



SARASOTA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lael Mohib, Director of Marketing

Email: lmohib@sarasotaopera.org

Phone: 202.257.4822

Sarasota Opera’s Salute to the Stars Set for Tuesday, March 24 at Sarasota Yacht Club

March 11, 2026 — Sarasota Opera will gather for its annual [Salute to the Stars Awards Luncheon](#) on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sarasota Yacht Club to celebrate and honor this season’s outstanding Sarasota Opera Apprentice and Studio artists. Guests will enjoy a gourmet lunch and performances by the awardees, recognizing those whose artistry and dedication have made a significant impact during the 2026 Winter Opera Festival.

Awards will be presented through the legacy left by several visionary individuals as well as the Sarasota Opera Guild and the Manatee Opera Guild. Patron level reservations are \$150 per person and include premium seating and recognition in the event program. Standard reservations are \$85 per person. The luncheon is sponsored by U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management and Scene Magazine.

“Supporting Sarasota Opera reflects U.S. Bank’s commitment to the arts and to partnerships that preserve the cultural stories that shape Sarasota,” said Jim Tyrell, Senior Vice President and Private Wealth Advisor, Managing Director, U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management.

Sarasota Opera launched the [Apprentice Artists](#) in 1982. The program helps singers transition from student to professional life and reflects the company’s aesthetic by focusing on standard operatic repertoire from Mozart to Puccini. Apprentice Artists receive private coaching, attend classes to hone singing and acting skills, and form the chorus for all mainstage productions. [Studio Artists](#), the more advanced tier of Sarasota Opera’s training programs, receive the same intense training but also perform supporting parts and cover principal roles. Many Studio Artists have returned as Principal Artists and have gone on to appear with major opera companies in the United States and internationally.

Salute to the Stars continues Sarasota Opera's long tradition of recognizing the artists whose talent and dedication help sustain the company's artistic excellence.

For reservations or additional information about Salute to the Stars, please visit SarasotaOpera.org or call the Box Office at 941.328.1300. Seating is limited.

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