

Il Barbiere di Siviglia

Music by **Gioachino Rossini**, Libretto by Cesare Sterbini (after the play *Le Barbier de Séville* by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais)

Performances July 5 at 4 p.m.; July 8 & 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Premiere Performance: Teatro Argentina, Rome, 1816

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



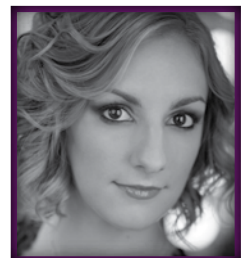
Kathleen Smith Belcher



Steven Osgood



Daniel Belcher



Aleks Romano



Marco Nisticò



Blake Friedman

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*

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

Allison Voth

Allison Voth

John P. Woodey

Diction Coach/Supertitles

Technical Director

Properties Master/Scenic Artist

Theresa Pierce

Stage Manager

Valerie K. Wheeler

Assistant Stage Managers

Kendra Green

Amelia Nordin

Emily Barber

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

+ Chautauqua Opera Debut

* 2019 Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

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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For information, please contact the Chautauqua Foundation at 716.357.6404 or visit the Foundation Office, The Colonnade Building, First Floor.

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