



SARASOTA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lael Mohib, Marketing Director
Sarasota Opera
lmohib@sarasotaopera.org
Mobile: 202.257.4822

Sarasota Opera Announces Ticket Sales for Annual Gala: *A Night of Camellias & Champagne*

October 5, 2026 — Sarasota Opera invites guests to [*A Night of Camellias & Champagne*](#), its 2027 Annual Opera Gala honoring David and Edith Chaifetz, on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at 6 p.m. in The Ora's Grand Ballroom, 578 McIntosh Road, Sarasota.

Inspired by Violetta's Parisian salon in [*La traviata*](#), Sarasota Opera's opening opera of the 2027 Winter Opera Festival season, the evening will evoke the elegance of the production through the symbolism of camellias and the sparkle of champagne. The theme reflects the romance, sacrifice, and glamour at the heart of one of opera's most memorable stories.

The 2027 Gala, co-chaired by Lynn Blackledge and Rose Marie Proietti, will honor David and Edith Chaifetz for their generous support of Sarasota Opera and their commitment to the company's artistic and educational mission. The Gala will feature a special spotlight on Sarasota Opera's [Apprentice Artist Program](#), continuing a legacy of artistic training excellence.

The evening, generously sponsored by Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Mariner, will also feature a live auction offering distinctive travel experiences. Proceeds from the Gala support Sarasota Opera's work to produce compelling opera while fostering the next generation of artists and audiences. For reservation levels and sponsorships, visit sarasotaopera.org/events or call (941) 366-8450, Ext. 813.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is in its 68th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast and celebrating 100 years of the historic Sarasota Opera House. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984, the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater — now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company's Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive youth

opera program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation in 2007, has been called “one of America’s finest venues for opera” by Musical America.

Richard Russell has served as General Director since 2012 and added the role of Artistic Director in June 2026. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org