah Voice Festival where he sang the title role of Figaro in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Tenor Victor Starsky made his Sarasota Opera debut last season as Don José in Bizet's *Carmen*. He has sung the role of the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with Opera Modesto, Radamés in Verdi's *Aida*, George Gibbs in Rorem's *Our Town* at the Utah Festival Opera, and Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* with Charlottesville Opera.

Bass Young Bok Kim has performed with Sarasota opera for more than 20 years where he has sung the title role in Verdi's *Attila*, Sparafucile in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Raimondo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, among others. A native of Korea, he has also sung Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with the National Opera of Korea and the Seoul Metropolitan Opera.

The Music of Giuseppe Verdi will take place Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. Single tickets are on sale now at the Sarasota Opera Box Office, by phone at (941) 328-1300, in person at 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, or online at <https://tickets.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](http://SarasotaOpera.org).

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## FACT SHEET

**WHAT:** The Music of Giuseppe Verdi

**WHEN:** November 15, 7:30 p.m. and November 17 at 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Sarasota Opera House, 61 N Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236

**WHO:** Victor DeRenzi, Conductor

Virginia Mims , Soprano

Rochelle Bard, Soprano

Jean Carlos Rodriguez, Baritone

Victor Starsky, Tenor

Young Bok Kim, Bass

**TICKETS:** [Sarasotaopera.org](http://Sarasotaopera.org): (941) 328-1300

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