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ORPHEUS|PDX ANNOUNCES ITS 2025 SEASON

This season, Mozart's 18th century comedic romp *Scipio's Dream (Il Sogno di Scipione)* is paired with Woolf and Vavrek's searing new opera *Jacqueline*



March 12, 2025, Portland, OR — OrpheusPDX General and Artistic Director Christopher Mattaliano has officially announced the details of the 2025 season. The West Coast premiere of Mozart's rarely performed ***Scipio's Dream (Il Sogno di Scipione)*** will be paired with the new opera ***Jacqueline***.

Composed by Luna Pearl Woolf with a libretto by Royce Vavrek, this opera follows the famous cellist Jacqueline du Pré and her experience living with multiple sclerosis. Performances will take place in August 2025, at Portland's intimate Lincoln Performance Hall. Subscription tickets are on sale now.

Mozart's early work ***Scipio's Dream (Il Sogno di Scipione)*** kicks off the season with performances on August 2 and August 3. "The glory of Mozart's magnificent music combined with a production that is both whimsical and

genuinely funny,” Mattaliano said, “adds up to a delightful summer experience—a perfect start to our fourth season.”

Wolf and Vavrek’s ***Jacqueline*** runs August 23 and August 24. “This piece is truly taking the opera world by storm. I’m honored and very excited that OrpheusPDX will be the third company to present it,” Mattaliano continued. “It is a hauntingly beautiful piece that stays with you long after the performance ends.”

OrpheusPDX is planning to present a public masterclass for young musicians with former du Pré protégé Matt Haimovitz, who comes to Portland to play the cello in *Jacqueline*. More details will be announced at a later date.

Each season, OrpheusPDX produces one classic 18th century opera and one great modern work. By experiencing them concurrently, audiences gain a distinct sense of the wonderful roots of opera and the beautifully varied ways the genre continues to transform. The productions offer splendid examples of magnificent music and theater performed by international guest artists, alongside Portland's rich community of local artists. The stunning, fully produced stagings take place at Lincoln Performance Hall, which *Opera News* touts as "Portland's best opera space.”



SCIPIO'S DREAM (IL SOGNO DI SCIPIONE)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Composer
Pietro Metastasio, Librettist

Saturday, August 2, 2025, 7:30 pm
Sunday, August 3, 2025, 3:00 pm

Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

“Every role is packed with spectacularly florid showpieces.”

–*The New York Times*

“Musically, the work is a wonder. *Scipione* bears presentiments of Mozart’s full operatic trajectory ... brought out through Alden’s incisive directorship over the Mozartean canon.”

–*WQXR*

Scipio’s Dream is inspired by Cicero’s tale of a Roman general who dreams he has awakened in the heavens. He is greeted by the goddesses Fortuna (Fortune) and Constanza (Constancy), who urge him to follow their path. One promises luck, wealth, and pleasure, and the other champions truth, determination, and virtue. As Mozart’s sublime arias fill the celestial realm, Scipio is visited by the spirit of his grandfather and a chorus of noble heroes. Together, they help him find the strength to shape his destiny. Mozart composed this opera in 1771 when he was only 15 years old. It likely wasn’t performed in his lifetime, and it’s still a rare treat to experience live—partly because the arias are so challenging. Christopher Alden’s production brings the fun, high energy elements of a comedic romp to the story, while giving the masterful music its due. It was originally produced in New York City by Gotham Chamber Opera to rave reviews.

Cast

Scipione:	Charles Sy
Fortuna:	Jana McIntyre
Costanza:	Holly Flack
Publio:	Norman Shankle

Creative Team

Conductor:	Deanna Tham
Director:	Christopher Alden
Set Design:	Andrew Cavanaugh Holland
Costume Coordinator:	Melissa Heller
Lighting Design:	Allen Hahn



JACQUELINE

Luna Pearl Woolf, Composer
Royce Vavrek, Librettist

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 3:00 pm

Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR

Sung in English with English surtitles

“Extraordinary ... deserves an unquestioned place in the 21st-century canon.” *–Globe and Mail*

“A brilliant, wrenching chamber work ... flings us headfirst body and soul into the centre of towering virtuosity and pain that was and always will be du Pré ... *Jacqueline* is a profoundly moving opera.” *–Opera Going Toronto*

Jacqueline is a new opera about legendary cellist Jacqueline du Pré. A musical maverick, du Pré captivated audiences with her passionate playing and radiant charisma. By the age of 20, she was performing with the world's finest orchestras. When she married conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim, the dazzling couple became the Jackie and JFK of the classical world. Yet in 1971, du Pré began to lose feeling in her fingers. This opera portrays her journey with multiple sclerosis, illuminated by an emotional score that draws audiences into the soul of an artist whose music and spirit continue to resonate.

Composer Luna Pearl Woolf wrote *Jacqueline* for celebrated soprano Marnie Breckenridge and renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz—who was du Pré’s protégé. These virtuosic artists revive their acclaimed performances in Portland. The opera had its world premiere at Tapestry Opera in Canada in 2020, earning rave reviews and five DORA award nominations. It was such a hit that the company reprised it two years later. Portland will be the third city to experience its magic.

Cast

Jacqueline: Marnie Breckenridge
Cellist: Matt Haimovitz

Creative Team

Director & Dramaturg: Michael Hidetoshi Mori
Set & Costume Design: Camellia Koo
Lighting Design: Solomon Weisbard
Sound Design: T. Benton Roark

THE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Building on the success of the first two years of The Pathways Program, OrpheusPDX will continue this mentorship program during the 2025 season. Last year’s participants included lighting designers Rachel Errico and Jillian Catanzaro, costume shop manager Melissa Heller, scenic designer Alyssa Jewell, props designer Ray N.B., and stage manager Annissa Allred. The 2025 participants will be announced at a later date.

TICKET INFORMATION

OrpheusPDX recognizes that many of life’s expenses have increased lately and is offering renewing and new subscribers the opportunity to purchase this year’s season tickets at last year’s prices. While producing opera remains a formidable endeavor dependent on the generosity of the community, the company wants to ensure that its loyal subscribers can keep the joy of opera in their lives. Season subscriptions are on sale now and subscribers save 20%. More information can be found at orpheus.pdx.org.

ORPHEUS|PDX

Inspired by the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, where Orpheus’ singing is so beautiful that even the savage beasts of Hades are moved to tears, Portland’s

new opera company, OrpheusPDX, aspires to do the same—to touch the very soul of the community through the power of great music and singing. The powerful experience of live opera is enhanced by OrpheusPDX’s venue, the intimate, 472-seat Lincoln Performance Hall Theater, where audiences can enjoy an enriching and personal experience with some of the best acoustics in the city. OrpheusPDX is committed to both honoring tradition and exploring new directions by presenting one opera from a well-loved Bel Canto composer and one from the body of great modern works that move and excite today’s audiences—thus providing them with the best of both operatic worlds each season.

CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Christopher Mattaliano founded OrpheusPDX in 2022 and serves as the company’s General and Artistic Director. He was the Artistic Director of the Pine Mountain Music Festival from 2001-03 and General Director of Portland Opera from 2003-2019. The highlights of his 16 years at Portland Opera include the expansion of programming and artistic standards, the creation of the young artists residency program, the regular engagement of women conductors, directors, and designers, and wide-ranging collaborations with Portland’s music, theater, dance, and visual art organizations, as well as groups like Trans Affirming Spaces and Phame. Under his leadership, the company greatly increased its educational and community outreach programs, including offering the first bilingual opera production, and providing free access to local communities and thousands of students throughout the state. This led to the company being awarded the 2017 Governor’s Arts Award. Mattaliano was recently named as one of 75 key figures in opera over the last 50 years by OPERA America as part of its 50th Anniversary Oral History project.

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