

THE ROSE ELF

David Hertzberg

Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to welcome you to this OrpheusPDX performance—thank you for being here! This is only our third season of professional opera, and we're particularly proud of what we've accomplished artistically, the excellent press we received, and the very positive response from our audience.

We are also very pleased to continue the Pathways Program, a mentor-based program that pairs a student or young professional with an established professional artist engaged by OrpheusPDX for the season.

We invite you to explore our website and sign up for our mailing list. Of course, we would love for you to join us as a subscriber. But mostly, we want to connect with you, our community! Please feel free to contact me directly at: chris@orpheuspdx.org.

Welcome to OrpheusPDX—“where opera gets intimate.”

Yours,
Christopher Mattaliano
General and Artistic Director



The Rose Elf

August 17 and 18 / Lincoln Performance Hall
Music and Libretto by David Hertzberg,
based on a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen
Sung in English with English captions

65 minutes, no intermission

Cast

The Elf: Lisa Marie Rogali

The Girl/Luna: Madeline Ross

The Beloved/Horus:

Brendan Tuohy

The Brother: Zachary Lenox

Production Stage Manager:

Alayna Powell

Stage Manager:

Bea Martino

Production

Conductor: Deanna Tham

Director: Jerry Mouawad

Dramaturge: Drew Pisarra

Set Co-Designers: Alex Meyer,

Jerry Mouawad, Sumi Wu

Costume Design: Sumi Wu

Lighting Design:

Solomon Weisbard

Orchestra

Clarinet: Mark Dubac

Horn: Michael Hettwer

Percussion: Gordon Rencher

Piano: Paul Floyd

Violin I: Lucia Atkinson

Violin II: Shin-young Kwon

Viola: Hillary Oseas

Cello: Dylan Rieck

Bass: Chris Kim

Join Us Next Season!

Keep up-to-date on our 2025 season announcement. Visit orpheuspdx.org and sign up for our mailing list!



From the Composer

David Hertzberg

My love for opera begins with its incandescent power to illuminate the language of myth, and that language's uncanny euphony with the shapes and shadows of musical form.

Andersen's beautiful, antic fantasy is itself a composite expression, drawn in part from a Decameron story in which the nightmarish imagery of putrefaction and plague, the scrim against which those tales unfold, begins to seep into the sinew of its narrative and language. *The Rose Elf* silhouettes this medieval vivisection of grief and violence, of isolation and decay, against a garden of sprawling abundance, wherein a strange, sensuous being, at once near and distant, witnesses human tragedy unravel with fear and fascination, and is changed by it.

In a time when many of us are living sub rosa, watching unfathomable devastation unfold from a distance, in which the pain of loss and separation can be difficult to bear, it is my hope that this love-woven work of collective imagination can speak to the transformative power of nature and perhaps, in turn, offer a glimmer of hope.

Synopsis

The Prelude

Costumed as the moon goddess Luna and the war god Horus, a young man and woman summon up the story we're about to witness.

The Story

An Elf, who's lost track of time, is locked out of its home—a beautiful rose. Seeking shelter, the Elf flies to a honeysuckle bower and encounters two lovers—a Young Girl and her Beloved lamenting his impending trip abroad. When the Elf flies into a rose, which the Young Girl has pinned to her Beloved's chest, the tiny creature becomes overwhelmed by the Beloved's intense emotions. In the woods, the girl's Brother stabs the Beloved to death for reasons unknown. The Elf tells the sleeping Young Girl of the murder. Once awake, the Young Girl unearths her Beloved's decapitated head then plants it in a flowerpot. The Brother wearies of her unending grief yet the Elf pities her suffering and grants her eternal peace.

Epilogue

The fable closes with both lovers returning as Luna and Horus, having played out this tragic tale.

THE ROSE ELF

*"Just about everything you want
opera to be."*

– The New York Observer

Learn More!



About this
Production



The 2024
Company



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Christopher Mattaliano

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Claudie Jean Fisher

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Genevieve Larson

Special Thanks

*Imago Theatre, Oregon Ballet Theatre, BodyVox,
and Portland Center Stage, Fiely Matias and
Isaac Ellingson*



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HOTEL



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