

KENTUCKY OPERA

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PRODUCING COMPANY, ARTS EDUCATOR & COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR

Louisville, KY. Kentucky Opera announces its 2024/25 season, which brings sweeping stories and groundbreaking theatre to Kentuckiana. Four new productions — all directed by women; new concerts; and new programs for younger audiences, the season is packed with world-class productions and exciting experiences.

“We have expanded our offerings for everyone this year, providing a greater variety of experiences for people of all ages and interests,” says Barbara Lynne Jamison, Kentucky Opera General Director + CEO.

Kentucky Opera opens its 2024/25 season with a limited run of **Puccini’s** heartbreaking tragedy ***Madama Butterfly***. Puccini’s luxurious score is filled with vulnerability, power, and emotion. In this bold production set post WWII, Director **Mo Zhou** and her all-AAPI female creative team explore how this story still resonates today. **Francesco Milioto** conducts the Kentucky Opera Orchestra with **Sachie Ueshima** in the title role and **Adam Diegel** as Pinkerton in their Kentucky Opera debuts.

Kentucky Opera continues the holiday opera tradition with a one-act English-language, family-friendly production in December. Since its premiere on television Christmas Eve, 1951, **Gian Carlo Menotti’s** classic ***Amahl and the Night Visitors*** has been performed across the globe and in many languages. Kentucky Opera’s new production explores the life of nomadic, displaced individuals in the 1930s who find acceptance, generosity, and joy, even in the most difficult circumstances. This beloved holiday classic is directed by **Kelly Kitchens**. Due to popular demand, Kentucky Opera added a performance, giving you more opportunities to create and celebrate your own annual holiday traditions.

The season continues during Black History Month with *This Little Light of Mine*, an opera inspired by the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, a former Mississippi sharecropper’s daughter who rose to national prominence at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Composed by **Chandler Carter** to a libretto by **Diana Solomon-Glover**, *This Little Light of Mine* was co-commissioned with Santa Fe Opera in 2019 and workshopped in Louisville in 2021. Kentucky Opera brings Fannie Lou Hamer’s story to the stage in this brand-new production led by Stage Director **Kimille Howard** with Conductor **Everett McCorvey**. Full of familiar civil rights tunes from the 60s, this opera unflinchingly spotlights experiences of many Black Americans who exercised their right to vote.

The Opera Center for Cultural Health delights many audiences with its powerfully intimate setting. Composed in 1748 by Jean-Philippe Rameau, ***Pygmalion***, the story of a man seeking the perfect companion, gets a fresh and relatable update. Kentucky Opera’s brand-new production sets this opera in the 1950s against the backdrop of the perfect family home, weaving the original myth through a wife’s, Cephise, perspective as she tries to be everything but herself. The Kentucky Opera Baroque Ensemble, led by **Stephen Stubbs**, anchors this opera in its history, while Director **Tara Branham’s** new concept shatters external

pressures, allowing Cephise to define her own destiny. Tenor **Marc Molomot** in the title role, with **Tess Altiveros** as Cephise.

SEASON 2024/25 PRODUCTIONS

Madama Butterfly, composed by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa

Sung in Italian with English captions

Pre-show *Awakenings* discussion at Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

Oct. 29, 2024, 6 pm

Performances at The W.L. Lyons Brown Theatre

Nov. 15, 2024, 8 pm

Nov. 17, 2024, 2 pm

Amahl and the Night Visitors, by Gian Carlo Menotti

Sung in English

Pre-show *Awakenings* discussion: Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

Dec. 2, 2024, 6 pm

Performances at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

Dec. 13, 2024, 8 pm

Dec. 15, 2024, 2 pm

Dec. 19, 2024, 8 pm

Dec. 17, 2024, 2 pm

Dec. 20, 2024, 8 pm

Dec. 22, 2024, 2 pm

This Little Light of Mine, by Chandler Carter, libretto by Diana Solomon-Glover

Sung in English with English captions

Pre-show *Awakenings* discussion: Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

Feb 6, 2025, 6 pm

Performances at The W.L. Lyons Brown Theatre

Feb. 21, 2025, 8 pm

Feb. 23, 2025, 2 pm

Pygmalion, by Jean-Phillipe Rameau, concept by Tara Branham

Sung in English

Pre-show *Awakenings* discussion: Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

March 26, 2025, 6 pm

Performances at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

April 4, 2025, 8 pm

April 6, 2025, 2 pm

April 10, 2025, 8 pm

April 8, 2025, 2 pm

April 11, 2025, 8 pm

Awakenings Discussions. Preceding each opera, Kentucky Opera invites community members to the Opera Center for conversations about the story and relevant themes in the upcoming production, featuring guests from the community. All *Awakenings* are free admission and open to the public.

NEW! Opera Tag-a-Long. Children ages 3-8 explore opera with games, singing, and storytelling while their grownups attend a mainstage matinée performance. A fun, interactive afternoon at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health, only three blocks from the Brown, is led by professional teaching artists and offers the entire family the opportunity to engage with opera. **Available for performances on Nov. 17, 2024 & Feb. 23, 2025.**

More details and dates are available at KYOpera.org.

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About Kentucky Opera For more than 70 years, Kentucky Opera has enriched the cultural and artistic landscape of the region. Designated the State Opera in 1982, Kentucky Opera is a producing company dedicated to sparking discovery, joy, and connection through the shared experience of music and theatre. We believe the power of the arts invites a more empathetic, compassionate, and just community.

In 2023, The Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health opened in downtown Louisville as the company's hub for cultural enrichment events, after-school youth programs, and civic engagement opportunities. It also joins the iconic Brown Theatre as a performing stage for Kentucky Opera productions.