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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pensacola Opera Announces Series of Outdoor and Digital Programming: *Al Fresco* & *The Mezzanine***

Pensacola Opera is pleased to announce a series of outdoor live music performances and online digital programming starting September 19, 2020. In the wake of the pandemic, Pensacola Opera is exploring new opportunities to share music and art with the Pensacola community and beyond. “Our mission at Pensacola Opera has always been to give our audiences thrilling, world-class opera. We feel strongly about bringing the joy of opera to our community during this difficult time where we can come together while remaining safely apart and enjoy the beauty and inspiration opera provides”, states Chandra McKern, Executive Director. “We plan to be here for you with the performances you love, long after the crisis is behind us. With the support of our generous donors and patrons, we are excited to share this season with everyone.”

This fall, you’ll be able to enjoy opera through two series of events: *Al Fresco* and *The Mezzanine*.

#### ***Al Fresco* – Outdoor Live Music in Pensacola’s Parks**

In partnership with the Pensacola Parks & Recreation Department, Pensacola Opera will be popping up at a new local park each Saturday evening with a free live performance featuring some of the company’s most talented artists. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a lovely sunset concert of favorite opera, musical theatre, and popular tunes.

“Like other opera companies across the country, we have endured the brunt of this pandemic, having canceled multiple performances and events in the interest of our patrons' and artists' safety,” states Cody Martin, Director of Education & Artists in Residence at Pensacola Opera. “As we think about new and innovative ways to reconnect with our community, outdoor performances are the perfect opportunity for us to help bring music back to life in Pensacola.”

#### ***The Mezzanine* – Online Digital Performances & Programming**

While live, in-person musical performance will always be at the heart of what Pensacola Opera does, this fall the company will bring digital content that will fill your soul with the opera art form you know and love. From behind the scenes chats to live performances – there’s a little something for every opera lover on *The Mezzanine*.

**Sundays on the Mezzanine** comes to you online every other Sunday at 3:00 PM for a series of full-length concerts premiered live so you can chat along and ask questions throughout the performance. These online performances begin on September 20.

**Backstage Pass** is a series of behind the scenes discussions with the mainstage production creative team giving audience members a chance to hear from singers, directors, and creative staff in an exclusive conversation. Attendees will also be encouraged to ask questions and join the conversation. More information for the October 7<sup>th</sup> session on *Carmen* and October 21<sup>st</sup> session on *H.M.S. Pinafore* will be available on the Pensacola Opera website.

This fall, Pensacola Opera Artists in Residence (AIRs) will be participating in a four-week, remote residency from across the country in anticipation of joining us for the mainstage season in January. **Meet the AIRs LIVE** on September 25<sup>th</sup>, will be a free online event to meet and get to know these five talented artists—including a brief performance from each of them!

Pensacola Opera’s **Artist in Residence Masterclass** on October 8<sup>th</sup> with renowned tenor and voice teacher Jason Ferrante will be viewable online as he works with the 38th Season Artists in Residence. Attendees will gain a better understanding of what goes into a singer’s training and preparation, seeing the magic happen in real-time. And, guests are invited to join

in the conversation and ask questions during the session.

A complete schedule of events along with performer details can be found on Pensacola Opera's website. Ticket information will be announced soon.

### **Dates to Remember**

**Al Fresco Concert Series** in the parks starts September 19.

**Sundays on the Mezzanine** performances and additional online programming begin September 20.

### **The Mezzanine (Online)**

#### **Sundays on the Mezzanine**

All performances begin **online** at 3:00 PM.

Ticket information to be released.

- September 20
- October 4
- October 18
- November 1
- November 15

### **Al Fresco Concert Series**

All performances are **free** and begin at 5:30 PM

- September 19 at Seville Square
- September 26 at Corinne Jones Park
- October 3 at Bayview Park
- October 17 at Bryan Park
- October 24 at Magee Field

**Meet the AIRs LIVE** - September 25 at 7:00 pm

**Artists in Residence Masterclass** - October 8 at 7:00 pm

**Backstage Pass: Carmen** - October 7 at 7:00 pm

Featuring Carmen cast members Bizhou Chang, Adam Diegel, Luis Alejandro Orozco, and Elise Quagliata; along with stage director Fenlon Lamb

**Backstage Pass: H.M.S. Pinafore** - October 21 at 7:00 pm

Featuring H.M.S. Pinafore cast members Corey McKern, John Riesen, Corey Trahan, Emily Triebold, and Flora Wall; along with stage director Dean Anthony

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## **ABOUT PENSACOLA OPERA**

The mission of Pensacola Opera is to enrich the culture of Northwest Florida by producing professional opera performances, educational programs, and other opera-related community events for people of all ages, interests, and backgrounds. All proceeds from 38th season events support the Opera's many artistic and educational initiatives, from professional mainstage productions to nationally recognized education and community engagement programs. Pensacola Opera is a member of OPERA America.

To purchase tickets please visit us online at [PensacolaOpera.com](http://PensacolaOpera.com) or call the office at (850) 433-6737.

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