

Romeo and Juliet

Charles Gounod

February 14 & 16, 2020

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Roméo et Juliette

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Music by Charles Gounod

Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré

Based on The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet (1597) by William Shakespeare
First performance: April 27, 1867, Théâtre-Lyrique Impérial du Châtelet, Paris

Friday, February 14, 2020 at 7:30 and Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 2:30

Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville, Tennessee

Conductor

Brian Salesky

Stage Director

Laura Alley*

Lighting Designer

John Horner

Combat Director

Charles R. Miller

Cast in order of vocal appearance

Tybalt, Juliet's cousin

Wayd Odle

Count Paris, intended husband to Juliet

Scott Greer*

Lord Capulet

Maurice Hendricks*

Juliet, daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet

Yulan Piao*

Mercutio, Romeo's friend

Brian James Myer*

Romeo, son of Lord and Lady Montague

Mackenzie Whitney*

Gertrude, Juliet's nurse

Aubrey Odle*

Gregorio, Lord Capulet's servant

Derek James Stull

Friar Laurence, a Franciscan

Andrew Wentzel

Stephano, Romeo's page

Cornelia Lotito*

Benvolio, Romeo's cousin

Timothy Pope*

The Prince of Verona

Matthew Huckaba

Friar John, a Franciscan

Matthew Huckaba

Actors (Courtesy of Clarence Brown Theatre Company)

Narrator/Friar Laurence

Calvin MacLean*

Romeo

Brady Moldrup*

Juliet

Callie Bacon*

Supernumeraries

Lady Capulet Laura Schoonmaker

Greg Bonneville

Leon Duquella

T.C. Hicks

Andy Zimmerman

There will be one intermission during this two and one-half hour performance

The public is invited to greet the cast following the Sunday performance at
Bravo! Cucina Italiana, 106 Major Reynolds Pl. on Bearden Hill (865-584-5510).

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SYNOPSIS

Prologue: Verona, Italy during the 14th Century.

Shakespeare's famed "Greek Chorus" explains the ancient feud between the Montagues and the Capulets and the fate of their children, Romeo and Juliet.

Act I; Scene 1: A masked ball at the Capulet palace.

Juliet's arrival at her birthday party is eagerly awaited by her cousin Tybalt and her suitor Count Paris. After being presented by her father, she rhapsodizes on her joy. Romeo and other Montagues enter masked and hide awaiting the exit of Capulet and his guests. Romeo is uneasy about a dream he had the prior night and his friend Mercutio teases him with a song about Queen Mab, the mistress of dreams. Suddenly Juliet returns, waltzing and singing of the freedom of youth. She and Romeo are immediately attracted to each other. Tybalt returns just as Juliet tells her name to Romeo, who rushes off. Tybalt angrily identifies the intruder as a Montague, but Juliet's father restrains him, ordering the party to continue.

Act I; Scene 2: Later that night outside the Capulet palace.

Romeo enters the garden, hoping to see Juliet. When she steps forth on her balcony lamenting her attraction to an enemy of her family, Romeo emerges from the shadows. The two ecstatically pledge their love to one another.

Act I; Scene 3: Daybreak the following morning in Friar Laurence's cell.

Romeo appears, followed by Juliet and her nurse, Gertrude. The friar marries the couple in the hope that their union will end their families' feud.

Act II; Scene 1: Street outside the Capulet palace.

Romeo's page, Stephano, sings a song mocking the Capulets, which provokes a fight with Gregorio and the Capulets. Mercutio arrives to defend Stephano and is quickly challenged by Tybalt. Romeo attempts to make peace, which provokes Mercutio into dueling in defense of the Montague name. When his friend is slain, Romeo is angered into revenge, in turn killing Tybalt. The Prince of Verona stops the bloodshed and banishes Romeo from Verona.

Act II; Scene 2: At dawn the following morning in Juliet's bedroom.

The lovers exchange words of adoration before Romeo reluctantly leaves for exile. Capulet and Friar Laurence greet Juliet with news that she is to wed Count Paris that very day. The friar gives her a sleeping potion that will make her appear to be dead and promises that she will wake with Romeo at her side.

Act II; Scene 3: A street in Verona later that day.

Friar John tells Friar Laurence that the letter meant to inform Romeo of the plan to fake Juliet's death was not delivered.

Act II; Scene 4: The Capulet tomb.

Romeo, in deep despair believing Juliet to be dead, drinks poison to end his life. When Juliet awakens the two celebrate their reunion, but the deadly poison soon takes its effect on Romeo. Realizing that Romeo's death is imminent, Juliet stabs herself with his dagger and the two pray for God's forgiveness with their last breath.



Dr. Sharon Lord*

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In 2020, she is honoring her Indiana University colleague

K.O. Executive and Artistic Director







Maestro Brian Salesky



SALESKY'S MAJOR KNOXVILLE OPERA ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

 **As Executive Director**, while obtaining tremendous donor support and managing the Opera's budget with an iron fist, he has **created 15 consecutive years of debt-free operations** while building an **operational reserve of over 1 million dollars**.

Maestro Salesky has also:

-  Produced **39 operas** and **10 concerts**, including a Mostly Mozart Festival
-  Produced **14 Rossini Festivals**—Knoxville's largest street festival
-  Produced **12 inspiring Knoxville Opera Goes To Church** concerts
-  Appeared in over **1,000 continuously expanding Education/Community Engagement programs**, reaching more than **250,000 students!!!**
-  Created an ongoing **African-American Voices** series
-  Produced **9 in-school opera productions**

* Website: drsharonlord.com



This marks Maestro **BRIAN SALESKY**'s 15TH season as Knoxville Opera's Executive and Artistic Director. His administration has been marked by great artistic growth, a tremendous expansion of the company's Education/Community Engagement Program, and 15 consecutive years of debt-free, in-the-black operations. His tenure has been highlighted by significant new company repertoire (*La Forza del Destino*, *The Girl of the Golden West*, *Manon*, *Mefistofele*, *Norma*, *I Puritani*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Harriet Tubman*) a unique three-venue *Tosca*, an on-site production of *Cavalleria Rusticana* at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the company debuts of many exciting artists such as Jon Burton, Catherine Daniel, Joyce El-Khoury, Rachele Gilmore, 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 50 years 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 of 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 major 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 Scotto, and Alfredo Kraus and has accompanied hundreds of singers including Joan Sutherland, Richard Tucker, Sherrill Milnes, Robert Merrill, and Carlo Bergonzi.

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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LAURA ALLEY (Stage Director)

Laura Alley has a vast repertoire of traditional and contemporary operas which she has directed throughout the United States and abroad. Highlights include the European premiere of *The Ghosts of Versailles* in Hannover, Germany, and the American premieres of *Kinkakuji* and *The Dreyfus Affair* for the New York City Opera. Among the major opera companies for which she has directed most of the standard repertoire are those in New York City, Syracuse, Kansas City, San Francisco, Austin, Cleveland, Chautauqua, Connecticut, New Orleans, El Paso, Dayton, Anchorage, and Binghamton (NY).

Ms. Alley has directed productions and given opera workshops/master classes at Manhattan School of Music, Indiana University, Louisiana State University, the Kansas City Conservatory, Temple University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Converse College, Rutgers University, New York University and the University of Georgia. Ms. Alley was on the faculty of Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance program from its inception directing traditional repertoire for young artists. As a member of the opera faculty of the Mannes College of Music she directed over twenty productions in the traditional and contemporary repertoire ranging from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* to Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

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Meet the Artists



YULAN PIAO (*Juliet*)

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Foreign Opera: Heebok Ahn Opera (South Korea),
Hansei University Opera (South Korea)

U.S. Opera: New Jersey Association of
Verismo Opera, New Rochelle Opera, Empire
Opera, Manhattan School of Music Opera



MACKENZIE WHITNEY (*Romeo*)

*Sponsored thanks to the generosity of
Joe Sullivan*

Birthplace: Janesville, Iowa

U.S. Opera: San Diego Opera, Madison Opera,
Utah Opera, Pensacola Opera, Annapolis Opera,
Intermountain Opera, Academy of Vocal Arts Opera

U.S. Orchestras and Festival: Madison Symphony,
Great Falls Symphony, Rapides Symphony, Lakes Area
Music Festival

Website: www.ada-artists.com



BRIAN JAMES MYER (*Mercutio*)

*Sponsored thanks to the generosity of
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Birthplace: Tarzana, California

U.S. Opera: New York City Opera, Florida Grand
Opera, Sarasota Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Opera
Las Vegas, Opera Orlando, Opera Naples, Opera San
Jose, Chautauqua Opera

U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Hawaii Symphony,
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ANDREW WENTZEL (*Friar Laurence*)

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Birthplace: Mishawaka, Indiana

Foreign Opera: Spoleto Festival (Italy), Edmonton
Opera, Calgary Opera

Foreign Orchestras: Tokyo Symphony,
L'Orchestre de Montréal, Jerusalem Philharmonic,
National Orchestra of India

U.S. Opera: Knoxville Opera (*Don Giovanni, La Cenerentola, La Bohème, La Forza del Destino, Lucia di Lammermoor, Roméo et Juliette, H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Gianni Schicchi*), Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, San Diego Opera, New York City Opera, St. Louis Opera, Minnesota Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Columbus Opera, Boston Lyric Opera

U.S. Orchestras and Festivals: Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, National Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Memphis Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony, Pensacola Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Pacific Symphony; Berkshire Choral Festival, Choral Arts Society (D.C.), Virginia Arts Festival



CORNELIA LOTITO (*Stephano*)

Birthplace: Long Valley, New Jersey

U.S. Opera: Light Opera of New Jersey, Opera
Theatre of Montclair, Montclair State University
Opera

U.S. Orchestras: New Jersey Symphony, Montclair
State University Chamber Ensemble Orchestra



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WAYD ODLE (*Tybalt*)

Birthplace: Papillion, Nebraska

U.S. Opera: Knoxville Opera (*Gianni Schicchi, Lucia di Lammermoor*), Utah Opera, Utah Lyric Opera, Brigham Young University Opera Theatre, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre

U.S. Orchestras and Festival: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Utah Philharmonic Orchestra, Brigham Young University Chamber Orchestra, Atlantic Music Festival

Website: www.waydodle.com



AUBREY ODLE (*Gertrude*)

Birthplace: Portland, Oregon

U.S. Opera: Utah Festival Opera, Utah Lyric Opera, Lyrical Opera Theatre, Brigham Young University Opera Theatre, Marble City Opera

U.S. Orchestras and Festival: Brigham Young University Philharmonic, Utah Valley Symphony, Atlantic Music Festival

Website: www.aubreyodle.com



MAURICE HENDRICKS (*Lord Capulet*)

Birthplace: Knoxville, Tennessee

U.S. Opera: Knoxville Opera, Converse Opera, Glow Lyric Theatre, Marble City Opera, Carson-Newman Lyric Theatre, Spartanburg Repertory

U.S. Orchestras: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Spartanburg Philharmonic

Website: www.mauricehendricks.com



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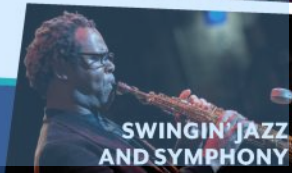
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An advertisement for the musical 'A Bronx Tale' at the Tennessee Theatre. The background is a photograph of a green metal wall with graffiti. On the left, a sign reads 'JERSEY BOYS meets WEST SIDE STORY' with 'AM NEW YORK' below it. In the center, the title 'A BRONX TALE' is written in large, yellow, 3D block letters. To the right of the title, it says 'BROADWAY'S NEW HIT MUSICAL'. At the top, a red banner reads 'The New York Times CRITICS' PICK'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS START AT \$44.00!' and 'APRIL 3 - 5 BROADWAY AT THE TENNESSEE THEATRE'. In the bottom right corner, it says 'PRESENTED BY KNOXVILLE Knoxville Theatres'. At the very bottom, it says 'TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE TENNESSEE THEATRE BOX OFFICE, TICKETMASTER.COM, AND BY PHONE.' followed by the 'a/c' logo.

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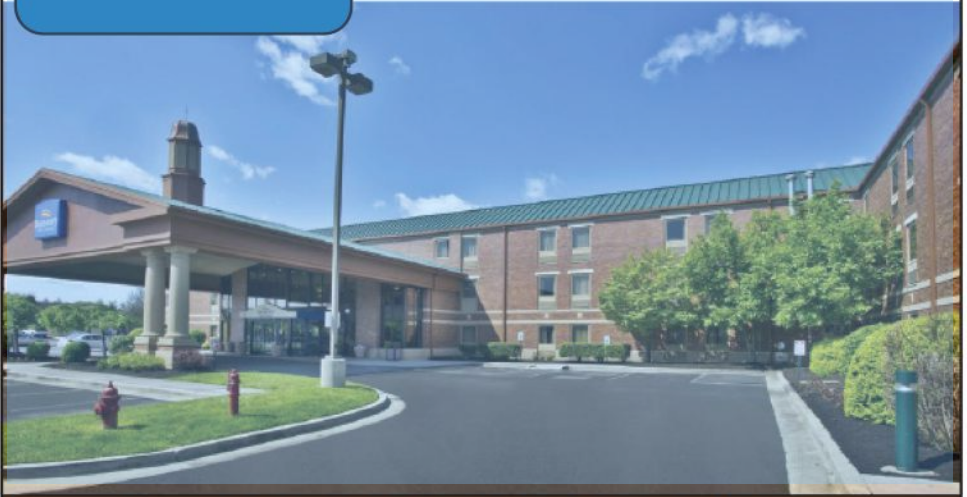




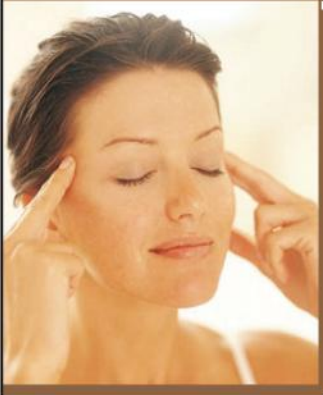
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Membership starts at \$40 and is a great way to get involved.

Visit knoxvilleopera.com/kog for more information on how you can join.



Upcoming Guild Events

March 29

Opera Up Close High Tea
at The Square Room

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May 3

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"A Hot Night in Havana"
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