

KENTUCKY OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2025

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Kentucky Opera Reimagines Pygmalion in a Mid-Century Modern Light

A fresh take on the classical myth, featuring a baroque orchestra and an innovative production at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

LOUISVILLE, KY – Kentucky Opera presents a new production of Jean-Philippe Rameau's *Pygmalion*, reimagined for the modern audience. The inventive adaptation weaves the original myth into an empowering narrative, set against the backdrop of 1950s America, and features an orchestra performing on baroque instruments for an authentic musical experience.

This production brings a modern perspective to the ancient story. Céphise is a 1950s housewife striving to meet her husband's—and society's—expectations who embarks on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. This contemporary retelling explores themes of identity, autonomy, and transformation in ways that resonate with today's audiences.

"The story of Pygmalion is a timeless exploration of creation and transformation," said Barbara Lynne Jamison, General Director and CEO of Kentucky Opera, who also wrote the new English libretto. "Through contemporary lens, this retelling of the ancient Roman story illuminates the societal constructs that shape our identities. We invite our community to reflect on the universal drive to be our true selves and shed external expectations that don't serve us.

Pygmalion has been told and retold in many variations on stage and screen. "People may know Pygmalion as told through *My Fair Lady*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, or *Her*. This immersive experience will have the audience feeling the impact of every character's decision, inviting them to question, 'How do I define myself?'," said director Tara Branham. "With the opera center as a backdrop, audiences will feel like we're bringing the art galleries of a Soho warehouse to the heart of Kentucky."

The production features a talented group of artists, several of whom are making their Kentucky Opera debuts. These include conductor Stephen Stubbs, an internationally renowned specialist in baroque music, and San Francisco Bay Area-based Branham, as well as two of the singers.

Pygmalion: Marc Molomot (Kentucky Opera debut)

Céphise: Tess Altiveros

Téa (La Statue): Rachel Kobernick (Kentucky Opera debut)

Sung in English, this tight hour-long opera offers audiences a captivating blend of 18th-century music and contemporary storytelling.

Performance Schedule

Friday, April 4 | 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6 | 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8 | 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 10 | 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 11 | 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

708 Magazine Street, Louisville, KY 40203

Awakenings: Understanding Pygmalion

Kentucky Opera invites the community to a discussion exploring the historical and social relevance of *Pygmalion*, featuring insights from artists, scholars, and community members.

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health

708 Magazine Street, Louisville, KY 40203

This event is free and open to the public.

Tickets and additional information for all events are available at [KYOpera.org](https://kyopera.org).

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. For more information, visit [KYOpera.org](https://kyopera.org).