

UBC Opera



GILBERT & SULLIVAN

THE GONDOLIERS

UBC Opera 2021/22 SEASON



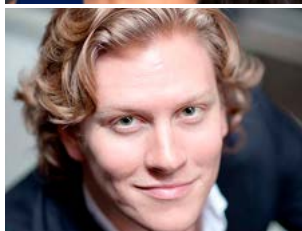
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO
JAN 29, FEB 3, 4, 5, 2022 — 7:30 P.M.
JAN 30, FEB 6 — 2:00 P.M. | 2022



DOROTHY CHANG, BENTON ROARK,
JENNIFER BUTLER, FARSHID SAMANDARI
SHADOW CATCH
MARCH 12 — 7:30 P.M.
MARCH 13 — 2:00 P.M. | 2022



ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
RUSALKA
JUNE 23, 24, 25 — 7:30 P.M.
JUNE 26 — 2:00 P.M. | 2022



**THE SINGER BEHIND
THE SONG**
SIMONE OSBORNE & GORDON BINTNER
DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

THE SONYA AND CHARLOTTE WALL ARTS FUND



**OPERA EXCERPTS
CONCERT**
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022 — 7.30 P.M.
SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022 — 2 P.M.



OPERA TEAS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021 | 2 P.M.
OLD AUDITORIUM
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 | 2 P.M.
UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN

More details on performing dates and locations can be found at ubcopera.com

UBC Opera

presents

The Gondoliers

Sung in English with English surtitles

Operetta in Two Acts

Music by **Arthur Sullivan** | Libretto by **William Schwenk Gilbert**

November 4, 5, 6 at 7:30 pm | November 7 at 2 pm

Conductor – **Leslie Dala**

Director – **Nancy Hermiston**

Lighting Design – **Jeremy Baxter**

Set Design – **Grant Windsor**

Costume Design – **Parvin Mirhady**

UBC Opera Ensemble

with members of the **Vancouver Opera Orchestra**

There will be one 20-minute intermission after Act I.

**This production is made possible by the
David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund**

*We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the
traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



UBC THEATRE & FILM

A Message from the Director



Dear UBC Opera audience members,
WELCOME BACK!!!

We have missed you and are delighted to have you here for our first live performances in the Old Auditorium since March 12, 2020!!

When I debated what production to bring to celebrate a return to live performance, I felt that we probably all needed some laughter, good cheer and the wonderful humour and delightful melodies for which Gilbert and Sullivan are famous. *The Gondoliers* seemed to be a

perfect choice.

I must thank our incredible technical director, Grant Windsor, who brought us through the pandemic and – despite the shortages and high prices of materials, and all the setbacks that we have faced with floods, delayed repairs, renovations, and logistics for the production – managed to design and build this beautiful set from stock that we already had and wood scraps from the rebuilding of the stage floor. This has taken recycling and environmental consciousness in the performing arts to a new level! Thank you, Grant!!

We also welcome back our loyal colleagues from the Vancouver Opera Orchestra and conductor Leslie Dala who join us for these performances.

On November 28, we will be presenting a Holiday Season Opera Tea. From January 29 – February 7, we will continue our season with our beautiful production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* at UBC's Chan Centre. On March 12 and 13, we offer you the chamber opera *Shadow Catch* and on March 27 and 28, a Concert of Operatic Excerpts celebrating our students' achievements this year. On April 10, we will hold the season's last Opera Tea in UBC's beautiful Botanical Garden. We also hope to welcome Vancouver's own Simone Osborne and her husband Gordon Bintner back

to Vancouver for a Singer Behind the Song performance in late Spring. Dvořák's beautiful opera *Rusalka* will close the Old Auditorium season in June. In early September, we will visit the Bard himself, Christopher Gaze, at Vanier Park to begin our new season with four excerpt concerts.

It is a season packed with tremendous joy. We are back together with our loyal audiences, supporters, donors, our opera colleagues and with each other, performing in person for you! Thank you for joining us for this 2021-2022 Season!

Welcome back, and thank you for joining us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Hermiston".

Nancy Hermiston, O.C.



UBC Opera production of *Pasazierka*. Photo by Tim Matheson.

The Cast*

Role	November 4 & 6	November 5 & 7
<i>Marco</i>	Gabriel Chona Rueda	Kevin (Kiho) Sohn
<i>Giuseppe</i>	Hans Grunwald	Pablo Romero Moreira
<i>Gianetta</i>	Emma Jang	Rachel Buttress
<i>Tessa</i>	Katie Fraser	Kathleen Isaza
<i>Duke</i>	Connor Hoppenbrouwers	Max DD Smith
<i>Duchess</i>	Alyssa Nicole Samson	Mara Ayque
<i>Inez</i>	Carleigh Ross	Holly Duerichen
<i>Casilda</i>	Hannah Ernst	Sarah Anderson-Caulfield
<i>Luiz</i>	Wanshuai Yu	Jing Jiang
<i>Don Alhambra</i>	Philip Wing	Jason Somerville
<i>Fiametta</i>	Julia Coutant	Brittany St. Clair Gamble
<i>Vittoria</i>	Neusha Amir-Rahmani	Carly King
<i>Giulia</i>	Olivia Rapos	Kenda McDermott
<i>Francesco</i>	Ming-Xuan Chung	Alex Liu
<i>Antonio</i>	Max DD Smith	Matthew Gorlitz
<i>Giorgio</i>	Liam Robertson	Raphael Groushvitski
<i>Annibale</i>	Kevin Liu	Owen Glor

THE CHORUS

Soprano: Kendra Baldwin, Claire Bidulka, Trinity Collie, Julia Coutant, Brittany St. Clair Gamble, Melanie Hiepler, Mariana Iguavita, Anja Kelly, Carly King, Kenda McDermott, Emma Petersen Melland, Olivia Rapos

Mezzo: Neusha Amir Rahmani, Mara Ayque, Alexandra Baird, Holly Duerichen, Katie Fraser, Kathleen Isaza, Danielle Nicholson, Carleigh Ross, Skylar Sabasch, Alyssa Nicole Samson, Adriana Zaharijevic

Tenor: Gabriel Chona Rueda, Ming-Xuan Chung, Jing Jiang, Xiang Li, Kevin Liu, Zhilun Liu, Kevin (Kiho) Sohn, Wanshuai Yu

Baritone/Bass: Owen Glor, Matthew Gorlitz, Raphael Groushvitski, Hans Grunwald, Connor Hoppenbrouwers, Matthew McLellan, Liam Robertson, Pablo Romero Moreira, Max DD Smith, Jason Somerville, Philip Wing

**All cast is subject to change*

Synopsis

ACT ONE

The scene opens in Venice with the town maidens declaring their admiration of a pair of gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri. A chorus of gondoliers enters, saying that they adore the young ladies, but the maidens explain that they will not consider any other suitors until Marco and Giuseppe select their brides. The Palmieri brothers enter and decide to pick their two brides in a game of blind man's bluff, as they feel it would be unfair to show any favouritism amongst the large group of alluring young ladies. Whilst peeking through their blindfolds, Giuseppe picks Tessa and Marco picks Gianetta, and they announce the game a success: they have selected the very girls they wanted! All leave to go to the church for the double wedding.

Meanwhile, The Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro arrive in Venice from Spain with their beautiful daughter Casilda, accompanied by their drummer Luiz. The Duke and Duchess reveal to Casilda that when she was a baby she was married to the infant Prince of Barataria. The King of Barataria has just passed away, making Casilda the reigning Queen. They have brought her to Venice for the Grand Inquisitor to introduce her to her husband, who was raised secretly in Venice for his own safety. As the Duke and Duchess depart, Casilda is left alone with Luiz – with whom she is (unbeknownst to her parents) in love, and the two lament that they will never be able to share their love.

The Grand Inquisitor, Don Alhambra, arrives with a complication: the Venetian gondolier who raised the prince had a son the same age, and eventually forgot which boy was his own son and which was the prince! However, the nurse who took care of the infant prince is still alive and living in the mountains and should be able to identify the prince. Until she can be found, both gentlemen will be brought to Barataria, so Don Alhambra sets off to inform these men of their unusual circumstances. Their names? Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri, of course!

Marco, Gianetta, Giuseppe, and Tessa are revelling in their newlywed bliss. When Don Alhambra arrives to explain the situation, Marco and Giuseppe are delighted – they will travel to Barataria and reign jointly until the nurse can be found! Don Alhambra informs Tessa and Gianetta that they will not be able to go with their new husbands (knowing that whichever man is the Prince is, in fact, already married!) until the true Prince has been identified. While disappointed, the idea that one of them will be a Queen is enough to keep the contadine content! As their friends arrive to see them off, Marco and Giuseppe declare they will be Republican monarchs, and under their rule: “All shall equal be!” Amid joyous celebration, the men set sail for Barataria.

— *Intermission* —

ACT TWO

Three months into their new lives as joint King of Barataria, Marco and Giuseppe are pleased with their progress. Everyone has been promoted to the nobility, leaving them to do all the work around the palace: the privilege of royalty! If only their wives were there, life would be perfect. No sooner than have they admitted this, Tessa and Gianetta appear with all the contadine in tow, having risked the long sea voyage to see their husbands. The reunited couples rejoice, throw a magnificent banquet, and invite everyone to Dance a Cachucha. Don Alhambra arrives at the celebration, stunned at the changes the gondoliers have wrought and aghast to see Tessa and Gianetta. He reveals to the four Venetians the existence of the Prince's marriage to Casilda, to their disappointment and distress.

The Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro arrive in Barataria with Casilda in tow, all dressed luxuriously thanks to the Duke's new position. Casilda is concerned she will never be able to love her husband, and the Duchess attempts to console her by regaling her of her own marriage. The Duke is rather put out with the lack of pomp that heralded their arrival, and attempts to educate Marco and Giuseppe in "proper" royal behaviour. Following this etiquette lesson, Casilda is left alone with the two gondoliers and confesses that her heart lies elsewhere. Upon hearing this, Marco and Giuseppe introduce their wives, and all five sing of their unusual predicament.

At last, the Prince's childhood nurse, Inez, arrives to identify which gentleman is King. She confesses that the boy delivered to the Venice was in fact, not the Prince at all, but her own young son! Neither of the gondoliers is King of Barataria; instead, the crown passes to the boy she raised as her own: Luiz. Casilda is ecstatic to discover she is already married to the man she loves, and Tessa and Giuseppe, and Gianetta and Marco are content they will be able to return to their wedded bliss in Venice. All celebrate the happy ending with a dance and a song, and part joyously as friends.

UBC Opera Ensemble

The University of British Columbia Opera Ensemble was founded by Canadian lyric coloratura, Nancy Hermiston, in 1995. Beginning with a core of seven performers, Ms. Hermiston has built the program to a 90-member company. The Ensemble performs three main productions at UBC every season, several Opera Tea Concerts, and a series of *Singer Behind the Song* events featuring international stars who work with Ensemble students. As well, the Ensemble has several engagements with local community partners such as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Opera, and Bard on the Beach. In addition, the Ensemble travels each year to the Czech Republic to gain valuable European performance experience. Frequently they appear in concert with the Plzen Opera Orchestra, and they are regular guests at the Nürnberg Opera House for their Musikalischen Damen Teas (founded by Prof Hermiston in 1985). They have also given several concerts in Beijing, Shanghai, and Chengdu, China. The Ensemble has also toured throughout B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. The Ensemble's mission is to provide an outstanding performance and academic education for young, gifted opera singers, preparing them for international careers. Past main-stage productions have included *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Die Gärtnerin aus Liebe*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Suor Angelica*, *La Bohème*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Bartered Bride*, *Manon*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Florence: the Lady with the Lamp*, *Dreamhealer*, *Falstaff*, *Don Giovanni*, *Cendrillon*, *Albert Herring*, the Western Canadian Premiere of Harry Somers' *Louis Riel*, *The Crucible*, *Die Lustige Witwe (The Merry Widow)*, *Rusalka*, *Così fan tutte*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Carmen*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *The Florentine Straw Hat*, *La Traviata*, *A Night in Venice (Eine Nacht in Venedig)*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Consul*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *La Cenerentola*, *Il Tabarro* and *Gianni Schicchi*, *Silent Night*, *Pasażerka*, *Il Viaggio a Reims*, and *Mansfield Park*.



UBC Opera production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Photo by Tim Matheson.

Nancy Hermiston, O.C., Director



Canadian-born lyric coloratura soprano Nancy Hermiston has performed throughout Europe and North America. Parallel to her extensive singing career, Ms. Hermiston worked as voice teacher, stage director, and Co-coordinator with the University of Toronto's Opera and Performance Divisions. In 1995, she joined the University of British Columbia's School of Music as the Head of the Voice and Opera Divisions, where she established the UBC Opera Ensemble.

Professor Hermiston is also a favourite guest for master classes throughout Canada, the United States, China, and Germany. Her UBC Opera Ensemble tours regularly to the Czech Republic, Germany, Ontario, and

throughout British Columbia. The Opera Ensemble gave their first performances in Beijing and Chengdu in May of 2009, and Shanghai in 2010 and 2011. Ms. Hermiston appeared as Stage Director with the Regina Opera for *The Barber of Seville* and *La Cenerentola* and with the Vancouver Opera twice for *Die Fledermaus*, then *La Traviata*, *La Bohème* and in 2016, directed their production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, starring UBC Alumna and her former student, Simone Osborne.

In 2004, Professor Hermiston was named the UBC University Marshal, and in 2008, UBC awarded her the Dorothy Somerset Award for Performance and Development in the Visual and Performing Arts. She was also honoured with a Killam Teaching prize in 2010. In October 2011, she received an Opera Canada Rubie Award for her contributions to opera in Canada. Ms. Hermiston was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in December 2013. In 2017, she was awarded the Canadian Music Centre's BC Award of Excellence and in November 2017, Alumni UBC recognized Professor Hermiston with the Honorary Alumnus Award. In 2018, she received the Faculty of Arts 2017/18 Dean of Arts Award for her outstanding contributions to UBC's creative research, teaching, and service to the scholarly and broader community, and was inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Leslie Dala, Conductor



UBC Alumnus Leslie Dala is the Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir, the Associate Conductor and Chorus Director of Vancouver Opera, and the Music Director Emeritus of the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. He has worked at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Canadian Opera Company, Carnegie Hall, the Santa Fe Opera, l'Opera National du Rhin, the Wexford Festival Opera in Ireland, Tapestry Opera, Edmonton Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Saskatoon Opera, the University of Toronto Opera Department, the Glenn Gould School Opera program and he is a frequent guest conductor with the UBC Opera Ensemble, the COSI Program in Sulmona

Italy and Soundstreams Canada. He has conducted a wide range of repertoire including world premieres: *The River of Light*, an oratorio by Brian Current; *The Overcoat*, an opera by James Rolfe and Morris Panych co-produced by Vancouver Opera, Tapestry Opera and Canadian Stage Theatre; *Stickboy*, an opera by Neil Weisensel and Shane Koyczan produced by Vancouver Opera. He has conducted twelve productions for Vancouver Opera including *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *West Side Story*. He has also conducted twelve productions with UBC Opera and 16 summers of Opera and Arias with UBC Opera and Bard on the Beach.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, Les returned to his first love, the piano, and recorded the complete Etudes of Philip Glass which is available on the Redshift label and on all of the major streaming platforms.

Vancouver Opera Orchestra

The Vancouver Opera Orchestra was established in 1977, replacing an orchestra made up of members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Comprised of the region's leading freelance players, the VO Orchestra has developed into a fine ensemble that has taken the specialized and demanding art of pit performance to a very high level. Several of the current roster of musicians were in the pit for the orchestra's inaugural performances, in 1977, of Massenet's *Le Roi de Lahore*, starring Joan Sutherland and conducted by founding Music Director Richard Bonyngne. There have since been two music directors: David Agler (1992–1999) and Jonathan Darlington (2002–2019).

VIOLIN 1

Mark Ferris (CM)
Domagoj Ivanovic (APR)
Lawrie Hill

VIOLIN 2

Angela Cavadas
Yun Jung (APR)
Ken Lin

VIOLA

Isabelle Roland (PR)
Mila Tymoshenko

CELLO

Harold Birston (PR)

BASS

Michael Vaughan (PR)

FLUTE

Brenda Fedoruk (PR)

OBOE

Emma Ringrose (PR)

CLARINET

Mary Backun (PR)

BASSOON

Ingrid Chiang (PR)

HORN

Laurel Spencer (PR)

TRUMPET

Tom Shorthouse (PR)

TROMBONE

Jeremy Berkman (PR)

PERCUSSION

Phil Crewe (PR)

ORCHESTRA MANAGER + STAGE MANAGER

Jim Littleford

LIBRARIAN

Tom Shorthouse

Special Thanks

David Spencer Endowment Fund
The Wall Family
Mohammed Faris and Faris Family
Vancouver Opera Guild
Robert Dales
Martha Lou Henley Charitable
Foundation
Judith and Graham Forst
UBC President Santa Ono
Collette Berg

Stephen Quigley and Colborne
Architects
Vancouver Opera
Parvin Mirhady
Catherine Alchenbrack and Suzanne
Poohkay
Grant Windsor
Prof. Robert Gardiner, Theatre UBC
Lynn Burton, Properties, Theatre UBC
Tony Koelwyn — UBC Theatre Box Office

Production Team

DIRECTOR
Nancy Hermiston

CONDUCTOR
Leslie Dala

LIGHTING DESIGN
Jeremy Baxter

LIGHTING OPERATOR
Matthias KammueLLer

SET DESIGN
Grant Windsor

COSTUME DESIGN/
HEAD OF COSTUMES
Parvin Mirhady

COSTUME ASSISTANT
Foroozan Talei Fard

OPERA COACHES
Tina Chang
Richard Epp
Derek Stanyer

PIANISTS
Tina Chang
Richard Epp

STAGE MANAGER
Collette Berg

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Cat Main

HAIRDRESSING & WIGS
Elke Englicht

MAKEUP
Leila Kirves

PROPS
Cat Main
Liam Robertson
Hannah Ernst
Matthew McLellan

STUDENT COSTUME TECHNICIAN
Hannah Ernst

ASSISTANT
STUDENT COSTUME TECHNICIAN
Neusha Amir Rahmani

PROGRAMME
Magdalena How
Leila Kirves

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Ancan Marketing

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GRAPHIC DESIGN
Miles Linklater

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EVENTS MANAGERS
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Jason Somerville

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
Magdalena How
Leila Kirves

SURTITLES OPERATOR
Magdalena How

OPERA LIBRARIAN
Alyssa Samson

BOX OFFICE DIRECTOR
Lyndsey Roberts

STUDENT BOX OFFICE DIRECTOR
Katie Fraser

STUDENT BOX OFFICE WORKERS
Rachel Buttress
Emma Jang
Skylar Sabasch

HEAD CARPENTER
Grant Windsor

ASSISTANT CARPENTERS
Phillip Piper
Matthew McLellan

STUDENT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Matthew McLellan

STUDENT ASSISTANT TECHNICAL
DIRECTORS
Neil Craighead
Pablo Romero Moreira

STUDENT ASSISTANT LIGHTING
TECHNICIAN
Liam Robertson

A Special thanks to all the technical and film team from the Chan Centre: Andrew Riter, Mimi Abrahams, James Perrella, Lloyd Balser, David Simpson, Mike Southworth and Collide Entertainment



vancouveropera

2021–2022 SEASON LIVE ON STAGE

ORFEO ED EURIDICE

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA IN CONCERT

HMS PINAFORE

TICKETS vancouveropera.ca



VANCOUVER OPERA GUILD ESCORTED OPERA TOUR

New York Metropolitan Opera

March 21–27, 2022

- **Madama Butterfly** (Puccini)
with Eleonora Buratto
- **Rodelinda** (Handel)
with Elza van den Heever
- **Eugene Onegin** (Tchaikovsky)
with Ailyn Perez and Igor Golovatenko
- **Don Carlos** (Verdi)
with Matthew Polenzani, Sonya Yoncheva, Elina Garanca and Etienne Dupuis



Tour cost of \$2,985 includes return airfare, six nights Park Central Hotel and four opera tickets.

For more information visit vancouveroperaguild.com or call

Elisabeth Dawson (604-922-8008) or Genny MacLean (604-738-5535)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Theatre & Film

Faculty of Arts

theatrefilm.ubc.ca



Machinal

by Sophie Treadwell Directed by Laura DiCicco

**A young woman is driven to murder to escape
a life that drains her of choice and freedom**

Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Rd

November 25–December 4, 2021 7:30 pm

Preview: November 24

UBC Opera



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