

2026 – 2027 SEASON

***Pagliacci
Hansel
and Gretel
Turandot***

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Where Voice Rules.***

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Unlocking Opera Beyond the Stage

Throughout our history Virginia Opera has offered dynamic programs that introduce audiences of all ages to the power of opera.

FOR STUDENTS & EDUCATORS

In-school touring operas, Student Night @ the Opera performances, and masterclasses with professional artists connect students to live performance while supporting curriculum goals and connecting to Virginia's Standards of Learning.

FAMILIES

Programs like *Tunes & Tales!* bring storytelling and music to libraries and community spaces, introducing young audiences to opera in fun, welcoming settings.

ADULTS

Pre-performance lectures, talkbacks, artist panels, and community concerts offer engaging ways to explore opera and connect with the artists and creative teams behind the productions.

EMERGING ARTISTS

Virginia Opera is committed to the next generation of operatic talent. Through the Herndon Foundation Emerging Artists Program, we provide mentorship, training, and performance opportunities for singers early in their career.

To learn more about these programs, or to connect your school or community group with Virginia Opera, visit us at vaopera.org/community or contact us at education@vaopera.org.



Pagliacci

Ruggero Leoncavallo

Art imitates life—and life can take unexpected turns.

A traveling troupe of comedians arrives in a lively town, ready to bring laughter to the stage. But behind the painted smiles and playful costumes lie secrets, jealousy, and a hidden love affair that threatens to tear the group apart. As the story they perform begins to mirror their own turmoil, the line between stage and reality starts to blur. What begins as an evening of lighthearted entertainment erupts into a suspenseful tale of heartbreak, suspicion, and revenge. *Pagliacci* is a riveting, fast-moving drama that shows what happens when emotions run too deep for any mask to hide.

NORFOLK: NOVEMBER 6, 8

RICHMOND: NOVEMBER 13, 15

FAIRFAX: NOVEMBER 21, 22



Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck

A fairy-tale adventure with danger,
wonder, and one wicked witch.

Join two adventurous siblings as they wander into the forest in search of food—only to become lost as night falls. The next morning, they discover a gingerbread house so tempting they can't resist taking a bite... until they realize it belongs to a cunning witch with a very wicked plan. Filled with glowing, storybook music and enchanting moments of humor, wonder, and suspense, *Hansel and Gretel* follows the brother-and-sister duo as they use their wits to escape danger and find their way home. This iconic Brothers Grimm fairytale will provide a heartwarming, imaginative journey perfect for audiences of every age.

NORFOLK: JANUARY 29, 31

RICHMOND: FEBRUARY 5, 7



Turandot

Giacomo Puccini

Three riddles, one fearless suitor,
and a princess with a heart of ice.

In a kingdom ruled by fear, Princess Turandot has vowed never to marry. Anyone who seeks her hand must answer her three impossible riddles—and those who fail lose far more than love. When a mysterious prince named Calaf arrives, he accepts the challenge and shocks the kingdom by succeeding. But the real test has only just begun. Determined to break through Turandot's cold exterior, Calaf sparks a battle of wills that could end in passion... or destruction. Blending high-stakes drama, breathtaking spectacle, and one of opera's most famous scores, *Turandot* is an unforgettable legend of danger, desire, and transformation.

NORFOLK: MARCH 5, 7

RICHMOND: MARCH 12, 14

FAIRFAX: MARCH 20, 21



Plan Your Season!



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