

**COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
AND
THE GARDEN STATE OPERA
PRESENT
A TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN COMPOSER
GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLESI**



**STABAT MATER
LA SERVA PADRONA**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2024, 7PM
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Old Bridge NJ
(333 Rt 18, Old Bridge NJ 08857)

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A special thanks to St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church
and Fr. Jay Johnson for the use of the Sanctuary.



STABAT MATER



Victoria Mc Grath - Soprano
Olivia Manna - Mezzo Soprano
Francesco Santelli, Conductor

Collegium Musicum Chamber Orchestra

Alexei Yavtuhovich - Violin 1

Nelly Fedorova - Violin 2

Dennis Krasnokutsky - Viola

Mayumi Grasso - Cello

Justin Lee - Double bass

Dan Neff - Organ

The Stabat Mater is a 13th-century Christian hymn to the Virgin Mary that portrays her suffering as mother during the crucifixion of her son Jesus Christ. Its author may be either the Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi or Pope Innocent.

Stabat Mater is a musical setting of the Stabat Mater sequence, composed by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi in 1736. Composed in the final weeks of Pergolesi's life, it is scored for soprano and alto soloists, violin I and II, viola and basso continuo. The autograph manuscript of the work is preserved in the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino. Many pieces which were said to have been composed by Pergolesi have been misattributed; the Stabat Mater is definitely by Pergolesi, as a manuscript in his handwriting has been preserved. The work was composed for a Neapolitan confraternity, the Cavalieri della Vergine dei Dolori di San Luigi al Palazzo, which had also commissioned a Stabat Mater from Alessandro Scarlatti. Pergolesi composed it during his final illness from tuberculosis in a Franciscan monastery in Pozzuoli, along with a Salve Regina setting, and finished it shortly before he died. The Stabat Mater is one of Pergolesi's most celebrated sacred works, achieving great popularity after the composer's death. Jean-Jacques Rousseau showed appreciation for the work, praising the opening movement as "the most perfect and touching duet to come from the pen of any composer"

LA SERVA PADRONA (The Servant Mistress)

La Serva Padrona is a 1733 opera buffa by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710–1736) with libretto by Gennaro Federico, after the play by Jacopo Angello Nelli.



La Serva Padrona

Krista Hastings, Soprano - Serpina
Johannes Linneballe, Baritone - Uberto
Jim Folly - Vespone

Production Team

Stage Director and Set Designer, Dan Yates
Costumes and Props, Dan Yates
Music Director, Francesco Santelli
Artistic Director, Alexei Yavtuhovich
Production Accompanists, Dan Neff and Andrei Burdinskiy

PRODUCTION NOTES

La Serva Padrona (The Maid Turned Mistress) is a 1733 intermezzo by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710–1736) to a libretto by Gennaro Federico, after the play by Jacopo Angello Nelli. It is some 40 minutes long, in two parts without overture, and was written as light-hearted staged entertainment between the acts of Pergolesi's serious opera *Il prigionier superbo*. More specifically each of the two parts, set in the same dressing room, played during an intermission of the three-act opera to amuse people who remained in their seats. *La serva padrona* and the opera seria it punctuates were premiered at the Teatro San Bartolomeo on 6 September 1733, the first performances there after an earthquake the previous year in Naples had closed all theatres. Both were written for the birthday of Holy Roman Empress Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel a few days earlier.

Synopsis

Uberto, an elderly bachelor, is angry and impatient with his maidservant, Serpina, because she has not brought him his chocolate today. Serpina has become so arrogant that she thinks she is the mistress of the household. Indeed, when Uberto calls for his hat, wig and coat, Serpina forbids him to leave the house, adding that from then on he will have to obey her orders. Uberto thereupon orders Vespone (his servant who is mute) to find him a woman to marry so that he can rid himself of Serpina. Serpina convinces Vespone to trick Uberto into marrying her. She informs Uberto that she is to marry a military man named Tempesta. She will be leaving his home and apologizes for her behavior. Vespone, disguised as Tempesta, arrives and, without saying a word, demands 4,000 crowns for a dowry. Uberto refuses to pay such a sum. Tempesta threatens him to either pay the dowry or marry the girl himself. Uberto agrees to marry Serpina. Serpina and Vespone reveal their trick; but Uberto realizes that he has loved the girl all along. They will marry after all; and Serpina will now be the true mistress of the household.

THE ARTISTS



Soprano **Victoria McGrath**, New York City based, is at home in opera, concert work, and new works. Most recently, Victoria was heard in Oberaudorf, Germany, performing excerpts from *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *Die Zauberflöte* with MusikTheater Bavaria. Other recent engagements include Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Littler Daughter (*Proving Up*), and Musetta (*La bohème*) with the Maryland Opera Studio, as well as Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Washington Opera Society. A frequent recitalist, Victoria has performed French language concerts with the French Choir of Washington D.C.; fundraising recitals for the Ukraine with Baltimore Musicales and Aquilon Music Festival; and curated song and aria recitals for Easton Art Academy and the Columbus Citizens Foundation. An advocate for new music, Ms. McGrath has covered roles in Paul Davies' *Ourland* and John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*, in addition to performing excerpts from Justine F. Chen's *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing*. In 2019, she commissioned and premiered a new setting of Ave Maria by Daniel Ficarra; their original recording subsequently aired on Christ Cathedral's radio program, "Music from the Tower." Ms. McGrath is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, where she earned an MM in Opera Performance. She also holds two Bachelor's degrees from Queens College, where she graduated with honors on a full scholarship. She studies with the world-renowned bass-baritone Kevin Short.



Olivia Manna is a Lyric Mezzo-soprano currently based in Lincroft, NJ. Olivia holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the Purchase College Conservatory of Music, and spent her former years at the Fiorello H. LaGuardia HS for the Performing Arts in NYC. With an extensive background in Opera, Musical Theater, and Jazz music, Olivia has performed with opera companies on a national and international level, such as Teatro Grattacielo, Opera Magnifico, amongst others. She's debuted at coveted music venues such as Birdland Jazz Club, and will be making her solo debut at Carnegie Hall later this month. Some of the operatic roles Olivia has performed include Madame de Croissy (Dialogues des Carmélites), Zita (Gianni Schicchi), La Badessa/La Zealtrice (Suor Angelica), Cherubino (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Miss Lovett (Sweeney Todd). Some of Olivia's other musical achievements include being named a winner of the Action for Artists' Achievement Grant, First Prize in the Birmingham International Vocal Competition, being named a Career Bridges Grant Finalist, and competing in the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition. She is also very excited to be releasing her very own contemporary jazz single that will be available to audiences everywhere later this fall across all music streaming platforms.



Krista Hastings (Serpina) is a young full lyric operatic soprano. Krista possesses a uniquely rich and vibrant tone. This spring she was selected to as Opera America's young artist for their Career Blueprints workshop. Last summer she was an emerging artist with the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Festival. There she covered Violetta in Verdi's La Traviata, and covered the soprano solo in Verdi's Requiem, and performed the Stepmother in Sondheim's Into the Woods. She performed the title role of Suor Angelica from Puccini's Suor Angelica with Westminster Opera Theatre as a returning guest alumni. She has performed in Europe and the United States in La Traviata, Suor Angelica, Little Women, Die Zauberflöte, and Cendrillon. At Westminster Choir College she premiered the title role in Marie Begins by Ellen Fishman in its world premiere. She sang Fiordiligi in Westminster Opera Theatre's production of Cosi fan tutte by Mozart. Ms. Hastings won first place runner-up in the Eastern National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Artist Awards competition, first in the Eastern Regional NATS, New York NATS, and New Jersey NATS competitions. She won the Encouragement Award at the Philadelphia Metropolitan Opera Eric

and Dominique Laffont Competition (formerly MET Council Auditions). Krista won the Nebraska District in the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition, and was a winner of the John Alexander National Vocal Competition. She also was the U.S. winner of the International Mozart Competition. She earned her Masters of Music in voice performance and pedagogy from Rider University (formerly Westminster Choir College). Learn more at kristahastings.com.



Johannes Linneballe (Uberto) is a Danish, NYC-based operatic baritone, actor and multidisciplinary performer. He obtained his BM from the Royal Danish Academy of Music and his MM from Manhattan School of Music. He has appeared in numerous operas such as *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Figaro), *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Puck), *Cendrillon* (Pandolfe), *The Mikado* (Pish-Tush), *La Morte d'Orfeo* (Fato, Furore) and *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Le Chat). He also is an avid performer of art song and presented his own performance of Ned Rorems 'War Scenes' intermingled with songs from Schuberts 'Winterreise' at MSM in May 2024. An in demand interpreter of contemporary repertoire, Johannes has premiered numerous pieces and operas by composers such as Matias Vestergaard, Felix Tetz, Philip Clarke and Graciela Carriqui, as well as performed in several contemporary pieces on stage, among them 'La Passion de Simone' (Musiikitalo Helsinki) and 'Intet' (Royal Danish Opera). He also worked with the acclaimed immersive performance group Sisters Hope on their piece 'Inhabitation Air' in 2022. Upcoming productions include 'La tragédie de Carmen' (Zuniga) with New Camerata Opera and 'La Passion de Simone' (Father) at Opéra de Reims.



Jim Folly (Vespone), Jim is very happy to be working with the GSO. Jim worked with GSO on the *The Impresario*. Jim is a graduate of Middlesex County College, where he appeared in *Equus*, *Working*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Scapino*. Jim worked for The Forum Theater in Metuchen in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Olympus On My Mind*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Enter Laughing*, for Plays in the Park in *Crazy for You* and *Ragtime* and with the Yates Musical Theatre, and Theater to Go, a local Murder Mystery company. Thank you, Garden State Opera company for letting me be part of this production.



Francesco Santelli, Conductor and Composer native of Rome, Italy, is the founder and artistic director of the Garden State Opera. Mr. Santelli has been music director of the Henry Street Opera in New York City from 1988 to 2000, guest conductor of the Brooklyn Opera Theatre and the Connecticut Opera Theatre, the Henry Street Symphony, the Vivaldi Coro Lirico, Intercity Performing Arts, music director of the International Symphony and the New York City Symphony, Camerata, Orchestra, Coro Lirico, Intercity Performing Arts, music director of the International Symphony and the New York City Symphony. As a composer/librettist Mr. Santelli has written, among other works, the operas: *Un Destino Immortale*, (on the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World), *Mississippi*, *Il Poverello* (on the life of Saint Francis of Assisi), *The Marriage Counselor*, *An Angel in the Park* and the comic opera *Il Negozio di Campagna* and *Tamar da Timna*. In Assisi he performed his *Assisi Concerto* for organ and orchestra, and *Il Poverello*. Mr. Santelli has conducted a production of *Cimarosa Il Matrimonio Segreto* in 2015 at the Altamura Center for the Arts upstate New York and the *Assisi Concerto* for organ and orchestra has received the US premiere in New York City in the spring of 2019. His latest opera *The Silk City* on the Silk Strike of Paterson in 1913 has received two performances in 2019 and 2022.



Dan Yates is pleased to be working with Francesco Santelli and The Garden State Opera again. Previously Dan directed *The Silk City*, *Francesca Da Rimini*, *Il Tabarro*, *La Serva Padrona*, *Bastien und Bastienne*, *Suor Angelica*, *L'Oca Del Cairo*, *Cavaliere Rusticana* and Francesco Santelli's original opera's *Il Consulente Matrimoniale* and *Il Negozio Di Campagna* for GSO. Dan directs for the Opera/Music Theatre Workshop at Caldwell University, performs professionally as an actor and singer, is the Artistic director of the Yates Musical Theatre for Children and teaches Speech and Theatre courses at Kean University and Montclair State University. He lives in West Orange with his wife Deirdre and children Alexandra and Emily.



Alexei Yavtuhovich-Violin, Collegium Musicum Artistic

Director was born in Belarus, earned a B.A. at Sokolovsky's Musical College and a Master's Degree in Violin Performance from the Belarusian Academy of Music in Minsk, Belarus. He graduated in 1995 specialized in violin and chamber music performance. At age 17, Alexei became a winner of the Republic of Belarus National Young Violinists competition. As a member of the

Belarus State Concert Orchestra, the prestigious Belarus State Chamber Orchestra, and the Belarus String Quartet, he performed internationally in Ukraine, Russia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and other European countries. Alexei Yavtuhovich continues his artistic career, performing and producing many varied musical programs throughout the Tri-State area. He performs regularly at many community festivals and events as a soloist, as a member of varied chamber music groups also as part of the Capital Philharmonic of NJ, the Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, the Bravura Philharmonic, and other orchestras. In 2018 Mr. Yavtuhovich founded Collegium Musicum and assumed the position of the organization's President and Artistic Director. Since 2022, he has continuously organized and participated in a series of the events, raising funds, collecting goods and supplies throughout New Jersey, including many that contributed to Ukraine relief programs.

In October of 2023, Alexei along with conductor Peter Breiner of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra were invited as special guests to participate in celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Music Academy (UNTAM) in Kyiv, Ukraine. Both artists were awarded the Gold Medal and Honorary Order of the Academy for their support and effort promoting Ukrainian culture.



Nelly Fedorova, Violin player is a graduate of Russia's famous Saratov State Conservatory. Ms. Nelly Fedorova had started her professional career with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Veronica Dudarova. Two years later, she joined Moscow State Chamber "Vivaldi" Orchestra conducted by Svetlana Bezrodnaya, which has toured extensively throughout the world. In 2008, Ms. Federova has joined the internationally acclaimed Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra with whom she performed in

many concert halls around the world. In addition to PVCO, she is a member of the Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, the Riverside Symphonia, and Boheme Opera. In her spare time, she teaches violin in her private studio.



Dennis Krasnokutsky, Viola player is the principal violist of the Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, and an internationally acclaimed soloist and chamber musician. Lauded for performances as “...building in passion and intensity,” (The New Times), “...exceptional experience for the audience,” (Srđan Teparić, Radio Belgrade), “...virtuosic performance with nuanced tone and exceptional musicality,”

(Mirko Jeremic, Belgrade) he appeared in major concert halls nationally and around the globe including Avery Fischer Hall, Maryisnki Theatre, Kravis Center, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Kolarac Hall, Atana Opera Theater, Teatro El Círculo, and more. A founding member of the Samuel Barber String Quartet, Krasnokutsky’s list of professional orchestral appearances include Baton Rouge Symphony, Miami Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic, Baton Rouge Symphony, New Jersey Capital Philharmonic, and the Bay-Atlantic Symphony to mention a few. He has collaborated with an array of artists including Hilary Hahn, Bella Hristova, Sara Chang, Jonathan Biss, Frank Sinatra Jr., Bernadette Peters and more. As a member of the award-winning Rowan String Quartet, he has toured the East Coast giving a number of chamber music recitals. Since 2006, he has been a principal violist with the Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra with whom he has toured North and South America and the Europe. Mr. Krasnokutsky holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University where he was a student of Michael Tree (Guarneri String Quartet) and Paul Neubauer (Principal Viola, NYP)



Mayumi Grasso is a freelance cellist in NJ. Mayumi graduated from University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. She graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Music in Performance and in 1993 with a Master of Arts in Teaching. She has performed with many orchestras including the Bay Atlantic Symphony, Garden State Philharmonic, Trenton Symphony, Princeton Symphony and Orchestra of St. Peter-by-the-Sea. She has performed with famous artists including

Ray Charles, Mannheim Steamroller and Il Divo. She is also featured in the video, “Feels Like Today”, by the multi-platinum country group Rascal Flatts. She plays in many local theater groups in the pit orchestra, such as the Algonquin Theater and Hackensack Meridian Health Theater (previously known as Count Basie Theater). She has been teaching cello, piano and violin privately for over 20 years.



Justin Lee, Double Bass player is a versatile upright and electric bassist, who performs regularly in a wide variety of styles. He is currently a member of the New York City based Chelsea Symphony Orchestra, The New Jersey Capital Philharmonic, MRB Jazz Project, founding member of the Power House Big Band and Bob Page Jazz Trio, as well as co-owner of Allemande Ensembles, LLC. Justin performed with the BBC America's Blue Planet II Underground pop-up orchestra. He recorded and performed for the KENZO/H+M 2016 Fall Fashion Show, an IZOD commercial, and appears on two episodes of "Mozart In the Jungle" on Amazon Prime. Samples of Justin's work are located in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives, in collaboration with Joe Coco and Roger Parr, in the album "Hindsight". He performed as a member of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra for a music video with rapper Jay Z for Super Bowl XLIV. He was also a featured musician with Maureen McGovern's Broadway showcase. He is proud to have worked with the original Broadway cast of Putnam County Spelling Bee, jazz violinist Didier Lockwood, Ace Young in Axelrod Performing Art Center's Aida, and Constantine Maroulis in the Premier Theater Company's production of Jesus Christ Superstar. Justin Lee is a music educator with over 16 years of public school teaching experience, and is the current Assistant Orchestra Director at John P. Stevens High School. He is the acting double bass chair on the faculty of the NJ ASTA Chamber Music Institute, Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts Extension Division, and the Montclair State University Preparatory Center for the Arts. Justin Lee received his Masters of Music in Bass Performance from Rutgers University. He credits his success to his teachers that have developed and influenced him, particularly Linda McKnight, Kevin Brown, Tim Cobb, Lou Kosma, and Rufus Reid.



Daniel Neff is the Director of Liturgy at St Thomas the Apostle. He is honored to take part with Collegium Musicum in bringing the joy of music to all who hear. Daniel has held positions in different churches in the state as well as a cantor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC. When not working on music for the church, he is known in the theater world for music and vocal director at different performing groups and high schools. Thank you to all coming for support the arts!



Andrey Burdinsky is a pianist, music teacher, piano performer, and piano technician. He graduated from the Nizhny Novgorod Glinka State Conservatory in Russia. Over the years, Andrey has worked at the Shenyang Conservatory and Guangdong Open University in China, teaching in their conservatory, music college, and music school departments. As a performer, Andrey has given numerous concerts, both as a soloist and in

ensembles, collaborating with various artists and students. His teaching career is marked by his students' achievements, with many participating in competitions, concerts, and festivals. Several of his students have gone on to pursue further education at renowned universities and conservatories in the USA, Germany, China, Russia, and other countries. Andrey's contributions to music education and performance continue to influence a new generation of musicians across the globe.



Founded in 2018, Collegium Musicum `s mission of is to present the finest national and international classical music composers, ensembles and soloist, to provide young people with a stimulating introduction to the performing arts and to reach out to those with limited opportunities to experience the arts.



The Garden State Opera, was founded in 1999 with the purpose of offering quality opera productions at low ticket price in New Jersey. GSO offers fully staged opera productions with orchestra and projected titles and has performed in Passaic, Essex and Bergen counties with singers and musicians from the NYC metro area. The Garden State Opera has performed at Caldwell University from 2005 to 2017 in collaboration with the

Caldwell College Music Department and has received grants from Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council since 2003 and from other foundations. The Garden State Opera is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization.