



The Greater Middletown Concert Association

Opera Series, Concert Series or combined for 2018-2019

Enjoy performances in the new, state-of-the-art, MHS Performing Arts Center
200 LaRosa Lane, opposite 680 Newfield Street (Route 3), Middletown



Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 3:00 PM

"MAPLE LEAF SEVEN" Traditional Jazz Band

This fall, Vermont's popular "Maple Leaf Seven" Traditional Jazz Band will open our four-concert 2018-2019 Series. Instrumentation of the Band's seven members includes trumpet, clarinet, tenor sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums. Some vocals are used also. The musicians will perform a jazz "retrospective" program taking listeners from the "birth" of jazz through the Dixieland and Swing eras to examples of how jazz and swing continued to influence popular, classical and theater music.

The "Maple Leaf Seven" will start with the famous "Maple Leaf Rag" of composer/pianist Scott Joplin and continue playing pieces of Joe Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and many others. They will include Oliver's "Sugar Foot Stomp" and lead up to Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" and Gershwin's "Our Love is Here to Stay." The many jazz favorites in the band's performance will delight the audience of this experienced and fun-loving band. The "Maple Leaf Seven" Traditional Jazz Band from St. Johnsbury, Vermont, brings its popular concerts to many types of venues during its busy annual schedule throughout the Northeast and beyond.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 7:30 PM

THE HAL MCINTYRE ORCHESTRA

The Hal McIntyre Orchestra is a celebrated 13-piece "big band" jazz band that performs throughout the United States and abroad. It is now under the direction of Don Pentleton, but it was originally founded and directed by Hal McIntyre, saxophonist and clarinetist. Born in nearby Cromwell, he grew up in that town, forming his own jazz octet in 1935 when he was 21 years old, and followed by membership in the Benny Goodman band. Glenn Miller noticed this talented musician and hired him as a founding member of the Glenn Miller Band. Later in 1941, Miller encouraged him to form his own band which became the world famous Hal McIntyre Orchestra. His career ended when he died in a tragic fire at the age of 45.



The "Hal McIntyre Orchestra" lives on and will bring the best of sounds and selections for our enjoyment. Added to some of the band's instrumental numbers, will be vocals in a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Peggy Lee.

Subscribe to the 2018-2019 Two-Concert Series!

\$65 for adults (front section) and \$55 (rear section). Student prices available.
Individual Concert tickets \$35 (front section) and \$30 (rear section).
*(See right-hand box for great savings..subscribe with the Opera Series)

THE GREATER MIDDLETOWN CONCERT ASSOCIATION
Barbara Arafah, President
P.O. Box 2622 Middletown, CT 06457 • (860) 343-7555 • bmwa@aol.com
www.GreaterMiddletownConcerts.org

___ Full subscriptions (2 concerts and 2 operas): \$135 (front) ___ \$120 (rear) ___; Total ___
 ___ Concert Series (2 concerts): \$65 (front) ___ \$55 (rear) ___; Total ___
 ___ Individual Concert tickets: \$35 (front) ___ \$30 (rear) ___
 Oct. ___; April ___; Total ___
 ___ Opera Series (2 operas): \$75 (front) ___ \$65 (rear) ___; Total ___
 ___ Individual Opera tickets: \$40 (front) ___ \$35 (rear) ___
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 (All major credit cards taken.)



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THE OPERA SERIES (Live opera, fully staged!)

The Connecticut Lyric Opera and the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, under direction of Adrian Sylveen, perform acclaimed operas professionally sung in the original languages with English Titles projected over the stage.



Carmen is played by Tamra Grace Jones

Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM

CARMEN by Georges Bizet

The French opera *Carmen* was composed by Georges Bizet. One of the most popular operas of all time, it was set in 19th century Spain. The beautiful but defiant gypsy Carmen captures the love of two men. One, Don Jose, is a handsome but unsophisticated soldier, and the other, Escamillo, is a dashing toreador scheduled for bull fights in the city's arena. The ensuing story is one of love, jealousy and revenge. A new take on this perennial operatic favorite will include an updated staging that will bring new relevance to the story while taking away none of the original drama and charm.

The familiar music of *Carmen* with its beloved arias, choruses and orchestral interludes continues to please audiences around the world. Carmen's passionate role makes this French opera especially unforgettable.

Carmen was first performed at the Opera Comique in Paris on March 3, 1875. There it shocked and scandalized its conservative French audience when it broke the operatic conventions of the time. However, within the following ten years this Bizet opera received international acclaim. The "Habanera" in Act 1 and the "Toreador Song" in Act 2 are among the best known of all operatic arias.

(Sung in French with English titles projected above the stage)

(A fully-staged live opera presented by Connecticut Lyric Opera and Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra)

Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM

TURANDOT by Giacomo Puccini

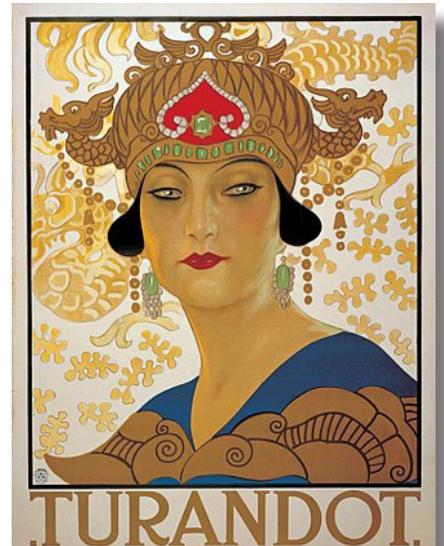
Turandot is the final opera of acclaimed Italian composer Giacomo Puccini. It takes place in ancient China with music that includes Asian accents throughout. The opera contains one of the most famous tenor arias composed for opera, "Nessun Dorma", and has more chorus passages than Puccini's other operas like "Madama Butterfly" and "La Bohème".

Calaf, a prince in disguise, falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot. To obtain permission to marry her, a suitor has to solve her three riddles. Any wrong answer results in his death. When Calaf passes the test, Turandot still refuses to marry him. He offers a way out if she is able to learn his name before dawn the next day then at daybreak he will die. Unexpected events and solutions follow leading to a loving fairy-tale ending! Ping, Pang and Pong add dramatic humor as Commedia dell'arte characters in the opera.

Puccini died in 1924 not having finished the third act of *Turandot*. The famous conductor Toscanini then directed it unfinished. However, the opera since then is usually finished with an ending created by composer Franco Alfano.

(Sung in Italian with English titles projected above the stage.)

(A fully-staged live opera presented by Connecticut Lyric Opera and Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra)



The cover of the score printed by Ricordi

Subscribe to the 2018-2019 Two-Opera Series!

Both operas: \$65 for adults (front section) and \$55 (rear section). Student prices available.
Individual Opera tickets \$40 (front section) and \$35 (rear section).

Subscribe with the Concert Series for even greater savings!

All four performances: \$135 for adults (front section) and \$120 (rear section).

We are grateful for funding from the Middletown Commission on the Arts, CT Office of the Arts and the Community Foundation.



MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS



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