



For Immediate Release

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Virginia Opera Presents W.A. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* Tale of Merciless Seducer Returns in Sixth Company Production: Performances Statewide November 2–18

Hampton Roads, Richmond, Fairfax, Virginia (October 9, 2018) — As the second opera production in its 44th season, **Virginia Opera** announces a new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's ever-popular opera *Don Giovanni*. Statewide performances begin November 2, and conclude November 18, 2018 (*please see complete list of venue locations and dates below*).

First performed in 1787 as *Il dissoluto punito ossia il Don Giovanni* (*The rake punished also Don Giovanni*), Mozart's two-act opera traces the storied tale of the merciless seducer Don Juan in what has become one of the top ten most globally performed and timeless morality tales in operatic history. Comedy and tragedy intermingle in ways only supernatural forces can address in the narrative of the legendary Spanish nobleman's compulsive and destructive amorous conquests, leaving his ultimate fate in the hands of demons from the underworld as it reminds audiences that even those most powerful cannot avoid the consequences of their actions.

Virginia Opera's 2018 production of *Don Giovanni* represents the sixth time the company has approached the classic—the last occurring in 2010—and, with it, acclaimed director **Lillian Groag's** 24th VO production. Groag's beloved veteran status is bookended by the exciting collection of emerging vocal talents making VO company debuts within the production. These include baritone **Tobias Greenhalgh** (who topped *Opera News's* 2018–2019 season list of male singers to watch) as Don Giovanni; bass-baritone **Zachary Altman** as his beleaguered manservant, Leporello; and Soprano **Rachelle Durkin** as Donna Anna (the Don's most recent victim). In addition, former VO Emerging Artist **Sarah Larsen** makes her mainstage debut as Donna Elvira—the one woman the Don must wed before he beds and who, betrayed, attempts to undermine his lecherous and malevolent ways.

Of presenting the ever-popular opera, Virginia Opera Artistic Director Adam Turner offers: "While it seems odd to use the term "timely" to describe a stalwart like *Don Giovanni*, it, like our season opener, *Street Scene*, offers a story very much in step with the current news cycle. While Mozart's creation certainly makes room for timeless entertainment, *Don Giovanni* is the story of a man whose reckless aggression invites contemporary perspectives, just as it reminds us that even the most classical of Opera repertoire remains a living, breathing, contemporary art form."

Russell Allen, Virginia Opera President and CEO adds: "To reiterate my message in announcing this 44th season's offerings: the 2018–19 Virginia Opera season provides audiences repertory that continues to emphasize our company's ability to successfully produce both the traditional and the contemporary.

Each opera is an excellent opportunity for audiences to witness first-hand the rich nuances that continue to foster the further growth and development of our gifted Virginia Opera company.”

DON GIOVANNI PRODUCTION | PERFORMANCE NOTES

Virginia Opera **Artistic Director Adam Turner** returns to the podium for the second of four productions he conducts during the 2018–2019 VO Season. *Don Giovanni* will be sung in Italian with English Supertitles.

About Maestro Adam Turner, Virginia Opera Artistic Director

One of America’s most acclaimed young conductors, Maestro Adam Turner first came to Virginia Opera in 2010 as Resident Conductor and Chorus Master. For four seasons he served as VO Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor and helmed the company’s performances of such varied repertory as Weber’s *Der Freischütz* and Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd*, as well as such standard repertory as *Carmen* and *La Bohème*. Maestro Turner was appointed as Artistic Director beginning with the 2018-2019 Season.

Maestro Turner is a graduate of Morehead State University (Bachelor of Music/Piano Performance) and the Catholic University of America (Master of Music/Conducting). He is a recipient of the Julius Rudel/Kurt Weill Conducting Fellowship (2016–2017) and the “50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award” for Emerging Artists, bestowed by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. He has served as an assistant conductor with Seattle Opera, the Central City Opera (Colorado), and the Florida Grand Opera (Miami), among others. In past appearances with Virginia Opera—as well as both past and upcoming appearances with such companies as San Diego Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre (Honolulu), Central City Opera, and New York’s American Lyric Theater, Maestro Turner has devoted special attention to 20th-century and contemporary works by composers such as Kurt Weill, Stephen Sondheim, Benjamin Britten, Jake Heggie, and Mark Adamo.

About Virginia Opera

Virginia Opera, now in its 44th Season (2018–2019), is known and respected nationwide for the identification and presentation of the finest young artists, for the musical and dramatic integrity of its productions, and for the ingenuity and variety of its education and outreach programs. Mainstage performances in three markets across the Commonwealth reach nearly 50,000 attendees annually. In March of 1994, by unanimous vote of the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Opera was named “The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia” in recognition of the organization’s contribution to the state as well as to the world of opera. For tickets and information visit vaopera.org or call 866.673.7282.

2018–19 Virginia Opera Season Subscriptions

Virginia Opera’s remaining season includes Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, Donizetti’s *The Elixir of Love*, and Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. Performance packages for the three remaining operas in Norfolk, Richmond, and Fairfax remain available beginning at \$54. For the best price and maximum flexibility, call the VO Box Office today at 866.673.7282, or visit us at vaopera.org.

Don Giovanni Statewide Performance Schedule

The Edythe C. and Stanley L. Harrison Opera House – Norfolk – November 2, 4 & 6, 2018
George Mason University’s Center for the Arts – Fairfax – November 10 & 11, 2018
The Carpenter Theatre at Dominion Energy Center – Richmond – November 16 & 18, 2018

The Edythe C. and Stanley L.
Harrison Opera House
Norfolk, VA
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