

Detroit Opera Resident Artists to kick off Michigan's Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival on June 11



Detroit Opera's 2022–23 Resident Artists (clockwise from top):
Gabrielle Barkidjija, Melanie Spector, Leo Williams, Ben Reisinger, Elizabeth Polese

DETROIT, May 25, 2023—On June 11, Detroit Opera's 2022–23 Resident Artists, the opera stars of tomorrow, will perform in a collaborative chamber performance of Act I of **Mozart's *Così fan tutte*** to open the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival's 30th season. The five Resident Artists—sopranos **Melanie Spector** and **Elizabeth Polese**, mezzo-soprano **Gabrielle Barkidjija**, tenor **Leo Williams**, and baritone **Ben Reisinger**—will be joined by bass-baritone **Nathan Stark** and **Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings**. Francesco Milioto will conduct the concert at Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills, Michigan. The program will include Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467 with pianist Alessio Bax as soloist, and the Abeo Quartet and Hesper Quartet will also perform.

Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is a comic opera that explores themes of love, fidelity, and the nature of human relationships. First performed in Vienna in 1790, it is known for its beautiful music, intricate ensembles, and witty libretto. Despite its controversial subject matter at the time of its premiere—a plot that revolves around two young men disguising themselves to seduce each other's girlfriends, in order to prove that all women are by nature unfaithful—the work has become one of Mozart's most popular and enduring operas. Centuries later, *Così fan tutte* continues to speak to modern audiences, prompting us to consider the nature of our relationships.

The **Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival**, now in its 30th season, runs through June 24. The festival will feature performances this year by more than 30 classical musicians throughout metro Detroit, with the theme "Turning Points." The theme reflects a sense of renewed energy and optimism many people feel as life begins to resume after the pandemic, focusing on pivotal creators, pieces and performers who have influenced the course of classical music. The festival's *Così fan tutte* performance also represents a professional turning point for each of the five singers in the 2022–23 **Detroit Opera Resident Artist Program**: the final public concert during their yearlong Detroit residencies before they move onto the next stages of their professional careers.

CONCERT DETAILS

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings
Shouse Institute Members
Alessio Bax, piano
Francesco Milioto, conductor

Mozart: *Così fan tutte*, Act I

Despina: Melanie Spector, soprano
Fiordiligi: Elizabeth Polese, soprano
Dorabella: Gabrielle Barkidjija, mezzo-soprano
Ferrando: Leo Williams, tenor
Guglielmo: Ben Reisinger, baritone
Don Alfonso: Nathan Stark, bass-baritone
Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings
Conductor: Francesco Milioto

When: Sunday, June 11, 5pm

Where: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 West Thirteen Mile Rd., Beverly Hills, Michigan

Tickets: Visit <https://greatlakeschambermusicfestival.org/performances> or call 248-559-2097

About the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival

The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival was born in 1994 of a remarkable relationship between religious and cultural institutions. A secular event, the festival is sponsored by three religious institutions (representing Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths) and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, a prominent musical ensemble that is an administrative partner for the festival. Traditionally, for two weeks each June, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival presents more

than 20 concerts in southeastern Michigan. Many of these performances occur in the venues of the festival's sponsors: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Temple Beth El and Kirk in the Hills.

This summer's festival welcomes celebrated artists who have pioneered today's chamber music scene, including the Emerson String Quartet, who will perform three concerts during their farewell tour, and Alessio Bax, who returns to the festival with a series of piano performances.

About Detroit Opera

Detroit Opera (formerly Michigan Opera Theatre), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, aspires to influence the future of opera and dance with a goal of invigorating audiences through new and re-imagined productions, relevant to current times. It is creating an ambitious standard for American opera and dance that emphasizes community, accessibility, artistic risk-taking, and collaboration. Founded in 1971 by the late Dr. David DiChiera, Detroit Opera is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown; Yuval Sharon, Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director; Associate Artistic Director Christine Goerke; Music Director Roberto Kalb; and Board Chairman Ethan Davidson. For more information, visit www.detroitopera.org. Follow the company on Facebook and Instagram (@DetroitOpera), LinkedIn (Detroit Opera), and Twitter (@DetOperaHouse).

About the Detroit Opera Resident Artist Program

Sopranos Melanie Spector and Elizabeth Polese; mezzo-soprano Gabrielle Barkidjija; tenor Leo Williams, and baritone Ben Reisinger are the inaugural singers in the Detroit Opera Resident Artist Program. Led by Nathalie Doucet, Head of Music and Director of the Resident Artist Program, and Christine Goerke, Detroit Opera's Associate Artistic Director, the program offers individualized training to cater to the unique needs of each artist. From September to June, the Resident Artists undergo intensive training, including assignments in Detroit Opera mainstage productions, guest artist residencies, diction coaching, and role preparation. They also have the opportunity to perform in recitals and concerts with various organizations in and around Detroit. The program builds on the foundations of the Studio Artist program founded in 2015 by Dr. David DiChiera. Detroit Opera serves as a nurturing home for these rising stars, supporting and helping them achieve their full potential in the highly competitive industry. Resident Artists are also actively engaged with the community, forging direct ties to Detroit through recitals, concerts, and collaborations with local nonprofit organizations, businesses, and institutions. Photos of the 2022-23 Resident Artists can be found [here](#). For more information about this year's Resident Artists, visit <https://detroitopera.org/detroit-opera-resident-artists/>

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