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Sarasota Opera Announces 2026 Opera Lovers Weeks March 11-29

February 9, 2026 — Sarasota Opera has announced the schedule for its popular [Opera Lovers Weeks](#) from March 11-29, when patrons have the unique opportunity to see all four operas in the 2026 Winter Festival over a three or four-day period. This winter, the company presents Puccini's *La bohème*, Léhar's *The Merry Widow*, Verdi's *Il trovatore*, and Floyd's *Susannah* in the historic [Sarasota Opera House](#), described by *Musical America* as "one of the finest venues for opera in America." [Opera Lovers Weeks](#) offer the ultimate opera immersion experience. Beyond the Metropolitan Opera in New York, no other company in America offers opera fans the opportunity to see four different productions in three days during the winter season.

[La bohème](#), Giacomo Puccini's most beloved opera and one of the most performed in the repertoire, takes the audience through the streets of the Latin Quarter in 19th century Paris where the poor embroideress Mimì has a fateful chance encounter with the poet Rodolfo. Laugh and cry as four friends struggle and celebrate through the Bohemian lifestyle and experience the heartbreak of a lover's impending demise.

[The Merry Widow](#), by Franz Lehár, follows wealthy widow Hanna Glawari as she is descended upon by an array of willing suitors from Parisian society. But plans go awry when Hanna's past paramour enters the ballroom. One of the most successful romantic operettas, *The Merry Widow* is the perfect blend of comedy, dance and unforgettable music.

[Il trovatore](#), one of Giuseppe Verdi's most popular works, unfolds with the telling of a fiery execution that takes place during Count de Luna's childhood, an event that sets him in vengeful pursuit of the gypsy woman, Azucena. Unrequited love for the noblewoman Leonora and hatred for her lover, the troubadour Manrico, drive him to murderous passions. The story comes full circle, ending with another tragic execution, in this sprawling medieval melodrama.

Carlisle Floyd's [Susannah](#) offers a re-telling of the Book of Susannah, with the story following a pretty, innocent young woman as she falls under the jealous scrutiny of her rural Appalachian community. When the Reverend Bitch appears at her door offering redemption, tragic events unfold that force Susannah to take a stand for her dignity. Honoring the 100th anniversary of

Carlisle Floyd's birth and in the state of its premiere, *Susannah* is a timeless, gripping tale, and one of the most popular American operas.

Opera Lovers Weeks are March 11-29, 2026, and are available in five subscription packages. Opera lovers receive a 10% discount on their four-performance package. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 941.328.1300, visit in person at 61 N. Pineapple Avenue daily from 10 – 5 PM, or go online at <https://www.sarasotaopera.org/opera-lovers-weeks>.

Series 1 — matinee and evening performances — The series includes *Il trovatore* on March 18 (evening), *Susannah* on March 19 (evening), *La bohème* on March 20 (matinee), and *The Merry Widow* on March 21 (evening).

Series 2 — matinee and evening performances — The series includes *Susannah* on March 19 (evening), *La bohème* on March 20 (matinee), *Il trovatore* on March 21 (matinee), and *The Merry Widow* on March 21 (evening).

Series 3 — matinee and evening performances — The series includes *La bohème* on March 20 (matinee), *Il trovatore* on March 21 (matinee), *The Merry Widow* on March 21 (evening), and *Susannah* on March 22 (matinee).

Series 4 — matinee and evening performances — The series includes *Il trovatore* on March 24 (evening), *Susannah* on March 25 (evening), *La bohème* on March 26 (evening), and *The Merry Widow* on March 27 (matinee).

Series 5 — matinee and evening performances — The series includes *The Merry Widow* on March 27 (matinee), *Susannah* on March 28 (matinee), *La bohème* on March 29 (evening), and *Il trovatore* on March 29 (matinee).

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is in its 67th 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 and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. 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.

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