Learning to Love Opera

Did you know that the Italian word “opera” means “work,” both in the sense of the labor done and the result produced. Such “work” is typically a collaboration between a composer and librettist, or text writer. This lecture will take listeners through the history of opera using familiar operatic music and highlighting musical terms to make opera more easily understood and accessible.

*Available as a 1-part presentation.

Lyric soprano **Saundra DeAthos** has been heralded for the remarkable quality of both her vocal and dramatic presentations. Saundra has received rave reviews in her stunning role debut as Cio Cio San in Madama Butterfly where she was described as “vocally…stunning. She meets the extravagant demands that Puccini makes on his hero without any strain whatsoever. She has a full-throated lyric-verging-on-verismo soprano and can still float a gorgeous pianissimo note at the top of her range. In the final scene, she ate the scenery and left the audience in tears.” Ms. DeAthos has since graced the stages of many outstanding opera companies across the United States, such as San Francisco Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Boston Lyric Opera. In addition to her operatic activities, Ms. DeAthos performs regularly with symphony orchestras throughout the United States including the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

Saundra now resides in Charleston with her husband and two children as she has recently accepted a position at the College of Charleston as Head of Opera and Assistant Professor of Voice after spending 10 years as the Music Coordinator in the Theatre Department at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

Contact Dr. Alice Hamilton or Dr. Nancy Muller to register your group or community.

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