



## North Carolina Opera Announces its 2018-19 Season

Bellini

### **NORMA**

October 21, 2018 (concert performance)

Bizet

### **CARMEN**

January 25 & 27, 2019

Puccini

### **TOSCA**

April 5 & 7, 2019

## **SOPRANO HEI-KYUNG IN RECITAL**

March 3, 2019

and

Jodie Landau

### **PERFORMANCE OF SELF**

Premiere workshop performances of a new chamber opera by Jodie Landau

Presented in partnership with **Chamber Music Raleigh**

February 2019

**April 5, 2018**—Raleigh, NC—North Carolina Opera’s 2018-2019 season features the company premiere of Bellini’s *bel canto* gem ***Norma*** (presented in concert), two operatic favorites ***Carmen*** and ***Tosca***, in fully-staged productions, both returning after more than seven seasons, and the company debut of Metropolitan Opera soprano **Hei-Kyung Hong** in recital.

NCO is also excited to partner with **Chamber Music Raleigh** to present premiere workshop performances in February 2019 of *Performance of Self*, a new chamber opera by Jodie Landau. This work, to be produced later in New York by Beth Morrison Projects, consists of musings on desire, identity, and the limitations and possibilities of love and language. Complete details will be released at a later date.

**Eric Mitchko**, NCO's General Director, said: "I think audiences will love our new 2018-19 season. We are proud to present three wonderful operas (including a Triangle premiere), a recital by a beloved Met star, and a collaboration on a new work with a colleague arts organization. NCO will continue to offer the high level of singing and conducting that our audiences have come to expect."

## SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS

Subscription tickets for the three operas (*Norma*, *Carmen* and *Tosca*) are on sale now and are priced from \$100 to \$295. Subscribers to the 2018-19 season may also purchase tickets now for the Hei-Kyung Hong recital at the special subscription price of \$50 per ticket. **Tickets may be purchased online at [www.ncopera.org](http://www.ncopera.org) or by calling 919-792-3853.** Ticket and performances details for *Performance of Self* will be announced at a later date.

## NORTH CAROLINA OPERA'S 2018-19 SEASON

Bellini  
**NORMA** in concert  
October 23, 2018 at 2:00 pm  
Meymandi Concert Hall

In ancient Gaul, the chaste Druid high priestess Norma has borne two children fathered by an enemy Roman military commander. When he abandons her and seduces the younger priestess Adalgia, Norma vows revenge and nothing is off the table. Let the vocal fireworks begin! From the sublime prayer "Casta diva" to the plaintive duet "Mira, o Norma" capped by a dazzling cabaletta, *Norma* stands at the pinnacle of the *bel canto* repertoire.

Norma: Leah Crocetto  
Adalgisa: Elizabeth DeShong  
Pollione: Chad Shelton  
Oroveso: Ao Li

Conductor: Antony Walker

Bizet  
**CARMEN**

January 25, 2019 at 7:30pm  
January 27, 2019 at 2:00pm

The alluring gypsy Carmen can have any man she wants and today she wants the army corporal Don José. But when she leaves him for a dashing bullfighter, the soldier's obsessive attraction proves fatal. You'll recognize all the melodies because every song is a hit—from the smoky "Habanera" to the seductive "Seguidilla" to the rousing "Toreador Song." Bizet's beguiling score along with the hypnotic dancing and pulsating human drama will make you powerless to resist this *Carmen* conducted by Keitaro Harada (NCO's *Turn of the Screw*).

Carmen: Aleks Romano  
Don José: Sean Panikkar  
Escamillo: Richard Ollarsaba  
Micaëla: Raquel González  
Frasquita: Sara Womble  
Mercédès: Stephanie Foley Davis

Conductor: Keitaro Harada

Puccini  
**TOSCA**

April 5, 2019 at 7:30pm  
April 7, 2019 at 2:00pm

The diva Flora Tosca has always sacrificed for her art, but what is she willing to surrender to spare her lover from execution at the hands of evil Baron Scarpia?

Her answer may surprise you, but her next move will shock you even more. *Tosca* is the quintessential Puccini thriller set in June 1800 in Rome where politics, religion, love, jealousy, violence and revenge all collide during one fateful 24-hour period. Not seen in the Triangle since NCO's premiere season, *Tosca* returns in a lavish production featuring a cast of rising stars and the NCO Opera Orchestra and Chorus, all conducted by Joseph Rescigno (NCO's *Rigoletto*).

Tosca: Alexandra LoBianco

Cavaradossi: Scott Quinn

Scarpia: Malcolm MacKenzie

Conductor: Joseph Rescigno

Stage Director: David Paul

**HEI-KYUNG HONG** in recital

March 3, 2019 at 2:00pm

Fletcher Opera Theater

North Carolina Opera is proud to present Korean-American soprano Hei-Kyung Hong in a rare recital appearance of opera arias and songs accompanied by piano. Ms. Hong has given over 350 performances at the Metropolitan Opera, singing the principal roles in all of the Mozart operas, the title role in *La traviata*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Luì in *Turandot* and Mimì in *La bohème*, which she has performed over 60 times with the company. She also has appeared to great acclaim with other major opera companies, leading orchestras and in solo recital around the world. Join us for a Sunday afternoon and experience a timeless artist who "sings beautifully" (*The New York Times*) and is "every bit the international opera star." (*The Wall Street Journal*).

## **ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA OPERA**

North Carolina Opera was formed in 2010 from the merger of The Opera Company of North Carolina and Capitol Opera Raleigh. It is dedicated to presenting operatic performances at the highest level throughout the Triangle. North Carolina Opera brings international level artists to Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and also engages the best in local Triangle talent. The company has presented a wide range of repertoire, from Handel and Mozart to John Supko, D.J.

Sparr, and Philip Glass and Jennifer Higdon. NCO has presented the local premieres of works by Wagner, Verdi, Britten, Tchaikovsky, and Dvořák.

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