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BARN OPERA partners with Southern Vermont Arts Center and Highland Center for the Arts to become Opera Vermont - with the mission being “All of opera, for all of Vermont.”

**Introductory concert and inaugural
2024 season announcement**

September 14 & 15, 2023

**Highland Center for Arts (Greensboro)
Southern VT Arts Center (Manchester)**

**Tickets and information at
www.operavermont.com/tickets**

Brandon’s opera company, BARN OPERA, is answering the call from across the state for more live, quality, operatic performance, by partnering with theatrical venues across the state, to create Opera Vermont - with the goal being, all of opera for all of Vermont.

BARN OPERA is thrilled to partner with the Southern Vermont Arts Center (Manchester, Vermont) as well as the Highland Center for the Performing Arts (Greensboro) to provide Opera Vermont’s inaugural season, located in each of the partner theatrical venues, including the BARN OPERA house.

The goal for this expansion of BARN OPERA is to ideally, within 3 years, provide an opportunity for each Vermonter, within each calendar year, to be within 30 minutes of a live operatic performance, as well as to provide educational opportunities to students across Vermont. To achieve this goal, we are constantly seeking venue partners from around the state to join Opera Vermont.

To announce this expansion, and to introduce the Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA ethos and artistic team to the Greensboro and Manchester audiences, Opera Vermont will be producing a pastiche concert of opera and musical theatre, with a meet and greet with the artists immediately following the concerts. The artists performing will be Artistic, Music, and Associate directors of Opera Vermont (Joshua Collier, Cailin Marcel Manson, and Nicholas Tocci) as well as Vermont-based soprano Kyra Miller-Himmelbaum. Newcomer to the Opera Vermont family is soprano Kathleen Echols Crumbacher, who was the soprano who sang Mimi in BARN OPERA’s international training program for emerging artists, Opera al Mare. All five of these vocalists will be led from the piano by BARN OPERA’s principal pianist, Claire Black.

This concert will officially launch Opera Vermont, and announce its 2024 inaugural season.

Beginning in February, at the Highland Center for the Arts, Opera Vermont will celebrate the centennial of Giacomo Puccini's death by producing the production that launched the BARN OPERA House in 2021, *Tosca*. There will be 2 performances of *Tosca*, February 16 & 17, 2024 and tickets will be available at the Highland Center box office as of September 14, immediately following the introductory pastiche concert. Come to Greensboro this February and heat up the winter with the passion and fire of this romantic thriller, filled with drama, tragedy, romance, and of course, all the passionate arias and music that you could want.

In May, at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, Opera Vermont will produce the Verdian masterpiece, *Rigoletto*, for the first time in the state's history. Italian superstar soprano, Scilla Cristiano will make her American debut as the tragic heroine Gilda, and Nicholas Tocci will make his role debut as her father, the court jester, *Rigoletto*. Tickets for this incredible, history-making performance will be available at the Southern Vermont Arts Center box office on October 1, 2023.

In September 2024, Opera Vermont will formally celebrate the centennial of Giacomo Puccini's death with a black-tie gala evening featuring arias and scenes from his most famous operas: *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *La Boheme*, *Turandot*, and even some of the rarely heard works such as *Edgar*, *Le Villi*, *Manon Lescaut*, and others. With much of the Puccinian repertoire too big to produce in the BARN OPERA house, this will be a great opportunity to hear this repertoire in the acoustic brilliance of arguably the best acoustic barn in New England. Tickets will go on sale at the BARN OPERA House's online box office in January 2024.

Closing out the 2024 season is the world-premiere performance of William Zeffiro's "Truman and Nancy." Based on the graphic novel "Capote in Kansas" by Marvel comic artist, Ande Parks, in the opera we consider Truman Capote's process of creating the masterpiece "In Cold Blood" and explore what would have happened if Capote had met the spirit of Nancy Clutter in the process of his writing. Both the composer as well as Mr. Parks will be in attendance, and Mr. Parks has offered a lecture on the creation of the graphic novel on the evening of the second performance. Tickets will go on sale at the BARN OPERA House's online box office in March 2024.

As always, BARN OPERA/Opera Vermont will be producing Amahl & the Night Visitors again at the Salisbury Congregational Church (Salisbury, VT) in the beginning of December, as well as a New Years Eve performance/gala to be announced later in the fall 2023.

BARN OPERA has been based in Brandon, and has primarily kept its operations to the Rutland county area for the last 5 years, but with this expansion, Opera Vermont is looking for dedicated opera-lovers around the state to join the cause and help bring opera to the people with potential show/season sponsors, board members, hospitality volunteers, and just opera-lovers who want to spread the good news about Opera Vermont.

Net proceeds from this benefit event will be used to support Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA's future artistic endeavors, as well as furthering the goal of Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA to provide opportunities for the youth of Vermont to achieve artistic development without socio-economic division.

All donations to Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA are tax-deductible, as permitted by law.

To learn more about this event or Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA, contact Tricia Welch, Executive Director of BARN OPERA via email at welch@barnopera.com or Joshua Collier, Artistic Director of BARN OPERA via email at collier@barnopera.com

BARN OPERA INC. is a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Organization established with a mission to enrich the community's experience by providing access to the operatic medium and to inspire people of all ages, cultures, and economic backgrounds to appreciate the arts and learning, through high-quality performances and educational programs.

Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA is a proud professional company member of Opera America, and supported in part by grants from the Vermont Arts Council and others. Contact us to find out how you can help support your Opera Vermont/BARN OPERA.

(Opera Vermont is a registered business name of BARN OPERA and can accept donations to either or both names in the form of cash, check, electronic donation, or stock & security transfer.)

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