

Sulphur Springs Symphony League to see Verdi's AïDA

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When the curtain opens on The Dallas Opera's final performance of Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece," Aïda, on Sunday, Nov. 11, several Sulphur Springs Symphony League members and their guests will be in the audience.

"I'm excited that we will see and hear the opera," said league president Dwight Corley. "The symphony league was fortunate to receive a group-ticket offer by the Dallas Opera that resulted in a few specially-priced seats being bought by symphony league folks."

This will be an introduction to the operatic experience for some in the group.

"I am so excited," said Kim Baxter, a former professional singer. "This is my first opera."

Aïda opens on Friday, Oct. 26, in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in the Dallas Arts District. The occasion also marks the Dallas Opera's 2012-2013 season celebration of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth.

The Linda and Mitch Hart Season Opening Night Performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by first night red carpet arrivals and fashions, beginning at 6 p.m. This year's theme, "Arts and Sports Together," will honor women's basketball great Nancy Lieberman and feature a host of athletes and celebrities from the world of sports. The event is sold out.

The Red Carpet will be capped off by a lively pre-performance reception in the Nancy B. Hamon Hall and in the Winspear lobby.



"Season after season, our audiences have clamored for this captivating work, which many believe to be the perfect opera," says Dallas Opera Artistic Director Jonathan Pell. "However, we were determined not to give in to the temptation to revive Aïda again until we had a stage and a cast that could do justice to this Verdian 'jewel in the crown.' Here on the spacious stage of the magnificent Winspear Opera House, with a cast led by the phenomenal Texas-born soprano Latonia Moore, the winner of the Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition (in addition to the 2005 Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year Award for her TDO debut in Carmen), patrons will have a chance to fall in love with Aïda like never before."

"The timing couldn't be better," adds Dallas Opera General Director and CEO Keith Cerny. "Following Miss Moore's unexpected and acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut in this title role last March, she was instantly the talk of the opera world. It's our good fortune to have scheduled her return to Dallas just as her star is ascending to the highest heights."

Antonello Palombi, an Italian tenor who made an indelible impression as Canio in the Dallas Opera's acclaimed 2005 production of Pagliacci, returns in two leading roles this season: Radames in Aïda and next spring as Calaf in the Dallas Opera production of Puccini's Turandot.

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Several seasons ago, he made headlines after stepping into the role of Radames in mid-performance at La Scala when Roberto Alagna walked-off early in the performance. Frankfurter Neue Presse calls his tenor “firm [and] breathtaking.”

One way TDO makes opera-going more accessible to the uninitiated is by offering pre-performance lectures an hour before each opera.

“Most in our group will attend the pre-opera talk,” Corley said. “I think that 30-minute lecture will significantly enhance the experience at the performance, especially for those of us who have a limited history of opera exposure.”

Corley also said although a number of symphony league members were attending the performance, “no Symphony League funds were expended to make this happen. The link to this offer was Ms. Terry Mathews, the very talented *News-Telegram's* arts editor whose delightful skills always makes us want to read her reviews and articles.”

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Additional performances of AĪda are scheduled for Oct. 28 (matinee), which is nearing sell out status, Oct. 31, Nov. 3 and 9.

Full season subscriptions are still available, beginning at just \$75, and single tickets start at a new low price of \$19.

Contact the Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at 214-443-1000 or purchase online at dallasopera.org.