



Marble City Opera

Presents...

# Tosca

By:  
Giacomo Puccini



June 3-5, 2021  
St. John's Cathedral  
Knoxville, TN

## Cast

**Floria Tosca**

**Mario Cavaradossi**

**Baron Scarpia**

**Angelotti**

**Sciarrone**

**Spoletta**

**Sacristan**

**Shepherd Boy**

Kathryn Frady

Brandon Evans

Jacob Lasseter

David Crawford

Maurice Hendricks

Breyon Ewing

Daniel Spiotta

Kayla Beard

## **Chorus**

Ryan Colbert      Jere Doherty

Elaine Hudson      Patrick Minton

Tim Pope      Jacob Lay

Julie Belanger-Roy

## Orchestra

**Violin 1**

**Violin 2**

**Viola**

**Cello**

**Bass**

**Flute**

**Oboe**

**Clarinet**

**Bassoon**

**Horn**

**Trumpet**

**Percussion**

**Piano**

Kimberly Simpkins

Clara Elizabeth Princeton

Shelley Armor

Alicia Randisi-Hooker

Daniel Shiflet

Margaret Moore

Lydia Schoen

Victor Chavez

Travis Jones

Kelsey Bentley

Sarah Chumney

Dale Disney

Brandon Coffey

**Conducted by:** Brian Holman

**Stage Direction by:** Marya Barry

## Production Staff

Founding Executive Artistic Director:	Kathryn Frady
Managing Director:	Brandon J. Gibson
Administrative Director:	Kayla Beard
Music Director/Chorusmaster:	Brandon Coffey
Stage Manager:	Ashlee King
Production Intern:	Christine Alfano
Videographer:	Jim Johnson

## Synopsis

“Tosca” is a political thriller set in Rome during the Napoleonic wars at a time of great political unrest. The action takes place throughout a tense 24 hours in June of 1800. The plot centers around three characters – Rome’s diva Floria Tosca, her lover Mario Cavaradossi (a painter), and the corrupt Chief of Police, Baron Scarpia. Scarpia has long lusted after Tosca. When he suspects Cavaradossi of assisting an escaped political prisoner, he seizes the opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. He plots to manipulate Tosca into revealing the prisoner’s hiding place and Cavaradossi’s involvement so that he can have her for himself. Scarpia has Cavaradossi captured and offers Tosca a horrific bargain – give herself to Scarpia, or he will kill her lover. What will she choose, and who will survive?

## Bios



**Marya Barry** is directing her third production for Marble City Opera. Originally from Debary, Florida, she completed her undergraduate education at Stetson University where she performed as a member of the Stetson University Opera Theater for four years. In addition to her education, Marya has participated in young artist programs abroad including the Varna International Opera Academy in Bulgaria and Oberlin in Italy. As a graduate of The University of Tennessee with a Masters in Voice Performance, she also completed an independent study in opera directing with her professor and mentor James Marvel. She has worked as an assistant director with Marble City Opera in productions such as *The Human Voice*, *Follow Suit*, and *The Telephone*. Marya also directed two U.S premieres with Marble City Opera: *The Nero Monologues* in 2018 and *City of Ashes* in 2019.



**Brandon Coffer**, music director, is a Knoxville native and earned his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Carson Newman University and also served as a staff accompanist there from 2013-2016. Currently he serves as accompanist at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN, frequently accompanies both singers and musicians in concert performances, and also plays for events and musicals. He is also a piano instructor at LeGrand Music Studios.



**Brian Holman**, conductor, has performed on five continents to great acclaim. Currently he is music director of New Rochelle Opera and associate conductor of Modus Opera Orchestra in New York City. Recent credits include: *La bohème*, *World of Webber* (Gulfshore Opera), *ShadowLight* (Marble City Opera), *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (Opera Orlando), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Inland Northwest Opera), *La traviata*, *La bohème* (New Rochelle Opera), *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La Cenerentola* (Red River Lyric Opera), *Amelia Lost* (Cleveland

Opera Theater, Marble City Opera), *Rape of Lucretia* (New Camerata Opera). Festivals appearances: Harare International Festival of the Arts, Mediterranean Opera Festival, Film Fest Tucson, Mabel Mercer Foundation Virtual Cabaret Convention. Ensembles: Orlando Philharmonic, Lebanese Philharmonic, Spokane Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Tucson Pops, Baroque 2000 Chamber Orchestra (Durban), DETOUR New Music Ensemble, ensemble mise-en. Brian has worked with New York City Opera, Opera Africa, Treasure Coast Opera, New York Metro Vocal Arts Ensemble, Regina Opera, and Montclair State University Opera. Upcoming: *Tosca* with Marble City Opera and New Rochelle Opera.

An accomplished pianist, lauded for his “considerate and attentive” support of vocalists (*Spokesman-Review*), Brian Holman has performed in concert with many acclaimed singers, including Nelly Miricioiu, Laquita Mitchell, Aprile Millo, Stella Zambalis, Francisco Casanova, Hans-Pieter Herman, John Mac Master, James Valenti, Lester Lynch, Daniel Borowski, Nini Cáffaro, Dawn Padmore, and Kofo the Wonderman. He played for the masterclasses of acclaimed opera stars Mariella Devia, Giuseppe Filianoti, Marcello Giordani, Nicola Martinucci, Martina Arroyo, Lauren Flanigan and Ira Siff. Brian has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Salle Cortot, Teatro Nacional de Santo Domingo, Feinstein's 54 Below, MGM Grand Detroit, Casino du Liban, The Duplex, Don't Tell Mama, The Rainbow Room, the UN, and has been featured on international radio (WQXR, Classic FM, Sirius XM, Virgin, Esimora Cultural RAC Colombia) and television (Alhurra, LBCI, Tele-Occidente Sicilia). Brian lives in Harlem.

**Name/Voice type:** Kathryn Frady, soprano  
**Hometown:** Plano, TX  
**Where you live now:** Knoxville, TN  
**Opera Companies:** New Orleans Opera, Opera Carolina, Knoxville Opera, Cleveland Opera Theater, Wichita Grand Opera, Marble City Opera, Opera West!, Opera in the City Festival in London, Diversita Opera Company in Dallas, The Pierre Cardin Theater in Paris, The Mediterranean Opera Festival, National Opera Center in New York City, Opernfest Prauge  
**Symphonies:** Helena Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony, Knoxville Symphony

**Name/Voice type:** Brandon Evans, tenor  
**Hometown:** Palm Harbor, FL  
**Where you live now:** Sarasota, FL  
**Opera Companies:** Opera Orlando, Indianapolis Opera, St. Petersburg Opera  
**Symphonies:** Port Charlotte Orchestra

**Name/Voice type:** Jacob Lassetter, baritone  
**Hometown:** San Antonio, TX  
**Where you live now:** St. Louis, MO  
**Opera Companies:** Chautauqua Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Annapolis Opera, Winter Opera St. Louis, Union Avenue Opera, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Music by the Lake, Mid Ohio Opera, Apotheosis Opera  
**Symphonies:** Carnegie Hall, Orchestra Hall Chicago, Peninsula Music Festival, The Missouri Symphony, Bach Chamber Players of Saint Paul, San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers, Bassi Brugnattelli International Symposium in Italy, Ottumwa Symphony

**Name/Voice type:** David Crawford, bass-baritone  
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Where you live now:** Knoxville, TN  
**Opera Companies:** Metropolitan Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Atlanta Opera, Knoxville Opera  
**Symphonies:** Knoxville Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony

**Name/Voice type:** Maurice Hendricks, baritone  
**Hometown:** Knoxville, TN  
**Where you live now:** Oak Ridge, TN  
**Opera Companies:** Knoxville Opera, Marble City Opera, GLOW Lyric Theatre, Carson-Newman Lyric Theatre, Converse Opera, Spartanburg Repertory Company  
**Symphonies:** Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

**Name/Voice type:** Breyon Ewing, tenor  
**Hometown:** Knoxville, TN  
**Where you live now:** Knoxville, TN  
**Opera Companies:** Bay View Music Festival, Marble City Opera, Knoxville Opera, University of Tennessee Opera Theater  
**Symphonies:** Oak Ridge Philharmonia

**Name/Voice type:** Daniel Spiotta baritone  
**Hometown:** Memphis, TN  
**Where you live now:** Knoxville, TN  
**Opera Companies:** NYC Lyric Opera Theater, Opera Memphis, Memphis Light Opera  
**Symphonies:** Memphis Repertory Orchestra

**Name/Voice type:** Kayla Beard, Soprano  
**Hometown:** Buffalo, MN  
**Where you live now:** Knoxville, TN  
**Opera Companies:** Marble City Opera, Knoxville Opera, UTOT, Harrower Opera Company

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