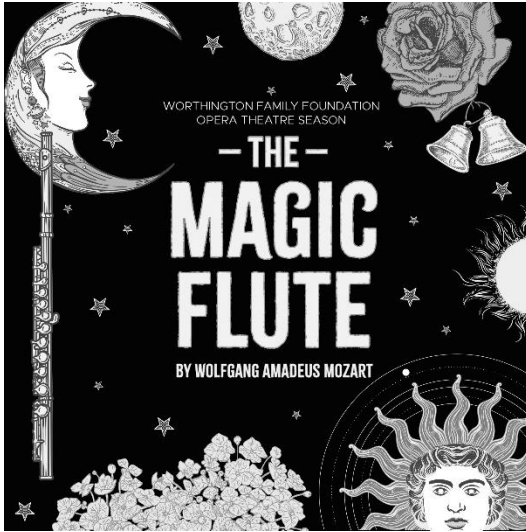




College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season
MSU OPERA THEATRE



Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

Melanie Helton, stage director
Octavio Más-Arocas, conductor

*Generously sponsored by
James and Susan Bonfiglio,
Susan Davis, and the
Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment
established by Lauren Julius Harris*

Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 17, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Magic Flute was premiered in Vienna three months before Mozart's untimely death in 1791 and it has remained one of the most popular operas around the world ever since. It is in the tradition of Mozart's German operas, a *singspiel*, essentially an operetta with spoken dialogue. The librettist was Emanuel Schikaneder, a popular entertainer who also premiered the role of Papageno. The libretto draws heavily on the tenets of Freemasonry, of which both Mozart and Schikaneder were members. The role of the number three is important in Masonry and there are multiple examples of that in the opera. There are three ladies, three spirits and three attendants as well as a heavy emphasis on Sarastro's "truth, wisdom, and virtue" and the Queen of the Night's "chaos, glamour, and guile."

In this production we are featuring mostly undergraduates, many of them singing leading roles for the first time. The opera is sung in English in a translation by Andrew Porter. The original libretto is, by modern terms, quite racist and misogynistic, so we have attempted to temper those problems without losing the essential spirit of the opera. For example, we make the Queen of the Night the villain, not women in general. Monostatos, a vile henchman of Sarastro, has become a lizard rather than a Moor.

Ten years ago, we opened the newly renovated Fairchild Theatre with a production of *The Magic Flute*, which won National Opera Association's first prize award for College Opera Production. We have reimagined it for a new generation and the cast has stepped up in a major way. This is difficult music, from the stratospheric heights of the Queen of the Night's two arias complete with seven high F's to the depths of the bass sounds of Sarastro. Tamino and Pamina are ideal *opera seria* characters, singing with depth and lyricism throughout their roles. And Papageno is a wonderfully comic creation, with his arias reminiscent of the popular music of Mozart's time. His duet with Papagena is an eternal charmer.

Enjoy the show!

Trigger Warnings: Sexual assault, suicide, and use of prop knives.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

	<u>November 13 & 16</u>	<u>November 15 & 17</u>
Tamino, a young prince from a faraway land	Ethan Staver	Connor Lindsey
Ladies of the Queen of the Night		
First Lady	Abigail Solomon	Amira Coleman
Second Lady	Grace Gits	Maliah Cook
Third Lady	Clara Fuller	Meagan Wozny
Papageno, a bird-like human	R.J. Kilcher	Joey Cross
Queen of the Night	Lacey Cooper	Anna Hallwood
Spirits, magic creatures,		
First Spirit	Grace Cox	Madeline Jeleniewski
Second Spirit	BreAnne Turner	Amaya Morren
Third Spirit	Josefina Arnett	iyari Lutz
Attendants of Monostatos	Eric Bach, David Meagher, Skyler Shasteen	Eric Bach, David Meagher, Skyler Shasteen
Monostatos, a lizard-like being		
In thrall to Sarastro	Alek Lipar	Landon Black
Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night	Eleanor Barbour	Lily Wressell
Speaker of the Temple	Jacob Turner	Jacob Turner
Wolves in the Forest	Calvin Aupperlee Nick Perkins David Meagher	Calvin Aupperlee Nick Perkins David Meagher
Sarastro, the Leader of the Temple of the Sun	Gabriel Lockheimer Toso	Jamie Eagle
First Priest	Caleb Johnson	Ryan Byrne
Second Priest	Calvin Aupperlee	Nick Perkins
First Armored Man	Skyler Shasteen	Skyler Shasteen
Second armored Man	Jackson Maier	Jackson Maier
Old Lady/Papagena	Madi LaJoice	Ali Clark

Chorus: Eric Bach, Joey Baunoch, Avery Beeman, Giavanna Coffman, Jonathan Dahn, David Meagher, Dustin White

Covers: Papageno - Eric Bach; Speaker - Tyrell Harris

STAFF FOR MSU OPERA THEATRE

Music Director	Octavio Más-Arocas
Producer	Melanie Helton
Set Design	Thalia Lara*
Set Construction/Technical Director	D.J. Selmayer
Lighting Design	Brent Wrobel*
Costume Designer	Melanie Helton
Production Stage Manager	Troy Forbush
Assistant Stage Manager	Michael Seare
Assistant to Melanie Helton	Meagan Wozny
Assistant Conductor	Dan Jaggars
Costume Intern/Construction	BreAnne Turner
Rehearsal Accompanist	Mira Choi, Jiayin Zhang
Fairchild Theatre Operations Manager	Nick Raffaele
Fairchild Theatre Stage Manager	James Peters
Recording Services	Jennifer Shangraw
Publicity, MSU College of Music	Michael Sundermann, Rick Seguin
Budget Officer	Andrea Worful
Financial Officer for MSU Opera Theatre	Renee Graff

*Guest Artist

Grateful Acknowledgments

James Forger, Dean, College of Music

MSU Vocal Arts Area Faculty:

Jane Bunnell, Marc Embree, Derrick Fox, Richard Fracker (chair),
Melanie Helton, Harlan Jennings, Elden Little, Anne Nispel,
Jonathan Reed, Mark Rucker, Sadie Rucker, Sandra Snow;
Deborah Moriarty, Chair, Piano Area; Zhihua Tang, Collaborative
Piano

MSU Department of Theatre

Ann-Marie Lindley, Director of Development, College of Music;
College of Music Staff: Lynne Funk, Katie Bethel, Shawn Mahorney,
Amy Rivard, Tom March, Renee Graff, Lisa Wilton

Join us in the spring for Rossini's rollicking *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*). Fall of 2025 will bring Ricky Ian Gordon's and Michael Korie's monumental American opera, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Mark your calendars for *A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice*, a gala event featuring our graduate students, on January 25, 2025.

SYNOPSIS

Act I

Tamino, a young prince from a faraway land, has wandered into the land divided by day and night. He has heard of the Queen of the Night and Sarastro, who duel over the kingdom. He is being chased by a monster when the Three Ladies of the Queen of the Night appear and vanquish the monster. As he faints, the ladies are struck by his goodness and handsome looks. They go to find the Queen and tell him of the youth's appearance. Tamino wakes only to find a strange young man who resembles a bird. Papageno sings happily of his simple life and his love for birds and pretty girls. He encounters Tamino before the ladies appear again. They are angry at Papageno for lying about who slayed the monster and they attach a padlock to his mouth. They have also brought a portrait of the Queen of the Night's beautiful daughter, Pamina, who has been kidnapped by an evil fiend sent by Sarastro. Tamino falls immediately in love with the portrait and vows to rescue the maiden. Suddenly the sky darkens, and the Queen of the Night appears and entreats Tamino to go and save her daughter. Although she seems sincere, she is actually a representative of all that is dark and chaotic. After she leaves, the ladies release Papageno from his padlock and inform the young men that they are to go to the temple of Sarastro and find Pamina. Tamino and Papageno are given a magic flute and magic bells to help them on their journey. They will be led by three magical spirits of undetermined origin. Tamino and Papageno set off with the spirits.

Pamina has escaped from the lizard-man Monostatos, in thrall to Sarastro. He has found her and attempts to bring her back. Papageno has been separated from Tamino and runs into Monostatos as he is threatening Pamina. The two scare each other and Monostatos runs. Papageno greets Pamina and the two get acquainted. He bemoans the fact that he has no wife, not even a girlfriend. She tells him of the joys of marriage and he agrees.

The spirits have led Tamino near the temple and leave him to his own devices. He encounters the Speaker of the Temple, who questions his motives. Tamino replies that he has been sent by the Queen of the Night to rescue Pamina from the clutches of Sarastro. The Speaker tries to explain that Sarastro is the leader of a group who worship wisdom and the light, claiming that the Queen is devious and filled with "chaos, glamour, and guile". The Speaker leaves Tamino to ponder what he has said. Tamino begins to play his magic flute in the hopes of attracting Pamina and the dulcet

SYNOPSIS (cont.)

tones soothe even the savage beasts. He then hears the pipes of Papageno and goes to find him. Pamina enters with Papageno after hearing Tamino's flute. They are accosted by Monostatos and his attendants and Pamina is taken captive again. Papageno tries his magic bells and they entrance the kidnapers. The magic frees Pamina. Sarastro and the people of the Temple enter and Pamina tries to explain herself. Sarastro tells her that she is not yet ready and that her mother, the Queen, has ulterior motives. Pamina finally meets Tamino as Sarastro prepares them both for the trials of fire and water which will purify them for membership in the Temple.

Intermission

Act II

Sarastro gathers the men of the Temple in its interior. He sings of their commitment to light and wisdom as Tamino is prepared for the trials. Papageno goes along reluctantly as the priests tell them the trials could mean death. The priests tell Papageno that he might have a wife just like him if he goes through the trials, but he demurs. The two are told they must remain completely silent.

Pamina has fallen asleep in another part of the Temple when Monostatos comes upon her, wanting to make her his. The Queen of the Night appears and shoos him off. She tells Pamina that she must kill Sarastro in order to bring her to power again. She leaves a dagger with Pamina as she departs. Monostatos tries to have another go when he is interrupted by Sarastro. He is dismissed and Sarastro explains to Pamina that within the walls of the Temple, goodness and wisdom prevails. Papageno and Tamino continue their travels within the temple, arguing about their imposed silence. Sarastro returns and reunites Pamina and Tamino for a final farewell before Tamino begins the trials in earnest. They are committed to their love, but Pamina is distraught.

Papageno is lost in the temple and is interrupted by a haggardly old woman who claims to be his girlfriend. The old lady is whisked away and Papageno tries to call out to her and find her.

SYNOPSIS (cont.)

The spirits return and discover Pamina with the dagger, thinking of taking her own life. They dissuade her just in time, saying that Tamino is still in love with her and will await her. Tamino is in the depths of the Temple at the gates of the trials of fire and water. Two armored men await him, warning him of the dangers. Tamino hears Pamina's voice as he is released from silence. Pamina appears and joins in the trials as no woman has before. They both play the magic flute and come through the flames and the flood, purified. They are acclaimed by the temple.

Papageno is searching for his Papagena in vain having just seen her as she really is, not as the old lady. He is in despair until the spirits reveal his Papagena and they are joyously reunited, singing of their plans to have many little Papagenos and Papagenas!

The Queen, her Ladies, and Monostatos have infiltrated the temple, planning to dethrone Sarastro. Instead, there is an earthquake and they are vanquished. Sarastro calls the Temple together and he joins Pamina and Taino as victorious over the trials, new to the ways of wisdom and the truth. As the Temple proclaims victory over evil, the Queen and her Ladies capitulate to Sarastro as Pamina and Tamino rejoice.

Come hear our talented MSU Singers in
The Laffont/Metropolitan Opera Competition
Michigan District
Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, free admission

MSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Octavio Más-Arocas, conductor

Daniel Jaggars, assistant conductor

Violin I

Diya Dong

Chonghua Zuo

Amy Chang

Arianna Argentieri

Zenan Li

Wang Liang

Violin II

Farangiz Takhirova

Maria Skidmore

Tadan Baartz-Bowman

Hengping Lin

Dana Hardy

Viola

Jian Xiong

Kunjie Chai

Tirian Cooper

Qiongwen Zhang

Jamie Kasper

Cello

Cheng Lin

Weian Gu

Cheng-Hung Chung

Yue Kang

Bass

Alex Zajdel

Manyi Zhang

Parker Duncan

Flute

Josean Delgado

Oboe

Brett Boyer

Clarinet

Frankie Mu

Shaoqian Wang

Bassoon

Erica Haas

Horn

Alexander Delperdang

Alden Leonard

Trumpet

Natalia Vela

Trombone

Gracy Tomek

Rehearsal Pianists

Mira Choi

Jiayin Zhang

Percussion

Taryn Parry

Accompanist

Mira Choi

Jiayin Zhang

MSU Opera Society Donors 2024–2025 Season

MSU Opera Society is the community support organization of the MSU Opera Theatre. With grateful appreciation, we acknowledge the following members of the MSU Opera Society at Michigan State University beginning July 1, 2024. We are grateful to our members for their generous contributions.

The 2024-25 MSU Opera Theatre season is generously funded by the Worthington Family Foundation.

Presenter (\$5,000+)

James and Susan Bonfiglio

Susan Davis

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Timothy Morris

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James Eisele
Roslyn Goorin
James and Monica Haluska
Jane Wilensky

MSU Opera Society Donors

Become a member of the MSU Opera Society! Your contribution is tax deductible and will be used to assist with high production costs involving set design and construction, costumes and operations.

Please consider how much you enjoy the Opera Theatre productions and send your check or money order made payable to Michigan State University with "MSU Opera Society - AE0605" written on the memo line. Mail your contributions to:

Opera Theatre

College of Music Advancement Office
333 W Circle Drive, Room 105
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

MAKE A GIFT



For information about the MSU Opera Society, please contact the College of Music Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872 or e-mail Ann-Marie Lindley at alindley@msu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/15 Friday, 11/16 Saturday 7:00 p.m.

11/17 Sunday (sold out) 3:00 p.m.

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre

The Magic Flute

Fairchild Theatre, \$\$\$

11/20 Wednesday

Tuba – Euphonium Ensemble

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/21 Thursday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/23 Saturday

Symphony Orchestra

Cobb Great Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

11/24 Sunday

Wind Symphony and Spartan Youth Wind Symphony

Cobb Great Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

11/24 Sunday

Viridis and Campus Choir

Fairchild Theatre, 7:00 p.m. \$

11/25 Monday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Joseph Lulloff, saxophone

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/26 Tuesday

Symphony Band

Cobb Great Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*