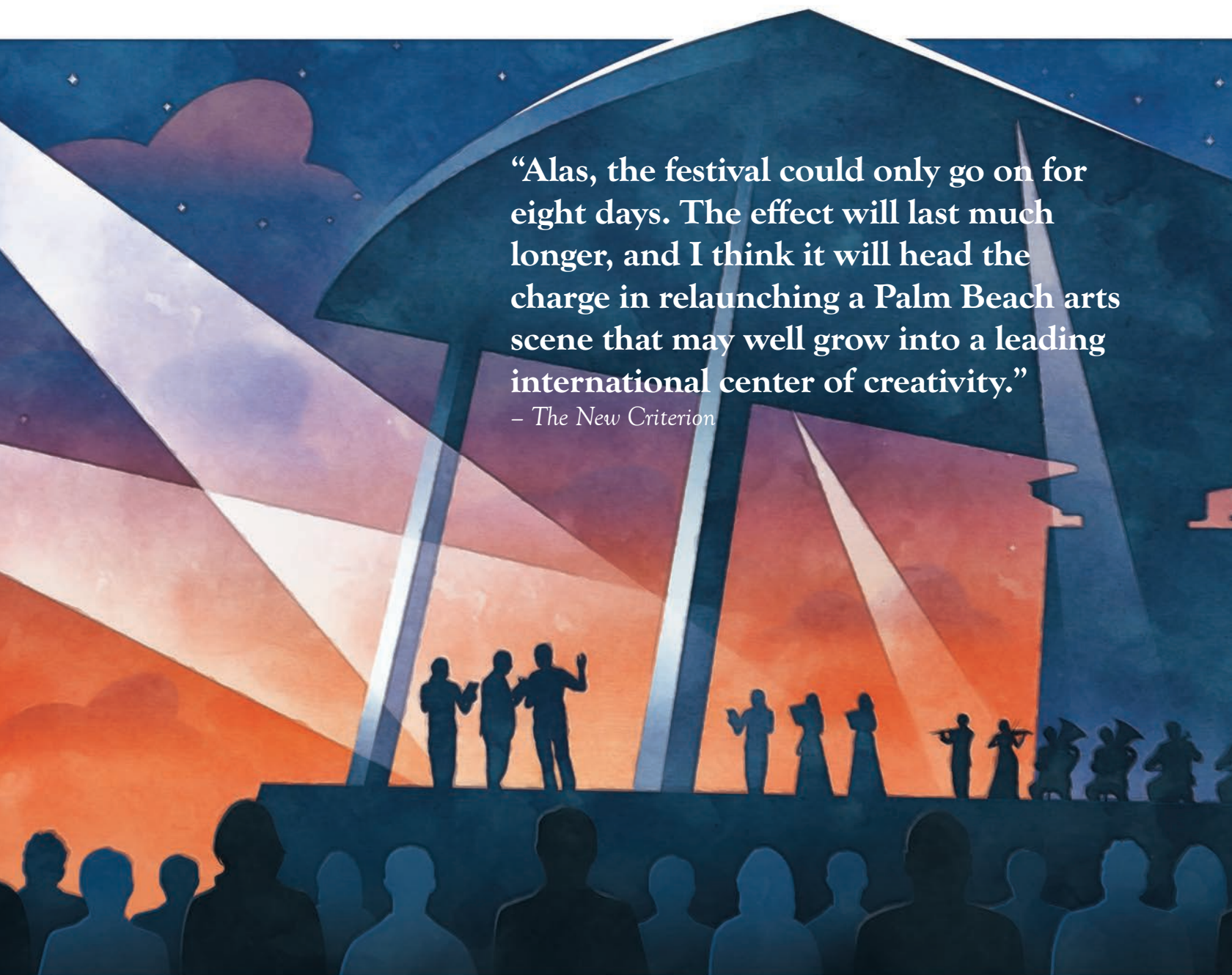


PALM BEACH OPERA

2021 FESTIVAL

“Alas, the festival could only go on for eight days. The effect will last much longer, and I think it will head the charge in relaunching a Palm Beach arts scene that may well grow into a leading international center of creativity.”

– *The New Criterion*



Palm Beach Opera 2021 Festival illustration.

2021 FESTIVAL

Overview

- 6 live performances
- 3 iconic operas
- 30+ artists
- 200+ cast, crew, orchestra, and chorus members
- 0 COVID-19 Cases
- Countless memories



The Magic Flute, Palm Beach Opera's 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

2021 FESTIVAL

Press & Critical Acclaim

Palm Beach Opera's historic 2021 Festival was covered both internationally and locally by various print and digital outlets:

- WPTV
- Palm Beach Daily News
- OPERA News
- OperaWire
- BroadwayWorld
- Palm Beach Post
- South Florida SunSentinel
- City Journal
- Palm Beach Arts Paper
- AFP News
- South Florida Classical Review
- LivingFLA.com
- MSN Entertainment
- Yahoo News
- WLRN
- Florida Weekly
- Avenue Magazine
- Palm Beach Illustrated
- art&culture
- Boca Raton Magazine
- WSFL
- WFLX
- Musical America
- The New Criterion



Pagliacci, Palm Beach Opera's 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

2021 FESTIVAL

Press & Critical Acclaim

“The centerpiece of this year’s season”

– WLRN

“courageous winter operatic feast”

– South Florida Classical Review

**“there was a palpable feeling of joy
in the performance”**

– Musical America

“a luxurious cast”

– The New Criterion

“Opera Returns with a Twist”

– AFP News

**“Amid happy innovations,
PB Opera mounts beautiful
‘Bohème’”**

– Palm Beach Arts Paper

**“Palm Beach Opera became the first
company in the United States to stage
a full-length performance”**

– City Journal

**“grand opera with major league
singers at an alfresco venue”**

– South Florida Classical Review

**“Palm Beach Opera reinvents its
season”**

– OPERA News

**“Palm Beach Opera to hold outdoor
festival in February at South Florida
Fairgrounds”**

WPTV

**“a festival that has kept its donors
happy; its musicians employed and
its audience thrilled”**

– Palm Beach Daily News

**“Outstanding singing distinguishes
PB Opera’s ‘Pagliacci’”**

– Palm Beach Daily News

**“Superb singers make PB Opera’s
‘Flute’ magical amid pandemic”**

– Palm Beach Arts Paper

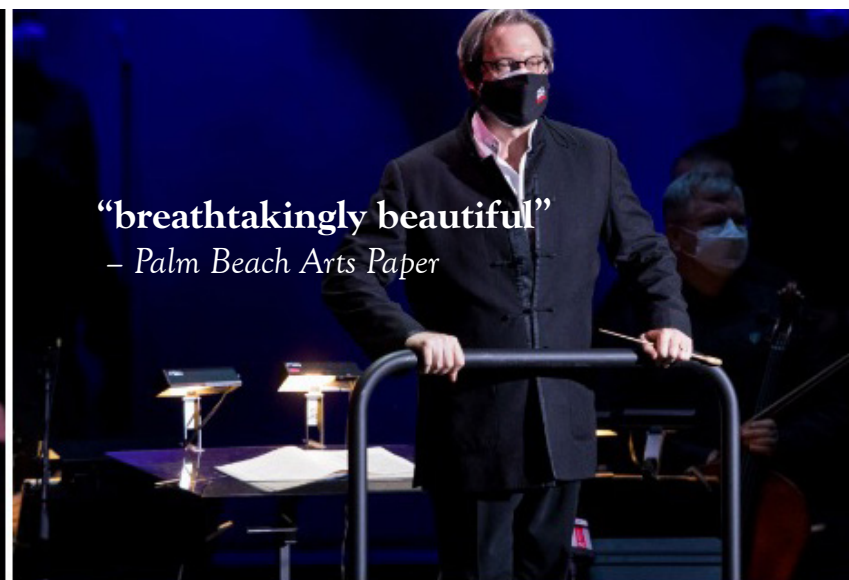
“a luxurious cast”

– The New Criterion

La bohème, Palm Beach Opera’s 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

LA BOHÈME

February 19 & 24, 2021



Conducted by PBO’s Chief Conductor **David Stern** and directed by **James Robinson***, *La bohème* was headlined by Metropolitan Opera stars **Ryan Speedo Green***, **Latonia Moore**, **Michael Fabiano***, **Isabel Leonard*** and **Quinn Kelsey*** to critical acclaim.

**Palm Beach Opera debut*

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE (THE MAGIC FLUTE)

February 21 & 26, 2021



“top-tier”

– *South Florida Classical Review*



“outstanding singing”

– *Palm Beach Daily News*



“magical amid pandemic”

– *Palm Beach Arts Paper*



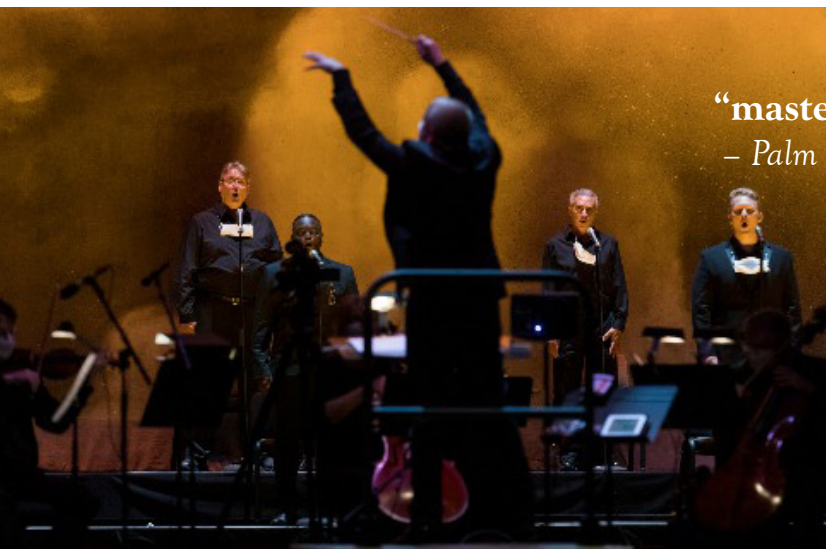
The Magic Flute, Palm Beach Opera's 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

International opera stars **Matthew Polenzani***, **Kathryn Lewek***, **Janai Brugger**, **Peixin Chen***, **Ryan Speedo Green***, **Joshua Hopkins***, and **Matthew DiBattista** thrilled audiences in Mozart's iconic opera, directed by **James Robinson*** and conducted by **David Stern**.

**Palm Beach Opera debut*

PAGLIACCI

February 23 & 27, 2021



“masterful stage direction”
– *Palm Beach Daily News*



**“an insightful performance that plumbed
the depths of human depravity”**
– *The New Criterion*



“a visceral performance”
– *Palm Beach Daily News*

Pagliacci, Palm Beach Opera's 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

Conducted by the renowned **Patrick Summers*** and directed by **James Robinson***, *Pagliacci* starred more of opera's biggest names—**Ana María Martínez**, **Michael Chioldi**, **Matthew DiBattista**, **Joshua Hopkins*** and our very own Benenson Young Artist alumnus **Robert Watson**.

**Palm Beach Opera debut*

I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI (THE CAPULETS AND THE MONTAGUES)

March 21, 2021



I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Palm Beach Opera. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

PBO's Benenson Young Artists and Apprentice Artists and members of the PBO Orchestra performed Vincenzo Bellini's sensuous bel canto opera to an **at-capacity** audience outdoors at the Norton Museum of Art Sculpture Garden. Award winning director **Paul Curran** directed the one-night-only performance and PBO Associate Conductor and Chorus Master **Greg Ritchey** led the chamber orchestra of 8 musicians.

"Palm Beach Opera continued its remarkably innovative season with a memorable semi-staged production"

– *Palm Beach Daily News*

"those 'voices of tomorrow' did plenty of justice to Bellini's expressive bel canto writing"

– *Palm Beach Daily News*



I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Palm Beach Opera. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

LIEDERABEND

April 7, 2021

“Twelve artists on the cusp of greatness”

– Critic Rex Hearn on *Liederabend*



Benenson Young Artist Shannon Jennings performs in *Liederabend*. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

This season's *Liederabend* offered a musical journey around the world, with pieces from Germany, France, England, Italy, Russia, and Spain among other places. Featuring the Benenson Young Artists, Apprentice Artists, and pianist Ksenia Leletkina—who also serves as a PBO Vocal & Russian Diction Coach—*Liederabend* was moved outdoors and presented to **another sold-out audience** at the **National Croquet Center**.



Benenson Young Artists & Apprentice Artists. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

ARTISTS IN TRAINING

2021 Season Benenson Young Artists & Apprentice Artists



BENENSON YOUNG ARTISTS

From left to right: Shannon Jennings, Soprano; Patricia Westley, Soprano; Jenny Anne Flory, Mezzo-Soprano; Moisés Salazar, Tenor; Heeseung Chae, Baritone; Christopher Humbert Jr., Bass-Baritone

APPRENTICE ARTISTS

From left to right: Emily Helenbrook, Soprano; Megan Callahan, Mezzo-Soprano; SarahAnn Duffy, Mezzo-Soprano; Juan Hernández, Tenor; Steven Ricks, Tenor; Kyle White, Baritone

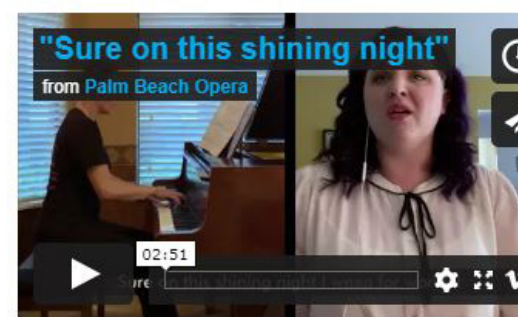
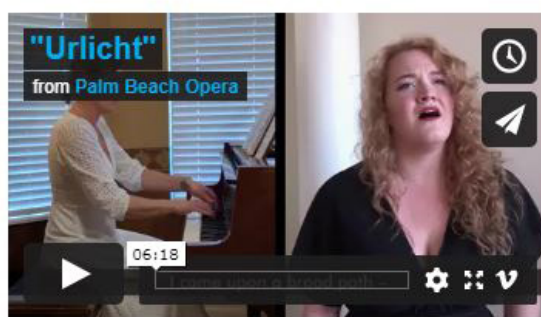
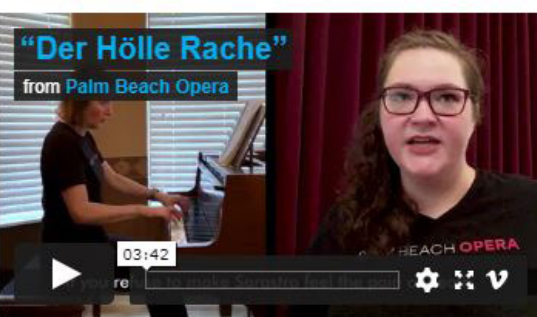
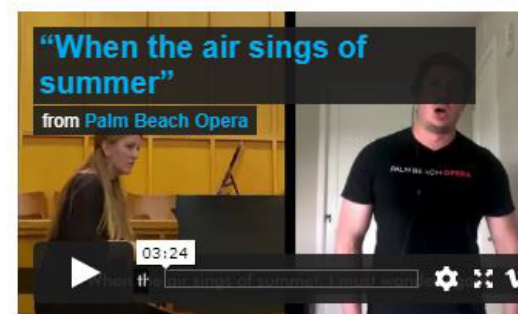
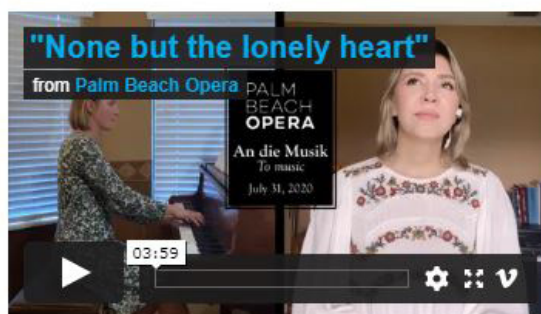
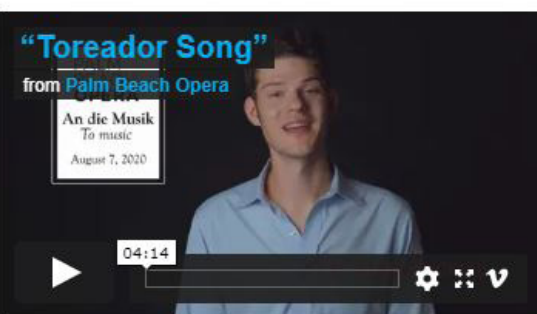
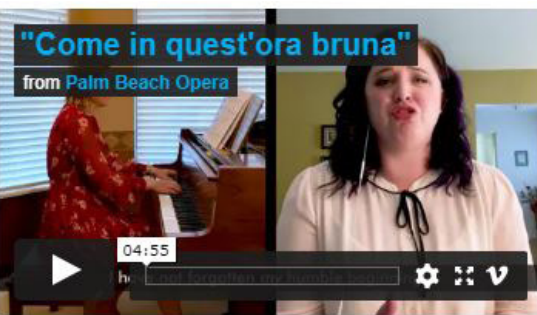


Benenson Young Artists & Apprentice Artists rehearse outdoors. Photo by Marcus Shields.

- More than 600 applications
- Only 12 artists selected
- Combination of virtual and in person training
- One of the only companies world wide providing in person training for young artists
- Augmented curriculum with leading teachers, coaches, directors, and singers

AN DIE MUSIK

A New Digital Recital Series



- Each week during **April-August** of 2020, a resident artist from the company's Benenson Young Artist Program or Apprentice Artist Program performed and recorded a selected aria or song, accompanied by a member of Palm Beach Opera's music staff, in a split-screen video, which included subtitles and a personal introduction by the artist.
- Palm Beach Opera partnered with local organizations and long-term care facilities beginning in May to bring a new digital recital series, **An die Musik**, to those who may not have access to music during the unprecedented times our community faced in 2020.
- Palm Beach Opera sent An die Musik videos directly to partnering and interested facilities, which included the **YMCA of the Palm Beaches**, **VA Medical Center of West Palm Beach**, **Alzheimer's Community Care**, **Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence**, **Palm Beach Habilitation Center**, and **Abbey Delray**.
- The **21 videos** remain available for the public to stream, download, and share for free at Palm Beach Opera's Vimeo library.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Going Digital



As schools and libraries restricted in-person events, our Teaching Artists pivoted and presented **Story Time Series** **virtually**.

Story Time Series books *The Magic Flute*, *The Magic Love Potion*, and *The Barber of Seville* were presented to **14 schools and libraries** virtually with many schools postponing in-person visits to the 21-22 school year.

- **The Interability Chorus** met virtually in the summer and fall and has since resumed socially distanced in-person meetings as they prepare for an all-Disney concert in June 2021.
- **Adult Engagement continued virutally** with written content in the new **PBO Mobile App** and **virtual lectures** throughout the county. PBO's partnership with the Palm Beach Cultural Council is thriving with PBO participating in Family Saturdays on May 1 and an early learning module this summer.
- **Palm Beach Opera Studio** provided a free eight-month training program to 10 Performance Track students and 3 Arts Administration Track students in both **virtual sessions** and **safe outdoor classes**. Singers have had Masterclasses with several artists in preparation for their April 19th recital and the Arts Administration Track students presented portfolio presentations.



PALM BEACH OPERA STUDIO

Top row, from left to right: Matthew Pollak, Gabriella Pizzi, Lucy Kleinschmidt, Kayla Esther Zakarin, Dena Simonne Wolfs, Reed Wolfrom

Bottom row, from left to right: Sydney Horan, Devin Embrich, Marbella Deininger Zayas, Hope Sears, Sophia Marie Spencer, Rebecca Voigt, Emma Beers

SOCIAL EVENTS

February 19 & 21, 2021



Opening Night Dinner, Palm Beach Opera. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

Palm Beach Opera and supporters toasted to the first festival performance at **Opening Night Dinner**. Guests were welcomed by PBO's Chairman of the Board David Genser and enjoyed an introduction by General Director David Walker, who shared behind-the-scenes insights into the company's historic festival and thanked all in attendance for their continued support. Guests and audience members were also able to join in a special celebratory moment honoring the company's previous Board Chairman, Dennis Williams.



Sunday Brunch, Palm Beach Opera. Photo by Coastal Click Photography.

Palm Beach Opera Guild members and major supporters also celebrated the 2021 Festival at a **brunch reception** before the matinee performance of *The Magic Flute*.

PALM BEACH OPERA GUILD

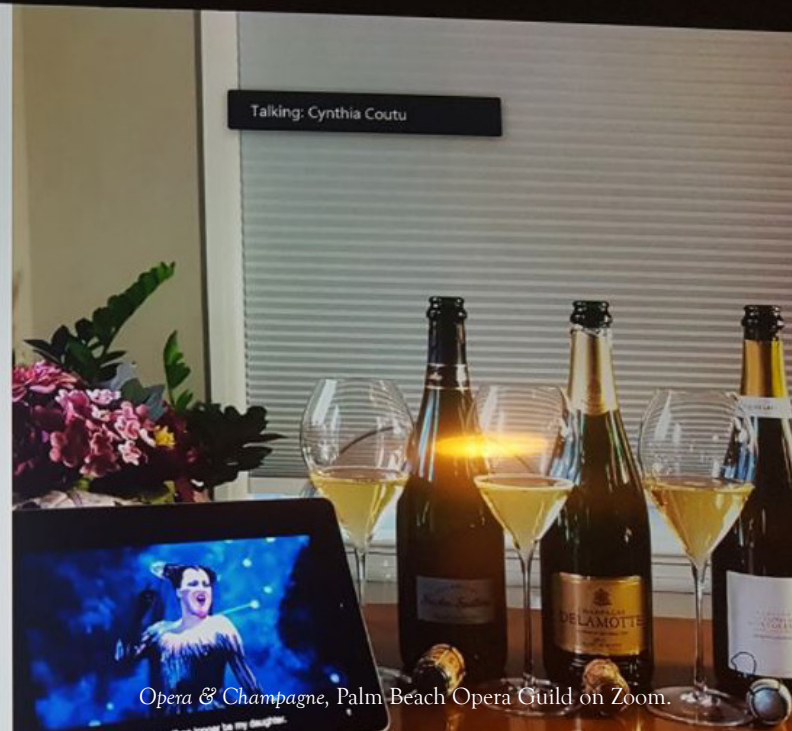
Supporting Palm Beach Opera Studio

The Magic Flute

- Story about the triumph of virtue, true love, good
- Queen of the Night soprano aria

Delamotte Blanc de Blancs 2012:

- 100% Chardonnay
- 6 Grand Cru villages



The Palm Beach Opera Guild hosted its first-ever virtual event, **Opera and Champagne**, on Zoom on November 18. The event featured certified champagne educator Cynthia Coutu and a discussion on champagne and its connection to opera. Coutu joined live from Paris, France and 43 guests joined from their homes.



On April 13, the Palm Beach Opera Guild hosted their final event of the season outdoors at Table 26. **The Dinner & Opera Interlude** featured local vendors, a three-course dinner, and live performances by PBO's Benenson Young Artists and Studio singers. The event **raised funds for Palm Beach Opera Studio**.

20-21 BY THE NUMBERS

COVID Compliance

- 6,000 masks
- 1,360 COVID tests administered
- 7 new outdoor rehearsal venues
- 2 new outdoor performance venues
- 3 risk mitigation managers
- 9 staff trained covid compliance officers
- ZERO cases of COVID
- 4,000 Total Audience
- 1 opera company performing large-scale live opera



The Magic Flute, Palm Beach Opera's 2021 Festival. Photo by Bruce Bennett.

LOOKING AHEAD

60th Anniversary Season

CARMEN L'ELISIR D'AMORE THE MERRY WIDOW



Carmen. Photo by Cory Weaver



NEXT YEAR

- We are returning to the **Kravis Center** for our highly-anticipated 60th Anniversary Season.
- Our 2022 Gala will present **Nadine Sierra at the Breakers Palm Beach** on February 7.
- PBO continues to work to move into a new facility in July 2022.