

KENTUCKY OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2025

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Kentucky Opera Announces 2025/2026 Season of Bold Storytelling and Artistic Innovation

All productions will be performed at the Kentucky Opera Center, embracing intimacy and resilience in a year of dynamic productions.

LOUISVILLE, KY – Kentucky Opera today announced its 2025/26 season, a powerful mix of beloved classics, inventive adaptations, and compelling contemporary works designed to surround audiences with drama and music. For the upcoming season, all performances will take place at the Kentucky Opera Center for Cultural Health, offering an intimate setting that reimagines what opera can look like during a time of reflection, reinvention, and continued artistic growth.

“This season, we’re embracing the immediacy and humanity of opera,” said Kentucky Opera General Director and CEO Barbara Lynne Jamison. “We want our audiences to feel like they’re part of the story – not just watching from afar. We are excited to offer a full season of bold productions and an enduring commitment to our artists and audiences.”

The 2025/26 season will bring back Amplify Songs of Justice in addition to five staged productions, including returning audience favorites, fresh reinterpretations of classic works, and collaborations that uplift vital voices.

Season Details

Amplify Songs of Remembrance May 18, 2025

Commemorating 80 years since the liberation of the Terezín concentration camp in May 1945, this concert will include *From Jewish Life* for cello and piano by Ernest Bloch and will feature baritone Morgan Smith in Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer’s *For a Look or a Touch*. Smith and the Youth Opera Project will also sing *Brundibár*, a short children’s opera by Hans Krása known to be performed by the incarcerated youth of Terezín.

**Amplify Songs of Justice
Commemorating Juneteenth
June 19, 2025**

Presented in partnership with the Metro Louisville Juneteenth Jubilee Commission, this annual concert uplifts the legacy of freedom and resistance through music. Featuring “Songs of Justice” by composer Jorell Williams and lyricist Paula McCraney, along with other works from the African-American musical tradition, this inspiring evening commemorates the struggle for justice and liberation in our American history.

***La Traviata*
Music by Giuseppe Verdi
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
November 7 and 9, 2025**

Experience Verdi’s beloved masterpiece like never before in a visceral, immersive staging that places you in the heart of Violetta’s world. Powerful, emotional, and unforgettable.

***All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*
Created by Peter Rothstein; arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach
December 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 21, 2025**

Back by popular demand! This moving retelling of the spontaneous Christmas truce on the Western Front blends music and memory into a powerful theatrical experience.

***Songbird*
Music by Jacques Offenbach
Orchestral adaptation by James Lowe
Libretto adaptation by Kelley Rourke
February 13 and 15, 2026**

A quite literally spirited adaptation of Offenbach’s *La Périchole*, *Songbird* updates the story with wit and relevance. Set in prohibition-era New Orleans and sung in both English and French, this new production brings humor, heart, and an updated twist to a classic tale of love and independence.

***Scalia/Ginsburg*
Music and Libretto by Derrick Wang
April 10 and 12, 2026**

Celebrate the enduring friendship between two iconic U.S. Supreme Court Justices who became unlikely friends. This clever and charming one-act opera, with its witty libretto and heartfelt themes, is a timely reminder that our differences need not divide us.

***Robin Hood*
Music by Ben Moore**

Libretto by Kelley Rourke
June 6 and 7, 2026

A new youth opera full of swashbuckling fun, daring escapades, and a timeless story of justice and courage that reminds us all to “lead with love.” Performed by the talented artists of our Youth Opera Project, this family-friendly production brings the legend to life with energy and imagination.

“We’re always looking for new ways to bring opera to the community,” said Kentucky Opera Trustee Matthew Hamel. “While it’s true that arts organizations across the country are navigating challenging times, our commitment to great opera – and to this community – is unwavering. This season demonstrates that creativity and courage lie at the heart of our art form. We choose to meet our circumstances to inform our path forward: still creating and still building toward a bright future.”

The Opera Center is an ideal venue for this season’s immersive productions. By inviting audiences closer, the company is reimagining how opera can inspire and create a sense of community. “I love the intimate setting of the Opera Center – it was one of my favorite performances. Plus, it’s easy to get to, the seats are comfortable, and parking is a breeze,” said one audience member after a recent performance there.

By focusing on producing programming at the Opera Center next season, Kentucky Opera is positioned to embrace new possibilities and renewed energy as the company looks toward celebrating its 75th anniversary – and a return to the Brown Theater – in 2028.

Tickets and Information

Season ticket packages will go on sale to the public on May 1, 2025. For more information, visit [KYOpera.org](https://www.kyopera.org) or call 502.584.4500.

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