The opera world and Chautauqua community lost a powerful voice with the passing of Spiro Malas on June 23. In his storied career he appeared on Broadway and the stages of opera houses around the world. He was a legend, whose exotic name seemed to match the colorful stories we all have heard while building our careers!

The loss of Spiro will be deeply felt here at Chautauqua. While he appeared in several productions with Chautauqua Opera, Spiro’s soul was in the School of Music studios and practice rooms. He touched all of our lives, and our hearts go out to Marlena and the entire Malas family.

This production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia is dedicated to Spiro Malas with thanks for everything he has given to opera, and especially opera at Chautauqua.

— Steven Osgood

Performances July 5 at 4 p.m.; July 8 & 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Premiere Performance: Teatro Argentina, Rome, 1816

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— Steven Osgood

CAST (in order of appearance)

Fiorello
Yazid Gray*

Count Almaviva
Blake Friedman*

Figaro
Daniel Belcher

Rosina
Aleks Romano+

Doctor Bartolo
Marco Nisticò+

Berta
Kaitlyn Stavinoha*

Ambrogio
Scott Purcell*

Basilio
Michael Colman*

Officer
Seunghee Lee*

Notary
James Stevens*

Chorus
Yazid Gray*
Brian Jeffers*
Edwin Joseph*
Seunghee Lee*
Jordan Loyd*
Scott Purcell*
Patrick Dean Shelton*
James Stevens*

* Chautauqua Opera Debut
+ 2019 Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Conductor/Music Director
Steven Osgood

Stage Director
Kathleen Smith Belcher

Set Designer
Alan Muraoka

Lighting/Video Designer
Michael Baumgarten

Costume Designer
Howard Tsvi Kaplan

Wig/Makeup Designer
Martha Ruskai

Assistant Stage Director
Grant Preisser

Coach/Accompanist
Dorothy Randall

Diction Coach/Supertitles
Allison Voth

Technical Director
Allison Voth

Properties Master/Scenic Artist
John P. Woodley

Stage Manager
Theresa Pierce

Assistant Stage Managers
Valerie K. Wheeler

CREDITS

Orchestral materials furnished by David Carp
Scenery constructed by Local #266 I.A.T.S.E
Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group
Wigs provided by Martha Ruskai
Costumes provided by Sarasota Opera
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

I asked myself, why is this opera called The Barber of Seville when the story is really about Rosina finding true love? She is surrounded by men; one who believes he knows what is best for her, one who believes he can rescue her, and one who respects her and her formidable mind. Rosina is the smartest person in the room but is oppressed by the men around her and the time in which she lives. In Figaro I find both the personification of his literary father, Beaumarchais, and the one who ultimately liberates her. Beaumarchais was, among other things, a master clockmaker, political activist, and gadabout. Using the clockmaker as an inspiration, our Figaro becomes a jack-of-all-trades, including a magician who can manipulate time. Over the centuries the character of Figaro has challenged audiences to think about society and the mores that guide the populus. In his first stage appearance, Figaro pushed the boundaries of nobility versus servant constantly with his master and sparked a revolution. Perhaps audiences today can see that even after centuries have passed, oppression still exists, yet the desire to love and be loved for inner beauty instead of one’s position in society stands the test of time.

— Kathleen Smith Belcher

“You may delay, but time will not.”
— Benjamin Franklin

“Don’t spend time beating on a wall, hoping to transform it into a door.”
— Coco Chanel

“To make a living, craftiness is better than learnedness.”
— Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”
— Lao Tzu

“The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.”
— Leo Tolstoy

“Where love is concerned, too much is not even enough.”
— Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

Violin I
Vahn Armstrong, Concertmaster
Erica Robinson
Amanda Gates
Adrienne Finet
Anton Shelepov
Liana Koteva

Violin II
Simon Lapointe, Principal
Margaret Cooper, Assistant
Jonathan Richards
Heidi Brodwin

Viola
Karl Pedersen, Principal
Connie Lorber, Assistant
Jennifer Stahl
Kayleigh Miller

Cello
Jeff Szabo, Principal
Peter Anderegg, Assistant
Igor Gefter

Bass
Caitlyn Kamminga
Ian Saunders

Flute/Piccolo
Richard Sherman, Principal
Kathryn Levy

Oboe
Jan Eberle, Principal

Clarinet
Daniel Spitzer, Principal
Allan Kolsky

Bassoon
Sean Gordon, Principal
Ben Atherholt

Horn
Mark Robbins, Principal
Donna Dolson

Trumpet
Peter Lindblom, Principal
Leslie Linn

Percussion/Timpani
Tom Blanchard, Principal
Pedro Fernandez

Harpsichord
Dorothy Randall

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