

# WINTER DREAMS

BENEFIT GALA



DECEMBER 6, 2023

OPERA  
NAPLES

# Message from the Gala Chairs

Bronwen Adams | Janice Burrus

Dear Friends,

We are honored to serve as Chairs for the Winter Dreams Gala, and we thank you for joining us tonight as we kick off the holiday season with fabulous opera.

Live opera is a unique experience – at best, it is arguably the most powerful and emotionally impactful of all art forms. The combination of dramatic narrative, orchestra, acting– and especially the range and uniqueness of the human voice–make opera the highest art form in terms of communicating pure emotion. Each time we listen to live opera, we can walk away moved by the imaginative stories, beautiful sounds and stunning staging that can only be described as Opera Naples perfection. We are also excited to present the voices of the next generation, with our Opera Naples Youth Company.

We hope you will leave inspired by these exceptional artists, young and old, who have a gift for moving our hearts, stirring our souls and allowing us to feel the passion of life filled with love...and winter dreams for the future.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers and Gala committee who have worked tirelessly to create tonight's memorable program. To our donors and sponsors, thank you for continuing to be a guiding light for Opera Naples and our community.

Sincerely,

WINTER  DREAMS

Gala Chairs:  
Bronwen Adams  
Janice Burrus



# Thank You

## *Chairs*

Bronwen Adams | Janice Burrus

## *Honorary Chair*

Mayor Teresa Heitmann

Nicoletta Pavarotti

President - The Luciano Pavarotti Foundation

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## *A Special Thank You*

### **Absher Design Group**

Invitation and Gala Program Design

### **B3 Marketing**

Graphic Design, Digital Marketing

### **Harmon Audio Visual**

Lighting and Audiovisual

### **Caroline Robinson**

Auctioneer





## *A Message from the Artistic Director*

Dear friends of Opera Naples,

I am so happy to share this special evening with you celebrating Opera Naples and our new and exciting season ahead. Let us raise a toast on this magical night of “Winter Dreams” as we join together as a community to share our love of Opera and the Arts!

This past year, Opera Naples has experienced great success thanks to the support of caring donors like you. After Southwest Florida and our own Wang Opera Center were severely impacted by Hurricane Ian, we are now thrilled to say that our new and improved building has re-opened! Because of your generosity, we were able to come back even stronger than before.

Over the years we have brought diverse performances and renowned talent from around the world that has enriched our local arts community, and this year is no exception! We will be presenting a season of premier opera stars and inter-art collaborations that has a little something for everyone.

The Festival features two evenings with the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation, personally hosted by Nicoletta Pavarotti, that celebrate the legacy of Luciano Pavarotti. Performances feature world-famous opera stars including Argentinian tenor, Marcelo Alvarez, one of the last tenors under the personal tutelage of Pavarotti, Gregory Kunde, Jennifer Rowley in Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly” and local favorite Jeanette Donatti. We will be presenting for the first time a ballet: “Carmen”, with partner Gulfshore Ballet, as well as an evening of Flamenco dancing and Zarzuela. We are especially excited to partner with the Grand Piano Series in our opening performance of the Festival, and for our passionate Gilbert and Sullivan fans, we will be presenting “Iolanthe” in early February with our Resident Artists.

Your enthusiastic support this season and tonight at the Gala helps provide crucial funding that will allow us to bring you the best opera and musical performances to our community for years to come. Together, we can continue to make our dreams a reality!

Yours,

Ramón Tebar

Opera Naples Artistic & Music Director, Naples Cultural Ambassador

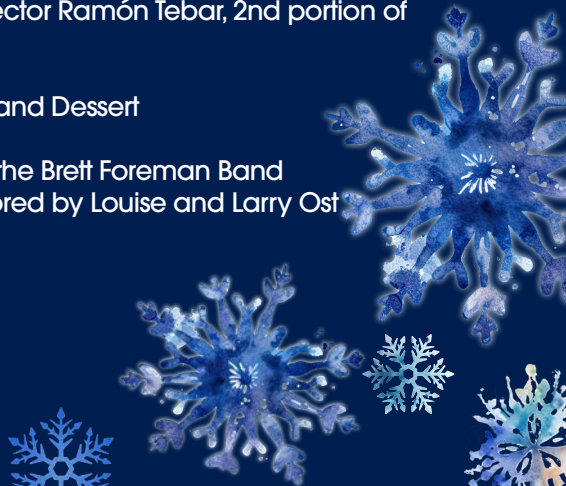
# WINTER DREAMS

## Schedule of Events

Royal Poinciana Golf Club, 1600 Solana Rd, Naples, FL 34105

DECEMBER 6, 2023

- 6:00 pm      Arrival and Registration of Guests  
Winter Dreams Cocktail & Hors d'oeuvres in Palm Court,  
graciously sponsored by Lois and Bruce Selfon
- 6:40pm      Guests proceed to Ball Room for seating
- 7:00pm      A Welcome by Gerald Goldberg, Trustee
- 7:10pm      Santiago Ballerini, accompanied on piano by Opera  
Naples Artistic Director Ramón Tebar
- 7:20pm      Live auction with auctioneer Caroline Robinson
- 7:40pm      Opera Naples Youth Company, singing holiday favorites.  
Accompanied on piano by Opera Naples Director of  
Education Robin Frank
- 7:50pm      Cash Call
- 8:00pm      Main Entrée
- 8:25pm      Santiago Ballerini, accompanied on piano by Opera  
Naples Artistic Director Ramón Tebar, 2nd portion of  
repertoire.
- 8:30pm      Closing Remarks and Dessert
- 8:40pm      Dance Party with the Brett Foreman Band  
graciously sponsored by Louise and Larry Ost
- 10:00pm      End



# Menu

## Amuse-bouche

**Goat Cheese Mousse Tartlet, Micro Herbs,  
Caramelized Onions and Fig Jam  
Hamachi Tataki, Sweet Potato, Cilantro Oil,  
Aji Amarillo-Lime Cream Compressed Melon,  
Prosciutto, Aged Balsamic Eggplant Caponata,  
Pine Nuts, Sundried Tomato, Crispy Baguette**

## Entree

**Porcini Crusted Creekstone Prime Filet Mignon,  
Sweet Potato Mousseline, Butter Glazed Asparagus,  
Marsala Sauce**

## Dessert

**Salted Caramel Chocolate Cake  
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Hot Tea**



WINTER ❄️ DREAMS

OPERA  
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# Gala Committee

## *Chairs*

Bronwen Adams | Janice Burrus

## *Committee Members*

Bronwen Adams

Faye Bruso

Janice Burrus

Livio Ferrari

Louise Ost

Cindy Stegemann



# OPERA NAPLES

## Board of Directors

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### **STAFF**

Rita Albaugh, Box Office Manager and Volunteer Director

Tricia Barrett, Finance and Operations Director

Robin Shuford Frank, Music Administration, Chorus Master,  
Director of Education and Community Outreach

Kent Kyle, Administration and Development Director

Leah Summers, Artistic Coordinator

Ramón Tebar, Artistic Director and Conductor





## Santiago Ballerini | Tenor

Special performance by Argentinian tenor, Santiago Ballerini, intentionally recognized as one of the leading tenors in the Bel Canto repertoire, has appeared at many of the major opera houses throughout the world. Ballerini was last seen in Naples, FL as Romeo in the Opera Naples production of Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* in 2022. He will perform beloved arias, many of which celebrate the musical legacy of Luciano Pavarotti such as "È la solita storia del pastore," "Una furtiva lágrima," and "Caruso."



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## Robin Frank | Director of Education

Robin Shuford Frank is Director of Education and Community Outreach, Chorus Master, and Music Administrator for Opera Naples. She manages Opera Naples professional Resident Artist Program, Student Apprentice Program, Elementary School tours, and community engagement programs. An accomplished pianist, she is Musical Director for community and youth productions, a rehearsal pianist for main productions, and performs as a collaborative pianist.

# OPERA NAPLES

Ramón Tebar, *Artistic & Music Director*

*Engagement.  
Education.*

## Education Programs

### Elementary In-School Tour

Resident Artists tour a one-act children's opera to Collier and Lee County schools and after-school programs to expose grade school children to opera. The presentation includes an introduction about opera and etiquette, the performance, and a question-and-answer session between the students and performers. Previous in-school operas, specifically designed for elementary school students, have included *Stop, Bully*, *The Billy Goat's Gruff*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. Each school year, Opera Naples exposes more than 3,000 children to opera!

## Youth Programs

### Opera Naples Youth Company

This year-round program gives local students, ages 7-21 training and public performance opportunities including singing solo roles in main stage productions when applicable, singing in the Opera Naples Adult Chorus or Opera Naples Youth Company, and performing in "Scenes for Teens" programs and community concerts. Youth also perform in ON's outreach ensemble "Sing for Smiles" which visits local assisted and independent living facilities. Private vocal lessons and coaching are provided as well as group master classes. There is no cost to participants. Admission is determined by audition and interview.

Children in Southwest Florida have the amazing opportunity to perform in mainstage productions alongside professional singers with an orchestra. This unique experience is one they treasure and will never forget.

### Summer Youth Program

Each summer, students ages 13-21 are engaged in a two week training program that culminates in performing an operetta. In addition to preparing the production, the youth participate in master classes and workshops focusing on a variety of topics associated with opera including proper vocal technique, acting and improvisation, set and prop construction, and costume design. All interested participants are accepted into the program and perform in the production regardless of experience or audition. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of the tuition.



## Community Programs

Opera Naples offers public concerts throughout the community at performing arts centers, assisted and independent living facilities and other area venues providing insightful performances through education and outreach to all ages and stages.

## Professional Development

### Resident Artists

This program provides an artistically challenging residency for emerging professional singers who are pursuing a career in opera. Resident Artists are selected through a national search to work with Opera Naples during the peak season and are provided with housing, a weekly stipend, and a travel stipend. Opera Naples staff, supplemented by other area professional artists, provide coaching, instruction, and career advice. The Resident Artists perform principal roles in operas at the Wang Opera Center, perform secondary roles in mainstage operas at Artis—Naples, perform a children's opera for the In-School tour program, and perform in various community events and concerts.





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# Live Auction 1

## Queen of Sparkles

**Wearable art Butterfly Kimono exclusively designed for the  
Opera Naples Winter Dreams Gala**

Own a piece of wearable art with this exquisite kimono, hand-beaded with sequins from Turk and Turk. This one-of-a-kind kimono is the epitome of elegance and sophistication, featuring a winter-inspired design with intricate details and luxurious materials.

Inspired by the concept of a winter dream, the kimono captures the essence of the season through its predominant white color palette. Handcrafted from 100% silk, this kimono is lined with French seam finishes and features hidden pockets for added convenience. Ornate embroidery, beaded trim, and dazzling beaded jewel embellishments on the cuffs elevate this kimono to a masterpiece.



*Donated by: Turk & Turk | Ilkay and Rasit Turk*

# Live Auction 2

## Catered Dinner for (6) in Private Home with Special Opera Guests

**Dine with “Opera Royalty” including world renowned tenor Marcelo Álvarez, and Nicoletta Pavarotti, President of the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation, in the home of Nicky and John Pepe on February 27, 2024.**

This exclusive engagement includes a delectable dinner for six, and a rare chance to meet and converse with special guests Marcelo Álvarez and Nicoletta Pavarotti.

A unique experience and perfect holiday gift for the opera aficionados in your life, or for yourself.

This unforgettable evening is a chance to deepen friendship with your guests and create personal connections with opera excellence!

### DETAILS

- **Private catered dinner for (6) at the home of Nicky and John Pepe on 02/27/24**
- **Special Guest Nicoletta Pavarotti and Argentinian opera tenor Marcelo Álvarez**



*Donated by: Nicky and John Pepe*



# Live Auction 3

## Exquisite Blue Topaz Cocktail Ring

Embrace the epitome of elegance and sophistication with this breathtaking ice-blue topaz ring, a masterpiece of jewelry craftsmanship made for Winter Dreams Gala by Crown Jewelers of Naples.

This handmade, exquisite piece features a 26.20-carat emerald-shaped blue topaz, surrounded by sparkling colorless white round brilliant diamonds weighing a total of 1.18 carats. The ring is crafted in gleaming white gold, adding a touch of timeless luxury.

Unleash the allure of blue topaz, a gemstone renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and rich symbolism of wisdom, serenity, and success!

### DETAILS

- **26.20 - carat emerald shaped Blue Topaz cocktail ring**
- **Surrounded by 1.18 - carats round Diamonds**
- **White gold Band**
- **Custom-designed for Opera Naples Winter Dreams Gala**



Donated by: *Crown Jewelers of Naples* | *Gabriel Alves*

# Live Auction 4

## A Trip to Luciano Pavarotti's Hometown

**Personally Hosted and Curated by Nicoletta Pavarotti**

A one-of-kind curated trip by Nicoletta Pavarotti. Visit Luciano's homeland. Stay at Gran Hotel Majestic, Bologna's most iconic 5 stars hotel. You will be granted access to Luciano's never open to the public, private archives in Bologna, and a private tour of La Casa Pavarotti, Maestro's beloved retreat. Discover his private collection of memorabilia, costumes and awards gathered throughout his long career. A trip and chef-led dinner at "L'Erba del Re" in Modena with Michelin Chef Luca Marchini, Pavarotti's favorite restaurant. Come celebrate the artistic and philanthropic legacy of the "man who moved millions."

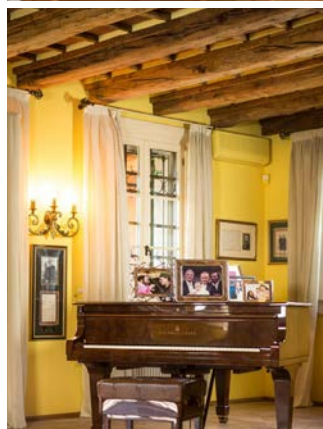
### **Includes:**

- **4 nights king-suite stay for (2) at Hotel Baglioni in Bologna**
- **Guided visits to the Museo Casa Pavarotti and lunch at Luciano's restaurant "Europa 92."**
- **Personal access to Luciano's non-public, private archives in Bologna (Casalecchio), his collection of memorabilia, costumes and awards gathered throughout his long career.**
- **Private tour of the Pavarotti - Freni Theatre and City Center, Modena**
- **Day trip and chef-led dinner at "L'Erba del Re."**
- **Tour Ferrari Museum**
- **Tour of the Giusti Balsamic Vinegar of Modena, vinegar distillery**



**Recommended dates of travel summer, 2024, which includes on-site transportation courtesy of Livio Ferrari, Opera Naples Board Member and co-founder, and could include complimentary tickets to the Luciano Pavarotti Foundations event "Musica Maestro." Trip to be initiated or date(s) mutually planned within 18 months. Hotel reservation requires 3 months advance notice or additional fees may apply.**

*Nicoletta Pavarotti, President of the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation,  
at Casa Museo Luciano Pavarotti, Modena, Italy.*



# Live Auction 5

## A Once-in-a-lifetime Opportunity to Own a Piece of Opera History!

Authenticated memorabilia never before seen at auction. Luciano Pavarotti's famous bowtie and/or autographed white handkerchief, both personally cherished by the beloved tenor throughout his illustrious career.

- **The bowtie is the only one in existence.**
- **The handkerchief is one of five in existence.**
- **Certificate of Authenticity included.**
- **Presentation dinner at Sea Salt Chef Table (optional) on March 4, 2024**



Choose from Luciano Pavarotti's famous and iconic bowtie, adorned by the maestro himself and/or his autographed white Handkerchief a.k.a. his opera "partner." This is your opportunity to own one or both tangible pieces of opera history and a testament to Pavarotti's enduring legacy. Winning Bids will include (4) seatings at unforgettable formal presentation dinner at Sea Salt's Chef Table, with Nicoletta Pavarotti.

### TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO BID

1

**Luciano Pavarotti's Famous Bowtie**

2

**Luciano Pavarotti's Autographed White Handkerchief**



*Donated by: Pavarotti Foundation*

# Live Auction 6



## Shine like a STAR!

**Be onstage during one of Opera Naples most popular operas in the world.**

Experience costume fittings, rehearsals and the excitement of being backstage before the opening of the show. Then, at the end of each performance, enjoy the thrill of stepping out into the lights in front of an enthusiastic audience. You'll share in the resounding bravos the entire cast typically receives at the end of another fabulous production.

**No singing required!**

**We're looking for budding thespians to complement our great cast of extras.  
So step up to the stage, please!**

# OPERA NAPLES

*Ramón Tebar, Artistic & Music Director*

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TICKETS

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