



PRESS RELEASE

American Classic Porgy & Bess Coming to Stambaugh Auditorium

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For Immediate Release:

On March 9th 2018 at 7:30 pm, Stambaugh Auditorium will present *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, produced by Opera Western Reserve in association with The Warren Philharmonic Orchestra. Tickets will go on sale this Friday, December 8th at 10:00 am through the Florence and Ward Beecher Box Office at Stambaugh Auditorium.

The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward and Ira Gershwin is considered to be the first great American opera, containing many beloved musical numbers such as "Summertime" and "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'." The tragic love story is set in 1930s Catfish Row, following the unlikely friendship of crippled beggar Porgy and beautiful Bess. Bess is left behind after her abusive partner, Crown, flees from a crime. Longing change from her wretched past she is faced with judgment and temptation while finding happiness in Catfish Row. That is until a hurricane and the return of Crown change life as everyone knows it.

2018 will mark the 15th year of operation and residency at Stambaugh Auditorium for Opera Western Reserve (OWR). For the production of Porgy and Bess, David Vosburgh joined by Karen Clark Green will direct. Rhea Olivacce will return to OWR as Bess. Olivacce's last performance with OWR was the 2016 production of *Carmen* as the title role. Porgy will be portrayed by Johnathan Stuckey, who was last seen in this Fall's production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* as Raimondo. Susan Davenny Wyner will once again bring flair to the production as the orchestra conductor, while Jon Simsic returns as chorus master.

Tickets will go on sale this Friday, December 8th at 10:00 am. Prices range from \$25-\$55 with applicable fees. For tickets, call 330-259-0555, go to stambaughauditorium.com, or visit the Florence and Ward Beecher Box Office at Stambaugh Auditorium in person. The box office is open Monday through Friday, 9am-6pm.

About Stambaugh Auditorium:

Stambaugh Auditorium is a non-profit public auditorium which opened in 1926 through the generous gift of Youngstown area businessman Henry H. Stambaugh. The centerpiece of the complex is the Concert Hall which has a seating capacity of 2,553 and is renowned for its near perfect acoustics. The auditorium also features a 9,700-square-foot ballroom (Jeanne D. Tyler Grand Ballroom), a recital hall (Anne K. Christman Memorial Hall), and a formal garden at the southern end of the building, all of which can be rented for public, business, or private functions. The venue welcomes national and international performers on a regular basis while also hosting local and regional events many of which use the Florence and Ward Beecher Box Office to sell and distribute tickets. Stambaugh Auditorium was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

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