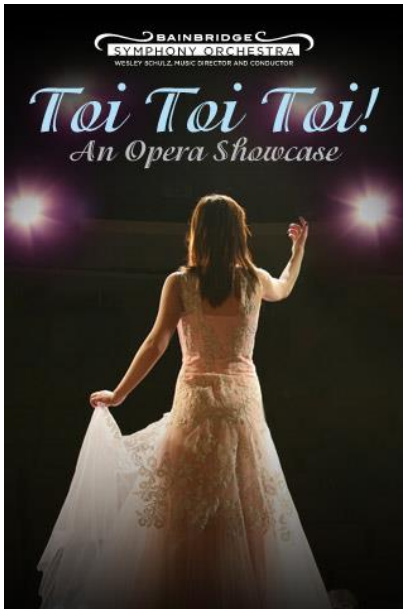


Bainbridge Performing Arts 2013-2014 Season



November 23 & 24, 2013

**Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra presents
TOI TOI TOI! – AN OPERA SHOWCASE
by Wesley Schulz**

The 41st season of the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra opens in grand style November 23rd and 24th with an opera gala called “Toi Toi Toi.” The title is a phrase opera singers use to wish one another luck before a performance. Much like telling someone to “break a leg” for a theater performance, “toi toi toi” is meant to ward off bad luck during an opera. Luck will hardly be needed for these concerts though with a cast that includes Rachel DeShon, Sonia Perez, John Coons, and Thomas Thompson. These singers paired with the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra will bring you the greatest hits of opera.

Now I can imagine that not everyone reading this column may consider themselves a “fan” of opera. The running stereotype of opera is the Wagner character Brünnhilde complete with spear, helmet with horns, braided blonde hair, and a voice that cracks every window in sight. Of course, if you’re me, than your first impression of opera is whatever costume Bugs Bunny dressed up in on Looney Tunes while singing Rossini. Regardless, I’d like to give you my view of what opera is and the meaning we can pull from it as listeners.

There are a few art forms, opera being one of them, in which multiple aspects of the performing arts unite for a common cause. For me opera is about bringing three of the greatest aspects of the humanities together under one roof: singing, orchestral music, and acting. Each one of these areas of the performing arts has an incredible repertory. For choral music think of the many songs passed down by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, and Barber. One of the most important works in the orchestra canon is Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony. Theater has brought us the likes of Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, and Tennessee Williams. But opera celebrates all three of these elements in perfect harmony (and frequently, dance as well). For me, there is nothing better than watching a great singer interact with a live orchestra who collaboratively communicate a story or emotion to which everyone can relate.

For “Toi Toi Toi” you will hear ten arias and ensemble pieces as well as three orchestra-only works coming from all across the operatic repertory. We will perform dance numbers (Tchaikovsky’s Waltz from *Eugene Onegin*), songs that muse of love (Rusalka’s Song to the Moon by Dvorak), songs about the fickleness of love (*Una furtive lagrima* from Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*) and more. We have an all-star cast of some of the best young vocal talent in the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, this concert will mark the debut of eight new members of the orchestra. So bring your family and friends to the season opener of the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra. Together we’ll put on a concert you won’t want to miss.