



SARASOTA OPERA

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Sarasota Opera and The Bay Present Opera at The Bay Screenings This April and May

March 30, 2026 — Area residents and visitors can once again enjoy Sarasota Opera productions outdoors as Sarasota Opera and The Bay partner to present Opera at The Bay, a free series of recorded opera screenings at The Bay Park in downtown Sarasota. This exclusive series takes place on three consecutive Saturday evenings in April and May.

Opera at The Bay brings Sarasota Opera's 2026 Winter Festival to the bayfront through large-screen presentations with English surtitles, offering audiences the chance to experience these world-class productions in a relaxed and welcoming open-air setting. All screenings are free, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to ensure a comfortable seat on the green space. Register for one or more of the screenings at:

Opera at The Bay: *La bohème*

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 7:00–8:45 p.m.

Puccini's beloved opera explores poetry, poverty, and passion in 1830s Paris. The story follows the poor embroideress Mimì and the poet Rodolfo as they navigate love, friendship, and heartbreak in the Latin Quarter. One of the most performed operas in the repertoire, *La bohème* is a timeless portrait of youthful hope and tragic romance. Note: This screening will be preceded by special live performance by the Sarasota Youth Opera, who performed on the main stage as part of the chorus in *La bohème*. Register: [Opera at The Bay: La bohème Tickets, Saturday, Apr 18 from 7 pm to 8:45 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Opera at the Bay: [The Merry Widow](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 7:00–8:55 p.m.

Franz Lehár’s sparkling operetta unfolds amid money, mischief, and matchmaking in 1905 Parisian high society. The wealthy widow Hanna Glawari becomes the focus of eager aristocratic suitors, but when her past love unexpectedly reappears, comedic complications and elegant ballrooms intertwine with some of operetta’s most unforgettable melodies. Register:

[Opera at The Bay: The Merry Widow Tickets, Saturday, Apr 25 from 7 pm to 8:55 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Opera at the Bay: [Il trovatore](#)

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 7:05–9:30 p.m.

Verdi’s dramatic masterpiece is filled with serenades, sieges, and family secrets in 15th-century Spain. Count di Luna’s quest for vengeance, fueled by a mysterious childhood event, entangles the fates of Leonora, Manrico, and Azucena in one of opera’s most gripping and passionate works. Register: [Opera at The Bay Finale: Il trovatore Tickets, Saturday, May 2 from 7:05 pm to 9:35 pm | Eventbrite](#)

“We’re excited to build on the success of our partnership with The Bay again this year, bringing world-class opera to Sarasota in an unforgettable setting,” said Richard Russell, Sarasota Opera’s General Director. “Sharing opera in such a beautiful, open-air space allows us to welcome new audiences while delighting longtime supporters. We invite the community to come experience opera at The Bay.”

“Partnering again with Sarasota Opera — one of the region’s premier cultural institutions — allows professionally filmed performances from this recent season to be shared with the entire community, free of charge,” says A.G. Lafley, CEO of Bay Park Conservancy. “‘Opera at The Bay’ reflects the park’s ‘One Park for All’ promise by providing high-quality, accessible experiences for everyone.”

Participants who register for and attend a screening will be entered into a raffle to win a set of free tickets to an upcoming opera performance during the 2026/27 Opera Festival. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Limited amphitheater seating is available; guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Free parking is available across the site. The Bay is located at 1055 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota. [Click here for a parking map.](#)

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.

Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 •
SarasotaOpera.org

About The Bay

The Bay is a signature public park along Sarasota Bay. Designed to be “One Park for All,” The Bay is open and accessible, free and welcoming to the full and rich diversity of the community, now and for generations to come. The Bay conserves, preserves, restores and transforms 53 acres of precious city-owned land along Sarasota Bay from what was mostly parking lot into a blue and green oasis - providing a sustainable bayfront gathering place for the community to experience and enjoy a wide range of park uses, free programs and events. The first 10-acre phase of the park opened in October 2022. Design and development of Phase 2, the next 14-acre \$65 million development, is fully funded and underway with expected completion in 2027. The completed park in total will cost an estimated \$200 million and will take approximately 8-10 years to complete over four or more phases.

The Bay Park • 1055 Blvd of the Arts • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 203-5316 •
TheBaySarasota.org