

LUCIA

THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR

Gaetano Donizetti



NASHVILLE
OPERA 24
25

THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD SEASON

LUCIA THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR

Tonight marks the finale of Nashville Opera's 24.25 Season - our 44th year creating operas both classic and contemporary to Music City. This weekend marks both the role debut for Rainelle Krause as Lucia and the first time we've staged this opera since 2004.

Donizetti's *Lucia* is one of the most ravishingly beautiful Romantic Italian operas of the nineteenth century. The opera falls under the classification of "Bel Canto," which simply means beautiful singing. In this genre of opera, there is great emphasis on the writing for the voice and the flexibility of the singer's instrument. The vocal lines require a refined technique, and are elongated, arching, stunning, and yet sometimes dangerously exposed. Because of this, the opera is extremely difficult to sing and requires vocal artists of the highest caliber.

The structure of the piece is fluid and dramatic; the orchestration is lush and romantic (sometimes containing hints of happiness and melancholy combined in the same instant). Donizetti often applies harmony as a means of emotional expression and psychological representation. The tonality of each act brings real gravity and characterization to the drama. *Lucia* is a study of violent contrasts, which give the piece an intense theatricality.

The famous sextet that appears in Act 2, Scene 1 is one of the grandest and most well-known moments in all of opera. In fact, here is a written account of audience reaction to the sextet when the opera was first performed at the Met: "Rarely have I witnessed such excitement. A policeman in the lobby, thinking a riot of some sort had broken loose in the auditorium, grabbed his nightstick and pushed his way into the auditorium— only to find the audience on their feet, vociferously cheering and demanding an encore."

Lucia is not only a melodic masterpiece, but also a romantic thriller based on a true story. In the Scottish highlands, the title character is forced to marry a man she does not love. Emotional blackmail, family rivalry, and scenes of madness propel the story to its tragic conclusion. Lucia is opera at its most emotional, with passions smeared in primary colors, and characters that behave with over-the-top irrationality.

We feel that tonight's performance, with this wonderful cast, will demonstrate why Donizetti's *Lucia* is considered by many to be the greatest of all Romantic operas.

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THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR

APRIL 3 + 5, 2025
TPAC JACKSON HALL

Music by **Gaetano Donizetti**

Libretto by **Salvador Cammarano**

Based on **Sir Walter Scott's** novel, *The Bride of Lammermoor*

Premiered at Teatro di San Carlo, Naples - September 26, 1835

Director - **John Hoomes**

Conductor - **Dean Williamson**

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SYNOPSIS



WARNING: SPOILERS THROUGHOUT!

Act 1, Scene 1: The grounds of Lammermoor Castle, in a wooded clearing

Normanno, Enrico, Raimondo, and their men are searching for a mysterious stranger who has been seen on the castle grounds. As the men continue their search, Enrico confides to Normanno that his family's fortunes are at risk, and only his sister Lucia's marriage to a wealthy man can save them all from ruin. Raimondo, the chaplain, reminds Enrico that Lucia is still grieving at the unexpected death of her mother and cannot be expected to marry just yet. But Normanno reveals that Lucia is madly in love with Edgardo, Enrico's sworn enemy, and that Lucia has been meeting Edgardo in secret. Enrico is furious and swears to destroy his enemy.

Act 1, Scene 2: The grounds of Lammermoor Castle, near a fountain.

Lucia and her friend, Alisa, are waiting for Edgardo to arrive at their secret meeting place. Lucia tells her friend she has recently seen the ghost of an ancestor rise from the fountain; a young woman who was murdered long ago in a fit of jealousy by her lover, and whose body was thrown into the water. Alisa proclaims the ghost as a sign of future tragedy and begs Lucia to end her love for Edgardo. Lucia ignores Alisa's concerns and sings of her love for Edgardo. Soon, Edgardo arrives. He tells Lucia that he has been called to France and must leave the next morning. But before he goes he wants to end the long-standing feud between their families. Lucia is frightened of her brother's rage and begs Edgardo to keep their love a secret. Edgardo eventually agrees. The lovers exchange rings in a symbolic marriage ceremony. They swear their love before God, linking themselves to one another for all eternity. Lucia begs Edgardo to write to her while he is away, and he promises to keep their love alive through his letters.

Act 1, Scene 3: In Enrico Ashton's study.

Enrico and Normanno discuss the marriage they have hastily arranged for Lucia to the wealthy Lord Arturo Bucklaw. Knowing that Lucia will oppose this idea, Normanno has been intercepting all Edgardo's love letters to Lucia. She has received no letters. Normanno has now forged a fake love letter to trick Lucia into thinking that Edgardo has fallen for another woman, and has betrayed her. When Lucia arrives, Enrico tells her he has arranged a marriage for her to Arturo. When she says that she has sworn before God to be Edgardo's wife and refuses to do what he says, Enrico shows her the forged letter. Lucia reads the letter and is devastated by the content. Enrico tells Lucia that if she does not marry Arturo, their family will be in financial ruin. Thinking she has been betrayed and abandoned by Edgardo, Lucia reluctantly agrees to do what her brother asks of her. Sadly, she will marry Arturo.

INTERMISSION

SYNOPSIS



Act 2, Scene 1: The Ballroom of the Castle, Lucia's wedding.

The guests have all assembled for Lucia and Arturo's wedding. Arturo arrives to the ballroom. He is welcomed warmly by the guests. Enrico greets him and warns Arturo that if Lucia seems a little sad, it's because she is still grieving for her recently deceased mother. Lucia is escorted into the room. After great hesitation, she sadly signs her name to the marriage contract. She is Arturo's bride.

Suddenly, Edgardo rushes into the ballroom to confront Enrico. Edgardo insists he has a right to be there as Lucia is his rightful bride. Raimondo shows Edgardo the completed marriage contract. Edgardo asks Lucia if that is really her signature. When Lucia admits it, Edgardo rips off the rings they exchanged and crushes them under his foot. Edgardo curses Lucia, regretting the moment they met, and condemning the moment he fell in love with her. As Lucia faints in horror, the guests throw Edgardo out of the ballroom.

Act 2, Scene 2: The path to the Ravenwood Family Tombs.

In deep despair over Lucia betraying his love and marrying another man, Edgardo slowly makes his way on a darkened path to his family's tomb to end his life.

Act 2, Scene 3: The Ballroom of the Castle, the wedding reception.

The wedding ceremony has finished, and Lucia and Arturo have retired to their bedchamber to consummate the marriage. The guests in the ballroom continue their celebrating of the wedding party.

Suddenly Raimondo appears. He seems shocked and pale. Raimondo tells the wedding guests that a horrible thing has just occurred. Raimondo reveals that Lucia has gone totally insane. He tells them that, in a violent frenzy of madness and violence, Lucia has stabbed Arturo to death with his own dagger. Arturo is now laying in a pool of blood in the bedchamber, and Lucia has vanished. The wedding guests barely have time to react to this information when suddenly Lucia appears on the staircase in her nightgown. Lucia is still clutching the bloody murder weapon and is covered in blood.

As the crowd watches, frozen in silent horror, Lucia moves as in a dream through the room. She begins reliving the wedding, the murder, and she proclaims her never ending love for Edgardo. Enrico enters. Enrico is at first furious, but then realizes that his sister has been driven mad because of his cruelty. Lucia fantasizes that Edgardo is with her once again and begs him to forgive her. Lucia cries out that she and Edgardo will soon be reunited in heaven.

THE END



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2015-Present

Nashville Opera

Romeo and Juliet, Samson and Delilah, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, Cinderella, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, The Barber of Seville, Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas, Hydrogen Jukebox, Three Way, María de Buenos Aires, Madame Butterfly, Beach Party Cinderella, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, La Bohème, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci, The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat, Florencia en el Amazonas, The Magic Flute, Carmen, Bon Appétit! / The Cook-Off, H.M.S. Pinafore

Recent

Il barbiere di Siviglia - Opera Saratoga

Don Giovanni - Inland Opera Northwest

Stuck Elevator - Hawaii Opera Theatre



Lucia Ashton

RAINELLE KRAUSE

Soprano

Nashville Opera

Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, 2024

Recent

Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* - Atlanta Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Deutsche Oper Berlin, English National Opera, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia

Upcoming

Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* - The Metropolitan Opera, St. Louis Symphony, Theater Basel, Norwegian National Opera



Sir Edgardo di Ravenswood

CÉSAR DELGADO

Baritone

Nashville Opera

Arcadio in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, 2024

Recent

Rodolfo in *La Bohème* - San Diego Opera
Zorro in *Zorro* - Fort Worth Opera
Rodolfo in *La Bohème* - Opera de Bellas Artes, Mexico

Upcoming

Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* - Opera San José



Lord Enrico Ashton

TIMOTHY MIX

Baritone

Nashville Opera

Debut

Recent

Sam in *Trouble in Tabiti* - Annapolis Opera
Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* - Opera Santa Barbara
Gianni Schicchi in *Gianni Schicchi* - Amarillo Opera

Upcoming

Marcello in *La Bohème* - Opera Colorado
Farmer Bean in *Fantastic Mr. Fox* - Omaha Opera



Raimondo Bidebent

WILLIAM GUANBO SU

Bass-Baritone

Nashville Opera

Debut

Recent

Colline in *La Bohème* - Dallas Opera, Utah Opera, Boston Lyric Opera

Speaker in *The Magic Flute* - The Metropolitan Opera

Masetto in *Don Giovanni* - Santa Fe Opera

Upcoming

Masetto in *Don Giovanni* - The Metropolitan Opera

Colline in *La Bohème* - Los Angeles Opera

Hercules in *Handel's Hercules* - The English Concert



Lord Arturo Bucklaw & Normanno, Captain of the Guard

GREGORY SLISKOVICH

Tenor

Nashville Opera

Mary Ragland Emerging Artist, 2023

Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, 2023 ; Remendado in *Carmen*, 2024

Recent

Justice Scalia in *Scalia/Ginsburg* - Fargo-Moorhead Opera

The Defendant in *Trial By Jury* - Fargo-Moorhead Opera

Bardolfo in *Falstaff* - Knoxville Opera

Recent

Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermaus* - Opera Theater of St. Louis

Conselor in *San Giovanni Battista* - IN Series Opera



Alisa

SARA CRIGGER

Mezzo-Soprano

Nashville Opera

Mary Ragland Emerging Artist, 2019

Love Notes, 2019; Nicklaus in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, 2019; Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, 2019; Second Lady in *The Magic Flute*, 2024; Mercedes in *Carmen*, 2024

Recent

Mezzo soloist in *Beethoven Symphony No. 9* - Greenville Symphony

Upcoming

Grimgerde in *Die Walküre* - Dramatic Voices Midwest

NASHVILLE OPERA ORCHESTRA

Dean Williamson, Conductor

Anne Dickson Rogers, Contractor

FIRST VIOLIN

Christina McGann, CM

Sabrina Tabby

Esther McMahon

Mark Reneau

Deidre Fominaya Bacco

Iris Shepherd

Ali Gooding Hoffman

Chuck Callahan

SECOND VIOLIN

Carolyn Wann Bailey

Eliza Cho

Zoya Leybin

Sara Deliberato Younglove

Jessica Blackwell

Mia Hagarty

VIOLA

Elizabeth Lamb

Carl Larson

Cristina Micci-Barreca

Michael Holub

CELLO

Sari Reist

Meghan Berindean

Kaitlyn Vest

Christopher Stenstrom

BASS

Craig E. Nelson

Quentin Flowers

FLUTE & PICCOLO

Deanna Little *

Julie Ditzel

Abi Wick

OBOE

Jared Hauser

Keith Sorrels

CLARINET

Todd Waldecker

Mark J. Cramer

BASSOON

Staci Spring

Laura A. Hauser

FRENCH HORN

Jennifer Kummer

Harry F. Ditzel

Tara Johnson

Joey Demko

TRUMPET

Joel Treybig

Jeff Bailey

TROMBONE

David L. Loucky

Jack Marlow

Jonathan Salcedo

TUBA

Neil Konouchi

HARP

Vonda Darr

TIMPANI

Christine Comer

PERCUSSION

Scot Corey

David Steinquest

* Featured Soloist in Lucia's Mad Scene

ARTISTS



NASHVILLE OPERA CHORUS

Stephen Carey, Chorusmaster

SOPRANO

Shae Lime
Claire Paschal
Cassandra Pinataro
Katie Riggs
Krista Adams Santilli
Madison Smith

MEZZO-SOPRANO

Sarah Antell
Mara Bloomfield
Vinéecia Buchanan
Jada Duff
Belinda Leslie
Natalia Shahin

TENOR

Stephen Calgaro
Larry Cotton Jr.
Andrew Hutton
Matthew Roberts
Kevin Salter
Mark Williams

BASS

Aaron Arseneault
Steven Joseph Auster
Billy Dodson
James Gibson
Andrew Plotnikov
Blake Ryan

SUPERNUMERARIES

Chris Hayden
Michelle Hinson
Ted Hinson
Travis Ragland
Angelo Tate

PRODUCTION



Production Stage Manager

JOE GLADSTONE

Nashville Opera

Das Rheingold, 2022; *The Medium*, 2022; *The Pirates of Penzance*, 2023;
Pagliacci, 2023; *Florencia en el Amazonas*, 2024; *The Magic Flute*, 2024; *Carmen*,
2024; *H.M.S. Pinafore*, 2025

Recent

La Traviata - North Carolina Opera

La Cenerentola - Opera Maine

Aida - Opera Maine



Lighting Design

BARRY STEELE

Nashville Opera

Der Rosenkavalier, Salome, The Lighthouse, La Voix Humaine, Lucia di Lammermoor, Faust, Surrender Road, Turandot (2006, 2015), *Romeo and Juliet, Madame Butterfly, Samson and Delilah, The Fall of the House of Usber, Andrea Chénier, The Girl of the Golden West, The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* (2013, 2023), *Otello, La Bohème* (2014, 2022), *Romulus Hunt, Florencia en el Amazonas* (2015, 2024), *Hydrogen Jukebox, Don Giovanni, Glory Denied, Three Way, Carmen* (2017, 2024), *María de Buenos Aires, Susannah, Tales of Hoffmann, The Cradle Will Rock, Rigoletto Noir, Das Rheingold, The Medium, Stuck Elevator, The Pirates of Penzance, Pagliacci, Bon Appétit! / The Cook-Off, H.M.S. Pinafore*

Recent Designs

The Barber of Seville - Arizona Opera

La Bohème - Florida Grand Opera

Romeo et Juliette - Arizona Opera

Upcoming Designs

Don Giovanni - Madison Opera



Wig & Makeup Designer

BRITTANY V.A. RAPPISE

Nashville Opera

Carmen, 2024

Recent Designs

Pelleas et Melisande, American Apollo, Barber of Seville, Salome - Des Moines Metro Opera

Jersey Boys - Flat Rock Playhouse

La Traviata - Knoxville Opera

Upcoming:

The Magic Flute - Florida Grand Opera

La Bohème - Opera Delaware

Elixir of Love - Opera Grand Rapids