

Consolato d'Italia Detroit ~ Oberlin College



The Consulate of Italy in Detroit in partnership with
Oberlin College, Department of French and Italian
& Oberlin College, Conservatory of Music
is pleased to present



America's Love Affair With Puccini

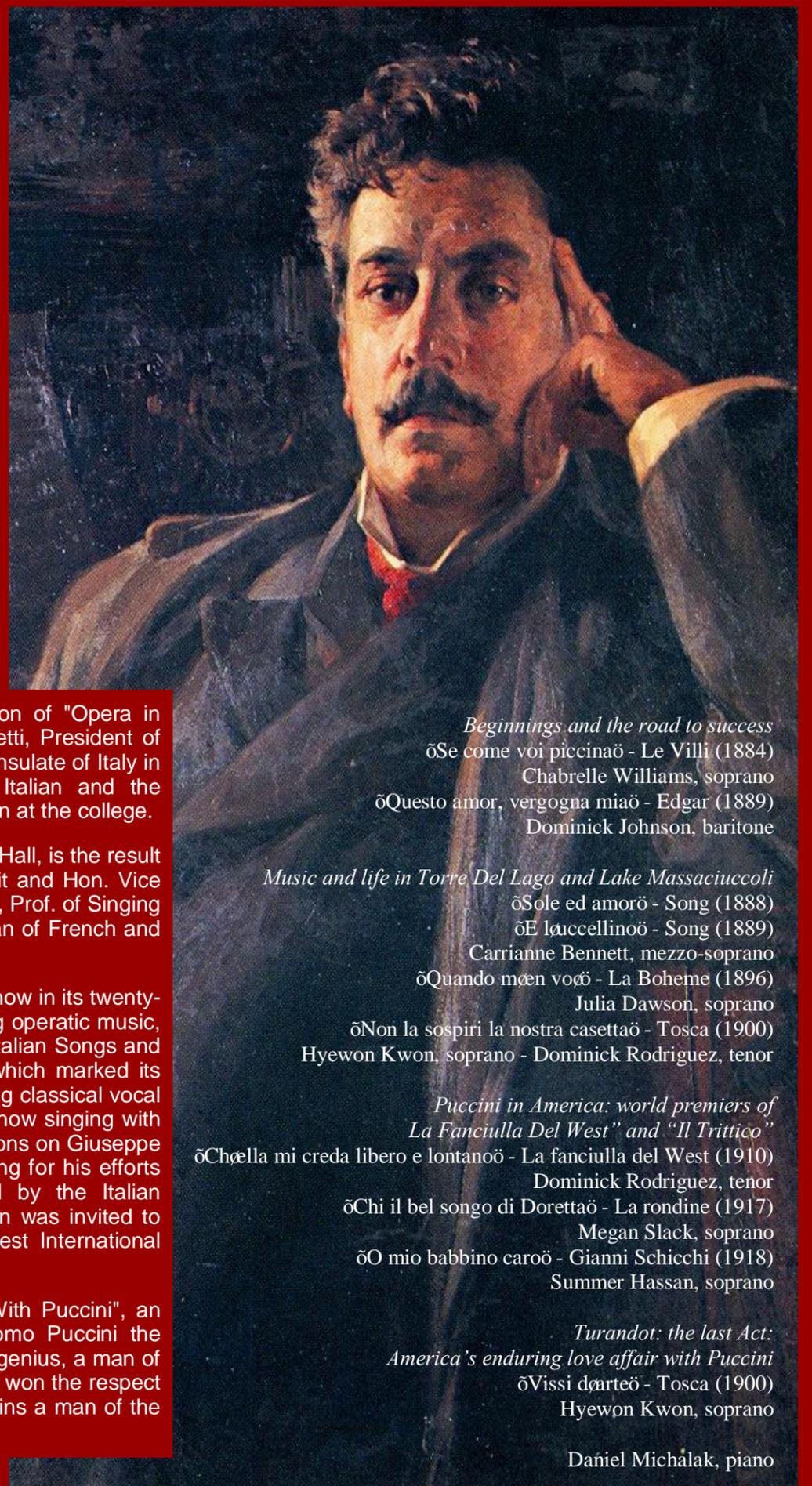
a free lecture by John Zaretti

President of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

Sunday, September 26th, 4:30pm

Oberlin College Conservatory of Music - Kulas Recital Hall
77 W. College Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074

"America's Love Affair With Puccini", will chronicle Puccini's musical family roots in the hills of Tuscany, his studies in Lucca and at the Milan Conservatory of Music, his bohemian living and struggles before his first successes and his rise to prominence in opera. The master of verismo will be shown as he really was, with his family, colleagues and friends, as well as with his cars, boats, and villas, with special focus on his infatuation with and his trips to America and the world premieres of his operas "La Fanciulla Del West" and "Il Trittico" at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. This period is remembered as the golden age of opera, when such legendary artists as Enrico Caruso, Arturo Toscanini, Sarah Bernhardt, and authors including David Belasco, converged to create and inspire the stories, the dramas, the music that fired their imagination and led to the works that we continue to admire to this day. Many interesting stories and anecdotes about the artists, the era, the advent of recordings, radio, television (the first live broadcast of an opera from the Met - Puccini's "La Boheme") and more recently the popularity of live opera shown in movie theaters, will be included in the presentation. Interspersed throughout the presentation, Oberlin College vocal music students will be showcasing their talent by singing some of the most popular Puccini songs, opera arias, and duets, accompanied at the piano. The audience will also have the opportunity to admire an exhibit of rare opera posters, original programs, and other relevant opera memorabilia, during a reception following the event.



Riding on the wings of success from last October's presentation of "Opera in America: Stories, People, Places" at Oberlin College, John Zaretti, President of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, was invited again by the Consulate of Italy in Detroit, in partnership with the Department of French and Italian and the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College, to do a new presentation at the college.

This free lecture by Mr. Zaretti, which will be held in Kulas Recital Hall, is the result of the collaboration once again of Consul Marco Nobili in Detroit and Hon. Vice Consul Serena Scaiola in Cleveland with Professors Daune Mahy, Prof. of Singing at Oberlin Conservatory of Music; Prof. Matthew Senior, Chairman of French and Italian, and Ivana Di Siena, Instructor in Italian.

Mr. Zaretti, a co-founder of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, now in its twenty-second year of operation, has been actively involved in promoting operatic music, organizing exhibits, producing concerts, establishing the annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students - which marked its 16th anniversary this year and is considered the state's top singing classical vocal competition for its category, supporting talented young vocalists now singing with opera companies in the USA and abroad - and making presentations on Giuseppe Verdi's life and on opera history at many different venues, earning for his efforts the distinction of Cavaliere of the Order of Merit bestowed by the Italian government. Most recently, the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan was invited to perform a concert, representing Italian opera, at the Liberty Fest International Festival in Canton, Michigan.

The public is heartily invited to attend "America's Love Affair With Puccini", an entertaining journey to discover the fascinating story of Giacomo Puccini the "immortal bohemian" who became an American idol, the musical genius, a man of many faults, yet animated by a warmth, an intensity of feeling that won the respect and affection of all with whom he came in contact and who remains a man of the people the world over.

Beginnings and the road to success

δSe come voi piccinaö - Le Villi (1884)

Chabelle Williams, soprano

δQuesto amor, vergogna miaö - Edgar (1889)

Dominick Johnson, baritone

Music and life in Torre Del Lago and Lake Massaciuccoli

δSole ed amorö - Song (1888)

δE l'arcellinoö - Song (1889)

Carriane Bennett, mezzo-soprano

δQuando m'è venutoö - La Boheme (1896)

Julia Dawson, soprano

δNon la sospiri la nostra casettaö - Tosca (1900)

Hyewon Kwon, soprano - Dominick Rodriguez, tenor

Puccini in America: world premiers of La Fanciulla Del West" and "Il Trittico"

δCh'ella mi creda libero e lontanoö - La fanciulla del West (1910)

Dominick Rodriguez, tenor

δChi il bel songo di Dorettaö - La rondine (1917)

Megan Slack, soprano

δO mio babbino caroö - Gianni Schicchi (1918)

Summer Hassan, soprano

Turandot: the last Act:

America's enduring love affair with Puccini

δVissi d'arteö - Tosca (1900)

Hyewon Kwon, soprano

Daniel Michalak, piano

For information, please contact:

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