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North Carolina Opera Announces Company's 2019-20 Season

A NEW Production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

Wagner's *Siegfried: Act III in Concert*

Superstar Tenor **Lawrence Brownlee in Recital**

RALEIGH, NC—North Carolina Opera has announced the company's 2019-20 season, which includes fully-staged productions of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Apr. 3 & 5, 2020) and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (Jan. 24 & 26, 2020), a concert performance of Act III from Wagner's *Siegfried* (Nov. 10, 2019), and a vocal recital by superstar tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** (Feb. 18, 2020). The announcement was made by the company's General Director **Eric Mitchko** at the 2019-20 Season Reveal, which was held on Tuesday, March 26 at CAM Raleigh and graciously sponsored by the Meredith College Department of Music, CITRIX, Mitchell's, Queen of Wines, Savills, Glenwood Agency Real Estate, and Hibernian Pub.

The Magic Flute

"We are thrilled to present a fully-staged new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* directed by **David Paul**, who is presently directing the company's production of *Tosca*, and are most grateful to our production sponsor **C. Thomas Kunz**," said NCO General Director Eric Mitchko. "*The Magic Flute* has not been professionally staged in the Triangle in over two decades; a new production is a great way to welcome Mozart's fantastical, adventure tale back to the area," he concluded.

The Magic Flute features a strong ensemble cast, including NCO debuting artists tenor **Eric Ferring** as Tamino, soprano **Madison Leonard** as Pamina, and soprano **Rainelle Krause** as the Queen of the Night. **Joseph Mechavich** makes his NCO debut conducting the NCO Orchestra and Chorus. Sets are by **Caite Kemp Hevner**, who also designed the sets for NCO's 2017 production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Lighting design is by **Ross Kolman** (NCO's *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Aida*, and *Rusalka*) with costumes designed by **Stephanie Cluggish**, who is making her NCO debut with this production.

Performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* are April 3 (7:30 p.m.) and 5 (2:00 p.m.), 2020 in Memorial Auditorium at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh.

Pagliacci

Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* makes a return to the Triangle for the first time in over a decade. This fully-staged production is conducted by **Keitaro Harada** (*Carmen* 2019) and features many returning artists: tenor **Carl Tanner** as Canio (*Samson and Delilah*), **Melinda Whittington** (*Cold Mountain*) as Nedda, **Takakoi Onishi** (*Carmen* 2019). NCO veteran performer **Jason Karn** makes his company mainstage debut as Beppe. Baritone **Kidon Choi** makes his NCO debut as Tonio. *Pagliacci* is generously sponsored by **Ross Lampe, Jr.** Performances of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* are January 24 (7:30 p.m.) and 26 (2:00 p.m.), 2020 at Memorial Auditorium at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh.

Siegfried: Act III in Concert

North Carolina Opera continues its presentation of the operas of Richard Wagner in concert with the company premiere of Act III from the composer's *Siegfried*. NCO has previously presented three Wagner programs: a semi-staged, complete performance of *Das Rheingold*; a concert of the Act I prelude and complete Act II from *Tristan und Isolde*, and; a concert of Act I from *Die Walküre*. "Our Wagner opera concerts have been especially popular with our audience; we are thrilled to continue our exploration of the composer's *Ring Cycle*," said NCO General Director Eric Mitchko. *Siegfried: Act III in Concert* features returning NCO artists **Richard Cox** (*Das Rheingold*), **Alexandra LoBiancco** (*Tosca* 2019) as Brünnhilde. **Timothy Myers** returns to conduct the NCO Orchestra. Wagner's *Siegfried: Act III in Concert* is generously sponsored by **Rosemarie Sweeney** and is presented in concert on November 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Meymandi Concert Hall at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh.

Lawrence Brownlee in Recital

During the 2019-20 season, North Carolina Opera continues its presentation of classical song recitals. Superstar tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** appears with the company in recital on February 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh. "Mr. Brownlee is one of the leading bel canto tenors of our time and is also a terrific song recitalist," said NCO General Director Eric Mitchko. Mr. Brownlee's program

features Schumann's complete song cycle *Dichterliebe (A Poet's Love)* along with other songs and opera arias. Previous NCO recitals have featured tenor **Michael Fabiano** and soprano **Leah Crocetto**.

TICKETS

Subscription tickets to North Carolina Opera's 2019-20 season are on sale now and range from \$108 to \$321 and include *Siegfried: Act III in Concert*, *Pagliacci* and *The Magic Flute*. Tickets to Lawrence Brownlee in recital are \$55. **Tickets may be ordered online or by calling (919) 792-3853.** Non-subscription tickets to individual performances will go on sale in the summer.

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA OPERA

North Carolina Opera was formed in 2010 from the merger of the Opera Company of North Carolina and Capital Opera Raleigh. It is dedicated to presenting operatic performances at the highest level throughout the Triangle. We also have a robust education program that brings opera to schools across Wake County and surrounding counties. North Carolina Opera brings international level artists to Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and also engages the best in local Triangle talent. Information about North Carolina Opera's programs and events is available on our website www.ncopera.org or by phone at (919) 792-3850.

North Carolina Opera is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission. North Carolina Opera also receives support from Duke Energy, PNC, Sitelink, Elliott Davis, GlaxoSmithKline, CEI, the John William Pope Foundation, CITRIX, the North Carolina Arts Council, BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina, and Art Works, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

NORTH CAROLINA OPERA 2019-20 SEASON

Wagner

SIEGFRIED: Act III in Concert

November 10, 2019

Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

North Carolina Opera continues its exploration of the operas of Richard Wagner with this concert of act three from *Siegfried*, the penultimate work of the composer's epic *Ring Cycle*.

Our young mortal hero Siegfried passes through a ring of fire and, for the first time, sees a woman, the Valkyrie Brünnhilde, daughter of the god Wotan. She is in a deep, magical sleep, placed on a rock by her father as punishment for defying his will. With one kiss, Siegfried awakens her, breaks the spell, and the pair fall in love. **Timothy Myers** returns to conduct the NCO Orchestra and a stellar cast featuring **Richard Cox** (*Das Rheingold*) in the title role and soprano **Alexandra LoBianco** (*Tosca* 2019) as Brünnhilde.

Siegfried: Act III in Concert is in three scenes and sung in German with projected English translations. *Siegfried: Act III in Concert* is generously sponsored by **Rosemarie Sweeney**.

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE IN RECITAL

February 27, 2020

A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater, Raleigh

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

North Carolina Opera is proud to present one of the leading singers of the day, superstar tenor **Lawrence Brownlee**, in a vocal recital accompanied by piano. Mr. Brownlee has conquered opera houses and concert halls worldwide with his dazzling, high-flying performances. Now experience his artistry even more deeply with this intimate recital that includes Schumann's complete song cycle *Dichterliebe* (*A Poet's Love*) along with other songs and opera arias. Experience the tenor who banishes "the ghosts of Caruso and Pavarotti" (*The New Yorker*) with his "effortless, ringing high Cs" (*The New York Times*). The vocal event of this or any season!

Leoncavallo

PAGLIACCI

January 24 & 26, 2020

Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

Laugh, clown. Laugh!

Canio and his wife Nedda lead a band of traveling carnival players in late 19th-Century Southern Italy. They are the live, in-person social media of the day, greeted with wild cheers wherever they go. On the stage, Canio plays the clown, but beneath his makeup boils a troubled and jealous soul. When Canio suspects his wife has taken a lover, he explodes during a performance and, in full view of a stunned audience, stops at nothing to learn the truth. The show and reality become one, with tragic, shocking results.

Based on a true story, *Pagliacci* features one the greatest tenor arias of all time, “Vesti la giubba,” and this production stars NCO returning artists **Carl Tanner** (*Samson and Delilah*), **Melinda Whittington** (*Cold Mountain*), **Takaoki Onishi** (*Carmen*), and the NCO Orchestra and chorus all conducted by **Keitaro Harada** (*Carmen*).

Pagliacci, an opera in a prologue and two acts, is sung in Italian with projected English translations.

Mozart

THE MAGIC FLUTE

April 3 & 5, 2020

Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

Mozart’s delightful, fairy tale comedy *The Magic Flute* comes to life in a brand new, never-before-seen production designed and built specifically for North Carolina Opera.

The Queen of the Night convinces Prince Tamino to rescue her daughter, Pamina, from the clutches of the evil high priest Sarastro. He soon learns that Sarastro is not a villain, but the virtuous leader of an enlightened group that both Tamino and Pamina wish to join. With the help of the colorful, zany bird catcher Papageno and his magic bells, Tamino and Pamina pass a series of entrance tests, thus ensuring that love and goodness carry the day. *The Magic Flute* is staged by NCO favorite **David Paul** (*Tosca*, *Aida*, *Il trovatore*) and features a remarkable ensemble cast and the NCO Orchestra all conducted by **Joseph Mechavich** in his NCO debut.

The Magic Flute is in two acts and sung in German with spoken English dialogue, both accompanied by projected English translations/texts. North Carolina Opera's new production of *The Magic Flute* is made possible by **C. Thomas Kunz**.