FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE
BY GIOACHINO ROSSINI

“It will be played as long as Italian opera exists.”

—Ludwig van Beethoven

Il barbiere di Siviglia, or “The Barber of Seville,” is considered one of the greatest comic operas ever composed. This opera traces the adventures of handsome young Count Almaviva as he spots the lovely Rosina and courts her in spite of her jealous guardian’s attempts to thwart him. Of course, he would never have succeeded without help from that crafty Figaro, who is much, much more than just a barber.

Witness the delicious unfolding of comic opera at its best: energetic young lovers’ foiling a buffoon’s schemes; mistaken identities; a plot that turns and twists—all wrapped up in Rossini’s unmistakably masterful music.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016

NORMA BY VINCENZO BELLINI

“If I were shipwrecked, I would leave all of my other operas and try to save Norma.”

—Vincenzo Bellini

Norma is perhaps the opera that best exemplifies the great bel canto style and Bellini’s most successful composition.

Set in Roman occupied Gaul, the Druid priestess Norma has consorted with the enemy, the Roman leader Pollione, and has secretly borne him children. But his interests have shifted to Adalgisa, one of the temple virgins, and passions flare. Norma is driven to murderous jealousy by her lover’s infidelity and sees to it that the guilty atone for their crimes.

This opera has its scenes of pageantry and moments of ringing grandeur, but it by far rises to its greatest lyrical heights in the celebrated aria, “Casta diva.” The spectacular conclusion of Norma has been called one of the finest things in all musico-dramatic literature.
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2016

THE PASSAGEN

BY MIECZYSŁAW WEINBERG

“A Perfect Masterpiece”

—Dmitri Shostakovich

Mieczyslaw Weinberg’s opera The Passenger was written in the 1960s but never produced until it was seen at the Bregenz Festival in Austria in 2010. Since then, it has been acclaimed as one of the great masterpieces of the 20th century. The music has been lauded at Houston Grand Opera and the Lincoln Center Festival in New York.

It tells the story of a passenger on an ocean liner with her husband, who is en route to a new diplomatic post in South America. She believes one of the other passengers may have been a prisoner in Auschwitz, where she had served as an SS overseer. Her husband knows nothing of her past, and she finds herself in a harrowing, perilous situation.

Florida Grand Opera will present the same physical production that was seen in Bregenz, with its two-tiered design allowing the action to shift seamlessly between the ocean liner and the Auschwitz concentration camp. This South Florida premiere will be one of the most important musical events of the year.

FRIDAY, MAY 06, 2016

DON PASQUALE

BY GAETANO DONIZETTI

“It’s one of the funniest operas ever composed”

—Lisa Simeone

Donizetti’s delightful Don Pasquale is one of the pillars of Italian comic opera, and its scintillating coloratura and sparkling, spirited ensembles make it a richly rewarding musical experience.

There’s no fool like an old fool, particularly when it comes to love and money. Don Pasquale, worried that his wealth will be squandered by his scheming nephew Ernesto, sets out to find himself a wife. Unhappy that his nephew wishes to do the same, he orders Ernesto, who lives with him, to clear out, which complicates Ernesto’s plans to marry his beloved Norina.

Don Pasquale, having no particular woman in mind, is quickly infatuated with a charming lady his friend Dr. Malatesta introduces as his convent-educated sister. It is in fact Norina in disguise, and as soon as the pretend marriage takes place, she becomes Pasquale’s worst nightmare.

DRESS REHEARSALS START AT 7:30PM

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