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**Sarasota Opera House Celebrates 100 Years with Three Events the Weekend of April 11 -12**

**April 1, 2026** — Sarasota Opera will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic Sarasota Opera House, described by *Musical America* as “one of the finest venues for opera in America”, with a weekend of centennial programs on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, including a special concert, a gala dinner, and free film screening. Tickets and information for all events are available at [www.sarasotaopera.org/centennial](http://www.sarasotaopera.org/centennial).

On Saturday, April 11, Sarasota Opera will present a special Centennial Concert at 1:30 p.m. at the Sarasota Opera House, located at 61 N. Pineapple Avenue. The concert will pay tribute to the theater’s 100-year history and feature **Sarasota Opera** artists including soprano **Virginia Mims**, mezzo-soprano **Lisa Chavez**, tenor **Rafael Dávila**, and baritone **Jake Stamatis**. The Sarasota Orchestra will be conducted by Sarasota Opera Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Victor DeRenzi**. The event will also include guest performances by **West Coast Black Theatre Troupe**, the **Circus Arts Conservatory**, and the **Sarasota Ballet**. Purchase concert tickets here: <https://tickets.sarasotaopera.org/7823/7824>

Patrons can upgrade their centennial celebration experience with the **concert and dinner package**, which includes the **concert** as well as a **dinner** following the concert at the beautiful Selby Gardens. The Centennial Dinner Celebration starts with cocktails at 4:30 p.m. at Michael’s on the Bay at Selby Gardens, located at 1534 Mound Street. **Limited tickets remain for this package**. Purchase concert and dinner packages here: <https://event.sarasotaopera.org/centennial-celebration>

On Sunday, April 12, Sarasota Opera will host a Free Community Film Screening of *The Sarasota Opera House: A Centennial Celebration*, a new documentary chronicling the evolution of the Opera House from its origins as a 1920s vaudeville and movie palace to its role today as a

premier opera venue. The film, which airs on PBS/WEDU on April 9, highlights the people, performances, and preservation efforts that have shaped the Opera House across 100 years. The screening will take place at the Sarasota Opera House from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and will be **prefaced with a talk by Architecture Sarasota president Marty Hylton**. This event is free and open to the public and does not require tickets. Registration is encouraged at this link: [Sarasota Opera Association, Inc.](http://SarasotaOpera.org/Centennial)

For more information about Sarasota Opera's centennial events and initiatives, please visit **SarasotaOpera.org/Centennial**.

### **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. In June 2026 Maestro DeRenzi will be stepping down from the company and Mr. Russell will add Artistic Director to his responsibilities. 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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