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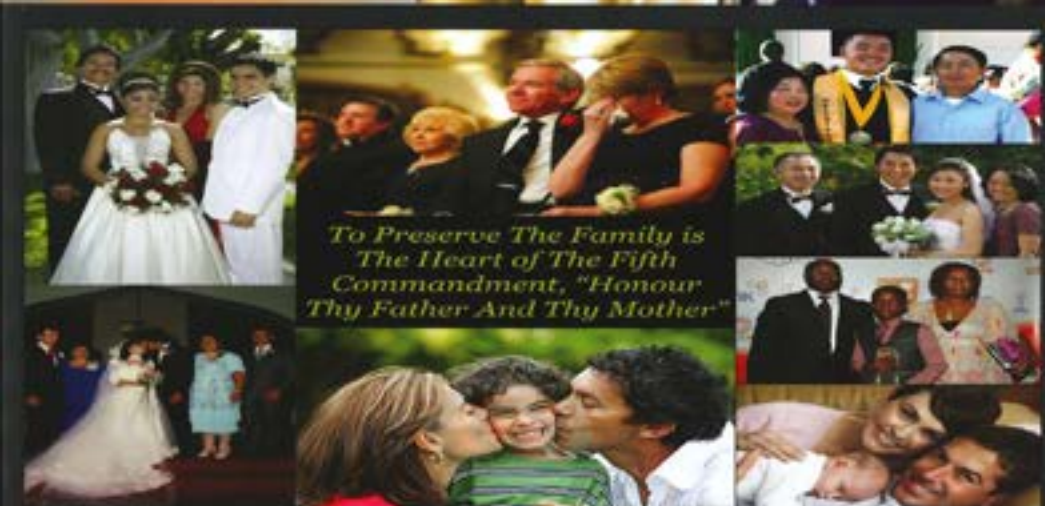
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April 28 & 30, 2017

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A THIRST FOR POWER,
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Mary Queen of Scots



The Fifth Commandment Fund production of

TOSCA

Music by **Giacomo Puccini**

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Based on the drama *La Tosca* by Victorien Sardou

Premiere: January 14, 1900, Teatro Costanzi, Rome, Italy

Saturday, April 30, 2016, Knoxville, Tennessee

Act 1: 2:30 and 4:00 at Church Street United Methodist Church

Act 2: 7:30 at Knoxville Convention Exhibition Center

Act 3: 9:40 at World's Fair Park Amphitheater

Music Director, Conductor, and Production Designer
Lighting Designer

Brian Salesky
John Horner

CAST (in order of vocal appearance)

Cesare Angelotti, *consul of the former Roman republic*
Sacristan of the Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle
Mario Cavaradossi, *painter and republican activist*
Floria Tosca, *opera diva*
Baron Scarpia, *Roman police chief*
Spoletta, *Roman police agent*
Sciarrone, *Roman policeman*
Shepherd Boy
Jailer
Sergeant

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Burt Rosevear

*Knoxville Opera debut

Supernumeraries

Peter Acly, Gregory Bonneville, Harry Collis, Leon Duquella,
William Howard, John Morton, Andrew Zimmerman

Knoxville Opera productions are made possible by deeply appreciated major grants from The Aslan Foundation, Fifth Commandment Fund, Tennessee Arts Commission, Pilot Flying J, Knox County, Regal Entertainment Group, City of Knoxville, Robert H. & Monica M. Cole Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts.

On the Road with Tosca...a Personal Note from Brian Salesky

I began my romance with *Tosca* as a child attending legendary performances of Puccini's masterpiece at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Since visiting *Tosca*'s three locations in Rome, it has been my quest to recreate the physical, emotional, and musical journey of the protagonists' final 16 hours. I believe April 30, 2016 will be the first time in history that anyone will experience the opera's (fictional) violent events of June 17/18, 1800 in three representational venues on one day along with the cast, chorus, and orchestra. Providing this journey for 1,400 people has presented both challenges and opportunities, and I hope you will approve of our choices, including the omission of amplification, regardless of each space's acoustics. I am grateful to Mayor Madeline Rogero, and the staffs of Church Street United Methodist Church, the Knoxville Convention Exhibition Center, and the Public Building Authority, whose generous cooperation has played a key role in making this production possible. I am also especially appreciative of Dr. and Mrs. G. Mark Cramolini's landmark sponsorship of this *Tosca* and thankful to all supporters of Knoxville Opera. It has been a joy to nurture this unique project from dream to reality and I sincerely hope your personal adventure today will be anything but ordinary!

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SYNOPSIS



Act I. Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle. Rome, June 17, 1800, Noon. Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner, enters the church to hide in his family's chapel. The sacristan assists the painter Cavaradossi who is there to work on a portrait of Mary Magdalene. The artist muses about his lover, opera diva Floria Tosca. When the sacristan leaves, Angelotti reveals himself to Cavaradossi, his friend and political ally. When Angelotti's story is interrupted by Tosca's arrival, he hides. Tosca suggests that Cavaradossi join her for a rendezvous at his villa after her performance that night. However, upon noticing the beautiful portrait, she recognizes the image as that of Angelotti's sister, marchesa Attavanti, and jealously suspects the worst. Cavaradossi denies any infidelity and she reluctantly departs. Angelotti reappears, and Cavaradossi plans his escape to the painter's villa. A cannon shot from the Sant'Angelo Castle warns that his escape has been discovered and the two flee. The sacristan and the choir celebrate the (false) news of Napoleon's defeat at Marengo but are interrupted by the entrance of Baron Scarpia, the police chief, who is searching for Angelotti. Tosca returns looking for Cavaradossi but finds Scarpia who uses the portrait and a discovered Attavanti fan to plant poisonous doubts into her mind concerning Cavaradossi's fidelity. While the magnificent *Te Deum* unfolds, the irreverent Scarpia vows to send Cavaradossi to his death so that he may possess Tosca.

Act II. Scarpia's apartment in the Farnese Palace, that night. Scarpia anticipates his conquest of Tosca and sends a note inviting her to join him after concluding her performance in the Palace. His agents, Spoletta and Sciarrone, bring in Cavaradossi while Tosca's performance is heard in the distance. Cavaradossi insists he knows nothing about Angelotti's location. Tosca arrives and Scarpia sends Cavaradossi off to be tortured for information. When she can no longer bear her lover's cries, to save his life she divulges Angelotti's hiding place. Cavaradossi is dragged in, discovers her betrayal, and that Napoleon has defeated the royalist forces. Exulting the victory, he is dragged away to the Sant'Angelo Castle for execution. Tosca pleads to save his life, and Scarpia agrees, on condition that she submit to his sexual pleasures. He orders a mock execution and writes out a passport for the lovers. As Scarpia advances to attack her, she stabs him to death.

Act III. On top of the Sant'Angelo Castle, the next morning at 4:00 a.m. Church bells ring the matins. A shepherd boy sings a song of unrequited love. Cavaradossi convinces a jailer to deliver a note to Tosca. When he starts writing a farewell letter he is overcome with grief. Tosca bursts in and explains the passport of safe-conduct, the murder of Scarpia, and the impending sham execution. They begin to dream of their future together. After the execution, the soldiers depart, and the horrified Tosca discovers the lifeless body of Cavaradossi. Spoletta enters with the soldiers, denouncing Tosca as Scarpia's murderer. With nothing to live for, she jumps from the battlements to her death.

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This marks Maestro Brian Salesky's 11th season as Knoxville Opera's Executive Director and Conductor. His administration has been marked by great artistic growth, a tremendous expansion of the company's Education/Outreach Program, and ten consecutive years of debt-free, in-the-black operations. He has conducted 60 performances, produced 31 operas and concerts, a Mostly Mozart Festival, 10 Rossini Festivals, 7 Knoxville Opera Goes to Church concerts, an ongoing African-American Voices Series, and appeared in 750 Education/Outreach programs including four in-school operas for over 35,000 students. His tenure has been highlighted by significant new company repertoire (*La Forza del Destino*, *The Girl of the Golden West*, *Mason*, *Mefistofele*, *Norma*, *I Puritani*) and the company debuts of many exciting artists

such as Joyce El-Khoury, Rachele Gilmore, Gaston Rivero, Noah Stewart, Daniel Sumegi, and Talise Trevigne, who have gone on to international success.

Mr. Salesky has enjoyed a versatile, international career as a conductor of symphonic and chamber orchestras, opera and operetta, ballet and modern dance, Broadway musicals and popular music. During his four decades in the performing arts, he has also engaged in a wide variety of work as a producer/manager of concerts, opera, television, radio, and videos, and has distinguished himself as an accompanist, music arranger, fund-raiser, educator, lecturer, author, and consultant. Mr. Salesky first won critical plaudits during his six-year tenure as a resident conductor and administrator with the NYC Opera. With the company in NYC and on tour in Los Angeles, Washington, and Mexico, his twenty-five-opera repertoire included the "Live From Lincoln Center" telecast of *La Cenerentola*. He also served as the director of the NYC Opera National Company, conducting *Carmen* and *La Traviata* in 45 cities. The conductor has also appeared with the opera companies of Barcelona, Sydney, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Dayton, Central City, and Montana. Maestro Salesky has performed with the leading symphony orchestras of Chicago, Madrid, Winnipeg, Peru, Denver, San Diego, Syracuse, the Kennedy Center, Grant Park (Chicago), Napa, South Bend, Greensboro, Utica, and Greeley, and the chamber of orchestras of Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Woodstock. In his native NYC, Mr. Salesky has served as Music Director for the Congress of Strings, the Jamaica Symphony Orchestra, the Broadway revival of *Man of La Mancha* (starring Raúl Juliá) and as Resident Conductor of the Tony Award production of *On Your Toes*. During his career he has conducted for legendary artists Catherine Malfitano, Renata Scottò, and Alfredo Kraus and has accompanied hundreds of singers including Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, Robert Merrill, Marcello Giordani, and Patrice Racette.

The Indiana University Phi Beta Kappa graduate's range of activities have included positions with the Colorado Symphony, Utica Symphony, American Guild of Musical Artists, Walt Disney Studios, Indiana University, Hunter College, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, and the NYC Performing Arts Education Advisory Commission. From 1996 to 2001 he served as Co-founder, Executive Producer, and fund-raiser for the Raúl Juliá Ending Hunger Fund.

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Keturah Stickann is a director and choreographer, living in Brooklyn, New York. Her work has been seen on five continents as well as on television through PBS' *Great Performances*.

Most recently she choreographed dance for Frederica von Stade in a production of Ricky Ian Gordon's *A Coffin in Egypt* for the American Songbook at Lincoln Center, and was the recipient of a Cal-IT grant (with video designer Peter Torpey) at UCSD to develop new performing

technology for a production of Anthony Davis' opera, *Lilith*. Upcoming for Ms. Stickann she will direct a new production of *La Traviata* at Chautauqua Opera, direct and choreograph a new production of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus & Euridice* for Vermont Opera Project, which will also travel to the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and direct and choreograph a double bill of *Seven Deadly Sins* and *Pagliacci* (also in collaboration with Peter Torpey) at Virginia Opera. Ms. Stickann's previous productions for Knoxville Opera include *Manon*, *La Traviata*, and *Il Trovatore*.



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Meet the Artists



KERRI MARCINKO (*Tosca*)

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Birthplace: Cleveland, Ohio
Foreign Opera and Festival: Greek National Opera, Festival Lyrique en Mer (France)
U.S. Opera: Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Nashville Opera, San Antonio Opera, Toledo Opera, Spokane Opera, Opera East Texas, Opera at Florham (NJ), Kyrenia Opera (NY), Teatro Grattaciolo (NY)
U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Richmond Symphony, Little Orchestra Society of New York, New England Symphonic Ensemble, Westfield Symphony, Helena Symphony, Missoula Symphony, Adrian Symphony, Crested Butte Music Festival (CO), Bellingham Music Festival (WA)



JONATHAN BURTON (*Mario Cavaradossi*)

Sponsored thanks to the generosity of Steve and Ann Bailey.

Birthplace: Portsmouth, Ohio
Foreign Opera: Royal Opera Muscat (Oman)
Foreign Orchestras: Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, Teatro la Fenice (Venice), Sinfonica de Galicia (Spain), Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra
U.S. Opera: Nashville Opera, Knoxville Opera (*Il Trovatore*), Sarasota Opera, Kentucky Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Tulsa Opera, Utah Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Shreveport Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Phoenix Metro Opera, Opera New Jersey, Dayton Opera, Opera Omaha, Des Moines Metro Opera, Annapolis Opera, Central City Opera, Lyric Opera Virginia, Opera Naples, Opera on the James
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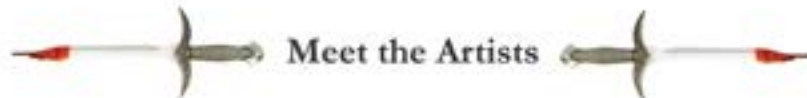


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SCOTT BEARDEN (*Scarpia*)

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Birthplace: Flint, Michigan

Foreign Opera: International Vocal Arts Institute (Tel Aviv)

U.S. Opera: San Francisco Opera, Opera Boston, Knoxville Opera (*Pagliacci, Otello, La Fanciulla del West, Hansel and Grete*), Opera New Jersey, Toledo Opera, Mississippi Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Opera Memphis, Opera San Jose, Opera Grand Rapids, Eugene Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, West Bay Opera, Mercury Opera, Rockland (NY), California Festival Opera
U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Monterey Symphony, Oakland East Bay Symphony, Midland Symphony, Symphony Silicon Valley, Tanglewood Music Festival, Caramoor Music Festival, Sanibel Music Festival, Mendocino Music Festival



IAN MCEUEN (*Spoletta*)

Sponsored thanks to the generosity of Lindsay and Jim McDonough.

Birthplace: Bethesda, Maryland

Foreign Opera: Opera on the Avalon (Newfoundland)

U.S. Opera: Washington National Opera, Nashville Opera, Arizona Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Glimmerglass Festival (NY), Aspen Opera
U.S. Orchestras: Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra, New York City Chamber Orchestra



GEOFFREY HOOS (*Sacristan, Sciarraone, Jailer*)

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Birthplace: Marlton, New Jersey

U.S. Opera: Sarasota Opera, Opera Las Vegas, Opera Libera (PA), Musica Raritana (NJ), Opera at Rutgers (NJ), St. Joseph's University Opera (PA)
U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Bard Summerscapes Music Festival (NY), The Lyric Orchestra (FL), Saint Joseph's University Orchestra (PA), Rutgers Symphony Orchestra (NJ)

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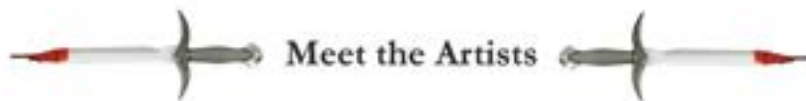
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Meet the Artists



PETER JOHNSON (*Angelotti*)

Birthplace: Saint James, Minnesota
U.S. Opera: Nashville Opera, Knoxville Opera (*La Fanciulla del West, H.M.S. Pinafore, Carmen*), Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera on the James, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, Sin City Opera (NV), Opera Fayetteville, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre
U.S. Orchestra: Concordia College Orchestra (MN)
U.S. Festivals: Brevard Music Center (NC), Pine Mountain Music Festival (MI)



KACIE KENTON (*Shepherd Boy*)

Birthplace: San Diego, California
U.S. Opera: University of Tennessee Opera Theatre, Wheaton College Opera Music Theater
U.S. Orchestras: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, University of Tennessee Symphony Orchestra, Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra

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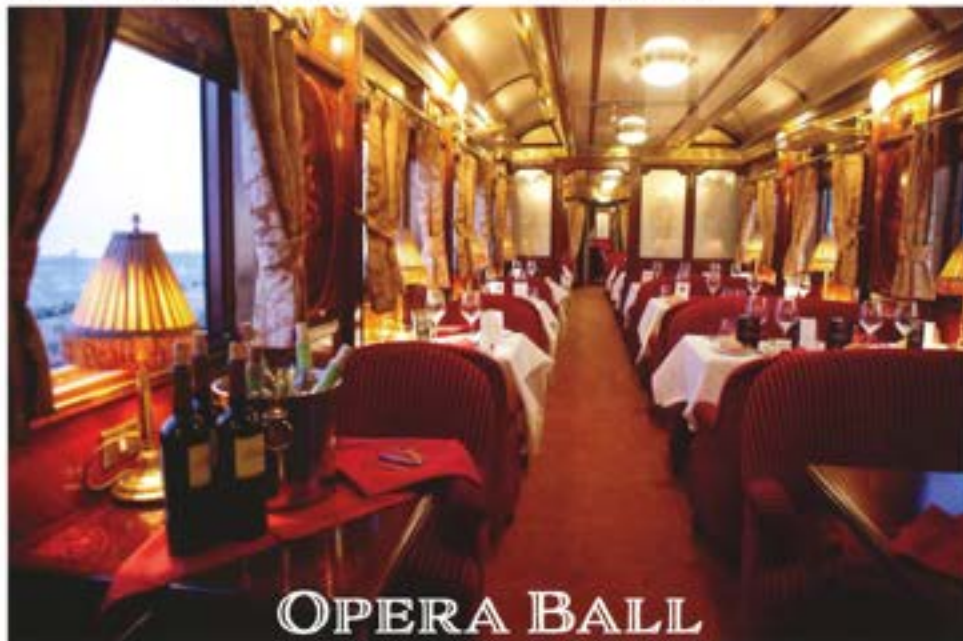
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