



**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 13, 2023

**Maryland Lyric Opera  
presents**

***Otello***

**The fourth production of its  
2022–23 Season of Verdi  
at Strathmore**

**Starring Gregory Kunde,  
Eleni Calenos, and Mark Delavan**

**Conducted by Philippe Auguin**

**Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.**

**and**

**Sunday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m.**

(BETHESDA, MARYLAND)—Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) presents *Otello*, the fourth production in its 2022–23 Season of Verdi, a survey of the composer’s most accessible masterpieces, on Friday, March 3 and Sunday, March 5, 2023, at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Maryland.

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A passionate retelling of the great tragedy of jealousy, deception, and murder, Verdi's *Otello* delivers a thrilling response to Shakespeare's play, from the violent storm that opens the opera, through to Iago's blood-chilling "Credo," and Otello's increasingly desperate duets with Desdemona. Verdi's score abounds with fiery ardor, penetrating the darkest reaches of the soul to illuminate the fear and fragility of the heart.

**Philippe Auguin**, the acclaimed former music director of Washington National Opera, returns to the region to conduct the **MDLO Orchestra** in his MDLO debut. Auguin, a protégé of Herbert von Karajan and Sir Georg Solti, brings his decades of experience conducting at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, the Vienna State Opera, and the Royal Opera House to Strathmore for these highly anticipated performances. Audiences are once again invited into Shakespeare's dramatic world with impactful visuals led by **David Gately**.

Starring in the title role is the legendary tenor **Gregory Kunde**, who has performed this signature role on the most important stages in the world, including the Royal Opera House in London, the Opéra national de Paris, and the Vienna State Opera. Kunde sings alongside the internationally acclaimed Greek soprano **Eleni Calenos** as the faithful Desdemona and **Mark Delavan**, fresh off his triumph in the title role in MDLO's *Falstaff*, as the duplicitous Iago. The supporting cast includes MDLO favorite **Yi Li** as Cassio and **Patricia Schuman** in her MDLO debut as Emilia.

"*Otello* is one of the most difficult operas to program, as each of the three leading roles requires Olympic-level singers at the peak of their powers, so I am incredibly excited for our audiences to hear Gregory Kunde, Eleni Calenos, and Mark Delavan in these iconic roles," says MDLO Founder and Artistic Director Brad Clark. "And with Maestro Auguin leading the MDLO Orchestra and Chorus, our musical forces will unleash a passionate tempest of gale force from the opening storm until the opera's very last note."

Tickets for *Otello* are on sale now at [Strathmore.org](https://www.strathmore.org).

## Otello

Friday, March 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

5301 Tuckerman Lane

North Bethesda, MD 20852

Otello	Gregory Kunde
Desdemona	Eleni Calenos
Iago	Mark Delavan
Emilia	Patricia Schuman
Cassio	Yi Li
Roderigo	Lucas Levy
Montano	José Sacín

Conductor	Philippe Auguin
Stage Director	David Gately
Lighting Designer	Stuart Duke
Projection Designer	Sarah Tundermann

MDLO Orchestra

MDLO Chorus

Prior to each performance, audiences are invited to join MDLO staff and legendary baritone **Sherrill Milnes** for a free pre-performance discussion. A friend and fan of MDLO and a three-time Grammy Award winner, Milnes is famed for many roles, including Iago in the Metropolitan Opera's 1986 production of *Otello*.

### Ticket information

**Tickets are on sale now at [Strathmore.org](https://www.strathmore.org)**, or call the Strathmore Ticket Office at 301.581.5100 for more information. Tickets start at \$59; all tickets for students are \$10 with student ID.

### 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.

MDLO employs a full orchestra and a full chorus for its productions. Since our reorganization and relaunch in 2018, we have produced three fully staged operas at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park: Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Massenet's *Thaïs*, and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. At The Music Center at Strathmore, we have presented concert performances of Puccini's rarely performed *La Fanciulla del West* and his final opera *Turandot*, Verdi's epic *Don Carlo*, as well as double bills of one-act operas. In September 2022, we launched our 2022-23 Season of Verdi with the composer's *Macbeth*, followed by *Un Ballo in Maschera* in November and *Falstaff* in January.

Recent concerts have included individual programs celebrating Mozart, Puccini, and Verdi, as well as a memorable performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12, K. 414 by the legendary pianist and pedagogue Leon Fleisher in his final stage performance, as well as a special memorial concert that celebrated Fleisher's enduring legacy.

We are committed to bringing young audiences to the world of opera—thanks to the generosity of our donors and patrons. Our “Feel the Opera Initiative” has already enlivened the curriculum at area schools, including Georgetown Preparatory School (grades 9-12), Our Lady of Lourdes (grades K-8), Luxmanor Elementary School (grades K-5), and Covenant Life School (grades K-12). We have upcoming events with a number of Montgomery County, Maryland-area public and private schools. In addition, students may purchase MDLO performance tickets for \$10 with a student ID. Looking towards the future, we will continue to initiate and grow outreach programs that embrace our community, and to bring music to youth and adults throughout the region.

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 operas.

Discover [MDLO](#) on social media:



#MDLOVerdi  
#MDLOOtello

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