

# THE SARASOTA OPERA

*Four Great Opera Productions*

Wednesday, March 13th through Saturday, March 16th



*Ca' d'Zan, Ringling Museum*

*"Where else can one spend the morning reveling in the beauty of works by Rubens, Hals and Botticelli and the afternoon lolling on a powdery white sand beach? That is the lure of Sarasota, where John and Mable Ringling, the circus impresario and his wife, set the stage for a vibrant cultural life."*

NY Times

Florida's innovative **Sarasota Opera** now anticipating its **sixty-fourth season**, has established itself as one of our most imaginative and successful regional companies. Completely renovated with up-to-date technical facilities, the **Mediterranean Revival Opera House** remains an intimate and charming venue listed in our National Historic Registry as an authentic Florida landmark. For more than fifteen years, our repeat travelers have recognized the high quality of the Sarasota Opera and continue to choose March as the ideal time for a winter escape to Florida. The glorious coastal sands of Sarasota's Key islands continue unbroken for several miles and are justifiably ranked by National Geographic magazine as one of the finest beaches in the world.

The Sarasota Opera's outstanding productions are due to the leadership of Artistic Director **Victor DeRenzi**, celebrating his 41st Anniversary Season this year with **four major productions**. In contrast to the offensive 'Euro-trash' that has infiltrated many of the

world's leading houses, we can all be grateful that *the Sarasota Opera's traditional stagings continue to honor the values envisioned by the composers.*

This year's repertoire will include four works from revered 18th – 19th century composers. In chronological order, they will be Franz Joseph Haydn's rarity, **L'Infedeltà Delusa ('Deceit Outwitted')** (1773); Gaetano Donizetti's lyric tragedy, **Lucia di Lammermoor** (1835); Giuseppe Verdi's 'middle period' melodrama, **Luisa Miller** (1849); and Georges Bizet's French operatic landmark, **Carmen** (1875); There are very few companies in the U.S. where opera aficionados can indulge in the luxury of different performances of such high quality on four successive days.

**IMPORTANT: We urge you to make your air reservations AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to avoid inflated high season airfares. In addition, our Tour was completely SOLD-OUT last year.**

*Victor DeRenzi & Stephanie Sundine*

*Sarasota Opera House*

Our accommodations are for **four nights** at the **Hyatt Regency Sarasota**. Conveniently located, the Hyatt is fully equipped with an outdoor swimming pool and health club, **Scalini Restaurant** dining facilities, and room service from 6:00 am until midnight.

Early Wednesday evening, March 13th, a pre-theatre **dinner** is planned at the **Bijou Café**. Directly across the street





from the Opera House, the Bijou is well known as the best restaurant in town.

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday, our first opera will be **Carmen**. Georges Bizet's peerless masterwork captures the aura of the eponymous 1845 novel by Prosper Mérimée with rousing orchestration depicting the Spanish setting of Seville combined with the soaring vocalism which characterized French operatic tradition. Don José's *Flower Song*, Carmen's *Habanera* and *Seguidilla*, Escamillo's macho *Toreador Song*, and Micaela's poignant *Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante* are among the highlights. *Sung in French with English titles. Casts and production credits have not yet been announced for any of our performances.*

Thursday morning, March 14th, we will visit the priceless galleries of the **Ringling Museum of Art**. The large eclectic collection includes 17th century Italian paintings, tapestries and cartoons by Peter Paul Rubens, and other masterworks from the Dutch, Flemish and Spanish Baroque schools. The spacious



Ringling Museum gallery; courtyard



Renaissance courtyard is flanked by full-size sculptural reproductions, including a bronze cast of Michelangelo's *David*.

At 7:30 pm on Thursday evening, we will return to the Opera House for Giuseppe Verdi's **Luisa Miller**. Not seen in Sarasota since 1999, 'Luisa Miller' was Verdi's 14th opera and marks the beginning of what is known as his

'middle period'. With a plethora of melodic arias and duets, the score introduces Verdi's concern with domestic tragedy, leading soon thereafter to 'La Traviata' and 'Rigoletto'. The libretto follows Schiller's classic drama *Kabale und Liebe* (*Intrigue and Love*), wherein Luisa's love for Rodolfo meets a tragic end due to the ruthless opposition of Count Walter (Rodolfo's father). *Sung in Italian with English titles.*

On Friday, March 15th, a morning excursion will take us to the **Marie Selbye Botanical Gardens**, containing literally hundreds of species of orchids and other tropical plants. The outdoor grounds and the greenhouse specimens are studied by botanists and horticultural enthusiasts from all over the world and rank among Sarasota's most important attractions.



Sarasota; Hyatt Regency Hotel



Friday evening at 7:30 pm, we will enjoy the Sarasota Opera's *premiere production* of Franz Joseph Haydn's 18th century comedy, **L'Infedeltà Delusa**

('Deceit Outwitted'). Haydn's classical orchestration and harmonic structure lend themselves to this romantic tale replete with disguises, as the inventive heroine Sandrina outwits her father's pressure to marry a rich farmer instead of the poor peasant she loves. The setting is the Italian countryside of Tuscany. *Sung in Italian with English titles.*

Early Saturday evening, March 16th, a pre-theatre **dinner** of Italian cuisine will be arranged at **Selva**, conveniently located on Main Street a short distance from the opera house.

At 7:30 pm on Saturday, our fourth performance will be **Lucia di Lammermoor**. Gaetano Donizetti's most popular work is based on Sir Walter Scott's novel, *The Bride of Lammermoor*, and owes its permanent place in the repertoire by virtue of the seamless score of duets, arias, and ensembles. The extended Act I duet for Lucia and Edgardo, the celebrated Sextet of Act II, and the virtuoso Mad Scene in Act III are among the composer's finest achievements. The role of Lucia remains a challenging vehicle for star sopranos following the footsteps of Joan Sutherland, Maria Callas and Beverly Sills. *Sung in Italian with English titles*

Independent departures should be on Sunday, March 17th.

Marie Selbye Botanical Garden; Orchid House



## The Sarasota Opera

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 3,680
Single room supplement	\$ 850

**Airfare NOT included.**