

AS PART OF PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION'S WASHINGTON PARK SUMMER FESTIVAL

**OPERA**  
IN THE PARK PORTLAND  
EST. 2003

*Presents*

**GIUSEPPE VERDI'S  
RIGOLETTO**

**Sunday, August 13, 2023, 6 to 8pm**

Washington Park Rose Garden Amphitheater, Portland, Oregon

*Featuring*



**Luis Ledesma**  
Baritone



**Aubry Ballarò**  
Soprano



**César Delgado**  
Tenor



**Richard Zeller**  
Bass-baritone



**Hannah Penn**  
Mezzo-Soprano



**DeAndre Simmons**  
Bass-baritone



**Jocelyn Claire Thomas**  
Soprano



**Keith Clark**  
Artistic Director



**Maestro Imre Palló**  
Guest Conductor

*With the*  
**OPERA IN THE PARK Portland Chorus and Orchestra**

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*All Classical*  
PORTLAND

ARTIST PROFILES

KEITH CLARK, Artistic Director

Co-Founder of OPERA IN THE PARK Portland, Keith Clark is internationally active as a conductor, composer and recording artist. He was awarded the prestigious American Prize for Artistic Excellence for the Pacific Northwest premiere of Alban Berg’s *Wozzeck*. In Russia, he was named Principal Guest Conductor of the Siberian State Philharmonic, where he led the prize-winning Russian premiere of *West Side Story*. His recordings with the London Philharmonic, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic, Korean Symphony and others have received Grammy nominations and numerous awards. Following many years in Europe he returned to found the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in California and remains its Conductor Laureate.

MAESTRO IMRE PALLÓ, Guest Conductor

Maestro Imre Palló was born into a musical family in Hungary and his godfather was Zoltán Kodály, the famous composer. Maestro Palló graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music in 1964. While a student there, he served as a musical assistant to Herbert von Karajan and Karl Böhm. He made his American debut in 1973 with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. Maestro Palló was then invited to join the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center and served as one of the principal conductors for over two decades. He is now an internationally, highly respected guest conductor.

LUIS LEDESMA, Baritone - Rigoletto

Mexican baritone Luis Ledesma has established a reputation as a “rich and well controlled baritone” (Opera News). He frequently portrays the heroes and villains of Puccini, Verdi, and the Bel Canto masters. Last season, Luis returned to Opera Colorado as “Scarpia” in *Tosca* and performed the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* with On Site Opera. Recent engagements include “Payador” in Astor Piazzolaâ’s *Maria de Buenos Aires* with Kentucky Opera, “Sharpless” in *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Omaha and Pacific Symphony, “Augustino” in *El pasado nunca se termina* with Fort Worth Opera, *Carmina Burana* with the Acadiana Symphony, and the title role in *Macbeth* with Syracuse Opera. For more, visit: [luisledesmabaritone.com](http://luisledesmabaritone.com)

AUBRY BALLARÒ, Soprano - Gilda, his daughter

Quickly gaining attention as a lyric coloratura soprano with exceptional Bel Canto technique, Aubry Ballarò made her European debut as “Lucia” in *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2022 with State Opera Stara Zagora in Bulgaria, and later that summer sang the role of “Madame Herz” in Mozart’s *The Impresario* with The Princeton Festival. In 2023, Ms. Ballarò returned to State Opera Stara Zagora as “Violetta” in *La Traviata*. Soon after, she joined Opera Columbus as “Gilda” in *Rigoletto*. In 2024, she will sing Mozart’s *Mass in C Minor* with the Columbus Symphony, and debut several new roles to be announced in the coming months. For more, visit: [aubryballaro.com](http://aubryballaro.com)

CÉSAR DELGADO, Tenor - Duke of Mantua

Mexican-born César Delgado has been praised for his “generous, lustrous tenor” and “committed, energetic acting” by Opera News. Mr. Delgado has been steadily building an active career that finds him regularly in US, German, and Mexican opera houses. This season, Mr. Delgado will cover “Arcadio” in *Florencia en el Amazonas* at the Metropolitan Opera. He will also sing the same role with San Jose Opera. Other performances include “Mr. Rodriguez” in Tobias Picker’s *Awakenings* with Boston’s Odyssey Opera, “Don Ottavio” in *Don Giovanni* with Gulfshore Opera, “Pinkerton” in *Madama Butterfly* with the Santander Theater in Mexico, and Mahler’s *Das lied von der Erde* with the Ontario Philharmonic. For more, visit: [cesar-delgado.com](http://cesar-delgado.com)

RICHARD ZELLER, Bass-baritone - Sparafucile, assassin for hire

Richard Zeller is internationally acclaimed for his dramatic Bass-baritone and consummate musicianship. Mr. Zeller made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1989, and has appeared there for 11 seasons. He has sung with the Chicago Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, Berlin Staatsoper, Hamburgische Staatsoper, Deutsche Opera am Rhein, English National Opera, the Edinburgh Festival, the Vienna Festival, and others. He has appeared with over 100 orchestras in the US and abroad, including the Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and more. Richard Zeller maintains an active private teaching studio. For more, visit: [richardzeller.com](http://richardzeller.com)

HANNAH PENN, Mezzo-soprano - Maddalena, his sister

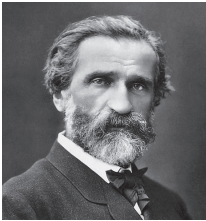
Hannah Penn, mezzo-soprano enjoys a diverse career as a performer of opera, oratorio, and recital literature. Ms. Penn has recently been called “a major talent,” and “an intelligent and wonderfully musical singer” by Portland’s Willamette Week. She has sung more than twenty operatic roles with Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Portland Opera, Tacoma Opera, Opera Bend, Eugene Opera, Opera Coeur D’Alene, and many other companies. A dedicated and passionate teacher, Ms. Penn is a full professor and chair of the voice department at Willamette University. Next season, Ms. Penn will perform Peter Maxwell Davies’ one-woman show, *Miss Donnithorne’s Maggot* with Third Angle. For more, visit: [hannahpennsings.com](http://hannahpennsings.com)

DEANDRE SIMMONS, Bass-baritone - Monterone and Ceprano

DeAndre Simmons is excited to be returning to OPERA IN THE PARK Portland, after appearing as “Amonasro” in last season’s *Aïda*. This season has seen him as “Sciarrone” in *Tosca* with the San Diego Opera, “Boatman” in *Sunday in the Park with George* with CCAE Theatricals, “Bass Soloist” in Verdi’s *Requiem* in Luzern, Switzerland, and as “Caiaphas” in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with Moonlight Theatre. Upcoming performances include recitals in San Diego, Hong Kong, and London. He returns to San Diego as “The Bonze” in *Madama Butterfly* this coming spring. Having studied with Barbara Cook, he continues the tradition of the American Songbook with performances around the country. Instagram: @DeAndresVoice

JOCELYN CLAIRE THOMAS, Soprano - Countess Ceprano, his wife

Praised for her “staggeringly brilliant...etherial soprano” (The Source) Jocelyn Claire Thomas has engaged audiences with her haunting sound, musical intelligence, and unusual versatility. Recent solo highlights include Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Salem Philharmonia Orchestra, “Amore” in *Orpheus & Eurydice* with Inland Northwest Opera, and “Nedda” in *Pagliacci* with Opera Bend. Upcoming engagements include “Bridesmaid #1” in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Portland Opera, “Soprano Soloist” in Vivaldi’s *Gloria* with the Seattle Choral Company, and “Soprano Soloist” in Handel’s *Messiah* with Harmonia Seattle. For more, visit: [jocelynclairethomas.com](http://jocelynclairethomas.com)



GIUSEPPE VERDI, Composer (1813–1901)

Verdi was one of the world’s greatest operatic composers. His instincts for melody and thrilling drama have ensured the enduring popularity of many of his 28 operas. Three of his operas (*La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, and *Aida*) are consistently performed 300 to 400 times a year worldwide. In Italy, Verdi is a national hero. “Va, pensiero” (Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves) from *Nabucco*, helped unify the population at the time it was written in 1842, and has become Italy’s second, unofficial, national anthem. His funeral was attended by more people (300,000) than any event in the history of Italy.

ORCHESTRA

1st VIOLIN  
Margaret Bichteler  
Olivia Tsui  
Hae-Jin Kim  
Janet Dubay  
Irene Gadeholt  
Nicholas Price

2nd VIOLIN  
Vijeta Sathyaraj  
Daniel Feng  
Kirsten Norvell  
Esther Shim  
Janet George  
Lucie Zalesakova

VIOLA  
Matt Ross  
Kayla Cabrera  
Daphne Gooch  
Adam Hoornstra

CELLO  
Kenneth Finch  
Seth Biagini  
David Eby  
Mario Bastea-Forte

DOUBLE BASS

Christopher Kim  
Kaden Henderso

FLUTE/PICCOLO  
Emily Stanek

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN  
Victoria Racz

CLARINET  
Todd Kuhns  
Lou DeMartino

BASSOON  
Ann Kosanovic-Brown

FRENCH HORN  
Daniel Partridge  
Charles Crabtree

TRUMPET  
Joe Klause

TROMBONE  
Lars Campbell

TIMPANI  
Ian Kerr

PERCUSSION  
Brian Gardiner

CHORUS

SOPRANO  
Aimee Chalfant  
Rachel Consenz  
Emily Nelson DesRochers  
Amelia Freiss  
Nan Haemer  
Lindsey Rae Johnson  
Lindsey Leffer  
Maria Ma  
Jocelyn Claire Thomas  
Erin Mikelle Walker

MEZZO  
Annika Bell  
Barbara Berger  
Celine Clark  
Kate Maresh  
Mila Ortiz  
Haley Reviere  
Marjorie Sheiman  
Kate Strohecker  
Grace Weaver  
Sheryl Wood

TENOR

Doug Bom  
Daniel Burnett  
Colin Crandal  
Scot Crandal  
Tom Harper  
Jim Jeppsen  
Will Keene  
Aaron Lange  
Michael McDonald

BASS  
Laurence Cox  
Dan Gibbs  
Arne Hartmann  
Kevin Helppie  
Brian Langford  
Dylan Moe  
Linh Nguyen  
Sterling Roberts  
Patrick Scofield  
Lincoln Thomas

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Olivia Tsui  
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Rehearsal Pianist

Jason Schooler  
Janet George  
Orchestra Managers

Jocelyn Claire Thomas  
Chorus Manager

SYNOPSIS OF RIGOLETTO

ACT I

The Duke boasts about his way with women. He flirts with the Countess Ceprano, and Rigoletto mocks the Countess’s enraged but helpless husband. Monterone denounces the Duke for seducing his daughter and is ridiculed by Rigoletto. Monterone is arrested and curses Rigoletto. Rigoletto returns home, and encounters Sparafucile, an assassin, who offers his services. Rigoletto warmly greets his daughter, Gilda. When he leaves again, the Duke appears and declares his love for Gilda, telling her he is a poor student. Gilda sings of her newfound love. The courtiers gather outside, intending to abduct Rigoletto’s supposed “mistress.” Meeting him, they trick him into wearing a blindfold, and then they carry off Gilda. Rigoletto realizes Gilda is gone and remembers Monterone’s curse.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

The Duke is distraught about the abduction of Gilda. The courtiers return and tell him Gilda is in his chamber, and he hurries off. Rigoletto enters, looking for Gilda. The courtiers are astonished to learn she is his daughter. Gilda appears and runs to her father. She tells him of the Duke’s courtship, and of her abduction. When Monterone passes by on his way to execution, Rigoletto swears that they will both be avenged. Gilda begs her father to forgive the Duke.

ACT III

Rigoletto and Gilda arrive at an inn where Sparafucile and his sister Maddalena live. Inside, the Duke sings of the fickleness of women. Gilda and Rigoletto watch through the window as the Duke flirts with Maddalena. Rigoletto sends Gilda off to Verona disguised as a boy and pays Sparafucile to murder the Duke. Gilda returns to overhear Maddalena urge Sparafucile to spare the Duke and kill Rigoletto instead. Sparafucile refuses to murder Rigoletto, but agrees to kill the next stranger who comes to the inn so that he will be able to produce a dead body. Gilda decides to sacrifice herself for the Duke. She knocks at the door and is stabbed. Rigoletto returns to claim the body, which he assumes is the Duke’s. As he gloats, he hears the Duke singing in the distance. Tearing open the sack, he finds Gilda, who dies asking his forgiveness.



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### OPERA IS FOR EVERYONE !

We present OPERA IN THE PARK at the beautiful outdoor Washington Park Amphitheater as part of Portland Parks and Recreation's annual Washington Park Summer Festival. Since 2003 we have presented FREE opera to over 57,000 people in our community.

*Opera in the Park Portland is a non-profit 501c-3 and relies completely on donations.*

Visit our table next to the stage for more information or to make a tax-deductible donation to help us continue to bring FREE opera to our community. Donor envelopes are available and credit cards are accepted. Or you can use PayPal on our website.

[operaintheparkportland.org](http://operaintheparkportland.org)

Opera in the Park Portland, PO Box 4084, Portland OR 97208

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Fill out a raffle form! Our volunteers will collect them at intermission. Or you can turn them in at our Info table to the right of the stage. Raffle will be at the end of the show and the winners announced. Must be present to win.

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PORTLAND OPERA

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