

Lamont School of Music

Lamont Opera Theatre Presents *Winter Opera Showcase*

Matthew Plenk
Director

Sahar Nouri
Music Director

Cody Garrison
Piano

Beth Nielsen
Piano

Stefano de Peppo
Italian Coach

Thursday, January 29, 2026
7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Recital Hall



Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts

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Program

Mio caro bene

from *Rodelinda*

George Friederic Handel

(1685-1759)

Maggie Sczekan, Rodelinda

Pur ti miro

from *L'incoronazione di Poppea*

Claudio Monteverdi

(1567-1643)

Yaoru Gao, Poppea

Alma Sejmenovic, Nerone

Via resti servita madama brillante

from *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Brooklyn Becker, Susanna

Yaoru Gao, Marcellina

È decisa la lite... Riconosci in questo amplesso

from *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Sandra Paz-Garcia, Susanna

Puting Liu, Figaro

Daniel Basurto Fojaco, Conte

Nathan Janzen, Curzio

Elle Housley, Marcellina

Tristan Cruz, Bartolo

Ah! Guarda sorella

from *Così fan tutte*

Xaria Siplin, Fiordiligi

Brooklyn Becker, Dorabella

Ah perdona al primo affetto

from *La clemenza de Tito*

Emma McKinney, Servilia

Teodora Kandić, Annio

Program cont.

All'afflitto è dolce il pianto

from *Robert Deveraux*

Gaetano Donizetti

(1797-1848)

Natacha Córdor Guerva, Sara

Sì fuggire: a noi non resta

from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*

Vincenzo Bellini

(1801-1835)

Bonnie Bour, Romeo

Maggie Sczekan, Giulietta

Cherry Duet

from *L'amico Fritz*

Pietro Mascagni

(1863-1945)

Caroline Copthorne, Suzel

Alejandro Izurieta Penafiel, Fritz

Un dì, se ben rammentomi...bella figlia dell'amore

from *Rigoletto*

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813-1901)

Megan Pryor, Gilda

Natacha Córdor Guerva, Maddalena

Junze Zhang, Duca

Maotong Yu, Rigoletto

Gran pezzo concertato a 14 voci

from *Il viaggio a Reims*

Sandra Paz-Garzia, Contessa

Megan Pryor, Corinna

Regan Lewis, Madama Cortese

LJ Hansen, Delia

Elle Laikind, Melibea

Xaria Siplin, Modestina

Nathan Janzen, Il Conte

Will Letheby, Cavaliere Belfiore

Jacob Burrows, Zefirino

Daniel Basurto Fojaco, Barone

Yang Zhang, Alvaro

Maotong Yu, Lord Sidney

Puting Liu, Profundo

Tristan Cruz, Prudenzi

Biographies

Iranian conductor and pianist **Sahar Nouri** has served as Music Director of Lamont Opera Theatre at the University of Denver since 2019. She also returns to Opera Colorado for a ninth season as the company's chorus master and assistant conductor.

At the University of Denver, Ms. Nouri has conducted numerous concerts and productions including *Die Zauberflöte*, *Alcina*, *Cabildo*, *The Little Prince*, *Der Schauspieldirektor*, and *Dido & Aeneas*. Ms. Nouri's work with Opera Colorado has included productions of *Turandot*, *Die Tote Stadt*, *The Shining*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *I Pagliacci*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Tosca*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La fille du Regiment*, and the world premiere of Gerald Cohen's *Steal a Pencil for Me*.

Ms. Nouri has been on the music staff at numerous companies including San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Opera Parallèle, Opera North Carolina, Glimmerglass Festival, Utah Opera, Opera in the Heights, Aspen Opera Theatre, Opera Steamboat, Merola Opera, Boston Conservatory of Music, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

As a recitalist, Ms. Nouri has performed concerts across the nation with international stars including tenor Matthew Polenzani and soprano Mane Galoyan.

As a frequently in-demand, multi-lingual language coach, Ms. Nouri has studied in the Czech Republic, Italy, and Austria. She holds graduate music degrees from the University of Michigan and Arizona State University.

Ms. Nouri is a former violinist who has performed with Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra and has won several prizes, for both violin and piano, in national music festivals and competitions in Iran.

Associate Professor **Matthew Plenk** is the Artistic Director of Lamont Opera Theatre. He is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, is a Samling Scholar, and holds a bachelor's degree from the Hartt School of Music and master's degree from Yale University. His many awards include Grand Finalist in the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Mr. Plenk made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2007/2008 season as the Sailor's Voice in *Tristan und Isolde* under the baton of Maestro James Levine. He has since appeared at the MET as Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Janek in *The Makropolous Case*, the Song Seller in *Il Tabarro* and Marcellus in *Hamlet*, and appeared as Arturo in the MET's 2011 tour of Japan. Other opera engagements have included Steuerman in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Los Angeles Opera, RAI Torino; Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Macduff in *Macbeth*, Opera Theatre of St. Louis; Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Virginia Opera; Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Central City Opera and Atlanta Opera; Don Ottavio, Boston Lyric Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera; and Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Virginia Opera.

Mr. Plenk made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Metropolitan Opera Chamber Ensemble, singing the Brahms *Liebeslieder Walzer* and duets by Schumann. He has appeared with the Houston Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra, and in concert performances of *Salome*, *Daphne*, and *Tristan und Isolde* with the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He worked with Naxos Records and Yale University in a collaborative project to record the complete songs of Charles Ives.

Upcoming Events

Faculty Recital Series: Igor Pikayzen, violin

Friday, January 30, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Hamilton Recital Hall

\$12, free for students & faculty

Lamont Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Gates Concert Hall

\$5 for reserved parterre seats, or FREE general admission

(\$3 fee to purchase online)

Clarinet Studio Recital

Thursday, February 5, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free Admission



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