



OPERAGRAM

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THE REOPENING OF THE SANTA FE OPERA 2021

To the delight...and relief... of the many dedicated fans of the Santa Fe Opera, Director Robert Meya announced the “release of approximately 1,000 additional seats per opera performance with new availability in every section of the theater.” He delivered the news on June 2, from the open gates of the Santa Fe Opera House and his speech was streamed live on the Opera’s website. Meya covered topics from working with the Governor’s office to insure COVID-19 safety compliance to new ways to deliver the performances to a greater number of people; three of these innovative approaches will launch this season and are explained below. The new Chief Artistic Officer, David Lomeli, spoke eloquently, in English and Spanish, about inclusion and outreach to “multicolor, multicultural” communities of families and performers, during what he perceives is a “generational shift” in the future of opera. His experience in the digital delivery of opera will make that goal a reality. To listen to Robert Meya and David Lomeli’s speeches in their entirety, please click [here](#).

**Announcing Nightly Simulcasts**

While the past year presented countless challenges for the Santa Fe Opera, it also inspired the company’s leadership to explore new avenues for bringing opera to its communities. Technology is a critical component for future outreach, and the company has made significant investments in its audio-visual infrastructure. The Santa Fe Opera is thrilled to present nightly simulcasts of every performance on 300 square-foot, state-of-the-art LED walls in its scenic lower parking lot, with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Each simulcast is supported by newly laid fiber optic cabling, 4K HD robotic cameras, new area mics placed around the stage and orchestra pit, an audio engineer live mixing each performance and veteran simulcast director **Bruce Bryant** accompanied by production company **Staging Solutions**. Simulcast tickets went on sale June 10, ranging in price from \$100 to \$125 per vehicle. The simulcast dress rehearsals will provide opportunities for the company to invite New Mexico educators, youth, community partners and families to enjoy this summer’s productions.

Santa Fe Opera Virtual Experiences

In addition to live performances, the Santa Fe Opera invites the public to enjoy an array of virtual experiences. This season, **Virtual Prelude Talks** will feature opera educator **Oliver Prezant** presenting on all four productions, as well commentary from the scholar and performer **Lucy Tucker Yates**, librettist **Diana Solomon-Glover** and stage director **Shawna Lucey**. Premiering in July, patrons can look forward to receiving video links as part of their pre-performance reminder email. The Virtual Prelude Talks are supported by The Marilyn & John McConnell Prelude Talks Fund.

“Explore the Santa Fe Opera,” a Virtual Backstage Tour Experience offers the chance to step behind-the-scenes into the costume, props, paint, scenery shops and more. Each tour will be led by Santa Fe Opera notables including soprano **Susanna Phillips** and Chief Artistic Officer David Lomeli. Said Meya, “We are especially honored that former Santa Fe Opera Technical Apprentice and **Project Runway** star **Patricia Michaels** serves as our host for the virtual backstage tour of the Costume Shop where she once worked.” Declared Lomeli, “In this new era, every single artistic decision has a very palpable impact on the way we will interact with the communities we serve in person, in our house and in the state of New Mexico, but also with all the new audiences abroad and beyond in the digital cyberspace.” “Explore the Santa Fe Opera” will debut on July 10 and will be available to watch on the opera’s website, YouTube and social channels. *“Explore the Santa Fe Opera,”* a Virtual Backstage Tour Experience is sponsored by **Thornburg Investment Management**.

SHAKESPEARE IMMERSION: READINGS & VIVACE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

THREE READINGS: MONDAY, JULY 12,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, AND FRIDAY, JULY 16

MEETING TIME: 3:00PM-5:00PM MDT

CHECK-IN: 2:50PM MDT

FACILITATOR: ROBIN WILLIAMS, PHD

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY

The final opera this season is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by composer Benjamin Britten, based on Shakespeare's play. In preparation for the opera, the Guild invited Dr. Robin Williams, esteemed Shakespeare educator, to bring a fresh approach to one of Shakespeare's most fanciful plays. She believes that "reading the plays out loud and in community is a delightful and time-honored way to become familiar with and develop a personal relationship with the Shakespearean works."

Robin has proposed **three, two-hour Zoom sessions** that will allow participants to choose and read character parts from the play. She will facilitate the three sessions and emphatically states: "No experience is necessary! Volunteers will choose their own parts. No one is *required* to read. The discussions are great, whether you read or not. We will stop often to clarify language and issues. Any edition of the play can be used."

There are three sessions, however, do not worry if your schedule does not permit you to attend all three meetings. Come as often as you please and be ready to have a lot of fun. Register [here](#) to sign up for the Shakespeare reading series. One sign-up covers all three sessions.

You may use any copy of the play you choose for **both the readings and Vivace**. The edition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* **edited by Dr. Robin Williams** is available from Collected Works, now re-opened post-pandemic, or online at collectedworksbookstore.com.



Dr. Robin Williams

VIRTUAL VIVACE

VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021, 6:00PM-7:30PM MDT

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MDT

GUEST FACILITATOR: ROBIN WILLIAMS, PHD

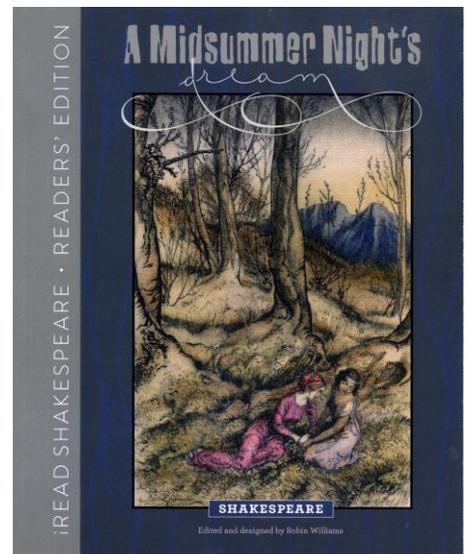
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY

On the surface, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* can be a delightful romp with fairies and love and marriages. A closer reading, however, shows a father who wants to murder his daughter, a terrifying night in a dark forest with inhuman (and inhumane) creatures who pull the wings off bats and rip the legs off bees, the marriage of a serial rapist with a woman he has conquered, and more. How do both of these layers exist in the same play?

Robin has graciously assembled a list of questions that will help you prepare for the discussion of the play. If you are planning to attend the book club and would like a copy of the questions, email robin@iReadShakespeare.org.

To register for the Virtual Vivace Book Club meeting on Monday, July 19, click [here](#) to provide your email address. We will send a link the morning of July 19. If you have questions, please email educationvp@santafeoperaguild.org.



MEET AN IMPORTANT NEW TEAM MEMBER

Mike VanAartsen joined the management team at the Santa Fe Opera at the beginning of 2021 in a new full-time position as COVID-19 Compliance and Safety Manager. The *Operagram* sat down with Mike to ask him a few questions:

Q: Welcome to Santa Fe. You bring an impressive resumé to your new position. Can you tell us a little about your background and training?

A: Happily. This is my twentieth year working professionally in the arts and having that be at Santa Fe Opera has been an incredible experience. I have served in a variety of technical roles throughout the years and have spent the last few focused on performing arts safety. I recently completed course work with Yale School of Drama's Technical Design and Production Program and took additional coursework with Yale's School of Public Health. I have tried to round out my knowledge through additional training and certification opportunities. I am passionate about creating safe spaces for artists to do their best work and for audiences to experience that offering.

Q: A few practical questions that our members have been asking...Given the new CDC guidelines, will fully-vaccinated patrons be required to be masked on the grounds and in the Crosby Theatre during performances?

A: They will. Regardless of vaccination status we are asking patrons to be masked for the safety and comfort of all those joining us at the opera.

Q: Will we be allowed to tailgate before performances?

A: Yes, tailgating will be permitted. We ask that patrons follow instructions from the parking attendants and maintain social distancing from other parties when tailgating. Patrons will be required to wear masks that comply with CDC guidelines except when they are actively eating or drinking.

Q: Will the bars be open inside the Crosby Theatre complex?

A: They will. Bottled water, drinks, and light snacks will be available.

Q: Many of our members are familiar with the backstage area at the Santa Fe Opera. Can you give me an example of how that has changed to comply with COVID requirements?

A: Of course. As with front-of-house, we have made updates to ventilation and added touchless restroom fixtures. We have also reimagined some of the higher density work areas – changing locations of machines, equipment, and worktables to allow for social distancing. And masks, everyone backstage is masked.

Q: Where can Guild members learn more about the COVID-19 safety measures that will be in effect at the Santa Fe Opera this summer?

A: We regularly update our [Health and Safety Page](#) with the latest information and best way to plan for your visit.

Q: Everyone new to Santa Fe is required to answer this question: Red or green?

A: Mood dependent, though I tend to lean red.



Mike VanAartsen

JULY MEMBERS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW

When your renewal comes due, you will receive an email alert. Renew by clicking **RENEW NOW!** We accept four major credit cards and PayPal, or mail a check to The Santa Fe Opera Guild, Membership, P.O. Box 2371, Santa Fe, NM, 87504 -2371. Send membership questions via email to Leslie Veditz at VPMembership@santafeoperaguild.org, or telephone her at (888)666-3430 ext. 502. The Membership Committee will send your membership tax receipts and membership cards to you by email.

Those of you without email will continue to receive these communications by US mail. If you do not have a printer at home or if you still prefer a hardcopy tax letter and membership card, please let us know and we will mail them to you.

THE SANTA FE OPERA AND NM PBS PRESENT ¡COLORES!

¡COLORES!

AIRING MONTHLY ON SATURDAYS, 4:00PM MDT

STREAMING: SANTA FE OPERA & NM PBS

BROADCAST: NEW MEXICO PBS, CHANNEL 5.1

COMPLIMENTARY

New Mexico PBS Series on *The Lord of Cries: From Page to Stage*

Beginning on **July 10**, The Santa Fe Opera and New Mexico PBS (NMPBS) present **¡COLORES!** A seven-part, broadcast series on the making of John Corigliano and Mark Adamo's new opera *The Lord of Cries: From Page to Stage* offers a view on the creative forces behind the Santa Fe Opera's 17th world premiere, scheduled to open on July 17. Airing monthly as part of NMPBS's landmark, the award-winning **¡COLORES! Series** is dedicated to the creative spirit of New Mexico viewers who will hear from renowned tenor George Shirley, composer John Corigliano, librettist Mark Adamo, director James Darrah, costume designer Chrisi Karvonides-Dushenko, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, soprano Susanna Phillips, and other creative luminaries. Through discussions with key creators and exclusive rehearsal and performance footage, *From Page to Stage* captures the collaborative process of opera-making. The final episode centers on the **Opening Night of *The Lord of Cries***.

All episodes will be broadcast locally on NMPBS channel 5.1 and will stream online at nmpbs.org and santafeopera.org. To see dates and times, click [here](#).

Episode 1: The Storied History of Santa Fe Opera

Episode 2: *The Lord of Cries* Story & Creators

Episode 3: Conceptualizing *The Lord of Cries*

Episode 4: Role Play and *The Lord of Cries*

Episode 5: Health & Safety at The Santa Fe Opera

Episode 6: Rehearsing *The Lord of Cries*

Episode 7: Opening Night of *The Lord of Cries*

MET OPERA ANNOUNCES 2021/22 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

The Met Opera has announced its broadcast schedule for the 2021/22 season. Some details about casting are available by clicking [here](#). Please note that the Lensic has not yet announced its performance schedule for any of these productions. Stay tuned to future issues of the *Operagram* for more information as it becomes available.

- October 9 *Boris Godunov* (Mussorgsky)
- October 23 *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* (Terence Blanchard)
- December 4 *Euridice* (Matthew Aucoin)
- January 1 *Cendrillon* (Massenet; abridged, English-language holiday presentation)
- January 29 *Rigoletto* (Verdi)
- March 12 *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss)
- March 26 *Don Carlos* (Verdi)
- May 7 *Turandot* (Puccini)
- May 21 *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Donizetti)
- June 4 *Hamlet* (Brett Dean)

OPERA REDUX

We have great news for anyone who missed any of the wonderful talks focused on the four operas being performed during the Santa Fe Opera's Festival this summer. Our members enjoyed a plethora of in-depth discussions about the source material for the operas, the composers, and the operas. Listed below are links to the various programs and the dates they will continue to be available.

Opera Virtually Unveiled: recordings of the four-part series with Desirée Mays will be available through August 27, 2021. This series is free for members. Sign up [here](#) to receive links to the secured YouTube videos.

Consider the Source: Conversations, moderated by Dr. Jennifer Rhodes, and ***Opera InSight***, presented by Dr. Don Fineberg are both available on the Santa Fe Opera YouTube Channel. Click [here](#) to access all prior episodes of these two wonderful programs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

With the greatest pleasure, we welcome Judith Workman and Maria & Dan Peterson to the Santa Fe Opera Guild. We look forward to meeting you at our programs and events when social distancing restrictions are lifted. Thank you so much for joining us.

DIVERSIONS

As local venues transition from virtual to in-person events, please be sure to check their websites frequently.

Santa Fe Pro Musica: For the 2021-22 season, Pro Musica is offering a variety of subscription packages, featuring three distinct concert series, in three historic Santa Fe venues—the 1873 Gothic-style Loretto Chapel, the 1917 Pueblo Revival-style St. Francis Auditorium, and the 1930s Moorish-inspired Lensic Performing Arts Center. Click [here](#) for dates, venue seating charts, and subscription options. For subscriptions and single tickets contact the **Pro Musica Box Office at 505.988.4640 x 1000**.

The next Russian and Eastern European Opera on Film will be on Wednesday, July 7 at 1 pm at The Santa Fe Woman's Club. The opera will be *Eugene Onegin* to prepare the audience for the July 24th Santa Fe Opera's opening of *Eugene Onegin*. They will screen a 2000 recording of a production from the Bolshoi. A contribution of \$5.00 per person is suggested. Additional information may be obtained by sending an email to Bill Derbyshire at wwdcroat@aol.com.

The Wagner Society of Santa Fe has posted the "For the Love of Opera" concert #1 on YouTube as a streaming video. Click [here](#) to view it. Their YouTube channel also carries a recording of an excellent webinar by Francesca Zambello on directing Wagner operas. There will be a live performance of the three powerful mezzo roles from Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* on **Thursday, July 29, 6:30 p.m., at Quail Run** by mezzo-soprano Katharine Goeldner (appearing courtesy of the Santa Fe Opera) and pianist Carol Anderson. Free admission, but reservation in advance required. For more information, contact wagnersocietyofsantafe@gmail.com.

Santa Fe Desert Chorale is thrilled to announce that their professional choral artists will be returning to Santa Fe this July for in-person **2021 Summer Festival! Tickets are on sale now to the general public.** Click [here](#) to learn more about their programs, and [here](#) to learn more about their ticketing process for this summer.

Santa Fe Botanical Garden: Each summer, William Shakespeare's prose and poetry come alive in the Santa Fe Botanical Garden's *Ojos y Manos: Eyes and Hands* amphitheater. Shakespeare in the Garden has offered memorable productions of *The Tempest* in 2017, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2018 and *Romeo and Juliet* in 2019. This year's selection is ***As You Like It*** which will be performed in the Garden Thursdays through Sundays from July 29 through August 22. Tickets are on sale via santafeclassictheater.org. For general ticketing questions and performance information, please call Santa Fe Classic Theater, (646) 413-3218. Prior to the performance, attendees are invited to bring a picnic to enjoy amid the beauty of the Orchard Gardens at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

Los Alamos Concert Association will host **Cuarteto Latinoamericano** with Thomas Gallant on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM. **Cuarteto Latinoamericano** is one of the world's most renowned classical music ensembles, for more than thirty years the leading proponent of Latin American music for string quartet. Founded in Mexico in 1982, the Cuarteto has toured extensively throughout Europe, North and South America, Israel, China, Japan and New Zealand. They have premiered more than a hundred works written for them and they continue to introduce new and neglected composers to the genre. For ticket information, click [here](#). Discounts are available before August 15, 2021.

Aspen Music Festival and School: Powered by a deep belief in the return to live music, the Aspen Music Festival and School is planning a full summer of safe, in-person concerts and teaching. For more information, click [here](#).

The Met: The company has announced its 2021-2022 season, when opera will return live to the stage. To read a list of the operas, click [here](#).

The Met Podcasts: While you are browsing the Met's website, check out their podcast, *Aria Code*, a collaboration with WQXR and WNYC studios. The series features opera notables discussing interesting aspects of music and opera productions.

Desirée Mays' talk, "*Opera and the Sea*," is available via this service, at episodes 179 and 180. Click [here](#) to listen to *Aria Code* podcasts on The Met's website. Click [here](#) to listen to the series at AriaCode.org.

Opera Wire offers a list of opera houses around the world streaming free performances. Click [here](#).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The *Operagram* would not be possible without the dedicated members who contribute articles each month. We are grateful for their support. This month's list of contributors are as follows:

Bernadette Snider: *Operagram* Editor

Alice Jennings: Diversions

Rebecca Jensen: *News from the Santa Fe Opera*

Bernadette Snider/Robin Williams: Shakespeare Immersion, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Preview July Vivace

Martha Baker: Mike VanAartsen article, Contributing Editor June & July *Operagram*

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