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Sarasota Opera Announces 2026–2027 Signature Events Season

SARASOTA, Fla. - Sarasota Opera proudly announces its 2026–2027 Signature Events season, a distinguished series of fundraising events that celebrate the artistry and mission of the company. Join us for a curated series of culinary experiences, performances, and a gala celebration. Proceeds from these events directly support Sarasota Opera's internationally recognized productions, artist training programs, community outreach and education initiatives, and Sarasota Youth Opera — one of the nation's leading youth opera programs.

The season begins with the **Sarasota Opera Food & Wine Festival** on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the Sarasota Opera House. The event features food and wine tastings from area vendors and supports the Sarasota Youth Opera & Education programs. VIP admission is \$150 per person and includes early entry at 12:30 pm. General admission is \$75 in advance and \$85 at the door.

The Curtain Raiser will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Michael's On East in The Dining Room. This elegant evening marks the opening of Sarasota Opera's fall and winter seasons with live performances and fine dining. Reservations are \$250 per person, with limited seating available.

The first of the popular **Moonlight & Melodies** series is themed **Into the Enchanted Forest with *Hansel and Gretel***. It will take place on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Sarasota Opera House Courtyard. The evening features an immersive performance experience inspired by the fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel*. Reservations are \$250 per person.

The Sarasota Opera Annual Gala: *A Night of Camellias & Champagne*, will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at 6:00 pm at The Ora Grand Ballroom. The Gala serves as the company's premier fundraising event and features dinner, entertainment, and philanthropic support for Sarasota Opera's rigorous multi-tier artist training program for young professional

singers. Table sponsorships range from \$5,000 to \$12,500, and individual reservations range from \$500 to \$1,250.

The second **Moonlight & Melodies**, entitled **A Night Aboard Her Majesty's Ship with Gilbert and Sullivan**, will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 2027, at 6:30 PM in the Sarasota Opera House Courtyard. The evening features an intimate dining experience and highly amusing performances inspired by the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. Reservations are \$250 per person.

The season concludes with the **Salute to the Stars Award Luncheon** on Tuesday, March 9, 2027, at 11:30 AM at the Sarasota Yacht Club. The luncheon celebrates the artistry and achievement of Sarasota Opera's most outstanding Apprentice and Studio Artists and features live performances. Reservations are \$100 per person, with preferred seating available for \$175.

For more information or to reserve, call (941) 366-8450, Ext. 813, email SOAEvents@SarasotaOpera.org, or visit the website at <https://www.sarasotaopera.org/2026-27-Signature-Events>.

About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is in its 68th 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 was under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. In June 2026 Mr. Russell added 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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