



2023 Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS Program Manual

Information subject to change | Updates as of 6/20/2023

TO: Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS (AOTVA) Singers, Pianists, Staff and Faculty

FROM: Company Management

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2023 Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS program for the 74th season of the Aspen Music Festival and School. We are thrilled for you to join us this summer in Aspen for a season packed full of exciting performances and world-class artistry. What follows are answers to frequently asked questions and other useful information as you make preparations for a summer in Aspen.

WELCOME FROM OUR CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Congratulations! We are both so excited to welcome you to Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS. As you will see and feel in the approaching pages, there is a lot in store for you.

By far the most important thing to bring with you this summer requires no luggage: curiosity. Be curious about everything, not only Lopez and Mozart and singing and music but also mountains and streams and perfect (though thin!) air. Let your inspiration be the Aspen trees themselves: did you know that Aspen forests are not a collection of individual trees, rather *one* tree with a single root system? There is no greater metaphor for the beginning of your journey.

We can't wait to see you and make music with you. Hydrate!

Renée and Patrick

AOTVA FACULTY & STAFF

Co-Artistic Directors

Renée Fleming
Patrick Summers

Senior Musical Staff

Myra Huang, *Director of Musical Administration and Head Coach*
Rachelle Fleming, *Music Theater Instructor*
Andy Einhorn, *Music Theater Instructor*
Kenneth Merrill
Nicolò Sbuelz
Grant Loehnig
Pierre Vallet
Madeline Slettedahl
Kirill Kuzmin
Juan José Lázaro
Nico Muhly, *Guest Coach*
Matthew Aucoin, *Guest Coach*



ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

Administrative Staff

Joanna Latini, *Company Manager*
Katie Noelker, *Program Administrator*
Nina Pitts, *Assistant Program Administrator and Titles Manager*
Arabella Lilleslatten, *Assistant Program Administrator*

Stage Direction

Chía Patiño
Rachelle Fleming
Kevin Newbury, *Director for Bel Canto*
Francesca Zambello, *Director for Idomeneo*
Joey García, *Assistant Director*

Voice Faculty

Elizabeth Bishop
Stephen King
Robin Rice
Carol Vaness

Production Staff

Matt Grevan, *Production Manager*
Hannah Schumacher, *Stage Manager*
Lauren Boesch, *Assistant Stage Manager*
Katie Kinslow, *Assistant Stage Manager*
Flynn Zook, *Properties Coordinator*
Sam Heilhecker, *Costume Shop Manager*
Kenzie Laughlin, *Assistant Costume Shop Manager*
Mary Grace Sullivan, *Costume Assistant*
Librarians
Josie Bearden, *Head Librarian*
Sophia Lee, *AOTVA Librarian*
Allie Swarens, *AOTVA Assistant Librarian*

INTRODUCTORY AUDITIONS

Upon arrival in Aspen, all AOTVA artists are required to perform introductory auditions for the artist-faculty and co-artistic directors. These auditions will allow them to hear you in a large hall setting and cast any remaining performance opportunities, like cover assignments, Opera Encounters programs, VocalARTS Showcase recitals, and House Music concerts. Each AOTVA singer is required to participate in both days of auditions. You must sign up for audition times prior to your arrival through your online AMFS Student Portal.

Vocal Auditions

Date: Saturday, June 24 (10:00 am-5:00 pm) at Harris Hall

Repertoire: Two arias and one art song of your choice in at least two languages

Monologue/Music Theater Audition Date:

Date: Sunday, June 25 (10:00 am-5:00 pm) at Harris Hall

Repertoire: Monologue and/or music theater selection of artist's choice. Monologues should be no more than 15 minutes.



ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

MAINSTAGE OPERA PRODUCTIONS

This year's productions, *Bel Canto* by Jimmy Lopez and *Idomeneo* by Mozart, will take place on the stage of the Benedict Music Tent. AOTVA singers are expected to appear in at least one mainstage production, either singing/covering roles or participating in the ensemble/chorus. All Studio Artists will also perform in the AMFS Chorus. Fleming Artists are invited to perform in the AMFS Chorus if the schedule permits. Cuts, complete cast lists, chorus assignments, rehearsal schedules, and scores will be provided by June 1, 2023.

PRODUCTION 1: *BEL CANTO* BY JIMMY LÓPEZ

Performance: Friday, July 21 – 7:00 PM

Final Dress Rehearsal: Wednesday, July 19

Conductor: George Manahan

Assistant Conductor: Maurice Cohn

Stage Director: Kevin Newbury

Cast

| Role | Cast | Cover |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Roxane Cross | Kathryn Henry | Masha Vasilevskaya |
| Carmen | Ruby Dibble | |
| Katsumi Hosokawa | Yue Wu | Ding Shan |
| Gen Watanabe (translator) | Cesar Parreño | |
| General Alfredo | Angel Vargas | Michael McDermott |
| Joachim Messner | Jack Nadler | Dante Mireles |
| Ruben Iglesias | Matthew Goodheart | |
| César | Chuanyuan Liu | Joseph Kingsbury |
| Victor Fyodorov | Vinicius Costa | |
| Christopf | Nathan Bryon | Justin Bell |
| Simon Thibault | Evan Nelson | |
| Father Arguedas | Jose Maldonado | |
| General Benjamin | Yoseph Park | Alan Williams |
| Ismael | Scott La Marca | |
| Edith Thibault | Hannah Shea | Adja Thomas |
| Beatrice/Beatriz | Kresley Figueroa | Anna Thompson |
| German woman | TBD | |
| Spanish ambassador | TBD | |
| A soldier | TBD | |



PRODUCTION 2: IDOMENEO BY MOZART

Performance: Thursday, August 17 – 7:00 PM

Final Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, August 15

Conductor: Robert Spano

Stage Director: Francesca Zambello

Cast

| Role | Cast | Cover |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ilia | Meredith Wohlgemuth | Grace Lerew |
| Idomeneo | Matthew Polenzani | Joseph Tancredi |
| Idamante | Erin Wagner | Camille Robles-Fernandez |
| Elettra | Amanda Batista | Marissa Moultrie |
| Arbace | Michael McDermott | Nathan Bryon |
| High Priest of Neptune | Cesar Parreño | Nathan Bryon |
| Voice of the Oracle of Neptune | Alan Williams | Yue Wu |
| Trojans | TBD | |
| Cretan Women | TBD | |
| Narrator | TBD | |

OPERA ENCOUNTERS

Every Saturday from 10 am-12 pm, Opera Encounters are presented on the mainstage of the Wheeler Opera House. This is a required weekly event for everyone in the company and will be followed by a brief company meeting. Opera Encounters programs are prepared in the weeks prior to performance, then workshopped in front of an audience. Each program will have a theme and host, in addition to artist-faculty who will help prepare the performance.

Assignments are determined based on your Singer Repertoire List (submitted via your AMFS Student Portal). Each scene will receive 2-3 musical coachings and 1-3 staging rehearsals. Programs without fully staged scenes will require fewer rehearsals. There will be a dress rehearsal in the Wheeler Opera House prior to each program. AOTVA librarians will provide digital scores for every scene.

| Date | Theme | Host |
|----------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| July 1 | Arias and Scenes | Renée Fleming & Patrick Summers |
| July 8 | Arias and Scenes | Renée Fleming & Kevin Newbury |
| July 15 | Music Theater | Rachelle Fleming & Andy Einhorn |
| July 22 | Art Song | Cameron Stowe & Myra Huang |
| July 29 | Orchestra Scenes | Patrick Summers & Chia Patiño |
| August 5 | Orchestra Scenes | George Manahan & Chia Patiño |



ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| August 12 | Opera Scenes | Francesca Zambello |
| August 19 | Composer Collaboration Pieces | Christopher Theofanidis & Matthew Aucoin |

VocalARTS SHOWCASE RECITALS

Every other week at 5:00 pm on Thursdays, AOTVA singers will collaborate with AMFS collaborative pianists and Collaborative Piano faculty member, Cameron Stowe, to present a VocalARTS Showcase Recital on the mainstage of the Wheeler Opera House. Music is prepared and rehearsed in the weeks prior to each performance.

Assignments are determined based on your Singer Repertoire List (submitted via your AMFS Student portal). Each group assigned to perform will receive 3-4 musical and dramatic coachings in the weeks leading up to each recital. There will be a dress rehearsal in the Wheeler Opera House prior to each program.

| |
|---------------------------|
| Performance Dates: |
| July 13th |
| July 27th |
| August 10th |

COMPOSER COLLABORATION PROJECT

This project is an opportunity for AOTVA singers to collaborate with composer fellows to create a dramatic scene, song, or short cycle. Explore the process of composing vocal music and leave Aspen with a piece custom written for your voice. Every group will coach with Renée Fleming, Patrick Summers, Christopher Theofanidis, Matthew Aucoin, and AOTVA's senior coaching staff. Singers will be assigned to this project by the AOTVA Company Manager based on workload, assignments, and schedules. Assigned singers and participating composers will attend a kick-off zoom meeting with the program directors pre-season. Groups will be responsible for meeting all project deadlines and participating in coachings and the culminating performance at Opera Encounters on August 19. Project details will be communicated to participating students in May.

PLENARY SESSIONS & GUEST ARTIST EVENTS

These panel discussions and classes with professional artists will highlight important topics on the business of music. These sessions will take place in Scanlan Hall.

| Date | Guest Artist | Time & Location |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| July 2nd | Ana María Martínez | 10:00 – 11:30AM, Scanlan Hall |
| July 22nd | Sasha Cooke & Rodrick Dixon | 7:00 – 8:30PM, Scanlan Hall |
| July 23rd | Angel Blue | 10:00 – 11:30AM, Scanlan Hall |
| July 29th | Kelly O'Connor | 6:00 – 7:00PM, Scanlan Hall |
| August 13th | Matthew Polenzani | 10:00 – 11:30AM, Scanlan Hall |



ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

August 19th

Matthew Aucoin

7:00 – 8:30PM, Scanlan Hall

AOTVA students will also have the opportunity to attend special events featuring guest artists, and, in some cases, work with them one-on-one.

Ana María Martínez

- Fleming Artists will receive private lessons with Ms. Martínez during her week in residence.
- Ms. Martínez will perform a recital featuring AOTVA students on July 1st.

Angel Blue

- Ms. Blue will offer a public performance class, working with select AOTVA students, on July 25th. Interested students can apply for this class through the Harris Hall Performance Class Application form on their AMFS Student Portal. Selected singers and schedule details for this class will be communicated through the Office of Student Services.
- Ms. Blue will also offer private coachings during her week in residence to select AOTVA students. Information on the selection process will be announced at a later date.

Audra McDonald

- Ms. McDonald will hold a private session on music theater with Andy Einhorn titles, “A Special Conversation with Audra McDonald and Andy Einhorn.” Select AOTVA students will be invited to attend on August 1st. Information on the selection process will be announced at a later date.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES & ASSIGNMENTS

AOTVA singers perform on a variety of programs, including Chamber Music concerts, House Music concerts, the Season Benefit, Spotlight Recitals, and other concerts throughout the summer.

Some of these opportunities will be cast according to your Singer Repertoire Form (submitted via your AMFS Student Portal), while others will not be determined until the artist-faculty hear your introductory audition upon arrival in Aspen. It is important to us that every singer, regardless of educational level or casting in our mainstage operatic productions, receives a satisfactory number of performance opportunities in Aspen. If you are hungry for more, you can request to perform on weekly Spotlight Recitals.

A document of all current assignments will be sent by the beginning of June. This will be updated throughout the season as more assignments are made.

CLASSES

AOTVA singers are strongly encouraged to attend weekly yoga and acting classes. Ms. Fleming and Maestro Summers are adamant that everyone spends time focusing on their mind-body connection while in Aspen. AMFS will bring in trained local professionals to guide your bodywork, but there is so much you can do in Aspen to heighten this experience. Find a hiking buddy, bike to and from campus, or try river rafting on your dark days!



Jen Campbell will be this year’s yoga instructor. Two sessions will be offered each Wednesday – one at a beginning level and one for advanced students. Attendance at one session each week is **strongly encouraged**.

Introductory Yoga

- For those who are new or nearly new to the practices of Yoga, this class will focus on creating a solid foundation of knowledge of Yoga poses and practices.

Embodied Yoga

- Embodied Yoga Flow: For those who have been practicing yoga consistently for a year or more and have some facility and understanding of yoga practices, this practice will deepen your experiences with yoga and the body and delve deeper into the energetics of practice and life.

Acting will be offered with guest instructors. Students will be assigned.

Weekly Song Hours with Cameron Stowe will meet on Mondays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. During these times, any singer-pianist pairs can present songs they are working on, including those they will present in the Showcase programs.

Other classes, staging rehearsals, and coachings will be scheduled between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm, focusing on music featured in the upcoming VocalARTS Showcase recitals, Opera Encounters, and special events.

Sample Morning Class Schedule:

| Wednesdays | | Thursdays | | Fridays | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yoga (Beginner): 9:00-10:15 am | Stagings & Coachings: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Acting Group 1: 10:00-11:00 am | Stagings & Coachings: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Acting Group 2: 10:00-11:00 am | Stagings & Coachings: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm |
| Yoga (Advanced): 10:45 am - 12:00 pm | | | | | |
| AOTVA Chorus Rehearsal: 12:00-12:45 pm | | AOTVA Chorus Rehearsal: 12:00-12:45 pm | | AOTVA Chorus Rehearsal: 12:00-12:45 pm | |

AOTVA CHORUS



AOTVA students will participate in the AMFS Chorus class as assigned, culminating in the performances listed below. Chorus rehearsals will typically run from 12:00-12:45 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays, and 2:00-2:45 on Saturdays. Attendance is required for all assigned chorus members.

- Jimmy Lopez's *Bel Canto*, conducted by George Manahan
- Mozart's *Idomeneo*, conducted by Robert Spano
- Bach's Magnificat, conducted by Nicholas McGegan
- Mahler's Symphony No. 3, conducted by Robert Spano

VOICE LESSONS

- **Studio Artists:** Each Studio Artist will receive 60 minutes of vocal instruction weekly from an AMFS artist-faculty member.
- **Fleming Artists:** When Ms. Fleming is in residence, Fleming Artists will be offered 45 minutes of vocal instruction with Ms. Fleming, and 45 minutes with their primary teacher weekly. Fleming Artists may opt out of one of these 45-minute sessions, if desired. Ms. Fleming is in residence June 23 through July 23 with a brief absence July 2 through 4. Outside of Ms. Fleming's residency, Fleming Artists will receive 60-minute lessons with their primary artist-faculty member.

DAILY & WEEKLY SCHEDULES

A weekly schedule will be distributed every Saturday, followed by daily schedules each evening. It is imperative that you review the entire schedule for the week. While most classes, lessons, and coachings happen on the Bucksbaum Campus, AOTVA often utilizes the Meadows Campus (Harris Hall and Benedict Music Tent) and the Wheeler Opera House. It is crucial that you plan to include travel time and meals. Maps will be available at the Office of Student Services.

Additionally, upon arrival you will receive a personal iCal feed, which can automatically sync your individual schedule directly from our scheduling system (ArtsVision) to your smartphone.

COMPANY DARK DAYS

Every week, there will be a company-wide dark day, typically on Tuesdays. With a few exceptions, we will do our best to ensure you are not scheduled for regular activities on this day. Rest, relaxation, and outdoor time are essential in Aspen.

TICKET POLICY

AOTVA students may obtain one ticket to each opera and all other events, except benefits, special events, and collaborations, per the regular [student policy](#). For up to a total of two complimentary tickets for the season for visiting family or significant others to regular events, please use the complimentary ticket request form, which will be made available on the AMFS Student Portal no later than 10 am on the day of the event.



In addition, participants in the individual operas are allowed one or two passes to admit their guests to the final dress rehearsal. This is a request within AOTVA, and not regulated through the box office. Contact the AOTVA Company Manager with these requests.

Opera Encounters programs are ticketed events and AOTVA students are required to attend. Seats in the Wheeler balcony will be blocked off, and students may show their student ID to Front of House staff to sit in their designated section.

Please remember that at all times you are representatives of the AMFS and should conduct yourself accordingly. This includes being mindful of attire, electronic device usage, language used, and overall professional demeanor.

THINGS TO BRING

Please review the [Student Handbook](#) page for AMFS policies, what to bring to Aspen, Housing, Transportation, and other important details.

Aspen is an exclusive, expensive resort town. Stores in Aspen are high-end (Prada, Gucci, etc.), so we recommend packing thoughtfully for the summer. The nearest Walmart and Target are in Glenwood Springs, about 41 miles away. Keep in mind the following suggestions:

- Upon arrival, drink plenty of water. Aspen is about 7,990 ft. above sea level, and it will take a few days for you to acclimate.
- Consider a humidifier and/or air purifier for your room. Summers in the high mountains are especially dry, and a purifier will help mitigate the effects of any nearby fires.
- Bring appropriate clothing for fluctuating temperatures and weather conditions. Afternoon rainstorms are frequent in summer, and temperatures can swing drastically overnight.
- Snow in June is not unheard-of. It doesn't happen often, but it has in the past.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Company Manager, Joanna Latini, at jlatini@aspenmusic.org. We look forward to seeing you in Aspen in a few months!