

# La Traviata

Music by **Giuseppe Verdi** • Libretto by **Francesco Maria Piave**

**Performance Saturday, July 9 at 8:15 p.m.**

Premiere Performance La Fenice, Venice, 1853  
Recent Chautauqua Opera Performances 1994, 2001, 2008

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this performance to Jay Lesenger, General/Artistic Director 1994–2015. Jay led this company for almost one quarter of its 88 years, and solidified its international reputation as a professional company of the highest standards. He had a profound influence on the careers of hundreds of America's finest singers through Chautauqua Opera's Young Artist Program, which grew immeasurably during his tenure. The dedicated music, administrative and production staff that returns to Chautauqua Opera year after year is a testament to Jay's leadership, and the culture of operatic family he instilled at this company's core.

– Steven Osgood

## CAST

**Violetta Valery**

Caitlin Lynch+

**Alfredo Germont**

Dominic Armstrong+

**Giorgio Germont**, *Alfredo's father*

Todd Thomas\*\*

**Gaston**, *Viscount of Letorières*

Dennis Shuman\*

**Baron Douphol**, *Violetta's patron*

Heath Martin\*

**Flora Bervoix**, *Violetta's friend*

Rachael Braunstein\*

**Marquis D'Obigny**, *Flora's patron*

Brian James Myer\*

**Doctor Grenvil**

Hans Tashjian\*

**Annina**, *Lady's maid to Violetta*

Abigail Rethwisch\*

**Giuseppe**, *a gardener*

Lorenzo Miguel Garcia\*

**Head Butler**

Frank Rosamond\*

**Commissioner**

Jake Skipworth\*

**Patrons and Ladies of the Demimonde**

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists

**Livery**

Reagan Ellis

Loren Reash-Henz

+ Chautauqua Opera Debut  
\* 2016 Chautauqua Opera Young Artist  
\*\* Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

## CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

**Conductor**

Steven Osgood

**Stage Director/Choreographer**

Keturah Stickann

**Assistant Director**

Cara Consilvio

**Chorus Master**

Carol Rausch

**Set Designer**

Ron Kadri

**Lighting/Video Designer**

Michael Baumgarten

**Costumer**

B. G. FitzGerald

**Wig/Makeup Designer**

Martha Ruskai

**Coach/Accompanists**

Dorothy Randall

**Diction Coach/ Supertitles**

Emily Jarrell Urbanek

**Technical Director**

Allison Voth

**Properties Master/Scenic Artist**

John P. Woodey

**Stage Manager**

Kate Brittingham

**Assistant Stage Managers**

Catherine Costanzo

**Concertmaster**

Anna Reetz

Cressa Amundsen

Patricia Garvey

Vahn Armstrong

## CREDITS

Orchestral materials furnished by David Carp

Scenery constructed by Local #266 I.A.T.S.E

Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group

Costumes supplied by Malabar, Ltd., Toronto

Wigs provided by Martha Ruskai



Keturah Stickann



Caitlin Lynch



Dominic Armstrong



Todd Thomas

# SYNOPSIS

## Act I – Violetta's Paris salon, Fall, 1850

In the midst of a party to celebrate her recovery from illness, the Viscount Gaston introduces Violetta to his friend, Alfredo Germont, who has long adored her from afar. Alfredo offers a toast and is joined by Violetta and her guests. As the party moves to a nearby room for dancing, Violetta falls ill and remains behind. Alfredo expresses his concern for her fragile health and declares his love. At first she rejects him, but there is something about Alfredo that touches her heart. Before leaving, she gives Alfredo a camellia, telling him to return to her when it has wilted. After Alfredo and the guests depart, Violetta wonders if Alfredo could actually be her true love. However, she concludes that she needs total freedom to live her life.

-Intermission-

## Act II, Scene I – Violetta's country house outside Paris, three months later

Violetta has abandoned her former life and now lives with Alfredo, who exuberantly declares that being with Violetta is like living in heaven. Violetta's maid, Annina, arrives from Paris and, when questioned by Alfredo, tells him that she went there to sell Violetta's possessions to support their lifestyle. Alfredo is shocked and leaves for Paris immediately to settle matters himself. Violetta returns and receives an invitation from her friend, Flora, to a party in Paris that evening. At the same time, Alfredo's father, Giorgio Germont, enters and demands that she break off her relationship with his son for the sake of his family's honor. She responds that she cannot end the relationship because she'll die without Alfredo, but eventually gives in to Germont's insistence in order to save his relationship with his family. Germont leaves with a new found respect for Violetta's grace and selflessness. Violetta gives a note to Annina to send to her former lover, the Baron Douphol, asking to accompany

him to Flora's party, and, as she is writing a farewell letter to Alfredo, he enters. Barely controlling her grief she tells him of her unconditional love before departing. On the road, Violetta hands the letter to a messenger to bring to Alfredo. As soon as Alfredo reads the letter, his father returns and attempts to comfort him. Alfredo is unmoved, and suspecting the Baron Douphol is behind Violetta's abandonment, rushes off to confront her.

## Act II, Scene II – Party at Flora's house in Paris, later that evening

As Gaston and his friends arrive to put on a skit for the party-goers, Flora finds out that Violetta and Alfredo have separated. Alfredo arrives alone and begins to gamble. Violetta arrives shortly after, with the Baron, who joins Alfredo at the gambling table. Violetta gets Alfredo alone, and begs him to depart before the Baron challenges him to a duel. Alfredo first demands that she admit that she loves the Baron, and to save him she makes the false admission. Alfredo is furious and publicly humiliates Violetta. Germont enters and, knowing the real significance of the scene, denounces his son's behavior.

-Intermission-

## Act III – Violetta's Paris apartment, three weeks later

Doctor Grenvil tells Annina that Violetta will not live long since her illness has worsened. Violetta reads a letter from Alfredo's father telling her that the Baron was only wounded in his duel with Alfredo, that he has informed Alfredo of her sacrifices, and that he is sending his son to ask for forgiveness. The lovers are soon reunited and dream of a life together in Paris. A regretful Germont enters with the doctor. With a last moment of joyful ecstasy, Violetta collapses and dies in the arms of Alfredo.

# CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

## Violin I

Vahn Armstrong, *Concertmaster*  
David Hult, *Assistant concertmaster*  
Erica Robinson  
Cheryl Bintz  
Lenelle Morse  
Marian Tanau  
Olga Kaler  
Ming Gao  
Anton Shelepov  
Adrienne Finet

## Violin II

Diane Bruce, *Principal*  
Simon Lapointe, *Assistant*  
Barbara Berg  
Marcia Steel  
Cynthia Berginc  
Lara Sipols  
Karen Lord-Powell  
Jonathan Richards

## Viola

Christopher Fischer, *Principal*  
Cynthia Frank, *Assistant*  
Jennifer Stahl  
Eva Stern  
Connie Lorber  
Karl Pedersen

## Cello

Lars Kirvan, *Principal*  
Jeffrey Szabo, *Assistant*  
Marie Shmorhun  
Daryl Goldberg  
Gena Taylor  
Peter Anderegg

## Bass

Patricia Dougherty, *Principal*  
David Rossi, *Assistant*  
Peter Haas  
Caitlyn Kamminga

## Flute

Richard Sherman, *Principal*  
Kathy Levy (Piccolo)

## Oboe

Jan Eberle, *Principal*  
Jason Weintraub

## Clarinet

Eli Eban, *Principal*  
William Amsel

## Bassoon

Jeffrey Robinson, *Principal*  
Stephen Smith

## Horn

Donna Dolson, *Principal*  
William Bernatis  
Charles Waddell  
Mark Robbins

## Trumpet

Chuck Berginc, *Principal*  
Peter Lindblom

## Trombone

John Marcellus, *Principal*  
Christopher Wolf  
Eric Lindblom

## Tuba

Frederick Boyd, *Principal*

## Timpani

Brian Kushmaul, *Principal*

## Percussion

Thomas Blanchard, *Principal*  
Ronald Barnett

## Harp

Beth Robinson, *Principal*

# CONTRIBUTORS TO CHAUTAUQUA OPERA

(current as of June 28, 2016)

The Chautauqua Institution and the Chautauqua Opera would like to acknowledge the continuing generosity of The Norton and Richards families through the Ralph and Elizabeth Norton Philanthropic Trust, and the following major donors who have created endowment funds for opera, support the opera program through annual giving, and through major capital gifts:

## In Excess of \$500,000

The Barbara Baldwin Defrees Opera Fund  
and The Barbara B. Defrees Endowment Fund  
The Connolly Family Fund for Opera  
The Jane A. Gross Fund for Opera  
The Kay H. Logan Opera Fund

## \$250,000–\$499,999

The John A. and Emily McKnight Corry Fund for Opera  
The Richards Family Trust Fund for Opera

## \$100,000–\$249,999

A. Chase and Josephine B. Anderson  
John E. Anderson Opera Endowment  
The Peggy and Andy Anderson Family Fund for Opera  
The Chautauqua Opera Guild  
The Connolly Family Fund for Opera  
The Eleanor B. Franks Fund for Opera  
The Kay Frantz Israel Opera Endowment  
Ralph E. Miller and Paul E. Cawein Fund for Opera  
The Reverend Lloyd V. Moffett Opera Endowment Fund  
Hale and Judy Oliver  
Mrs. Bartlett Richards  
The Zemsky Endowment for Opera

## \$50,000–\$99,999

The Burden Staples Opera Fund  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Clingan  
Mrs. Robert W. Cornell  
First Family Fund  
Dr. And Mrs. Donald J. Furman  
General Electric Foundation  
The Groninger Family Fund for Opera  
The Margaret Clark Mercer Fund for Opera  
The Steve Z. and Mary G. Mitchell Family Fund  
The Robert G. and Lillian Vitanza Ney Family Opera Fund  
The Wadsworth Fund  
The Charles and Lois Weaver Fund for Opera

## \$25,000–\$49,999

The Cynthia Auerbach Memorial Fund for the Performing Arts  
The Mildred Lesenger Fund for Opera  
The Annette Pickens Malvin Memorial Fund for Opera  
Christopher S. and Sue H. Martin Opera Fund  
The Joseph A. and Anne T. Prezio Opera Endowment Fund  
The Rinehart Fund for Opera

## \$10,000–\$24,999

Bemus Endowment for Opera  
Dr. Fred R. and Helen A. Whaley Fund for Opera  
The Robert and Virginia Young Fund for Opera

## Annual Support

The Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation  
The New York State Council on the Arts

GENEVALIGHT OPERA  
GO  
conducted by James Blachly  
directed by Philip Lauriat  
Cantic Opera Sung in English  
TheSmith.org  
GenevaLightOpera.com  
Geneva Light Opera sponsored by American Landmark Festivals

Johann Strauss' die Fledermaus the Bat  
July 21 23 24  
Smith Opera House  
Geneva NY

Contributors to Chautauqua Opera, continued on reverse side.

The Chautauqua Opera Guild Board of Directors thanks the following members  
for their outstanding support of the 2016 Chautauqua Opera Season.

(current as of June 28, 2016)

**Archangel (\$1,000+)**

Jack Connolly and Peg Barrett  
John and Virginia DiPucci  
Jane A. Gross  
Nancy and Dick Langston  
Kay Logan  
Sue and Chris Martin  
Hale and Judy Oliver  
Reverend Richard and Joreta Speck  
Dr. Ralph G. and Mary Walton

**Angel (\$500-\$999)**

Drs. Gena and Gary Bedrosian  
June and Barry Dietrich  
Ted and Deborah First  
Arlene Gottlieb and Chaz Miller  
Patricia King  
Jeffrey and Nancy Leininger  
Eleanor Stirniman  
Kay Karlake White

**Benefactor (\$250-\$499)**

Stephen and Edith Benson  
Loretta E. Bower  
Paul E. Cawein  
Virginia H. Cox  
Carol McCarthy Duhme  
Anne and Randy Fox  
Paula and Lisa Gierszal  
Joe and Toni Goldfarb  
Susan Grelick and John Heffron  
Robert and Mary Ellen Ivers  
Dr. F. Palmer Lindblom  
Mary and Steve Mitchell  
Lynn and Rich Moschel  
Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney  
Sanford and Margery Nobel  
George and Melissa Orlov

Mary and Bob Pickens  
Carole and Robert Reeder  
Bartlett and Doris Richards  
Bill and Carol Schaal  
Nancy A. Seel  
Bethanne Snodgrass and Marianna  
Montrie  
Linda Steckley and Pete Weitzel  
Sue and Gary Tebor  
Adele M. Thomas Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Ralph and Pari Tuthill  
Angela Twist  
Linda K. Wadsworth  
Ann P. Winkelstein

**Sponsor (\$125-\$249)**

Shirley Adams and Steven Yarnell  
Tom and Kathy Clingan  
Mary and Richard Davis  
Jo Ann Deblinger  
Gregory S. Ferriss  
Judith and Al Goldman  
Penny Kurtz  
Robert and Nancy Kyler  
Andrea and Lloyd Miller  
Cynthia Norton  
John and Sue Ann Power  
Lucille K. Richardson  
Philip and Rachel Rogers  
Rabbi Samuel and Lynn Stahl  
Steve and Pat Telkins  
Nancy Waasdorp

**Member (\$50-\$124)**

Mark Altschuler  
William and Renee Andrews  
Anna Antemann

Carolyn Benton  
Deborah Biorn  
Beatrice Blumenthal  
Borg-Sundstrom Family  
Anne and John Burden  
Carolyn and Bill Byham  
Judith Claire and Robert VanEvery  
Mr. and Mrs. Sigo Falk  
Christopher H. Gibbs  
Marjorie Gingell  
Don and Kathleen Greenhouse  
Jane Hawthorne  
Catherine Jarjisian  
Jackie Katz and Edie Teibel  
Charles and Naomi Kaufman  
Herbert and Barbara Keyser  
Rich and Karin Lewis  
Rene'e S. Lipson  
John Lloyd  
John B. McKinnon  
Donald and Alyce Milks  
Marilyn and Casey Neuman  
Esther and John Northman  
Richard Osborne  
Barbara Rait  
Don and Patsy Rapp  
Rich and Martha Reitman  
Drs. Alice and Robert Rosenthal  
Enid Shames  
Jo-an M. Webb  
Elizabeth A. Welch and Stephen E.  
Glinick  
Burt and Sandra Zucker

**Junior Member**

Alexandra McKee  
Shannon McKee

[ciweb.org/opera](http://ciweb.org/opera)

 /chautopera  @ChautOpera

 @ChautauquaOpera

Chautauqua Institution is a non-profit organization, dependent upon your gifts to fulfill its mission.  
Gate tickets and other revenue cover only a portion of the cost of your Chautauqua experience.

**Chautauqua Institution**

PO Box 28  
Chautauqua, NY 14722  
[ciweb.org](http://ciweb.org)

