



Oberlin College & Italian Consulate of Italy

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



Opera in America: Stories, People, Places

a free lecture by John Zaretti

President of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

Thursday, October 15th, 8:30pm

Oberlin College

Conservatory of Music - Kulas Recital Hall

77 W. College Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074

For information, please contact:

Dr. Serena Scaiola, Hon. Vice Consul of Italy in Cleveland at (216) 861-1585 or serena.scaiola@att.net

Program

Mozart	Madamin! (Don Giovanni)	Michael D'Emilio
Gounod	The jewel Song (Faust)	YongSun Lee
Donizetti	Quanto e' bella (L'Elisir d'amore)	Hana Ryu
Puccini	O soave fanciulla (La Boheme)	Hana Ryu and Hyewon Kwon
Verdi	Ma se (Un ballo in maschera)	Dominick Rodriguez
Verdi	Pace, pace (La forza del destino)	Hyewon Kwon
Gershwin	Summertime (Porgy and Bess)	Chabelle Williams

Pianists: Jenna Douglas and Anton Smirnov.



The presentation will consist in a projection of images with narration by Mr.Zaretti, describing the development of opera in America, from the arrival of Mozart's librettist, the remarkable Lorenzo Da Ponte, in New York in 1805, where he introduced Italian opera and founded the Italian department at Columbia University, to the appearance of the first European opera troupe in 1825, and on through an entertaining journey of colorful stories about people, places, customs of the times, and anecdotes about the connection of various historical events with famous singers, conductors, impresarios, and other delightful characters in the world of opera up to the present. These accounts will, for example, touch upon P.T.Barnum's engagement of Jenny Lind, "The Swedish Nightingale" and her sensational singing tour across America; Abraham Lincoln stopping in New York to attend his first opera, Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera", on the way to Washington for his inauguration as President; Confederate officers suggesting to General Robert E.Lee to choose Bellini's "Suoni la tromba" as their fight song; the advent of German opera in New York and the ensuing battles with rival Italian opera companies, and French opera in New Orleans; the founding of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the debut of Enrico Caruso and his enormous influence in the era of photograph recordings; world premieres of Puccini's operas in America, with Maestro Arturo Toscanini conducting and his subsequent extraordinary career with the NBC Symphony Orchestra broadcasting classical music and opera to generations of new listeners. The presentation concludes with images and mention of the new Met Opera House and the many American artists who have performed there, on a par with the world's best, and about the new generation of singers emerging from the excellent music schools in our country, who are sought by opera companies all over the world.

Interspersed through the presentation there will be selections of opera arias and duets performed live, with piano accompaniment, by Oberlin College vocal music students.

In conjunction with the presentation there will also be an exhibit of rare opera posters, autographed letters, relevant original programs and newspapers dating from as far back as 1825, and other attractive opera memorabilia. Mr. Zaretti has done these types of presentations at the Detroit Opera House and at other venues, such as clubs, schools, and civic organizations, generating excellent attendance and enthusiastic response from the audience.

