



# SARASOTA OPERA



RENEW OR PURCHASE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!  
**2026-27 SEASON**  
A NEW ERA. A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE.

RICHARD RUSSELL, General Director

## 2026 FALL SEASON

*Hansel and Gretel*  
Engelbert Humperdinck

*Rootabaga Country*  
YOUTH OPERA  
Rachel J. Peters

## 2027 WINTER OPERA FESTIVAL

*La traviata*  
Giuseppe Verdi

*H.M.S. Pinafore*  
Arthur Sullivan

*Ariadne auf Naxos*  
Richard Strauss

*Jenůfa*  
Leoš Janáček

**HURRY! LIMITED TIME OFFER!**  
Order by April 30 and save 15%

(941) 328-1300 SARASOTAOPERA.ORG

# WELCOME TO THE 2026-27 OPERA SEASON!

Our 68th season marks an exciting new chapter for Sarasota Opera. We are embracing a new era while preserving our tradition of artistic excellence.

## SEE MORE OPERAS & SAVE

Subscribe to four or five operas in a fixed date series, or choose the dates that suit you for a "Build-Your-Own" subscription. If you have any questions, call the Sarasota Opera Box Office at (941) 328-1300.

### SIX REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE

#### GET THE BEST DEAL

10 - 15 % savings on your season tickets.

#### PICK YOUR FAVORITE SEAT

By choosing the fixed-day subscription, your seat is guaranteed for all performances in your series.

#### FREE VALET PARKING

Subscribers (and donors giving at least \$150 annually) receive free Valet Parking available right in front of the Sarasota Opera House.

#### FREE EXCHANGES

Last-minute change of plans? Exchange your tickets for another performance of the same opera for free. You also get unlimited reprints of your tickets.

#### ALWAYS BE FIRST IN LINE

You'll get access to the best seats before the general public for concerts, talks, special events, and more.

#### NATIONWIDE DISCOUNTS AT OTHER OPERA HOUSES

Ticket discounts of at least 10% at participating opera companies across the US and Canada (part of the Opera Passport program by OPERA America)

#### FOUR WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

**CALL:** (941) 328-1300

**VISIT:** [sarasotaopera.org](http://sarasotaopera.org)

**MAIL FORM TO:**  
61 N. Pineapple Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

**IN PERSON:**  
Sarasota Opera Box Office  
61 N. Pineapple Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

#### MARCH 16

Subscriptions on sale

#### AUGUST 1

Single tickets on sale online only

#### SEPTEMBER 1

Single tickets on sale online, via phone or in person at the Box Office

## 2026 FALL SEASON

October 30 – November 14, 2026

**Youthful wonder, courage, and strength in an enchanted forest.**

Inspired by the Brothers Grimm fable, the story follows two siblings who stray into the forest, encounter a beguiling Gingerbread Witch, and find courage in the face of peril. Musically sophisticated but accessible for all ages, *Hansel and Gretel* blends rich orchestration with folk like melodies. The opera conveys a journey from hardship and temptation to wonder and homecoming, offering a timeless reflection on innocence, resourcefulness, and the power of family.

NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2026

**A whimsical journey of imagination, family, and self-discovery.**

Inspired by Carl Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories*, this whimsical adventure follows Gimme the Ax and his children as they journey through an imaginative landscape to learn about the mother they never knew. *Rootabaga Country* blends playful storytelling with heartfelt themes.



*Hansel and Gretel*

Engelbert Humperdinck | Adelheid Wette



YOUTH OPERA

*Rootabaga Country*

Rachel J. Peters

# 2027 WINTER OPERA FESTIVAL



## La traviata

Giuseppe Verdi | Francesco Maria Piave

February 6 – March 20, 2027

**Elegance, sacrifice, and poignant romance in 19th century Paris.**

One of the most enduring works in the repertoire, this is the moving story of Violetta Valéry, a celebrated courtesan whose unexpected love for Alfredo Germont conflicts with her world of parties and pleasure and forces her to make the ultimate sacrifice. Verdi's music seamlessly weaves elegance and drama, underscoring the timeless tale of Violetta's love and selfless devotion.

February 13 – March 19, 2027

**Spirited satire, romance, and mischief aboard a Royal Navy ship.**

Sarasota Opera's inaugural staging of a Gilbert and Sullivan work, *H.M.S. Pinafore* is a cornerstone of Victorian comic operetta, where questions of love and social rank spark humor and delight. At the center of this story, set aboard a British Navy ship, is the earnest sailor Ralph Rackstraw and Josephine, the captain's daughter, whose affection challenges the strict hierarchies of their world. This uproarious satire includes witty patter songs and memorable melodies that make it a perennial favorite for audiences of all ages.



## H.M.S. Pinafore

Arthur Sullivan | W.S. Gilbert

February 27 – March 13, 2027

**Rivalry, comedy, and mythical reinvention in Vienna.**

A dazzling operatic fusion of myth and comedy, the story begins with a lively backstage prologue in which an opera troupe and a comedy ensemble are forced to perform together. The resulting spectacle sets the mythical, mournful Ariadne alongside the playful Zerbinetta and her band of comedians. The opera showcases Strauss's gift for intertwining emotional depth with theatrical spectacle, masterfully balancing lush lyricism and clever playfulness.

March 6 – March 21, 2027

**Tradition, tragedy, and hidden truths in a Moravian village.**

This landmark Czech opera is a captivating work of realism and emotional depth, following young Jenůfa as she endures hardship, love, and the unyielding expectations of her village. Central to the drama is the Kostelníčka, Jenůfa's stepmother – played by world renowned soprano **Karita Mattila** in her Sarasota Opera debut – whose desperate attempt to protect her stepdaughter leads to tragic consequences.



## Ariadne auf Naxos

Richard Strauss / Hugo von Hofmannsthal



## Jenůfa

Leoš Janáček

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## SARASOTA OPERA GALA

The Ora  
Saturday, January 30, 2027 | 6:00 PM

## SALUTE TO THE STARS AWARDS LUNCHEON

Sarasota Yacht Club  
Tuesday, March 9, 2027 | 11:30 AM

See the Subscription Order form to reserve today!

**SAVE THESE DATES - Details to follow**

## SARASOTA OPERA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Sarasota Opera House  
Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 1:00 PM

## CURTAIN RAISER

Michael's On East (Main Restaurant)  
Sunday, October 25, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Visit [SarasotaOpera.org/Events](http://SarasotaOpera.org/Events) for updates.

# SPECIAL CONCERTS

## ARTISTS' CHOICE CONCERT

Principal Artists select their personal favorites to perform

Sarasota Opera House  
February 20, 2027 | 7:30 PM

## APPRENTICE ARTISTS AT NOON

A lunchtime concert of arias, duets and ensembles

Lee & Bob Peterson Great Room  
March 12, 2027 | 12 PM

## COVERS AT 3

An afternoon concert featuring Studio Artists singing excerpts of the lead roles they are covering

Lee & Bob Peterson Great Room  
March 12, 2027 | 3 PM

## EMERGING ARTISTS SHOWCASE CONCERT

Hear Apprentice Artists with orchestra perform timeless operatic arias, duets and ensembles

Sarasota Opera House  
March 20, 2027 | 7:30 PM

# 2026-27 SEASON CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2026</b>						
25 Curtain Raiser 6:00 PM**	26	27	28	29	30 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 7:00 PM	Food & Wine Festival September 26 at 1:00 PM
NOV 1 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 1:30 PM	2	3	4 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 7:00 PM	5	6	7 <b>Rootabaga Country</b> 5:00 PM
8 <b>Rootabaga Country</b> 12:00 PM	9	10 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 7:00 PM	11	12 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 7:00 PM	13	14 <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> 1:30 PM
<b>FEBRUARY 2027</b>						
The Opera Gala* January 30 at 6:00 PM	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM
7	8	9 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	10	11 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	12	13 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM
14 <b>La traviata</b> 1:30 PM	Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	16 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	17	18 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	19	20 <b>La traviata</b> 1:30 PM Artists' Choice Concert 7:30 PM
21 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 1:30 PM	Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	23	24 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	25	26 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	27 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 7:30 PM
<b>MARCH 2027</b>						
FEB 28 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 1:30 PM	Mar 1 Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	2 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 7:30 PM	3 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	4 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 7:30 PM	5 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	6 <b>Jenůfa</b> 7:30 PM
7 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 1:30 PM	Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	9 Salute to the Stars Awards Luncheon 11:30 AM*** <b>Jenůfa</b> 7:30 PM	10 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 7:30 PM	11 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	12 Apprentice Artists at Noon Covers at 3 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	13 <b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> 1:30 PM <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM
14 <b>Jenůfa</b> 1:30 PM	Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	16	17 <b>La traviata</b> 7:30 PM	18 <b>Jenůfa</b> 7:30 PM	19 <b>H.M.S. Pinafore</b> 7:30 PM	20 <b>La traviata</b> 1:30 PM Emerging Artists Showcase Concert 7:30 PM
21 <b>Jenůfa</b> 1:30 PM	Opera House Tour 10:30 AM	Opera Lovers Weeks are March 3-14. See all 4 Winter Opera Festival productions in as few as 3 days. Opera Lovers subscriptions are available online or via the Box Office.				
*Held at The Ora, Sarasota    **Held at Michael's On East    ***Held at the Sarasota Yacht Club						

## SIMONSEN & MONTMINY OPERA CLUB

A private, members-only club on the second-floor lobby offering a bar, light bites and private restrooms. Open pre-curtain and at each opera intermission.  
Visit: [sarasotaopera.org/opera-club](http://sarasotaopera.org/opera-club)

# SPECIAL PACKAGES

## T.O.W.N. CLUB (Tuesday Opera Women's Network)

We invite you to the 9th season of T.O.W.N. Club. Join other women who love opera before each Tuesday subscription performance to mix and mingle and share their interest in learning about the art form. Additional \$25 membership fee.

**Hansel and Gretel:** November 10, 2026  
**H.M.S. Pinafore:** February 16, 2027  
**Jenůfa:** March 9, 2027

**La traviata:** February 9, 2027  
**Ariadne auf Naxos:** March 2, 2027

## DACAPO SOCIETY (for young professionals)

Join our DaCapo Society (ages 21-45) to enjoy pre-performance receptions at local restaurants and discounted tickets to Thursday night performances. Additional \$25 membership fee.

**Hansel and Gretel:** November 12, 2026  
**H.M.S. Pinafore:** February 18, 2027  
**Jenůfa:** March 18, 2027

**La traviata:** February 11, 2027  
**Ariadne auf Naxos:** March 4, 2027

All operas will have simultaneous English text above the stage and are accompanied by a live orchestra.  
Opera performances take place in the William E. Schmidt Opera Theatre of the Sarasota Opera House.