

OPERA
AMERICA

ONSTAGE 2019–2020
50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

ANGEL BLUE
IN CONVERSATION

OCTOBER 8, 2019 | 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM



Angel Blue has emerged in recent seasons as one of the most important sopranos before the public today. On September 23, she opened the Metropolitan Opera's 2019–2020 season as Bess in a new production of *Porgy and Bess*. These performances follow her internationally praised French opera debut and role debut as Tosca at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in July 2019. Earlier last season, Blue made her debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as Violetta in *La traviata*, after which she returned to the Teatro alla Scala in Milan in the same role. She has also been praised for performances in many other theaters, including the Vienna State Opera, Semperoper Dresden, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Theater an der Wien, Oper Frankfurt and San Diego Opera.

In the 2019–2020 season, Blue will also make her debut at the Hamburg State Opera as Mimì and returns to Seattle Opera in the same role. She will appear twice this season with the Philadelphia Orchestra: in performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 under Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and in concert performances of *Porgy and Bess* under Marin Alsop. She will also appear in concert opposite Thomas Hampson in Muscat and will sing recitals for the Dallas Opera and in Dayton. On October 27, she will join many of her colleagues at the annual Richard Tucker Gala at Carnegie Hall.

Puccini's *La bohème* has played an especially prominent role in the development of Blue's career. She made her U.S. opera debut as Musetta at LA Opera in 2007, while a member of the company's Young Artist Program, and subsequently made her debut at the Teatro alla Scala in the same role. As Mimì, she has won special acclaim, having sung the role at English National Opera, the Palau de Les Arts, the Vienna State Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Semperoper Dresden and the Met (her house debut). Other recent engagements have included Liù in *Turandot* at San Diego Opera, Marguerite in *Faust* at Portland Opera, Elena in *Mefistofele* at Baden Baden, and Bess in *Porgy and Bess* and Violetta in *La traviata* at Seattle Opera.

Blue has appeared in recital and in concert in over 35 countries. Important orchestral engagements have included *Porgy and Bess* at the Berliner Philharmoniker under Sir Simon Rattle, Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Münchner Philharmoniker under Zubin Mehta, Verdi's *Requiem* in Sydney, Australia, under Oleg Caetani, and Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. She debuted in recital at the Ravinia Festival in August 2019.

Alongside her musical activities, Blue is dedicated to supporting inner-city youth. She is the founder of the nonprofit Sylvia's Kids Foundation, dedicated to helping teenagers continue their studies in a trade school, community college or four-year university once they have completed high school.

Blue was raised in California and completed her musical studies at UCLA.

Angel Blue appears courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera.



Marc A. Scorca joined OPERA America in 1990 as president and CEO. Under his leadership, the OPERA America membership has grown from 120 opera companies to nearly 2,500 organizations and individuals.

The organization has also administered two landmark funding initiatives in support of North American operas and opera audiences, and in 2000 it launched an endowment effort to create a permanent fund dedicated to supporting new works and related audience development activities. In 2005, Scorca spearheaded OPERA America's relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City and the subsequent construction of the National Opera Center, which opened in 2012. The Opera Center's recital hall was dedicated as Marc A. Scorca Hall in 2015 in honor of Scorca's 25th anniversary with the organization.

Scorca has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally, and he has participated on panels for federal, state and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He also played an instrumental role in the founding of Opera.ca and Opera Europa, OPERA America's sister organizations. A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and the National Performing Arts Convention (2004 and 2008). He has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO and currently serves as an officer of the Performing Arts Alliance, as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music and on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY). Due in large part to Scorca's contributions to the organization, OPERA America was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Scorca attended Amherst College, where he graduated with high honors in both history and music.

ABOUT OPERA AMERICA

Founded in 1970, OPERA America is the national membership organization for artists, administrators, trustees and audiences, dedicated to supporting the creation, presentation and enjoyment of opera. It is committed to developing new work and new audiences, civic practice, artist and leadership development, research, national advocacy, and promoting inclusivity that moves opera forward across America. In 2012, OPERA America opened its headquarters at the National Opera Center, a custom-built rehearsal and performance facility for opera that serves more than 80,000 annual visitors.

JOIN US FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS:

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL

Thursday, November 21, 2019 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Featuring artists from the Houston Grand Opera Studio.

NEW WORKS SHOWCASE AT BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Thursday, January 16, 2020 | 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy excerpts from three new North American works presented by American Opera Projects, Music-Theatre Group and the Spoleto Festival USA.

See the full lineup of upcoming events and register at operaamerica.org/Onstage.

Speak to an OPERA America staff member if you have questions about any of our events or if you are interested in becoming a member.

Be a part of the conversation. #OAOnstage

———— Angel Blue in Conversation was underwritten by Henry Cox and Michael D. Kunkel. ————

NYC Cultural
Affairs

THE AMPHION
FOUNDATION, INC.

The Aaron Copland
Fund for Music 

THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION

NYC
& Company
Foundation

OPERA America Onstage is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by grants from the Amphion Foundation, Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and NYC & Company Foundation
