

Semiramide (Rossini),
performed during Opera
Delaware's 2017 festival

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The Little Opera Company That Could

When OperaDelaware debuted its annual opera festival in 2016, *The Washington Post* classical music critic Anne Midgett praised the production of *Amleto* for having "an outstanding cast far better than many I've heard from companies with 20 times the funds." Opera fans and the opera-curious get the chance to hear what she means by attending a performance during this year's festival, which features six beloved Puccini works and a Puccini-inspired extra—seven acts in two weekends, April 28 and 29 and May 3 through 6.

Puccini's *Il Trittico* (*Triptych*) comprises three one-act operas. The first two acts, *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica*, will be paired for two performances. The third act of Puccini's *Triptych*, *Gianni Schicci*, will be performed with *Buoso's Ghost*, a contemporary work by composer Michael Ching, also for two shows. These four fully staged acts will be performed at Wilmington's historic 1871 Grand Opera House.

Rounding out the Puccini homage, OperaDelaware's final Opera Uncorked production, *A Flight of Puccini*, will present Act I of *La Boheme*, Act II of *Tosca* and Act III of *Madama Butterfly*. Opera Uncorked is a studio series with optional wine and beer tastings presented in OperaDelaware's Riverfront Studios in Wilmington. operade.org

LanternAsia



Night-lights

The popular day-to-night exhibition *LanternAsia*, first presented in 2016, returns to Norfolk Botanical Garden March 9 through May 13. Scattered throughout the Virginia garden's 175-acre grounds will be 40 colossal works of art made of silk, steel, repurposed china and other ecofriendly materials. A few favorites from 2016—such as a four-story pagoda—make a return to this year's show, but other works are brand-new, including several "underwater" creations fitting for the coastal location of the garden. If the gardens and artworks are impressive by day, they positively radiate at night, when all 40 sculptures are illuminated. Plan to make yours a day-to-night visit so that you can enjoy the gardens in both lighting environments. Event tickets are required. lanternasia.org

Bernstein Encore

Some might remember Leonard Bernstein best as the composer of *West Side Story*. Others associate him with his tenure as conductor of



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the New York Philharmonic, or perhaps they recall watching his *Young People's Concerts*, which aired on CBS from 1958 to 1972. Whatever the initial attraction, fans of Bernstein will want to take in the first large-

scale museum exhibition dedicated to his life and work. The *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music* exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, runs March 16 through September 2018.

Artifacts on display—some 100 items, from Bernstein's piano to his Hebrew prayer book—will be complemented by original films, immersive sound installations and interactive media. The exhibition coincides with Leonard Bernstein at 100, a worldwide two-year series of events marking the 100th anniversary of the conductor/composer's birth. Continuing through August 25, 2019, Leonard Bernstein at 100 has orchestras and opera companies throughout the world performing works composed by Bernstein. nmajh.org, leonardbernstein.com/at100

George Washington's Makeover

Revolutionary War 4D Theater Experience, an all-new 4-D film, made its debut recently in the revamped Revolutionary War Theater at George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia. The 17-minute film focuses on Washington's leadership and the pivotal campaigns of the American Revolution. More than 100 reenactors took part in filming at locations throughout Virginia. The recent \$2 million renovation of the theater not only added a state-of-the-art surround sound system but also enhanced the theater's machinery to immerse viewers in the experience as they feel falling snow, wind, wafting fog and seats that rumble. mountvernon.org