

# Detroit Opera

"I chose to set the opera in a world that resembles a contemporary America. Images of football teams, war, bars, massive churches with neon signs fill our landscape. Faust is a tech genius millionaire, a man who has it all, who has accumulated information and has shaped how the world thinks and moves. And yet, he feels empty."

Director Lileana Blain-Cruz

## Detroit Opera Presents *Faust* November 12, 18 and 20

[Buy](#) tickets to *Faust*



Detroit Opera's season presents *Faust* on November 12, 18 and 20. *Faust* is one of history's greatest operas – the quintessential "deal with the devil" that's resonated with audiences since its premiere in 1859.

Tony-nominated and Lincoln Center Theatre's resident director Lileana Blain-Cruz first staged this production at Opera Omaha, which features Gounod's original music and libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carre for the Théâtre Lyrique. The show is performed in French with English supertitles.

*Faust* stars Zach Borichevsky as Faust, Robert Pomakov as Méphistophélès, Amina Edris as Marguerite, Babatunde Akinboboye as Valentin, Jenny Anne Flory as Siébel, Ben Reisinger as Wagner and Victoria Livengood as Dame Marthe. Reisinger is a Detroit Opera Resident Artist.

*Faust* is the classic deal with the devil, updated for modern times, together with restored music unheard for nearly 150 years. Faust strikes a deal for a second chance for youth, vitality, and love with disastrous consequences for him and those around him. A timeless story, this acclaimed production comes to the Detroit Opera House with a modern lens: Faust, part of the 1%, is tantalized with the one thing his money cannot buy.

“Gounod, in this opera of numbers, created a clear dramatic story with people who experience journeys of passion to the point of transcendence,” says Blain-Cruz. “The desire to flesh out these characters is what also makes me so thrilled that we did the first version of this opera at Opera Omaha, and now we do it again at Detroit Opera, with dialogue and additional music that add to the complexity of the characters and their relationships.”

“Director Lileana Blain-Cruz and choreographer Raja Feather Kelly respond to Gounod’s authentic brilliance with a production that is both modern and archetypal,” said Yuval Sharon, Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director at Detroit Opera. “They remind us that Goethe’s paean to the “eternal feminine” begins with the character of Marguerite, the true centerpiece of this production.”

In their April 2019 review that called *Faust* a “heavenly debut,” the [Omaha World Herald](#) commented, “Rather than tell a story of heroes and villains, Blain-Cruz managed to show the audience human beings with rare honesty.”

Originally from New York City and Miami, Lileana Blain-Cruz’s recent projects include: *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Lincoln Center), *Dreaming Zenzile* (St. Louis Rep, McCarter Theatre, upcoming: NYTW / National Black Theatre); *Marys Seacole* (LCT3, Obie Award); Wayne Shorter and esperanza spalding’s ...(*Iphigenia*) (MASS MoCA, Arts Emerson, The Kennedy Center); *Hansel and Gretel* (a film for Houston Grand Opera); *Afrofemonomy* (PSNY); *Anatomy of a Suicide* (Atlantic Theater Company); She is currently the resident director of Lincoln Center Theater. Blain-Cruz is a graduate of Princeton and received her MFA in directing from the Yale School of Drama.

Upcoming productions at Detroit Opera during the 2022-23 season include: a revival of Tazewell Thompson's production of *Xerxes* (March 4–12), directed by James Blaszko and conducted by Dame Jane Glover; and *Ainadamar* (April 8–16), appearing in a co-production with Opera Ventures, Scottish National Opera, The Metropolitan Opera, and the Welsh National Opera directed by Deborah Colker and conducted by Paolo Bortolameo.

Performances of *Faust* will be held Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 20 at 2:30 p.m. Run time for the production is approximately 3 hours and 10 minutes with two intermissions. Tickets for *Faust* are available online at [DetroitOpera.org](http://DetroitOpera.org) and start at \$29. Orders for groups of 10 or more may be placed by emailing [groupsales@detroitopera.org](mailto:groupsales@detroitopera.org). Subscriptions for the 2022-23 season can also be purchased online or by calling 313-237-7464.

**FAUST**

November 12, 18, & 20, 2022  
Detroit Opera House  
Detroit, MI

Music by Charles Gounod  
Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carre  
Directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz  
Conducted by Valerio Galli  
Movement Directed by Raja Feather Kelly  
Set Designed by Adam Rigg  
Costumes Designed by Kaye Voyce  
Co-produced with Opera Omaha

with

Zach Borichevsky, Faust  
Robert Pomakov, Mephistopheles  
Amina Edris, Marguerite  
Babatunde Akinboboye, Valentin  
Jenny Anne Flory, Siebel  
Ben Reisinger, Wagner  
Victoria Livengood, Dame Marthe

*Detroit Opera's 2022-23 season is sponsored by the William Davidson Foundation.*

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