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Florida Grand Opera announces its 80th Anniversary Season

July 8, 2021 – Florida Grand Opera (FGO) announced today their upcoming, landmark, 80th Anniversary Season. In 1942, FGO (then the Greater Miami Opera) presented its first performance of *Pagliacci* on Valentine's Day at the Miami Senior High School Auditorium. The company has gone on to present the finest opera singers from around the world in productions representing the work of more than sixty composers.

The company is thrilled to be returning to the Performing Arts Centers as well as continuing to perform at alternate venues. Filled with high drama, scandal, intimacy, and obsession with power, the 2021-22 season will feature four operas performed at theaters in both Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. In addition to returning to Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and Broward Center for the Performing Arts, FGO has also created new partnerships with the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center in Fort Lauderdale and Scottish Rite Temple in Miami, giving more opportunities for audience engagement in a variety of different communities.

General Director and CEO Susan T. Danis said, "The celebration of an 80th Anniversary Season is an accomplishment for any company, and in this case, an opportunity for South Florida and the opera industry to celebrate the history of our company. We thank everyone who has made this journey possible; from artists to audiences to patrons."

A Mix of Audience Favorites, Baroque, 20th and 21st Century Opera

***A Streetcar Named Desire* by André Previn**



Photo Courtesy of Hawaii Opera Theater

This season kicks off with the American classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by André Previn. Based on Tennessee Williams' play, the opera follows the downward spiral of former southern belle Blanche DuBois, who after having experienced a series of personal losses, leaves behind her wealth and privilege and moves into a run-down apartment with her sister and brother-in-law. Filled with soaring melodies and an orchestral score that puts you right in the middle of a New Orleans hot and steamy summer, *A Streetcar Named Desire* is a true contemporary verismo masterpiece. Returning to the FGO stage, to sing the snobbish and dislocated Blanche DuBois is beloved company favorite and Miami native, Elizabeth Caballero. After a triumphant performance of *Riolo* in FGO's production of *Florenzia en el Amazonas*, baritone Steven LaBrie returns to FGO to sing the role of the brutish Stanley Kowalski. FGO is also excited to welcome soprano Rebecca Krynski Cox to make her company debut, singing the role of the calm and gentle Stella Kowalski.

PERFORMANCES

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 8:00 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 5, 2022, 7:30 pm

***Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi**



Photo courtesy of New Orleans Opera

The season continues with a beloved staple in the operatic repertoire, Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*. A timeless story of betrayal, dashed dreams, and mistaken identity, *Rigoletto* follows the conquests of the rakish Duke, who survives revenge, plots, and schemes, along the way. Gilda, whom he has betrayed and abandoned, saves him in the final scene of the opera by making the ultimate sacrifice, leaving her own father broken and alone. FGO is thrilled to welcome back beloved baritone Todd Thomas for his third appearance with the company to sing the title role of *Rigoletto*. FGO is excited to welcome soprano Sharleen Joynt to make her company debut singing the role of the ill-fated Gilda. Singing the role of the infamous Duke of Mantua is Guatemalan tenor Mario Chang, who will also be making his debut with the company.

PERFORMANCES

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 2:00 pm

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 8:00 pm

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 8:00 pm

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 7:30 pm

***Fellow Travelers* by Gregory Spears**



Photo courtesy of Dan Norman

FGO heads north for the third opera of the season to the Lauderhill Center for the Performing Arts. Based on the best-selling novel by Thomas Mallon, *Fellow Travelers* by Gregory Spears is both a story of the heart and a taut political thriller, creating an instant contemporary classic. Against a backdrop of 1950s paranoia in Washington, D.C., *Fellow Travelers* follows the lives of aspiring young journalist Timothy Laughlin and handsome State Department official Hawkins Fuller, who are swept into a passionate love affair, just as Senator McCarthy begins his hunt for “sexual subversives” in the government. As his involvement deepens, Tim struggles to come to terms with his political convictions, religious beliefs, and his love for Fuller—an entanglement that ends in a stunning act of betrayal. FGO is pleased to welcome three singers, all making their debuts with the company. Miami native, tenor Andres Acosta, will sing the role of Timothy McLaughlin, a recent college graduate who is seeking a job on the “Hill.” New Zealand-born baritone Haleigh Adams will be performing the role of State Department Official, Hawkins Fuller. Sarasota Florida native, soprano Adelaide Boedecker, will be portraying the role of Hawkins' best friend and assistant, Mary Johnson.

Lauderhill Performing Arts Center

Lauderhill Performing Arts Center has been chosen as one of this season's alternate performing venues. This five year old, state of the art, 1100 seat theater, is located at 3800 NW 11th Place and is the perfect venue for the intimate setting of *Fellow Travelers* to be fully embraced. The venue offers free parking just outside of the entrance and excellent amenities.

PERFORMANCES

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 24, 2022, 2:00 pm

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 7:30 pm

Agrippina by George Frideric Handel



Courtesy of Theater Erfurt (photo: Lutz Edelhoff)

One of George Frideric Handel's earliest operatic compositions, *Agrippina* tells the story of one of opera's fiercest leading ladies. Once she hears that her husband Claudius has died in a storm at sea, Agrippina plots to secure the throne to the Roman Empire for her son Nero. Devious plots, love, and obsession with power, *Agrippina* is on par with any of today's popular telenovelas.

Returning to FGO to make his mainstage debut is former Studio Artist, countertenor Key'mon Murrah, singing the role of the Roman soldier Ottone. FGO also welcomes soprano Christine Lyons as the fierce Agrippina. Soprano Flora Wall will make her company debut as Poppea.

Scottish Rite Temple

Located within the Lummus Park Historic District at 471 NW 3rd Street, this Freemason Temple has been a historic Miami landmark since 1924. With an intimate 900-seat theater and ample parking right outside the door, the Scottish Rite Temple is the perfect location to present this baroque masterpiece.

PERFORMANCES

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 6:00 pm
Sunday, May 15, 2022, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 8:00 pm
Thursday, May 19, 2022, 8:00 pm

All operas will have simultaneous English and Spanish translations projected above the stage. More extensive casting will be announced at a later date.

A wide variety of concerts and events complement the mainstage season

Singing at the Sandrell

After triumphant, sold out performances of last season's concerts at the Historic Hampton House, FGO will present a three concert series of *Spirituals, Jazz, and Motown* entitled *Singing at the Sandrell*. Located in Miami-Dade's Little Haiti neighborhood at 6103 NW 7th Ave, with a parking garage connected directly to the theater, the Sandrell Rivers Theater is the perfect venue for these unique concerts that will feature both FGO's Studio Artists and some of the finest local singers.

PERFORMANCES

Sandrell Rivers Theater

Spirituals, Saturday, November 20, 2021, 7:30 pm
Jazz, Saturday, March 19, 2022, 7:30 pm
Motown, Saturday, April 30, 2022, 7:30 pm

For the first time in the company's history, FGO is excited to bring this concert series to Broward County in collaboration with Dillard High School's nationally recognized, award winning jazz band.

PERFORMANCES

Fort Lauderdale (location to be announced)

Spirituals, Friday, November 19, 2021, 7:30 pm
Jazz, Friday, March 18, 2022, 7:30 pm
Motown, Friday, April 8, 2022, 7:30 pm

Viva Zarzuela!

After a monumental sold-out performance at Corpus Christi Catholic Church last February, FGO is expanding to two evenings of ever popular and audience favorite, Zarzuela. FGO will return to Corpus Christi Catholic Church located at 3220 NW 7th Avenue in Miami's Allapattah neighborhood for these concerts. Featuring the FGO Studio Artists and surprise guest artists, you will hear selections from your favorite Zarzuelas, including *Cecilia Valdés*, *María la O*, *La tabernera del puerto*, and *Luisa Fernanda*, to name but a few.

PERFORMANCES

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

Friday, February 11, 2022, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 7:30 pm

All concert tickets are \$25 General Admission

Ticket Information

Subscription tickets are available online at www.FGO.org or by calling the FGO Box Office, Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm, at 1.800.741.1010. Subscribers enjoy a 15% discount off the single ticket price through August 19, 2021. After that date, ticket prices will increase. Single tickets go on sale on October 4, 2021. No refunds or exchanges. Programs and artists subject to change.

ABOUT FLORIDA GRAND OPERA

Celebrating 80 years of presenting grand opera to South Florida, Florida Grand Opera is the oldest continuous performing arts organization in the State of Florida, and the seventh oldest opera company in the United States. FGO was formed in June 1994 by the merger of Greater Miami Opera, founded in 1941, and The Opera Guild Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, founded in 1945. The Greater Miami Opera was founded by Dr. Arturo di Filippi, a voice teacher at the University of Miami.

FGO presents a mixture of standard repertoire, neglected masterpieces, and contemporary works as well as commissions and new productions; all featuring projected translations in English and Spanish.

SPONSORS



Florida Grand Opera is a Resident Company of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and a member company of OPERA America. Steinway & Sons is the Official Piano of Florida Grand Opera.

CONNECT WITH US!



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For tickets go to www.FGO.org or call 800.741.1010

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