



**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 16, 2021

**Maryland Lyric Opera  
announces its Spring 2022 season**

**Featuring some of the biggest stars in opera  
alongside the 90-member strong  
MDLO Orchestra**

***Turandot***

**February 25 & 27, 2022**

***Don Carlo***

**May 13 & 15, 2022**

**plus**

**New digital concert series with intimate performances  
from the stars of MDLO filmed at the company's  
new state-of-the-art facility**

(BETHESDA, MARYLAND)—Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) today announces its return to live performance following the pandemic, with two full-scale productions of classic Italian operas, presented in concert at North Bethesda's The Music Center at Strathmore: Puccini's *Turandot* on February 25 & 27, 2022, and Verdi's *Don Carlo* on May 13 & 15,

~more~

2022. In addition, the company announces a free digital streaming series featuring intimate recitals starring MDLO favorites, recorded live at the company's new state-of-the-art headquarters.

"We are proud to present this exciting transitional season of two masterpieces of the Italian repertory, featuring some of the most exciting artists working in opera today, many of whom have deep ties to our Maryland community and great successes in our past performances," says MDLO Founder & Artistic Director **Brad Clark**. "But our two mainstage productions at Strathmore, where MDLO is now a member of the Strathmore Affiliate Network, do not represent all that MDLO has been planning during our pandemic closure. We have a vibrant slate of digital programs still to be released via digital streaming, and my team and I have used this time to deepen our planning for future seasons, which we will be very excited to announce soon. The future of opera in Maryland is bright indeed."

MDLO launches its new season with concert performances of Puccini's final opera, [\*Turandot\*](#), February 25 & 27, 2022, at The Music Center at Strathmore. More than 175 artists take the stage for this epic fairy tale, whose unforgettable music includes the beloved tenor aria "Nessun Dorma." The love triangle at the heart of the drama features **Alexandra LoBianco** in her MDLO debut as the icy princess Turandot; MDLO favorite **Jonathan Burton**, who returns in the role of her noble suitor, Calàf; and **Nicole Heaston**, who makes her MDLO debut as the lovelorn Liù. The cast also includes acclaimed bass **Morris Robinson** as Timur and features many alumni of the MDLO Institute in supporting roles. Marshaling the supersize musical forces of the **MDLO Orchestra & Chorus** is MDLO Music Director **Louis Salemno**.

Friday, February 25, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 2 p.m.  
In Italian with projected English titles  
Running time: Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one intermission

Turandot: **Alexandra LoBianco**  
Calàf: **Jonathan Burton**  
Liù: **Nicole Heaston**  
Timur: **Morris Robinson**  
Emperor Altoum: **Mauricio Miranda**

The Imperial Ministers  
Ping: **Javier Arrey**  
Pang: **Joseph Michael Brent**  
Pong: **Yi Li**  
Mandarin: **Hunter Enoch**

Conductor: **Louis Salemno**  
Visual Supervision: **David Gately**

MDLO returns once again to Strathmore for concert performances of Verdi's grand opera of forbidden passion and political intrigue, [Don Carlo](#), May 13 & 15, 2022. Based on the historical characters and events of the Spanish Inquisition, *Don Carlo* features some of Verdi's most beautiful music, woven together with a story of personal, political, and theological conflicts, including the unforgettable "Grand Inquisitor" scene. The celebrated cast includes three international stars making their MDLO debuts—**Arturo Chacón-Cruz** as Don Carlo, **Elaine Alvarez** as Elisabetta, and **Greer Grimsley** as King Filippo—alongside returning MDLO favorites **Mark Delavan** as Rodrigo, **Catherine Martin** as Princess Eboli, and **Kenneth Kellogg** as the Grand Inquisitor. MDLO Music Director **Louis Salemno** leads the **MDLO Orchestra & Chorus** in interpreting all the majesty of Verdi's epic score.

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 2 p.m.  
In Italian with projected English titles  
Running time: Approximately 3 hours and 20 minutes, including one intermission

Don Carlo: **Arturo Chacón-Cruz**  
Elisabetta: **Elaine Alvarez**  
Rodrigo: **Mark Delavan**  
Eboli: **Catherine Martin**  
King Filippo: **Greer Grimsley**  
Grand Inquisitor: **Kenneth Kellogg**  
Celestial Voice: **Nayoung Ban**  
Frate: **SeungHyeon Baek**  
Tebaldo: **Nayoung Ban**  
Herald: **Mauricio Miranda**  
Flemish Deputies: **Javier Arrey, SeungHyeon Baek, Christian Bowers, Hunter Enoch, & José Sacin**

Conductor: **Louis Salemno**  
Visual Supervision: **David Gately**

## **The MDLO Orchestra & Chorus**

Maryland Lyric Opera will continue to employ the finest freelance artists in the region for its Orchestra, which recently ratified a new five-year contract with the American Federation of Musicians, Local 161-710. “I am proud that MDLO provides steady employment for so many local musicians, many of whom also play in important ensembles such as the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera Orchestra, and the Wolf Trap Opera Orchestra.” says Music Director **Louis Salemno**, who conducts all of the company’s performances. “I think our successful union contract renewal shows how much MDLO values the importance of our players, and how much they in turn value their rapport with MDLO singers and audiences.”

The MDLO Chorus, also composed of local artists who sing in the region’s many fine choral ensembles, will number up to 100 for some productions; the Chorus is led by Chorus Master **Steven Gathman**.

## **Health & safety**

Currently, The Music Center Strathmore requires that all audience members provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, or a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of the start of the performance, along with a photo ID. Additionally, facial masks, worn properly over the nose and mouth, are required for all patrons for the duration of their time in the building. “The safety of MDLO artists, musicians, and technical crews—as well as our audiences—remains our top priority,” says MDLO General Manager **Matthew Woorman**. “We expect Strathmore to be operating at full capacity next spring, and we will be working closely with them to implement strategies aimed at reducing any remaining COVID-19 risks. “We are continuing to monitor the situation and are in contact with local health officials. Ticket holders will be notified of any updates to these policies as far in advance as possible.” For the most current information about Strathmore’s health & safety policies, please visit <https://www.strathmore.org/your-visit/vax-faqs/>.

### **New digital streaming series launching soon**

MDLO will soon be introducing a new digital streaming series—entirely free for viewers—that will feature intimate recitals filmed in HD at the company’s custom-built, state-of-the-art recording studio inside its headquarters in Bethesda. The series features a who’s who of audience favorites from past MDLO productions and offers a tantalizing glimpse of stars who will be featured in future MDLO performances. More than a dozen recitals will be streamed in the first year of the series; artists will include Norman Garrett and Catherine Martin, Mark Delavan, SeungHyeon Baek, Nayoung Ban, Yi Li and Manli Deng, Daniel Scofield, and Hunter Enoch, to name a few. Complete details will be announced soon; to be the first to know about the launch of the series, go to [mdlo.org](http://mdlo.org) and click on “Join our mailing list.”

### **A look to MDLO’s future**

While MDLO’s ambitious schedule of performances for 2020 and 2021 was postponed due to the pandemic, MDLO will proceed with its previously announced plans for a new fully staged cycle of the three classic Mozart/Da Ponte operas: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così Fan Tutte*. More details—including performance dates, venues, and casting and creative teams—will be announced soon.

Following its transitional Spring 2022 season, MDLO plans to expand its programming for a traditional 2022–2023 season, which will include a broad survey of the operas of Giuseppe Verdi as its central focus. Look for a complete 2022–2023 season announcement on May 13, 2022, the opening night of Verdi’s *Don Carlo*.

### **Tickets & information**

Tickets for *Turandot* and *Don Carlo* start at \$25 and are on sale now.

***Turandot*** tickets <https://www.strathmore.org/what-s-on/21-22-strathmore-season/mdlo-puccini-s-turandot/>

***Don Carlo*** tickets <https://www.strathmore.org/what-s-on/21-22-strathmore-season/mdlo-verdi-s-don-carlo/>

For more information, call the Strathmore Ticket Office at 301.581.5100.

### **About Maryland Lyric Opera**

Maryland Lyric Opera is a regional opera company created “for musicians, by musicians.” Founded by accomplished pianist and local philanthropist Brad Clark, MDLO combines a diverse performance schedule of fully staged grand opera, concert opera with the MDLO Orchestra center stage, and intimate recitals featuring acclaimed soloists with a rigorous training program that fosters the careers of the next generation of opera stars.

### The Performances

Led by Music Director Louis Salemno, MDLO employs a full orchestra and a full chorus for its productions. Since our reorganization and relaunch in 2018, we have produced two fully staged operas at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park: Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Massenet's *Thaïs*. At The Music Center at Strathmore, we have presented concert performances of Puccini's rarely performed *La Fanciulla del West*, as well as double bills of one-act operas. Recent concerts have included individual programs celebrating Mozart, Puccini, and Verdi, as well as a virtuoso recital by the legendary pianist Leon Fleisher in his final stage performance.

### The MDLO Institute

We take pride in discovering, nurturing, and providing a comprehensive career-development program for young artists. The MDLO Institute provides totally free training and performance opportunities to singers at the start of their careers. Many graduates of the Institute have gone to headline MDLO mainstage productions, such as Maeve Höglund and Yi Li, who starred in our performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2019. Other graduates have gone on to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, and other leading opera houses across the country.

### The Promise to our Audience

MDLO's growing family of supporters is metropolitan Washington DC's vibrant, diverse, and international community. While we live in a modern and dynamic world, our aim is for our audiences to pause and experience harmony and beauty through classic opera productions.

We are committed to bringing young audiences to the world of opera – thanks to a very generous donation we have founded a Student Initiative “Hello Opera!” that enables students to purchase any seat in the house for \$10 with a student ID. Looking towards the future, we are planning to expand our repertoire, to initiate and grow outreach programs that embrace our community, and to bring music to underserved youth and adults.

Discover [MDLO](#) on social media:



**#MDLO2022**

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