



Carousel à la Carte



25th Anniversary Dinner and Performance

General and Artistic Director, Curtis Tucker

Friday, October 4, 2024, 6:00 pm

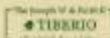
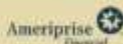
Saturday, October 5, 2024, 6:00 pm

Celebration Hall 5205

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From the President



Welcome to the 25th season of the First Coast Opera. We've come a long way in those 25 years and are presenting our most exciting season ever as our Artistic Director Curtis Tucker continues to provide us with creative and innovative leadership and programming.

Our first program, *Carousel à la Carte*, is a delightful departure from our usual concerts as we present music from the much-loved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*, featuring a cabaret-style evening of tasty food from Chef Noberto and a cast of six delightful singers to entertain us with the music of *Carousel*.

To ring in the New Year we will present a fully staged, orchestrated production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. This quirky comic opera is full of intrigue, romance, and gorgeous singing. Join us for a December 29, Sunday matinee or raise a glass of champagne on December 31 at 7:30 as a special way to celebrate the coming of the New Year. As always, this program will be presented in the historical Lewis Auditorium of Flagler College.

25 years ago, the first full-length fully-staged opera presented by First Coast Opera was *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Mozart. This season, on March 21 and 22 we will again present this charming opera to our patrons. The cast of delightful and whimsical characters will be filled by many of our favorite singers. Kirk Auditorium, on the Campus of the School for Deaf and Blind, will be the site of this performance. There is plenty of free parking there and a beautifully renovated theater.

We value your enthusiastic support of First Coast Opera both through attendance at our programs and through your continued generous giving. We must rely less on public funding, so you patrons are our lifeline to be able to present these wonderful programs. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Here's to a terrific 25th Season and many more!

Kerry Fradley

Kerry Fradley, President



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This playbill is available online at
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Sunday, December 8, 2024
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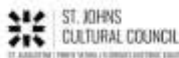


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Selections from Carousel

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

First Performed at the Majestic Theatre, New York City, April 19, 1945

The Carousel Waltz	Piano
Mister Snow	Carrie Pipperidge & Julie Jordan
If I Loved You	Billy Bigelow & Julie Jordan
June is Bustin Out All Over	Nettie Fowler & Company
When the Children Are Asleep	Enoch Snow & Carrie Pipperidge
Soliloquy	Billy Bigelow
A Real Nice Clambake.....	Company
Geraniums in the Winder	Enoch Snow
What's the Use of Wond'rin?	Julie Jordan
You'll Never Walk Alone.....	Nettie & Company

Enhanced Ticket Reception

O Captain! My Captain! Music by Curtis Tucker, Text by Walt Whitman
My Name is Alondra, Movement II Music by Omar Najmi, Text by Alondra Bobadilla
More Than Our Own Caves, Movement V Music by Omar Najmi, Text by Marlanda Dekine
Shop Terminal C Music by Curtis Tucker, Text by Westfield Concession Mgmt.

Cast

Carrie Pipperidge.....	Megan Warburton
Julie Jordan.....	Lauren Nash Silberstein
Billy Bigelow	Steve Valenzuela
Nettie Fowler.....	Gloria Palermo
Enoch Snow	Omar Najmi
Townsman.....	Wyatt Matlock

Production Team

Director	Curtis Tucker
Pianist.....	Keith Teepen
Costumer	Deborah Smith
Production Assistant	Wyatt Matlock

Director's Notes



For a long time, opera companies did not perform American musicals. We were firmly rooted in the traditions of European opera and eventually operas from the Americas and other parts of the world. But Golden Age Broadway musicals were written for classically-trained voices, performed without amplification. The same cannot be said of most new Broadway musicals. As a result, opera companies now celebrate these works and more often keep these classics alive.

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II epitomize Broadway's Golden Age, ushering it in with *Oklahoma!* in 1943. Next followed *Carousel* in 1945, which according to his autobiography *Musical Stages*, was Rodgers' favorite. In its "Best of the Century" list, *Time* magazine dubbed *Carousel* as the Best Musical of the 20th Century. Its life and death themes are dramatic, and its songs are sophisticated and tuneful.

Carousel, like most works, reflects the time in which it was written, which can lead to modern day challenges. In the story, Billy Bigelow hits his wife in a fit of rage. Mrs. Mullin, owner of the carousel, urges Billy to leave his wife Julie Jordan for "a good livin'" of young girls and beer. Billy later commits suicide after a botched robbery attempt. These are heavy issues that may seem more operatic than the song-and-dance of many musicals.

For tonight's program, I have decided to omit most of the dramatic conflict. Rather, tonight we celebrate the brilliance of Rodgers' music and Hammerstein's lyrics. The score is filled with one hit tune after another; many will be familiar to you. The action takes place somewhere on the New England coast at a time not really so long ago. These songs reflect their circumstances, good and bad. They also remain in our ears and hearts and hopefully always will.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Curtis Tucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Curtis Tucker

Principal Artists



Megan Warburton (Carrie Pipperridge) is pleased to return to First Coast Opera after performing the roles of Laurie in *Copland's America* and Kay in *The Stranger's Tale* last fall. Other recent performances include Sophie in *Werther*, Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, La Feé in *Cendrillon*, and Johanna (cover) in *Sweeney Todd*. She also frequently sings as a soloist in concert, including as the Soprano Soloist in Carmina Burana with Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra and with Charleston Opera Theatre. A native of the Rocky Mountains, she is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Utah State University, and was a young artist with Opera Saratoga, Utah Vocal Arts Academy, and the CoOPERATIVE program. In addition to performing, she teaches at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC.

Lauren Nash Silberstein (Julie Jordon) is delighted to make her FCO debut. Lauren most recently debuted the role of Gilda in *Rigoletto* with The Druid City Opera, joined Union Avenue Opera for their summer season, was the recipient of both the Joy B. Misenhimer Encouragement Award from the Mendelssohn Club Vocal Competition and The Bedřich Smetana Award from the International Czech and Slovak Competition. Some favorites recently performed include Margot Bonaulet in *The Desert Song* and Lisette in *La rondine* with Winter Opera St Louis and Kathie in *The Student Prince* with The Ohio Light Opera. Lauren holds a master's degree from The Eastman School of Music.



Steve Valenzuela (Billy Bigelow) has performed standard and contemporary opera, musical theater, concert and oratorio work, as well as a few stints in commercial acting. He appeared with First Coast Opera recently as Marcello in *La Boheme*. He has performed with many nationally recognized opera companies including Opera Project Columbus, Shreveport Opera, Utah Opera, Utah Festival Opera, and Florentine Opera, including the title role in *Don Giovanni*, Conte Almaviva and Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Marcello in *La Bohème*, Samuel in *Un*

Ballo in Maschera, Howard in David T. Little's *Dog Days*, and Sam in *Trouble in Tahiti*. He received his Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University and his Bachelor of Music from Western Connecticut State University.

Gloria Palermo (Nettie Fowler) is thrilled to be making her debut with First Coast Opera. Gloria is originally from Cocoa, Florida and currently based in Tampa. Her most recent performances include concert appearances in Spanish Nights with Opera Tampa and Beethoven 9 with the Longmont Symphony in Colorado. In 2023 Gloria completed her Artist Diploma at the University of Colorado Boulder. In addition to performing, Gloria is a dedicated and passionate voice teacher across all genres of singing. She holds a Master's in Music from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's in Music from Rice University, and has received additional training at the Santa Fe Opera, Tanglewood Music Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival.



Omar Najmi (Enoch Snow) is based in Boston, MA. Upcoming engagements include *Adoration* with Los Angeles Opera, *Mozart in the Museum* with Anchorage Opera, *Carousel* with Boston Lyric Opera, and *Messiah* with Boston Baroque. As a composer, Omar is a current member of Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative, where his and Christine Evans' opera *Mud Girl* will be premiered in January. He has additionally had works commissioned by Atlanta Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, White Snake Projects, Juventas New Music Ensemble, and Emmanuel Music.

Wyatt Matlock (Townsmen) Wyatt is thrilled to be back with First Coast Opera! He has been doing shows with First Coast since 2017. Wyatt was born and raised here in St. Augustine. He began his career by singing in choirs, playing piano, and doing musical theatre camp! Wyatt attended the Florida School of the Arts before transferring to Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theater.



Some of his theater credits include *Les Misérables*, *Ragtime*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Father of the Bride*, *The Courage to Write a Woman's Wrongs*, and *Company*! Wyatt works at Old Town Trolley here in St. Augustine as the Lead History Teller! He would like to thank his family, friends, co-workers, and professors for supporting him, and also to First Coast Opera for providing opportunities to grow his career!

Principal Artists

Production Team

Curtis Tucker (Director) produces his eleventh season for First Coast Opera as General and Artistic Director, often leading from the orchestra pit or director's chair, and sometimes along with singers onstage. This season he will conduct mainstage performances of *The Barber of Seville* and *The Magic Flute*. The Kansas City native led Opera Saratoga in New York before moving to Florida. Last season he led performances of his original one-act opera, *The Stranger's Tale*, in Saint Augustine, Jacksonville, and Mount Dora.



Pianist **Keith Teepen**, enjoys a multi-faceted career in performing and teaching. Keith has performed in Europe, Asia, South America, and throughout North America. Keith is also a frequent collaborator in the opera world and was the “official pianist” for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions – North Dakota-Manitoba District from 2015-2018. Recently Keith had the pleasure of working with saxophonist Scott Sandberg on the album Duality - Works for Tenor Saxophone & Piano. He received his

D.M.A. in Collaborative Piano at the University of Colorado, Boulder and he is currently the Tom Kenan Assistant Professor of Piano at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

Deborah Smith has been a professional actor for over 30 years performing locally in such shows as *Showboat*, *Christmas Carole*, *King and I*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*, to name a few. Deborah has also worked both backstage in makeup and hair for the First Coast Opera as well as costumed several operas including *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *La Boheme*, *Cox and Box/ Penelope's Revenge*, *Le Doctor Miracle* and *Bon Appetit*. Deborah and husband Michael are retired (well, maybe almost!) and living in beautiful Saint Augustine with two cats.



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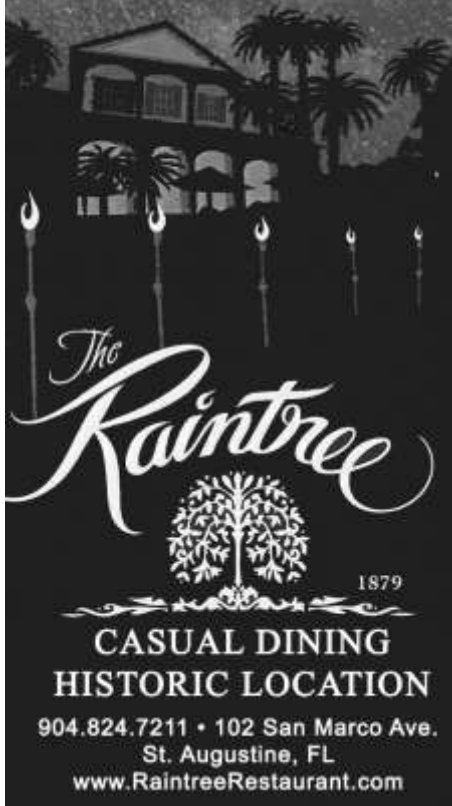
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Romanza's COLLAGE CONCERT SERIES

RETURNS TO THE WATERWORKS



SEP. 28, 2024

Linda Cole: Nat King Cole and the Great American Songbook

An unforgettable evening of classic American standards as only one of the great Cole Family Singers can deliver! You don't want to miss this chance to experience this legendary music from one of the family.



OCT. 26, 2024

The Jazzy Blue Band - A Taste of the Tropics

Kiss summer goodbye with one last blast of tropical heat! Enjoy timeless favorites interwoven with original compositions and some Caribbean treasures from Jazzy's time in St. Croix!



NOV. 23, 2024

On Dasher On Prancer ON POINT!

A big hit at last year's Collage Concerts, On Point has delighted audiences all over the country! They return this year with new selections and some holiday tunes to usher in the holiday season.



JAN. 25, 2025

Akia Uwanda Intimate Jazz and Soul

Start a new year with an intimate concert featuring Jacksonville's own Akia Uwanda. A favorite of Romanza Festivale, Akia brings us a soulful evening of smooth vocals and jazz stylings in an intimate setting featuring Taylor Roberts on guitar.



FEB. 15, 2025

A Celebration of Love Songs

Celebrate love with a special Valentine's concert songs of love from the world's greatest songwriters. Cliff Parrish, who has brought us the hugely popular Broadway concerts in Romanza Festivale, leads local favorites Jason Whitfield, Haley Kirk, Trudy Hensley and Timothy Keatley.



ALL CONCERTS START AT 7:30pm



Tickets \$25 • Get yours at
romanzafestivale.com





Daytona Beach Symphony SOCIETY

2024 | 2025

73rd SEASON

Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra
on Broadway
Music of Bernstein & Webber
Sunday, January 5

Czech National Philharmonic Orchestra
Zsolt Hamar, conductor
Wednesday, January 15

Tosca
Teatro Lirico D'Europa
Friday, January 31

Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra
Music of Elgar & Tchaikovsky
Thursday, February 27

Sphinx Virtuosi
Music of Ellington, Joplin & more
Wednesday, March 26

All concerts begin at 7 PM
at the Peabody Auditorium



DBSS.ORG





Anniversary Season



The Barber of Seville

Fully-staged with Orchestra Sung in Italian with projected English titles.



Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, 7:30 pm

Lewis Auditorium - 14
Granada St, Saint Augustine



The Magic Flute

Fully-staged with Orchestra - Sung in German with English dialogue and projected titles.



Friday, Mar 21, 2025, 7:30 pm
Saturday, Mar 22, 2025, 4:00 pm

Kirk Memorial - 207 San
Marco Av., Saint Augustine



Gala Celebration

02 . 01 . 2025
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM



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