

WOLF TRAP

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WOLF TRAP OPERA ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2014 SEASON AND ARTIST ROSTER

Season highlights include new productions of Carmen with the National Symphony Orchestra, Giulio Cesare, and a double bill of Les mamelles de Tirésias and Le pauvre matelot

Wolf Trap Opera welcomes American bass-baritone Eric Owens as its first Artist in Residence

****ALL PERFORMANCES ON SALE MARCH 29 AT 10 AM****

Vienna, VA— Wolf Trap Opera (WTO), a top residency program for emerging opera professionals, announces its **2014 season** and **complete roster of Filene Young Artists** and **Studio Artists**.

The 2014 season offerings include a production of Bizet's dramatic masterpiece ***Carmen***, alongside the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by **Grant Gershon** and directed by **Tara Faircloth**; Handel's most popular Baroque opera ***Giulio Cesare***, conducted by **Antony Walker** and directed by **Chas Rader-Shieber**; and a rare pairing of two short French operas, Milhaud's ***Le pauvre matelot*** and Poulenc's ***Les mamelles de Tirésias***, conducted by **Timothy Myers** and directed by **Matthew Ozawa**.

This year, WTO announces internationally renowned bass-baritone **Eric Owens** as its **first Artist in Residence**. An alumnus of Wolf Trap's Filene Young Artist program, the Grammy Award-winning Owens has carved a unique place in the opera world as an esteemed interpreter of classic works and a champion of new music. He appears regularly at the Met, Vienna State Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, and Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Owens will work privately with WTO artists as a coach and mentor and will appear in public educational forums, including master classes and panel discussions.

"My time at Wolf Trap Opera, to this day, continues to be two of the best summers of my life, if not **the** very best!" stated **Eric Owens**. "Wolf Trap's Filene Young Artist residency was then, as it is now, the most coveted summer program into which any aspiring young singer can be accepted. I am honored and thrilled to be part of the 2014 Filene Young Artists' experience by being the first Wolf Trap Opera Artist in Residence."

"This season, Wolf Trap Opera is producing an expanded range of programs to showcase some of the country's most talented young singers—a new production of Bizet's ***Carmen*** at the Filene Center, the return of Handel's ***Giulio Cesare***, and a rare pairing of two short French operas new to Wolf Trap," said **Arvind Manocha**, Wolf Trap Foundation President and CEO. "We are proud to welcome alumnus Eric

Owens as Wolf Trap Opera's first Artist in Residence, strengthening our commitment to educate and train our exceptionally gifted young artists at a critical time in their careers."

The 2014 roster comprises 17 Filene Young Artists and 16 Studio Artists chosen from a record 1,082 applicants from around the world. These artists were chosen from 591 singers heard during a nationwide audition tour in New York, Philadelphia, Vienna (Virginia), Chicago, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Houston.

The 2014 opera season:

Bizet's *Carmen*, a mesmerizing drama of love, lust, and jealousy, is one of the world's most popular operas. Its many memorable arias include the sultry "Habanera," the passionate "Flower Song," and the popular "Song of the Toreador." **Grant Gershon** from the Los Angeles Opera returns to the Filene Center on July 25 to conduct, **Tara Faircloth** directs, and **S. Katy Tucker** creates the larger-than-life video projected above the stage.

At The Barns, Handel's *Giulio Cesare* will return for the first time since 1995 for three performances on June 27 and 29 and July 1. This operatic tale of love, lust, and ambition focuses on Julius Caesar's visit to Egypt in 48 BC, where he encounters the exotic Cleopatra. *Giulio Cesare* will be conducted by **Antony Walker** and directed by **Chas Rader-Shieber**.

On August 8, 10, and 16 at The Barns at Wolf Trap, WTO will perform a French double bill of Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and Milhaud's *Le pauvre matelot*, conducted by **Timothy Myers** and directed by **Matthew Ozawa**. This unusual pairing contrasts a gripping household drama with a fast-paced surrealist farce. While the subject matter might be worlds apart, the two pieces are connected by the shared musical language of Les Six.

Also at the Filene Center, WTO partners with The Philadelphia Orchestra in its first Wolf Trap appearance in over a decade in a program that features **Beethoven's Symphony No. 9**. Conducted by **Bramwell Tovey**, the June 28 concert features WTO soloists: *soprano Tracy Cox*, *mezzo-soprano Virginie Verrez*, *tenor Robert Watson*, and *bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green*, and the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

In addition, Filene Young Artists will perform intimate recitals at The Barns of Wolf Trap and in the community, including a performance with Grammy Award-winning pianist and vocal coach, **Steven Blier**; *Aria Jukebox*, an interactive showcase of opera highlights; and two separate *Vocal Colors* recitals, in partnership with The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., which creates a fusion of visual art and music.

Tickets for Wolf Trap Opera performances go on sale at 10 am on March 29 and can be purchased **online at wolftrap.org**, by calling **1.877.WOLFTRAP**, or **at the Wolf Trap Box Office** located at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, Virginia 22182.

Meet the Singers:

The 2014 roster features 17 Filene Young Artists, who will star in principal and supporting roles. These Filene Young Artists represent 2.4% of the applicant pool and come from nine states and four countries. Among the artists are returning sopranos **Mireille Asselin**, **Tracy Cox**, and **Ying Fang**; mezzo-sopranos

Maya Lahyani and **Carolyn Sproule**; baritone **Norman Garrett**; and bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green**. Newcomers to the program are soprano **Melinda Whittington**; mezzo-sopranos **Renée Rapiere** and **Virginie Verrez**; countertenors **John Holiday, Jr.** and **Eric Jurenas**; tenors **Kevin Ray** and **Robert Watson**; baritones **Joo Won Kang** and **Tobias Greenhalgh**; and bass-baritone **Jeongcheol Cha**.

Additionally, 16 Studio Artists will perform supporting and ensemble roles. These artists are undergraduate- and graduate-level performers representing 14 U.S. universities and conservatories. The roster is made up of sopranos Nicolette Book, Annalise Dzwonczyk, Evan Kardon, and Liv Redpath; mezzo-sopranos Anna Engländer, Kara Sainz, and Megan Samarin; countertenor G. Thomas Allen; tenors Michael Anderson, Martin Clark, Eric Ferring, and Joshua Sanders; baritones Michael Adams and returning artist Harry Greenleaf; bass-baritone Alex Rosen; and bass Matthew Turner.

The Repertoire:

AT THE FILENE CENTER:

Bizet's *Carmen*

National Symphony Orchestra

Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

Friday, July 25, 2014 at 8:15 pm

A spellbinding drama filled with lust, jealousy, and tragedy, *Carmen* is one of the world's most popular operas. Bizet's masterpiece features many of opera's most powerful and memorable melodies, from the bewitching "Habanera," to the passionate "Seguidilla," and the bravura of the "Song of the Toreador."

Grant Gershon, Resident Conductor of Los Angeles Opera, returns to the Filene Center (*La traviata*, 2013) to conduct; **Tara Faircloth** (*Sweeney Todd*, 2011; *The Rake's Progress*, 2012) returns to direct; and **S. Katy Tucker** (*Sweeney Todd*, 2011; *La bohème*, 2009) returns to create larger-than-life video projections above the stage. With its vibrant colors and evocative images, this new *Operascope* production created for Wolf Trap's beautiful outdoor amphitheater will transport audiences to sultry Spain, from the tobacco factory and gypsies' mountain camp to Seville's bullring.

Conductor – Grant Gershon

Director – Tara Faircloth

Video Projection Design – S. Katy Tucker

Costume Design – Rooth Varland

Lighting Design – Mark Stanley

Language Consultant – Marie-France Lefebvre

Carmen, a gypsy – Maya Lahyani, *mezzo-soprano*

Don José, a corporal – Kevin Ray, *tenor*

Escamillo, a bullfighter – Norman Garrett, *baritone*

Micaëla, a country girl – Melinda Whittington, *soprano*

Zuniga, a lieutenant – Ryan Speedo Green, *bass-baritone*

Moralès, a corporal – Joo Won Kang, *baritone*

Frasquita, a gypsy – Mireille Asselin, *soprano*

Mercédès, a gypsy – Virginie Verrez, *mezzo-soprano*

Le Dancaïre, a smuggler – Robert Watson, *tenor*

Le Remendado, a smuggler – Tobias Greenhalgh, *baritone*

Carmen is made possible in part through generous philanthropic support from Wolf Trap Foundation Board Chairman Dan D’Aniello and his wife, Gayle.

Beethoven’s 9th (Symphony No. 9 in D minor)

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

Featuring The Choral Arts Society of Washington and Wolf Trap Opera Soloists

Saturday, June 28, 2014 at 8:15 pm

Tracy Cox, *soprano*

Virginie Verrez, *mezzo-soprano*

Robert Watson, *tenor*

Ryan Speedo Green, *bass-baritone*

AT THE BARNS:

Handel’s *Giulio Cesare*

The Barns at Wolf Trap

Friday, June 27, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 29, 2014 at 3 pm

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Handel’s most popular opera (both during his lifetime and today) focuses on Julius Caesar’s visit to Egypt in 48 BC, during which he encounters the exotic Cleopatra. *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (1724) juxtaposes the virtuosity of 18th-century *opera seria* with a real sense of intimacy and emotion. *Cesare* returns to Wolf Trap for the first time since 1995.

Conductor – Antony Walker

Director – Chas Rader-Shieber

Scenic Design – Judy Gailen

Costume Design – Jacob Climer

Lighting Design – Robert H. Grimes

Language Consultant – Franca Gorraz

Cleopatra – Ying Fang, *soprano*

Giulio Cesare – John Holiday, Jr., *countertenor*

Tolomeo – Eric Jurenas, *countertenor*

Cornelia – Renée Rapiere, *mezzo-soprano*

Sesto – Carolyn Sproule, *mezzo-soprano*

Achilla – Jeongcheol Cha, *bass-baritone*

Curio – Alex Rosen,* *bass-baritone*

Nireno – Kara Sainz,* *soprano*

**Studio Artist*

French Double Bill

Milhaud's *Le pauvre matelot*

Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias*

The Barns at Wolf Trap

Friday, August 8, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 10, 2014 at 3 pm

Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 7:30 pm

In their company premieres, Wolf Trap Opera pairs two 20th-century French one-act operatic gems.

The evening begins with Milhaud's dark and dramatic *Le pauvre matelot* (*The Poor Sailor*, 1927) on a libretto by Jean Cocteau. At only 40 minutes long, *Le pauvre matelot* is a short study in both greed and fidelity. The sailor has gone missing for 15 years, and although his friends and family believe him dead, his wife holds out hope. He returns home unrecognizable from the passing of years and ravages of harsh climates and decides to remain anonymous to test his wife's faithfulness.

After intermission, the drama gives way to the absurd with Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias* (*Tirésias' Breasts*, 1947), with text based on Apollinaire's surrealist play of the same name. Poulenc's score is both beautiful and humorous and Apollinaire's story is zany, farcical, and outrageous. This 55-minute opera features a feminist who changes her gender in order to escape the oppression of men (freeing herself of her breasts, hence the title) and her husband, who takes on the burden of child-bearing (40,049 of them) in order to save the human race. Poulenc described this opera, his first, as "the work that is dearest to me."

Conductor – Timothy Myers

Director – Matthew Ozawa

Scenic Design – William Boles

Costume Design – Amanda Seymour

Lighting Design – Robert H. Grimes

Language Consultant – Marie-France Lefebvre

Le pauvre matelot

Le matelot (*a sailor*) – Robert Watson, *tenor*

Sa femme (*his wife*) – Tracy Cox, *soprano*

Son ami (*his friend*) – Norman Garrett, *baritone*

Son beau-père (*his father-in-law*) – Ryan Speedo Green, *bass-baritone*

Les mamelles de Tirésias

Thérèse – Mireille Asselin, *soprano*

Mari – Tobias Greenhalgh, *baritone*

Directeur/Gendarme – Joo Won Kang, *baritone*

Lacouf – Eric Ferring, * *tenor*

Presto – Michael Adams, * *baritone*

Le Fils – Martin Clark, * *tenor*

La Marchande – Megan Samarin, * *mezzo-soprano*

Journaliste – Michael Anderson, * *tenor*

Une Dame – Evan Kardon, * *soprano*

Un Monsieur Barbu – Matt Turner, * *bass*

Une Grosse Dame – G. Thomas Allen,* *countertenor*
**Studio Artist*

CONCERT & RECITAL:

Aria Jukebox

The Barns at Wolf Trap

Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 3 pm

The 2014 Filene Young Artists sing your favorite opera highlights with **Kim Witman** at the piano. Ticket price includes wine and cheese pre-concert reception beginning at 2 pm. Come early and put your quarters in the jukebox to vote for the arias of your choice!

Houseful of Song

The Barns at Wolf Trap

Saturday, July 19 & Sunday, 20, 2014 at 3 pm

Steven Blier and a trio of Filene Young Artists get domestic as they perform songs for every room in the house!

CHILDREN'S THEATRE-IN-THE-WOODS:

Instant Opera!

Tuesday, July 1 & Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 10:30 am

Introduce your kids to opera! This zany improv project takes characters, locations, and plot suggestions from the audience and weaves them into a made-to-order, one-of-a-kind opera!

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Vocal Colors

The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 6:30 pm

Two separate casts of Filene Young Artists craft unique musical evenings inspired by the works in the The Phillips Collection's American Collection. The performance takes place in the Music Room and features projected images of the paintings.

FOR WOLF TRAP MEMBERS ONLY:

Studio Spotlight Scenes Program

Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:30 pm

The Wolf Trap Opera Studio Artists represent the strongest undergraduate/graduate voices in the country. *Studio Spotlight* is an evening of mixed repertoire that allows them to take center stage and shine. **Stephanie Rhodes** conducts and **Alison Moritz** directs this evening of opera scenes.

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About the Wolf Trap Opera

Established in 1971, Wolf Trap Opera continues to earn national and international recognition for its mission to discover and encourage outstanding emerging talent in the opera field and serve singers of

exceptional achievement and potential who are ready to make the transition to full-time professional careers. In addition to the young professional singers, the company also features the work of emerging designers, directors, and conductors and provides opportunities for aspiring stage managers, administrators, coaches, and technical theatre professionals.

About Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by [Catherine Filene Shouse \(1896-1994\)](#), produces and presents a full range of performance and education programs in the Greater Washington area, as well as nationally and internationally. Wolf Trap features three performance venues: the outdoor [Filene Center](#) and [Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods](#), both located at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and [The Barns at Wolf Trap](#), located down the road from the national park and adjacent to the Center for Education at Wolf Trap. The 7,028-seat Filene Center is operated in partnership with the National Park Service and annually showcases an extensive array of diverse artists, ranging from pop, country, folk, and blues to classical music, dance, and theatre, as well as multimedia presentations, from May through September. The Barns at Wolf Trap is operated by the Wolf Trap Foundation year-'round, and during the summer months is home to the Grammy-nominated Wolf Trap Opera, one of America's outstanding resident ensemble programs for young opera singers. Wolf Trap's education programs include the nationally acclaimed Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, a diverse array of arts education classes, grants, and a nationally recognized internship program that was included in Bloomberg *BusinessWeek's* 2009 List of "[Best Places to Intern](#)." As part of its ongoing commitment to protect and preserve the environment, Wolf Trap offers Metro access and is a founding member of the Green Music Group. Visit the Wolf Trap website at wolftrap.org for more information.

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