

SOLO SOUTHERN ONTARIO
LYRIC **OPERA**

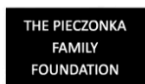
presents



— —
P R O G R A M
— —

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 7:30pm

The Burlington Performing Arts Centre



Please silence mobile devices.

*****Cameras and recording are not permitted.*****

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

**A two-act comic opera, sung in Italian.
Music by Gioachino Rossini (1792 – 1868)
Libretto by Cesare Sterbini
Premiered February 20, 1816
at Teatro Argentina in Rome, Italy.**

The Cast

(in order of vocal appearance)

Chris Palmer, Fiorello
Ryan Nauta, Il Conte d'Almaviva
Christopher Dunham, Figaro
Meagan Reimer, Rosina
Ryan Hofman, Don Bartolo
Luke Nofall, Don Basilio
Daniela Agostino, Berta
Chris Palmer, Un ufficiale

**Southern Ontario Lyric Opera
Orchestra and Chorus**

Sabatino Vacca, Conductor

Gregory Finney, Director

Participation of artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy (DOT).

Synopsis

Work Description

The Barber of Seville by Gioachino Rossini established several records: it was composed in only two weeks, by a 24-year-old who had already written 16 operas! The music flows with breathtaking limpidity. Serenades, duets and ensembles brighten the comedy with vocal flourishes and verbal antics. Rossini's genius lies in mastering the physical crescendo, designed to build tension until the audience boils with impatience and is ready to explode. The overture immediately offers a surprise: a tutti warns the audience that the show has started, then a delightful melody takes over, repeats, and swells to the breaking point... Laughter and rhythms burst forth and overflow. Rossini captures all the insolence of Beaumarchais's play in a madcap universe.

Summary

Seville, at the end of the 18th century. The happy barber Figaro helps Il Conte d'Almaviva court Rosina. Rosina is not indifferent to the serenades of her mysterious lover, but her guardian, Don Bartolo, jealously guards her and, with the help of his sinister friend Don Basilio, intends to marry her as soon as possible. How to foil the old man's plan? Figaro has many ideas. However, the first attempt fails, and Il Conte d'Almaviva, disguised as "Lindoro", a penniless student, cannot enter Bartolo's house. The second attempt is almost successful, and after a series of secret notes, disguises, and mistaken identities, love triumphs and Rosina and Il Conte d'Almaviva are finally married.

ACT 1

The scene takes place on a public square in Seville at dawn. With Fiorello's help, Il Conte d'Almaviva disguises himself as a student, Lindoro, and prepares a serenade for the beautiful Rosina...who fails to come to her window. He waits and then hides when he hears someone coming. It is Figaro, the barber of Seville, who is a jack of all trades, full of life and enthusiasm for his job. Figaro tells Almaviva that he knows everything about Rosina. Don Bartolo is her guardian, and the old man intends to marry her! Figaro suggests that the Count disguise himself as a drunken soldier to enter Don Bartolo's house. Inside the carefully guarded house, Rosina has written a letter to Lindoro, whom she has heard singing under her window...Don Bartolo is worried. Don Basilio, the music teacher, informs him that Il Conte d'Almaviva has been seen in town. Of that he is certain! To get rid of his rival, Basilio suggests spreading false rumours about the Count...

Intermission

ACT 2

Il Conte d'Almaviva's plan has failed. A group of soldiers escorts him out of Bartolo's house, despite Figaro's intervention and the efforts of Rosina, who is in love with her secret admirer. Bartolo understands this and tries to speed up his marriage to Rosina. Almaviva makes a last-ditch effort, disguising himself this time as "Don Alonso", a substitute music teacher. But unfortunately, Don Basilio arrives, Rosina's "real" music teacher. A bribe suffices to get rid of him. Despite Figaro's vigilance, Bartolo overhears Rosina and Almaviva's conversation. He chases everyone from the room. The old man wants to speed up the marriage and, above all, convince Rosina that Almaviva is an impostor and a skirt-chaser! He rushes off to find a notary. After a series of misunderstandings, carefully orchestrated by Figaro, the notary winds up marrying Rosina and Almaviva... The Count turns out to be her liberator... and her husband! Bartolo can do nothing. It is better for him to calm down and give the couple his blessing.

Source: *Opera Online*

The Cast

(in order of vocal appearance)

CHRIS PALMER, *Fiorello & Un ufficiale*



Chris Palmer is a baritone, guitarist, improviser, and teacher with three decades of diverse musical experience. He has toured New Zealand as a jazz artist and performance poet, collaborating with prominent leaders like William Parker and Karl Berger, and returns in 2026 to score a contemporary dance show with Borderline Arts.

Chris performed in SOLO's *Aida* and sang as a bass soloist for Bach Elgar. He sings with Melrose United, performs in Earth, Wind and Choir, writes solo guitar music, and leads the improv quintet Ghost Variables.

RYAN NAUTA, *Il Conte d'Almaviva*



Born in Chatham, tenor Ryan Nauta has earned praise from Opera Canada for his sparkling vocal prowess and was named 'one to watch' by *Le Devoir*. As a 2026 Laureate of the Jeunes

Ambassadeurs Lyriques and alumnus of Calgary Opera's McPhee Development Program, McGill, and Western University, his operatic highlights include Gianni Schicchi, Don Giovanni, and a Cecilia

Livingston world premiere. He performs solo major and underrepresented classical works. He studied at Austria's Franz-Schubert- Institut and holds funding scholarship awards from Kiwanis and Art Song Foundations of Canada.

CHRISTOPHER DUNHAM, *Figaro*



Niagara Falls native Christopher Dunham is a "vocally powerful and dramatic" baritone praised by Opera Canada for his exceptional musicality, acting, and stage presence. He is an alumnus of L'Atelier Lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal and the Atlanta Opera residency. His roles include Figaro, Don Giovanni, Germont, and Schaunard. A two-time Desmarais Development Bursary winner, Christopher's

recent engagements feature Argante with Pacific Opera Victoria and Escamillo with L'Opéra de Montréal.

MEAGAN REIMER, *Rosina*



Mezzo-soprano Meagan Reimer is a versatile Manitoba-based artist spanning opera, jazz, musical theatre, and oratorio. She has performed with major Canadian companies, including Manitoba Opera and Toronto Operetta Theatre. Her notable roles include Rosina, Donna Elvira, and Desdemona, for which her clean coloratura earned comparisons to Joan Sutherland. A competition

finalist in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Salzburg, Meagan studied in Italy and is completing her Master of Music at the University of Manitoba. Alongside a busy concert schedule featuring Berlioz and Handel, she teaches voice and creates unique multi-disciplinary classical arts collaborations.

RYAN HOFMAN, Don Bartolo



Baritone Ryan Hofman is a two-time Brian Law Opera Competition finalist praised for his warm, resonant voice and thoughtful interpretations. Last season, he debuted with RESOUND Choir and Guelph Chamber Choir, performing masterpieces by Vaughan Williams and Fauré. His opera stage highlights include roles in *La Rondine* and *The Student Prince*, and self-produced, community-focused productions of *La Bohème* and *Don Giovanni*. In 2026-27, Ryan debuts Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in North Bay and the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Oxford Collegium Singers.

LUKE NOFTALL, Don Basilio



Bass-baritone Luke Nofall holds a Master of Music in Opera Performance and an Honours Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto, where he studied under Wendy Nielsen. At UofT Opera, he performed roles including Don Bartolo, Top, and Mr. Choufleuri. Opera Canada praised him as a "star of the festival," highlighting his warm baritone and dynamic interpretation of Papageno; his credits also include Lancelot. Recently, Luke joined Banff Centre's prestigious Opera in the 21st Century program, singing Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and workshop-running Morris in the newly premiered opera *Adoration*.

DANIELA AGOSTINO, Berta



Soprano Daniela Agostino is a "bright and agile" artist Opera Canada praised for her soaring, lively voice. A Western University Master's graduate, she won the London Opera Guild Scholarship and placed in the finals of the National Capital Opera Competition. Supported by a Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation grant, her credits span roles with Toronto Operetta Theatre, Voicebox, and SOLO, including performances in *The Merry Widow* and *La Traviata*. Currently studying with Corinne Winters, her recent engagements feature a York Symphony Orchestra debut and the Toronto premiere of *Angel's Bone*.

DAWN MARTENS, Pre-talk



Dawn Martens is the recipient of a 2010 Ruby Award for opera education from Opera Canada, as well as a 2020 Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching for an online children's production of the opera *Brundibar*. Dawn was the Artistic Director of The Buchanan Park Opera Club for 26 years, and was awarded four Hamilton Music Awards and induction into the McMaster University Alumni Gallery. A writer for Opera Canada for over 20 years, she is currently the host of *Opera Night in Canada* on 100.9 Canoe FM. She has directed church and school choirs, and is currently Director of Music for Duet Club's Women of Song and Garth Trails Singers, and is Music Minister at Dundas Baptist Church.

GREGORY FINNEY, Director



Gregory Finney returns following his acclaimed work directing SOLO's *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. An accomplished stage director and performer, his prominent career with Against the Grain Theatre includes a Dora Award win (*Messiah*), a nomination (*Figaro's Wedding*), and Canada's CBC-livestreamed national tour of *La Bohème*. Celebrated for his masterclass-level physical comedy and extensive repertoire, Gregory's work spans major Toronto stages, from traditional opera and world-premiere musical theatre to serving as Ringmaster for the innovative opera-and-pro-wrestling crossover, *OperaMANIA*.

SABATINO VACCA, Conductor and Artistic Director



Sabatino Vacca is the Founder and Artistic Director of SOLO, established in 2015. He also serves as Music Director of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra. Formerly the Artistic Director of Opera York and Opera Hamilton, Sabatino has conducted extensively across Canada and the Czech Republic. A University of Montreal Master's graduate, he has coached at top Canadian institutions. He received the Spirit of Ontario Award and is an inductee in the McMaster University Alumni Gallery.

Production Team

Director / Lighting	Gregory Finney
Stage Manager	Drew Aarssen
Chorus Coordinator	Lynne Atkinson
Orchestra Liaison	Cathy Gallagher
Costume & Set Designer	Pamela Blackwood-Marques
Projections / Props	Pamela Blackwood-Marques
Set Builder	Robert Gilhooly
Dresser / Wardrobe	Ashlea Gilhooly-Marquez
Stage Crew	Pamela Blackwood-Marques, Gwen Gilhooly, Robert Gilhooly, Jillian Toplack-Watson, Grace Watson
Transport Team	Gwen Gilhooly, Roger Marques, Jillian Toplack-Watson, Dawn White
Program	Sandra Litt
Media / Promotion	Kathy Winter



Incite Foundation for the Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to revolutionizing support For the arts in the Hamilton Community.

Orchestra

Violin I	Stephanie Numan Scholman**, Alexis Brett, Xiaoling Li, Renata Vidri, Lilit Zakaryan
Violin II	George Cleland*, Liz Nasir, Monika Panz
Viola	Sue Kitchen*, Laura Panz, John Sanderson, Gordon Vanderwoude
Cello	Gordon Cleland*, Susan Naccache, Marcela Lagunas
Bass	Jessica Monk*, Roger Hollingworth
Piccolo/Flute	Rodney Gray*, Máté Szigeti
Oboe	Islay-May Renwick*, Heather Ryan
Bassoon	Catherine McDonnell*, Gabrielle Eber
Clarinet	Zoltan Kalman*, Janis Cadieux
Horn	Michael Rosenberger*, Michael Hindrichs
Trumpet	Bill Renwick*, Tim White
Trombone	Sharon St. Pierre
Tuba	David Pearson
Timpani	Ron Scott
Percussion	Jessalyn Shein
Guitar	James Baker

**Concertmaster
*Principal

Chorus

Soprano

Lynne Atkinson, Pamela Blackwood-Marques,
Lorna Blennerhassett, Jessie-Ann Bradshaw, Janet Brown-McIsaac,
Sandra Litt, Kim Logan, Sofia Marquez, Terri-Lyn Paterson,
Amy Unwin Siebel, Magdalena Soltys

Mezzo-soprano

Darielle Chomyn, Nancy Dykstra, Monica Knott, Carla Onorato,
Jillian Toplack-Watson, Michelle Varga, Grace Watson,
Dawn White, Kathy Winter

Tenor

Tony Di Benedetto, John Hicks, Peter Ipema,
Marie Leone, Gerrit Seppenwoolde

Baritone/Bass

Art Grierson, Sam Hogeterp, Guy Mersereau, Fiorigio Minelli,
Michael Procher, Eric Vaicius, Jim Young, Martin Zimmer

SOLO's Purpose & Mission

As a not-for-profit opera company, SOLO is dedicated to advancing public appreciation and enjoyment of the arts through high-quality performances, education, and community outreach.

We enrich Southern Ontario by bringing the world of opera to diverse audiences and offering supporters opportunities to invest in the community and be recognized for supporting the arts in the region.

Board of Directors

Sandra Litt, Chair

Gerrit Seppenwoolde, Treasurer

Natalie Nimchand, Secretary

Tonia Cianciulli, **Art Grierson**, **Kathy Winter**, Members-at-Large

Sabatino Vacca, Artistic Director

Donors & Supporters

PLATINUM (\$50,000 - \$74,999)

INCITE Foundation for the Arts

SILVER (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Burlington Community Foundation,
Nadine McLean (bequest), Pieczonka Foundation

FORTE (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

Tom & Kari Beese, Val Cleland, David & Judy Goodings

ALLEGRO (\$500 - \$999)

Mike & Lana Biro, Jean Crowe, Grace Fioravanti,
Dalton Fowler, Sam Hogeterp, Pat Johnston, Fiorigio Minelli,
Islay-May Renwick, Diane Sandler, Kathy Winter

ADAGIO (\$100 - \$499)

Andrea Batista, A. Bonventre, Fr. Ronald Cote, Fiona Cuddy,
Emily DeBenedictis, Paul Durnan, Enza Fazio, Ian Hambleton,
Monica Knott, Marie Leone, Margaret Makereth, Fran Marino, Jim
McMaster, Carolann Moises, Ronald More, Susan Naccache, Carla
Onorato, Terri-Lyn Paterson, David & Mary Ann Pearson, Michael
Procher, Diane Schincariol, Patricia Simon, Adam Simpson, Gillian
Stanley, Miuyin Lewina Svoboda, Jim Young, William Young

FRIENDS (up to \$99)

Anna Bernardo, Jessie-Ann Bradshaw, Susan Caughran,
Nancy Dykstra, Sandra Litt, Nancy Ng, Volha Petrashkevich,
Joan Shewchun, Magdalena Soltys, Christine Tiller,
Amy Unwin Siebel, Dawn White

In Memoriam

SOLO is deeply appreciative of the musical legacy left by
Jackie Sutherland (Viola) and **Graham Young** (Principal Trumpet)
who generously shared their time and talents over the years.
We also gratefully remember the exceptional generosity
of one of our main sponsors, **Nadine McLean**.

Thank You!

Burlington Performing Arts Centre and its volunteers
East Plains United Church

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Buying or selling a home can be a stressful process if you don't have the right real estate agent. You can rely on me to get you the best possible result.

Marta Paczkowska



CONTACT:



(647) 289-1318



m.d.paczowska@gmail.com



rightathomerealty.com

Corcoran Construction Inc.



Ed Corcoran

Owner, Carpenter

Insured, Free Quotes | 289-527-3146

Corcoranconstruction77@gmail.com



66% of Canadian families haven't discussed their final wishes*

Have the talk. Then make your final arrangements together with the comfort of knowing you've protected each other from uncertainty.

Get started today with a FREE Planning Kit 905-332-2401


Lynne Atkinson
 Family Service Director & Licensed Funeral Director

 **Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home**
 Burlington Chapel
 by Arbor Memorial

2241 New Street, Burlington, ON • dbburlington.ca

* Research conducted by Willful and Arbor Memorial Inc. in a 2020 survey.

Arbor Memorial Inc.

<i>Save the Date!</i> DOUBLE BILL OPERA	<i>Il Segreto di Susanna</i> (E. Wolf-Ferrari) <i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i> (P. Mascagni)	WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2027 at 7:30 PM WHERE: Burlington Performing Arts Centre
---	--	--

Support SOLO

- **Online:** Click our secure **DONATE** link.
 - **E-Transfer:** Send your donation to **soloopera2@gmail.com**
 - **Cheque:** Payable to: *Southern Ontario Lyric Opera*
 Mail to: SOLO, 206-55 Etta Wylie Rd., Etobicoke, ON M8V 3Z8
- Donations of \$20 or more will receive an official income tax receipt.

Email: inquiries@southernontariolyricopera.com

Website: southernontariolyricopera.com

Facebook: @SouthernOntarioLyricOpera

Instagram: @solo_opera

Program printed by *Barkley Design, Print and Copy.*