

# 2019 Halifax Opera Festival Full Performance Schedule



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## LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

[5440 Spring Garden Rd] 12 noon each day FREE ADMISSION

Wednesday July 17 – Handel’s *Alcina* and Italian opera of the mid-Baroque era

Thursday July 18 – W.A. Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* and German singspiel

Friday July 19 – Jacques Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffmann* and French romantic opera

## BROADWAY OUR WAY

Opera singers unleash their inner musical theatre beasts!

Saturday July 20, 7:30 pm Lillian Piercey Concert Hall, Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, 6199 Chebucto Ave., Halifax, N.S.

Tickets \$20, available at the door or via TicketHalifax

## WOMEN COMPOSERS OF OPERA: an exploration with music

In spite of there having been many women composers in the Western tradition, relatively few women have composed operas. Dr Jane Gordon explores why this is, and celebrates some of the stories (and music) of the trailblazers. From Francesca Caccini to Ethel Smyth, from Hildegard von Bingen to Elizabeth Raum, we celebrate operas composed by women!

Dr Jane Gordon, Nicholas Gilmore, Giancarlo Scalia and performers from HSO.

Wednesday, July 24, 7:00pm Paul O’Regan Hall, Halifax Central Library, 5540 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS. FREE ADMISSION

## OPERA BACKWARDS

Telling LGBTQ+ Stories through opera repertoire: presented as part of Halifax Pride.

Friday July 26, 8:00 pm

Bus Stop Theatre, 2203 Gottingen Street, Halifax, NS Tickets \$20, online at [tickethalifax.com](http://tickethalifax.com) and at the door until sold out

## MAIN STAGE OPERAS:

### *DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE (The Magic Flute)* by W.A. Mozart

(sung in German with English dialogue and projected translations)

Sir James Dunn Theatre at the Dalhousie Arts Centre, 6101 University Ave., Halifax, N.S.

Friday August 2, 7:30pm

Saturday August 3, 7:30pm

Thursday August 8, 7:30pm

Saturday August 10, 2:00pm

## **LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN (*The Tales of Hoffmann*) by Jacques Offenbach**

(sung in French with projected translations)

Sir James Dunn Theatre at the Dalhousie Arts Centre, 6101 University Ave., Halifax, N.S.

Saturday August 3, 2:00pm

Sunday August 4, 7:30pm

Wednesday August 7, 7:30 pm

Saturday August 10, 7:30pm

## **ALCINA by G.F. Handel**

(sung in Italian with projected translations)

Lillian Piercey Concert Hall, Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, 6199 Chebucto Ave., Halifax, N.S.

Sunday August 4, 2:00 pm

Tuesday August 6, 7:30 pm

Friday August 9, 7:30 pm

Sunday August 11, 2:00 pm

## **All mainstage opera tickets:**

Tickets: \$30 adults / \$20 students 13 and older / \$5 children 12 & under

Available at the door if not sold out, or in advance through Ticket Halifax:

·By phone: (credit card only) or get box office help at: (902)-422-6278ex.500

·Online: see all ticketed events at <http://www.tickethalifax.com/54495769/operafestival>

·In person: (cash, debit card) at The Coast offices, 2309 Maynard Street, Halifax, N.S.

A transferable Season Pass will get you (or a guest) into all ticketed events, so you can see both casts of all the shows! It's on sale now for \$160.00 at TicketHalifax.

# 2019 Halifax Opera Festival Social Media & Contact Info

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## Media Contacts:

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/halifaxoperafestival/>

YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/halifaxoperaworkshop>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/halifaxopera/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/halifaxopera>

# 2019 Halifax Opera Festival Fact Sheet

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- The Halifax Summer Opera Festival is a four-week celebration of opera built around a summer opera training program in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The training program gives singers (mostly university undergrads to emerging professionals) opportunities to learn roles in the context of performing an entire, fully-staged opera.
- Nina Scott-Stoddart and Tara Scott founded the workshop in 2005 in order to bring summer opera training to the Maritimes. 2019 is our fifteenth season.
- This year HSOF welcomes over 50 performers from around the world, including many from Nova Scotia and the Maritimes, all of whom underwent competitive auditions.
- For the first two and a half weeks, the performers stage and rehearse their operas under the direction of three creative teams. This summer the works are Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Handel's *Alcina*. Participants also attend masterclasses in dramatic and musical interpretation and are able to perform in extra concerts.
- During the last week and a half of the workshop the participants put on twelve public performances in total, four of each show, at the Dalhousie Arts Centre and Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts.
- *The Magic Flute* (1791): Mozart's last and most beloved opera and one of the masterpieces of Western music. It's story of the struggle between powerful forces and our new production has been inspired by urban fantasy and Game of Thrones. Famous excerpts include the Queen of the Night's aria (Der Hölle Rache), one of the most spectacular high soprano arias ever written! Sung in German, with spoken English dialogue and projected translations.
- *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1881): Jacques Offenbach was a prolific French composer of operettas (he wrote the original Can-Can music!) Hoffmann was his last work and his greatest opera. The poet Hoffmann tells stories about the three women he's most loved: a life-like mechanical doll, a consumptive daughter of a great singer and a seductive Venetian courtesan. Our new production sets the opera in a steampunk world of magic and fantasy. Sung in French, with projected translations.
- *Alcina* (1735): was written for the new Covent Garden Theatre and was Handel's last great London success. It tells the story of a magical island ruled by a seductive and capricious sorceress set to music of extraordinary beauty and grace. Our new production imagines Alcina as a modern cult leader with immense power over her followers. Sung in Italian with projected translations.

• HSOF has always boosted representation of LGBTQ+ performers, and this year marks our fifth annual *Opera Backwards* concert at Halifax Pride, where singers tell their queer stories through opera repertoire.

• Opera is one of the greatest Western art forms and we love it, but any long-established art deserves respectful reassessment by its contemporary interpreters. HSOF regularly explores modern interpretations of operatic repertoire, especially encouraging a critical examination of problematic works without changing words or music. This has included a #metoo production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, a new production of *Carmen* confronting the misogyny and racism of the original libretto and a production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* that puts the focus on the judgemental townspeople rather than the sensual title character.

# 2019 Halifax Opera Festival Press Release

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For Immediate Release  
June 28th, 2019

## Mozart's family-friendly *The Magic Flute* is the centrepiece of Eastern Canada's largest opera festival

(Halifax, NS) – To celebrate the fifteenth season of one of Canada's largest opera festivals, over 50 performers will bring to life three magical operas.

This year the Halifax Summer Opera Festival includes four performances each of Mozart's delightful *The Magic Flute*, Jacques Offenbach's fantastic *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and a masterpiece of Baroque opera, *Alcina* by G.F. Handel. The main stage operas will be performed between August 2 and 11, and the entire season is supported by our print media sponsor, The Coast.

One of Mozart's most beloved operas, *The Magic Flute* (*Die Zauberflöte*) (1791) has enchanted audiences since its debut. Our all-new production sets this colourful and magical opera in a hybrid world of urban fantasy. This is the perfect opera for newcomers to the art form, adults and children alike! Meet the bird man Papageno, Prince Tamino, Princess Pamina, Sarastro and the amazing Queen of the Night as they sing some of the most glorious music ever composed. *The Magic Flute* will be sung in German with spoken English dialogue and projected translations, so audiences won't miss any of the magic. Fully-staged and costumed and performed with piano and flute. Opens August 2.

*The Tales of Hoffmann* (*Les contes d'Hoffmann*) (1881) is Offenbach's greatest and strangest opera! The poet Hoffmann tells stories of the three women he has loved -- a mechanical performing doll, the consumptive daughter of a famous singer and a bejeweled Venetian siren—all of whom break his heart in different ways. Our new steampunk production brings this magical and fantastic world to vivid life! Fully-staged and costumed, accompanied by piano and sung in French, with projected translations. Opens August 3.

Handel's *Alcina* (1735) tells the story of the powerful sorceress Alcina, and brave Bradamante who sets out to rescue her lover from Alcina's clutches! This work was composed for the opera-mad audiences of Handel's London theatre and has some of Handel's most exquisite music. Our modern dress production explores Alcina as a cult leader, seducing her followers and keeping them prisoner, and their struggle to escape her. Fully-staged and costumed, sung in Italian with projected English translation and accompanied by harpsichord and cello continuo and violin. Opens August 4.

Tickets for the festival are on sale online at [TicketHalifax.com](http://TicketHalifax.com), by phone at (902) 422-6278 (ext. 500), in person at The Coast's offices, 2309 Maynard Street, or at the venue an hour before the show, payable by cash, credit card, tappable debit, ApplePay or cheque. Audience members can also buy season passes, which will get them into every performance of every show (which can be quite interesting since there are two casts for each opera, providing two quite distinct interpretations).

The Festival kicks off with a series of free noon hour lecture recitals at the Paul O'Regan Hall at the Halifax Central Library on July 17, 18 and 19. Other special events include a musical theatre concert on Saturday July 20 at 7:30 pm at the Lillian Piercey Concert Hall and an evening at the Library featuring music by women composers of opera on Wednesday July 24 at 7 pm. The Festival also presents its annual Pride concert in collaboration with Halifax Pride, *Opera Backwards*, Friday July 26, 8:00 pm at the Bus Stop Theatre.

Halifax Summer Opera Festival and Workshop educates and develops both singers and audiences through the performance of operatic repertoire. For fifteen seasons, HSOF has presented fully staged operas each summer, giving singers from university undergrads to professionals opportunities to learn roles in the context of performing an entire, full-staged opera. Participants are selected from live or recorded auditions and participate in rehearsals and master classes on everything from auditioning techniques to dramatic and musical interpretations by seasoned pros. HSOF is a not-for-profit society with a volunteer Board of Directors, based in Lunenburg and Halifax.

You can find out all the details at [www.halifaxsummeroperafestival.com](http://www.halifaxsummeroperafestival.com).

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2019 HSOF Media Kit

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