

EVENTS OF OPERA IN WILLIAMSBURG IN 2024 (partial)

Art Songs Concert with tenor Minghao Liu

at the **Williamsburg Regional Library**, Monday March 25 at 6:30 PM

Fund-Raising Live Auction and Dinner Concert,

at the **Colonial Heritage Clubhouse**, Monday April 29 at 5 PM

Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann*, at the **Kimball Theatre**:

Fully staged with orchestra, in French with English supertitles

Friday May 17 at 7:30 PM

Sunday May 19 at 2:30 PM matinee

Tuesday May 21 at 7:30 PM

Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the **Kimball Theatre**

Fully staged with orchestra, in Italian with English supertitles

Wednesday September 18 at 7:30 PM

Friday September 20 at 7:30 PM

Sunday September 22 at 2:30 PM matinee

Dinner Concert in early September

Art songs concert in November

Free Concerts at the Williamsburg Winery

Open working rehearsals

Dress rehearsals open to K-12 students with chaperones

Other events and outreach activities – details on our website and by email

Donors' Reception on March 26, 2024 (donors of \$500 or more in 2023)

OPERA IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA is an innovative opera company, founded in 2012, that creates productions of fully-staged opera classics, as well as other operas and opera-music performances, with world-class professional singers in intimate settings in Williamsburg, Virginia. Funded by ticket sales, individual contributions, and grants, Opera in Williamsburg is committed to the highest artistic standards. We are very grateful indeed for the generous support of members of the community – donors, volunteers, and hosts who take our cast and creative team into their homes. Opera in Williamsburg works in partnership with the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. Opera in Williamsburg is run by a board of directors chaired by Paul Try, PhD, with Naama Zahavi-Ely as Founder, President, and General and Artistic Director, and with Music Director Jorge Parodi.

More details and tickets on our website

<https://www.operainwilliamsburg.org>



Opera in Williamsburg in Concert:



Russian and French Art Songs



In memory of Shahar Kadman 3/3/1989-10/7/2023

November 16, 2023, at the Williamsburg Regional Library
515 Scotland St, Williamsburg, Virginia

Denis Sedov, Bass

Kinneret Ely, Soprano

Pianist: Stanislav Serebriannikov

David Zehavi, Eli Eli (Kinneret Ely)

Nira Chen, Dodi Li (Kinneret Ely)

Hector Berlioz, Les Nuits d'Été :

Villanelle (Kinneret Ely)

Le spectre de la rose (Denis Sedov)

Sur les lagunes : lamento (Denis Sedov)

Absence (Kinneret Ely)

Au cimetière: Clair de lune (Kinneret Ely)

L'île inconnue (Kinneret Ely)

Jacques Ibert, Chansons de Don Quichotte (Denis Sedov)

Chanson du départ – Song of Departure

Chanson à Dulcinée – Song for Dulcinea

Chanson du Duc – Song of the Duke

Chanson de la mort – Song of Death

--- Short intermission ---

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: (Denis Sedov):

None but the lonely heart

Serenade of Don Juan

Sergei Rachmaninov: (Kinneret Ely):

Do not sing, my beauty, to me

How fair this spot

Spring waters

Modest Mussorgsky: Songs and Dances of Death (Denis Sedov)

Lullabye

Serenade

Trepak

The Field Marshal



DENIS SEDOV



Born in St. Petersburg, Mr. Sedov holds a degree from Jerusalem Academy. He was one of very few non-American singers invited to join the Lindemann Young Artist Program of the Metropolitan Opera. He made his debut there in Giordani's *Fedora* in a cast with Domingo and Freni. Since then he has appeared at La Scala, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, Opera de Paris, Teatro Colon Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, San Francisco Opera, La Monnaie Bruxelles, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Reggion Turin, and other major opera houses. Mr. Sedov's concert repertoire includes performances with Bayrische Rundfunk (Munich), Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland, Atlanta and San Francisco Symphonies, Orchestre de Paris, Radio France, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and other major orchestras. He collaborated with conductors such as Ozawa, Mazur, Muti, Boulez, Dutoit, Pappano, and Echenbach. A worldwide audience of television viewers saw Mr. Sedov sing the bass solo in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* conducted by Ozawa as part of the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan. As a recording artist, Mr. Sedov can be heard on many releases by Deutsche Grammophon and Naxos. Mr. Sedov was Sarastro in *Opera in Williamsburg's Magic Flute* in 2019 and *Don Alfonso and Colline* in our 2022 productions.

KINNERET ELY



Soprano Kinneret Ely is a freelance opera singer based in New York City and Tel Aviv. In July 2023, she sang the role of Oberto in *Alcina* with the Jerusalem Lyric Opera Studio, where she also sang *Violetta* in *La Traviata* in 2018. She was a young artist with Teatro Grattacielo's Camerata Bardi Vocal Academy in 2021, with which she sang *Ilia* in *Idomeneo Alla Breve* at the Rhodes International Festival in September 2021. Her performed roles also include *Gilda* in *Rigoletto*, *Madame Cortese* in *Il Viaggio a Reims*, and *Rosina* in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Kinneret was *Ida* in *Opera in Williamsburg's Die Fledermaus* in September 2023.

STANISLAV SEREBRIANNIKOV



An alumnus of the Moscow State Conservatory, Stanislav Serebriannikov is a prominent vocal artist, pianist and a conductor. He had performed in 17 different countries including Italy, Germany, Austria, Australia, Canada, Kazakhstan to name a few. He immigrated to the US in 2019 and since then has started performing in NY, Massachusetts, Oregon, California, Illinois, Washington DC. He is a head of the Musical Staff at David Gviniandze's Arts and Music Center in Philadelphia, PA.

About today's concert:

The repertoire of French art songs (*mélodies*) and Russian art songs is closely intertwined. Berlioz' *Nuits d'Été* was among the earliest composed *mélodies* (1841), and combines delicate evocations of nature, symbolism, and yearning, with soaring vocal lines. The other set of French songs in our evening, Ibert's *Don Quichote* songs, is one of the latest in the program (1933) and was composed as movie music for the great Russian singer Feodor Chaliapin. The Russian songs of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninov are all influenced by Berlioz, and focus on the same Romantic themes of nature and yearning. Tchaikovsky's songs were among his most popular works in his lifetime, and the *Serenade of Don Juan* was particularly popular; the songs in our program are a part of a group of six romances that were written in 1878. Rachmaninov's songs in our program were each written separately, within a different song grouping. All of them were written by 1916, before the composer left Russia, and set to music poems that revolve around Russia's landscapes and nature. Mussorgsky's 1875 cycle "*Songs and Dances of Death*" are four mini-dramas, featuring *Death* in four different settings. "*Death*" in Russian is a feminine noun – *Mother Death*, as it were, powerful and tender. In the songs she engages with a sleepless mother over her feverish baby, with a sickly maiden, with a drunk peasant lost in a snowstorm and lulled into sleeping to death in a snow drift, and finally as a commanding figure laying to rest the fighters who have lost their lives on both sides of a fierce battle. In memory of Shahar Kadman, Naama's cousin, we are adding to the evening two Israeli songs. Both are deeply imbued with the landscape and poetry of Israel, and also draw upon the Russian musical tradition.