

QPERA NAPLES

IMPERIAL Enchantment

A Night in the Mystical Palace

Benefit Gala

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Message from the Chairs





Dear Opera Naples Supporter,

Welcome, and thank you for joining us this evening at the Opera Naples annual signature gala, "Imperial Enchantment: A Night in the Mystical Palace." We are honored to be celebrating with our distinguished Honorary Chairs—Mayor Teresa Heitmann of the City of Naples and Collier County Commissioner Daniel Kowal—alongside so many valued quests and friends of the arts.

Tonight, prepare to be transported to the splendor and mystery of ancient mythical China. Surrounded by enchanting décor, inspired cuisine and extraordinary music, this unforgettable evening is a tribute to the magic of opera. With piano accompaniment by Ramón Tebar, Opera Naples Artistic and Music Director and one of the world's leading conductors, we are delighted to present a special performance featuring soprano Laura Fernández and tenor Samuel White, with highlights from Puccini's *Turandot*.

The evening also includes cocktails, fine dining, exciting auctions and a celebration of music and dance with The Brett Foreman Band.

Your generous support tonight ensures Opera Naples can continue to bring world-class productions to our stage and inspire over 4,000 students annually through our in-school educational programs. Additionally, your contributions help us present the *Luciano Pavarotti Foundation Opera Naples International Voice Competition*, in proud collaboration with the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation—an initiative dedicated to discovering and nurturing the next generation of opera stars.

Thank you for your commitment to the arts in Southwest Florida, and for being part of this magical evening with us.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Harrington & Nicoletta Pepe
Gala Co-Chairs





IMPERIAL
Enchantment
A Night in the Mystical Palace



Thank You

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Elizabeth Harrington & Nicoletta Pepe



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Dear Friends and Supporters of Opera Naples,

It is a true pleasure to welcome you to this special evening as we come together to celebrate the artistic excellence and growing impact of Opera Naples within our community. As we look ahead to an ambitious and inspiring 2025/26 season, we are excited to share with you the many remarkable events we have planned.

We are proud to present our sixth annual **Festival Under the Stars**—our most extensive festival yet—running from **February 13 through March 15**. This year, the festival will open at the Wang Opera Center and conclude at the scenic Baker Park.

The festival kicks off on **February 13** with a powerful performance by the Opera Naples Chorus in **"Voices of Triumph,"** a celebratory concert featuring iconic opera choruses from *La Traviata, Carmen* and more. The following weekend, we are thrilled to present the timely and thought-provoking contemporary opera *Scalia/Ginsburg* by composer Derrick Wang—a story that explores the unlikely yet respectful friendship between two ideological opposites.

On **February 28**, we once again collaborate with Gulfshore Ballet for a dazzling production of **Don Quixote**. Then on **March 7**, we mark **America's 250th anniversary** with **"Stars and Standards: An American Songbook Celebration"**—a tribute to beloved American music and legacy.

Our final week at Baker Park features four opera performances: **Puccini's Turandot** and **Donizetti's The Elixir of Love**, each performed twice under the stars. We will close the festival with our second **Luciano Pavarotti Foundation Opera Naples International Voice Competition**, held **March 13–15**. The **semifinal round** on **March 14** will be open to the public at Florida Gulf Coast University, followed by the **final round** at Baker Park on **March 15**. We are deeply grateful to Nicoletta Pavarotti for her continued support of this incredible partnership.

Your generous support tonight—and throughout the season—makes it all possible. Thanks to you, Opera Naples can continue enriching lives through world-class opera and musical experiences.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Ramón Tebar Artistic and Music Director, Opera Naples Melanie Kalnins
Executive Director, Opera Naples

QPERA NAPLES

IMPERIAL Enchantment

Annual Benefit Gala Schedule of Events

6:00pm Arrival and Registration of Guests

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and Silent Auction

6:30pm Guests proceed to Ballroom for seating

6:50pm A Welcome by Master of Ceremonies Krista Fogelsong,

Gala Chairs Elizabeth Harrington and Nicoletta Pepe

and Executive Director Melanie Kalnins

7:00pm Selections from *Turandot* with piano accompaniment

by Opera Naples Artistic and Music Director Ramón Tebar

7:10pm Live auction with auctioneer Alyssa Quinlan of Freeman's

7:40pm Opera Naples Youth Company with piano accompaniment

by Opera Naples Director of Education and Community

Outreach Robin Frank

7:50pm Cash Call

8:00pm Main Entrée

8:20pm Remarks by Maestro Ramón Tebar followed

by additional Turandot selections

8:35pm Closing Remarks and Dessert

8:40pm Dance Party with The Brett Foreman Band

graciously sponsored by Louise and Larry Ost





First Course

BOSTON BIBB LETTUCE

Almond Crusted Brie Cheese, Orange Segments, Radishes, Avocado, Citrus Vinaigrette

Entrée Course

CREEKSTONE PRIME FILLET

Crispy Maitake Mushroom, Chinese Broccoli, Crispy Rice, Butter Glazed Edamame, Ginger Teriyaki Sauce

Dessert

SALTED CARAMEL CHOCOLATE GÂTEAU
Caramel Sponge, Chocolate Mousse,
Salted Shortbread Caramel Crémeux





QPERA NAPLES OperaNaples.org

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Education Programs

Elementary In-School Tours

Resident Artists tour a one-act children's opera to Collier and Lee County schools and after-school programs to introduce 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 4,000 children to opera!

Youth Programs

Opera Naples Youth Company

Local students, ages 7-18, are given training and performance opportunities through programs focusing on individual and group musical and theatrical instruction. All children, regardless of experience or training, expand their knowledge and skills through after-school classes which culminate in showcase performances. Youth company members also perform in Opera Naples' outreach ensemble "Sing for Smiles" which visits local assisted and independent living facilities. Auditioned youth have the amazing opportunity to perform in mainstage opera productions alongside professional singers with orchestra. This season, the youth chorus will be featured in our production of Puccini's *Turandot*. These unique experiences are ones 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.





Engagement. Education.

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

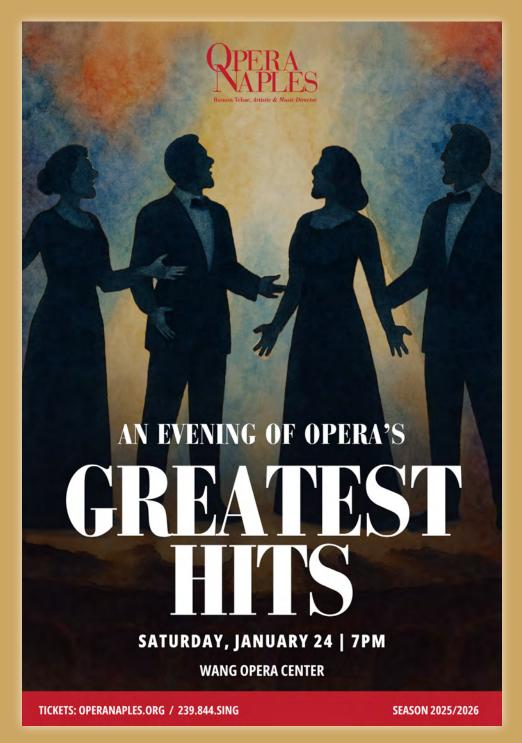
This program provides an artistically challenging residency for emerging professional singers who are pursuing a career in opera. Resident Artists are selected through a national search to work with Opera Naples during the peak season and are provided with housing, a weekly stipend and a travel stipend.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

The Luciano Pavarotti Foundation Opera Naples International Voice Competition

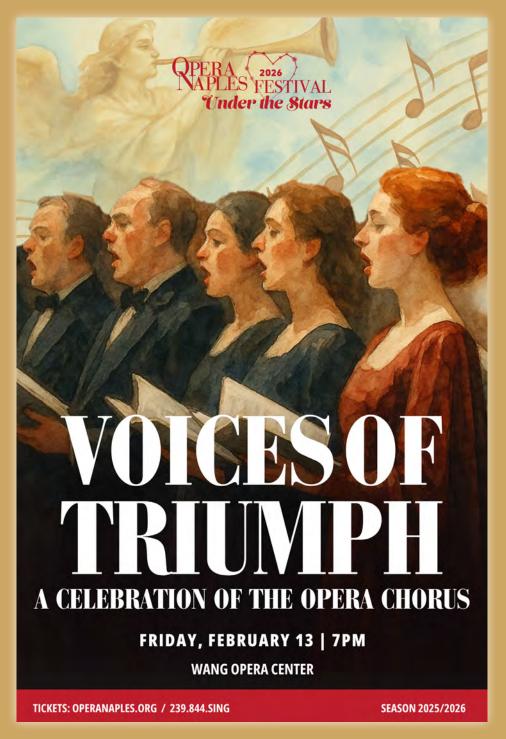
Our international voice competition celebrates the legacy of the legendary tenor by nurturing the next generation of vocal talent. Held in partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast University Bower School of Music & the Arts, this prestigious competition invites aspiring opera singers from around the world to showcase their extraordinary abilities. Each winner receives a minimum of \$10,000 in contracts to perform roles and/or concerts with Opera Naples as well as other opera houses and presenters within the next two seasons of the award. With a commitment to excellence and a passion for the art of opera, this competition honors Pavarotti's enduring influence while inspiring future stars to reach for their dreams. Join us in discovering the voices that will shape the future of opera!



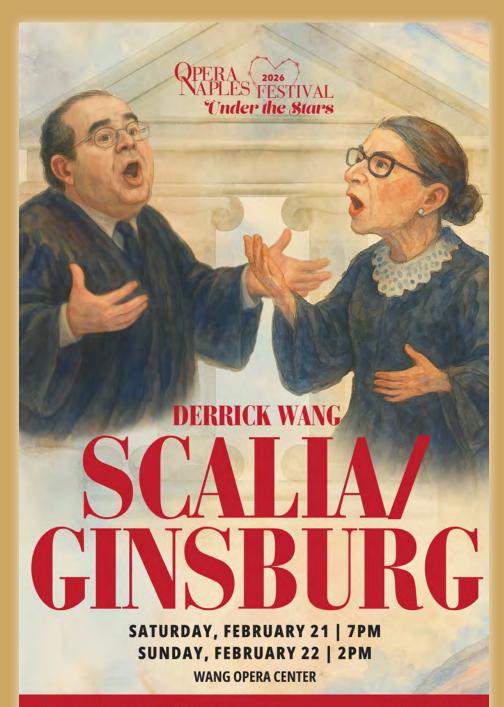






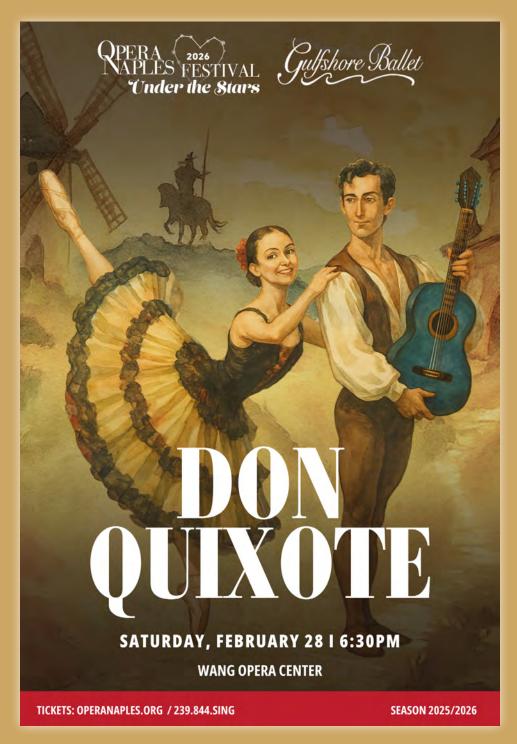






TICKETS: OPERANAPLES.ORG / 239.844.SING









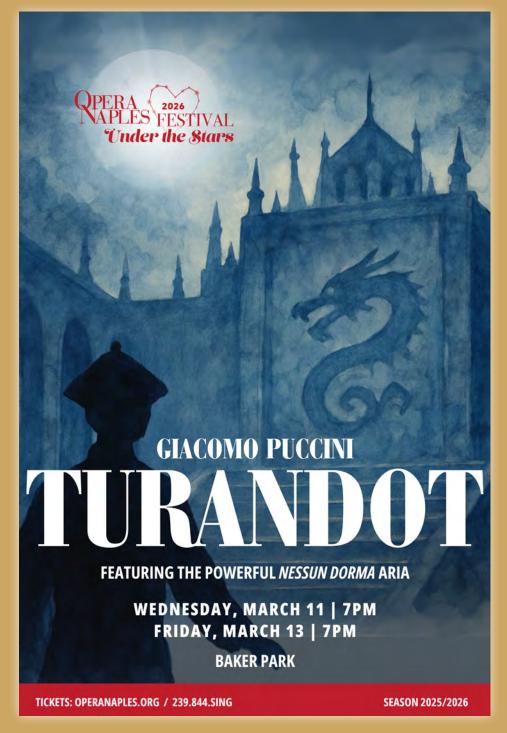
STARS & STANDARDS

AN AMERICAN SONGBOOK CELEBRATION

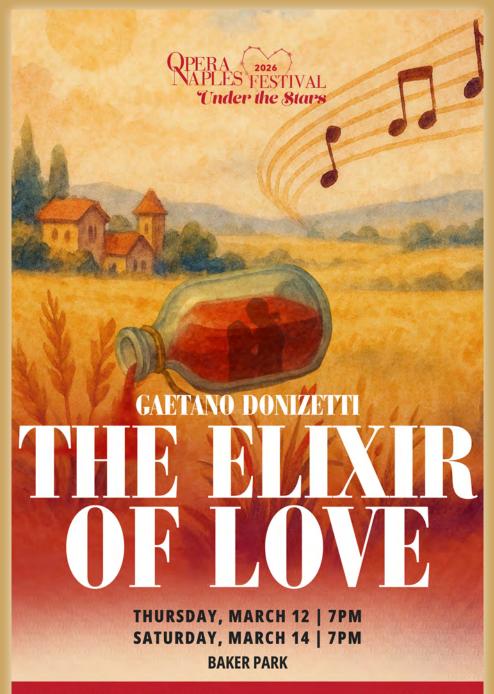
SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 7PM
WANG OPERA CENTER

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SEMIFINAL SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 1PM U. TOBE RECITAL HALL, FGCU FINAL ROUND SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 7PM BAKER PARK

TICKETS: OPERANAPLES.ORG / 239.844.SING





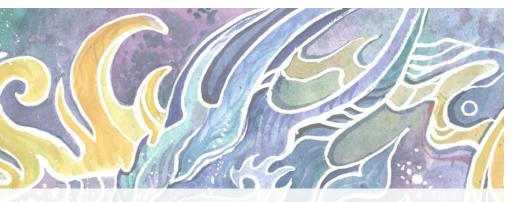
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Opera Naples continues to enchant and inspire, bringing the beauty of the arts to our community. We are proud to support their mission to share world-class performances and educational programs that keep the spirit of opera alive for generations to come.



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Luxury Staycation at Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort

Indulge in a three-day, two-night escape at the stunning Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort - delivering sophisticated beachfront living with thoughtfully crafted experiences and timeless elegance. You and a guest will enjoy two nights in luxurious accommodations, daily breakfast for two and a rejuvenating 50-minute couples massage. As the sun dips below the Gulf, enjoy a magical private beachside serenade by Opera Naples' Resident Artists with a Champagne toast. Then, savor an unforgettable dinner for two at the elegant Sails Restaurant on Fifth Avenue South. Paradise is calling – and you don't even have to leave town. (Subject to availability; blackout dates apply.)

DETAILS

- Three-day, two-night luxury stay at Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort
- Daily breakfast for two at Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort
- 50-minute couples massage at Sanctuary Spa at Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort
- Private beachside sunset serenade by Opera Naples Resident Artists with Champagne toast (*if booked between mid-January to mid-March 2026)
- Dinner for two at Sails Restaurant



Turk & Turk Elegant Dress, Gown or Ensemble & VIP Couture Experience

Exuding sophistication, this one-of-a-kind couture outfit is exclusively designed for you by European designers Ilkay & Rasit Turk of the House of Turk & Turk. You will be chauffeur-driven to their private atelier for a VIP design consultation where elegance begins with champagne, Mediterranean light bites and custom style guidance. Inspired by your vision, every detail—fabric, cut, silhouette and finish—will be meticulously tailored to create a luxurious dress, gown or ensemble for your special occasion. The experience is white-glove from start to finish, leaving you feeling pampered, relaxed and confident.

DETAILS

- Exclusive couture gown, dress or ensemble custom-designed for you
- Private VIP visit to the House of Turk & Turk, including chauffeur-driven transportation
- Champagne, Mediterranean light bites, and one-on-one design consultation









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 Grand 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 cooking class and 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."

DETAILS

- 4 nights king-suite stay for (2) at Grand Hotel Majestic 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 cooking class and dinner at "L'Erba del Re"
- Tour Ferrari Museum. Optional tours of the Ferrari Factory and Track

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











Recommended dates of travel summer, 2026, 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" (highly recommended). Except for meals at L'Erba del Re and Europa 92, all other meals are not included. Alcoholic beverages not included for all meals. Trip to be initiated or date(s) mutually planned within two months of gala date, or additional fees may apply.

Custom-Designed Magnificent Blue Topaz Cocktail Ring

Radiate timeless beauty and grace with this stunning Blue Topaz cocktail ring, an extraordinary statement piece generously donated by Lovejoy Antiques. At its heart lies a breathtaking 13-carat Blue Topaz, bezel set in luxurious 18 karat White Gold with 6 round vibrant Blue Topaz accent stones, 3 on each side of the cathedral setting. Surrounding the center stone is 1 carat of near-colorless round brilliant cut Diamonds, adding brilliance and refined sparkle from every angle. Symbolizing clarity and communication, Blue Topaz is believed to inspire calm, confidence and creativity—making this exquisite piece as meaningful as it is magnificent.

DETAILS

- 13-carat bezel-set Blue Topaz center stone
- 1 carat of near-colorless round brilliant cut Diamonds
- 6 round Blue Topaz accent stones
- Solid 18 karat White Gold setting







Donated by | Lovejoy Antiques

A Journey Through Malta

Personally Inspired by Tenor Joseph Calleja's Island Heritage

Discover the timeless beauty of Malta on an extraordinary four-day, curated journey. From ancient walled cities to dramatic sea cliffs, this immersive experience offers a rare opportunity to explore the birthplace of world-renowned tenor **Joseph Calleja**—a land rich in history, art and Mediterranean soul.

Your stay begins at **Domus Zamittello**, a 17th-century palazzo turned boutique hotel, located in the heart of **Valletta**, Malta's baroque capital. Explore the "Silent City" of **Mdina** and the nearby town of **Rabat**, home to noble palaces, St. Paul's Grotto and centuries-old catacombs. Visit the awe-inspiring Hagar Qim temples, carved over 5,000 years ago, and sail through the iridescent waters of the **Blue Grotto**, weather permitting.

A highlight of your journey is a **private dinner and musical evening hosted by Joseph Calleja** himself on his personal terrace. Savor traditional **paella under the stars**, paired with fine wine and live performances by Calleja and his most gifted vocal students. With views overlooking the Maltese countryside and songs filling the night air, this intimate soirée is both a culinary and cultural masterpiece.

Conclude your journey with a private tour of the historic **Three Cities**—Birgu, Senglea, and Cospicua—offering panoramic harbor views, charming alleys and insights into Malta's maritime past. This unforgettable experience blends world-class music, ancient beauty and heartfelt hospitality in one of the Mediterranean's most captivating destinations.

DETAILS

- Trip dates are July 17-21, 2026
- 4-day curated trip for (2) to Malta, birthplace of tenor Joseph Calleja
- 4-night stay at Domus Zamittello, a luxury boutique hotel in Valletta
- Private dinner and musical soirée with Joseph Calleja and his top vocal students
- Privately guided tours with luxury transportation throughout
- All entrance fees included















Included Experiences:

- Tour of Valletta's historic highlights:
 - St. John's Co-Cathedral & Caravaggio masterpieces
 - Parliament House (Renzo Piano), Republic Street
 - Upper Barracca Gardens & Grand Master's Palace
- Guided tour of Mdina & Rabat:
 - Palazzo Falson, Wignacourt Museum, St. Paul's Grotto
- Half-day excursion to Hagar Qim Temples & Blue Grotto (weather permitting)
- Half-day tour of the Three Cities: Fort St. Angelo, Inquisitor's Palace, Gardjola Gardens

Curated by | Avanti World Travel: An exclusive cultural experience inspired by music, history and Malta's timeless charm

Sunset Cruise

on 107-foot Motor Yacht in Port Royal

Ahoy, Gala Mateys! Castaway on a 3-hour sunset cruise aboard the Susanna Bella, a 107-foot motor yacht docked in Port Royal. Captain Scott and his crew will welcome you and five of your yacht-loving friends for a fabulous cruise on the Gulf of Mexico and Naples Bay. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails included. Please, no red wine and no shoes. Adults only. Six-person maximum. Valid for one year.

DETAILS

- 3-hour sunset cruise aboard 107-foot motor yacht Susanna Bella, docked in Port Royal
- · Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails included
- Please, no red wine and no shoes
- · Adults only: Six-person maximum
- · Valid for one year









Shine like a STAR!

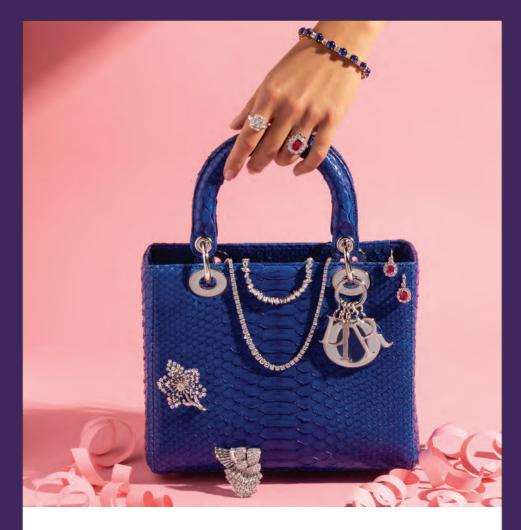
Be onstage during one of Opera Naples most popular operas in the world.

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. So, step up to the stage, please!



Ramón Tebar, Artistic & Music Director



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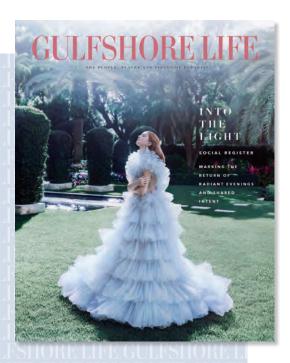
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