

## ***Italian Opera: Syllabus:***

### **Session 1- Baroque Opera**

In this session, we will trace the development of opera from its beginnings in the late 16<sup>th</sup> & early 17<sup>th</sup> century and then on into the formal conventions of Opera Seria in the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

We will examine the following highlights of 3 important operas from this period:

*La Favola d'Ofeo* by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

*La Calisto* by Francesco Cavalli (1602-1676)

*Giulio Cesare* by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

### **Session 2-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**

Mozart wrote seven considered operatic masterpieces in the last 10 years of his life. We will focus on two of his best known Italian operas of this period:

*Le Nozze di Figaro* (Vienna, 1786)

*Don Giovanni* (Prague, 1787)

### **Session 3- The Bel Canto**

This particular operatic style was all the rage in the early part of the 19th century.

We will examine highlights from a trio of well-known operas from this period:

*Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)

*L'Elisir d'Amore* by Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

*Norma* by Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

### **Session 4- Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)**

Verdi was undeniably the most important composer of Italian opera in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote 27 operas in his long career and we will look at highlights from three of his masterpieces:

*Nabucco* ( Milan, 1842)

*Rigoletto* (Venice, 1851)

*Otello* (Milan, 1887)

### **Session 5- Verismo Opera**

This rather rough & tumble operatic style was inspired by an Italian literary genre of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. We will examine highlights from three operas by well-known composers of the period.

*Cavalleria Rusticana* by Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

*Pagliacci* by Ruggero Leoncavallo (1857-1919)

*Andrea Chenier* by Umberto Giordano (1867-1948)

### **Session 6- Giacomo Puccini (1858-1914)**

Puccini could easily be considered as the last of the line of great Italian opera composers. Although he was not a prolific composer, he wrote some of the most popular operas in the repertoire.

We will focus on the following big three:

*La Boheme* (Turin, 1896)

*Tosca* (Rome, 1900)

*Madama Butterfly* (Milan, 1904)