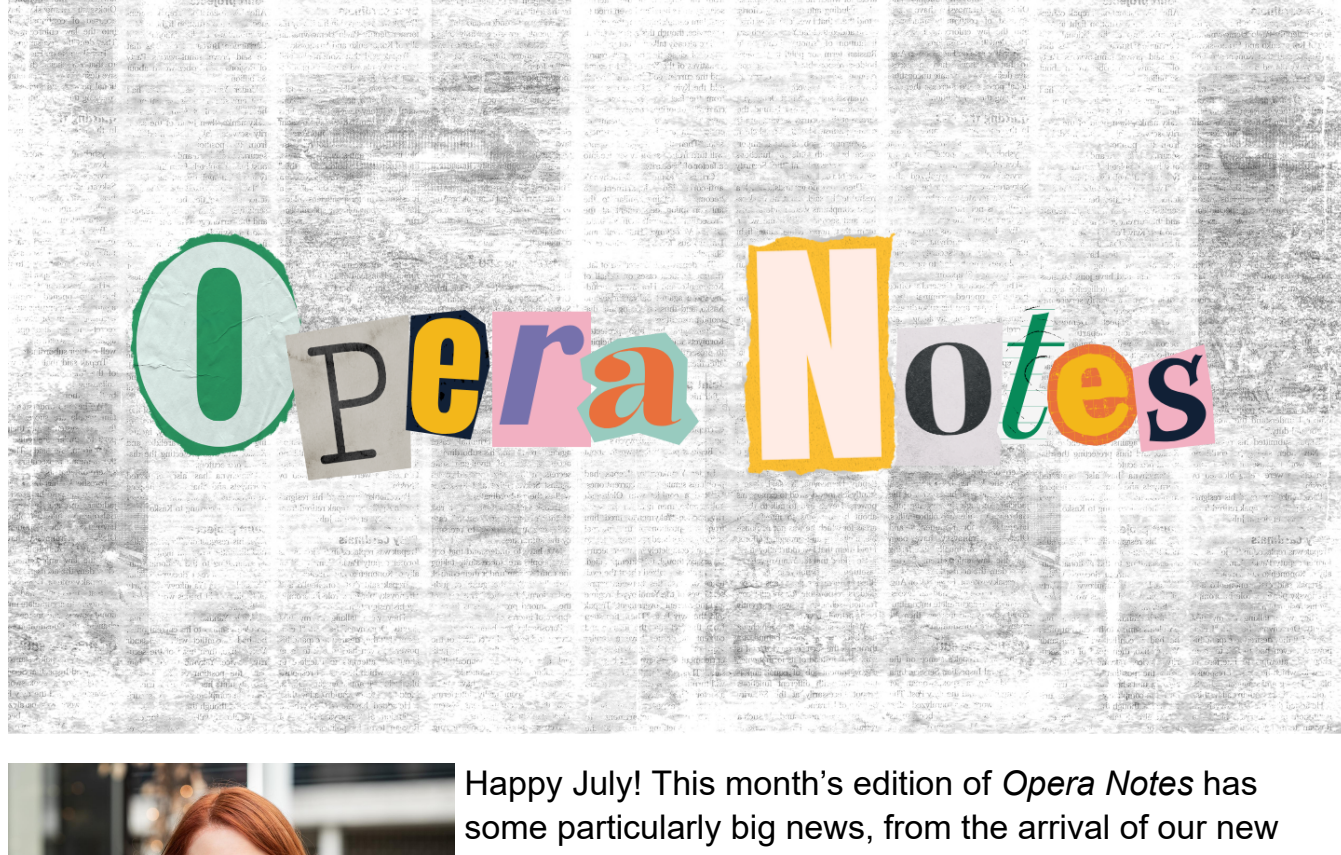


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AUSTIN OPERA
It's an experience.



Happy July! This month's edition of *Opera Notes* has some particularly big news, from the arrival of our new structural beam for the Performance Center **to a major update for our 25-26 Season!**

If Covid taught us anything, it was the importance of flexibility in making sure that we can continue to deliver outstanding performance experiences for our audiences. So when the technical updates needed for our upcoming production of *Carousel* came into conflict with the extended buildout timeline of our new home, we reached out to our partners in Austin and beyond to find a solution for our upcoming season.

We are postponing this season's planned production of *Carousel* to a future season, and in its place, we are thrilled to announce a new production of ***Fiddler on the Roof***, produced in partnership with Cincinnati Opera. We had originally planned this production for 2028, but once it premieres in Cincinnati this week it will be 100% ready to roll into the Long Center for our coming season.

We are most grateful to our partners at **Shalom Austin** who have helped us secure rehearsal space for this monumental work, and to Rabbi Neil Blumofe who has joined our artistic team as Cultural Consultant. We have assembled an astonishing cast of nationally renowned artists and local favorites, and we are honored to bring the first new large-scale production of this work premiered in the U.S. in decades to our Austin audiences.

Read on for more updates – and thank you for your support as we navigate this exciting transition period at Austin Opera.

With gratitude,

Annie Burridge

Annie Burridge
General Director & CEO

Program Announcement

As Annie mentioned, we're switching gears for our 25-26 Season and moving forward with a new show that we're incredibly excited about—***Fiddler on the Roof***! The timeless classic is a new co-production with Cincinnati Opera, where it will premiere this week, and will make its second run at the Long Center **February 5, 7 & 8, 2026**.

One of the most celebrated musicals of all time, winning nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, this new-to-Austin production is brought "To Life" by a cast of top-tier vocalists and the Austin Opera Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Sarah and Ernest Butler Music Director **Timothy Myers**. Featuring iconic songs like "Matchmaker," "If I Were a Richman," "Miracle of Miracles," "Sunrise, Sunset," and more, these unforgettable performances will have you singing right out of the theater!

Nominated for a Tony Award in 2024 for his current role in *Cabaret* on Broadway, **Steven Skybell** brings his celebrated role as Tevye to Austin. Grammy-winning soprano **Mela Sarajane Dailey**, who wowed Austin audiences as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, returns as Tevye's wife Golde. Their three eldest daughters are **Sharon Robinson** (Tzeitel), **Rachel Blaustein** (Hodel), and **Audrey Ballish** (Chava). Tzeitel longs to marry Motel, played by **Ryan Everett Wood**, but has been promised to the wealthy Butcher Lazar, played by beloved Austinite, journalist, and music critic, **Robert Faris**.

A special thank you to our show partners, **Shalom Austin**, who have provided us with ample rehearsal space to produce this incredible work. **Rabbi Neil Blumofe** of Congregation Agudas Achim has joined the production team as Cultural Consultant to Emmy Award nominee and international film and stage director **Crystal Manich**.

Individual tickets to *Fiddler on the Roof* will be available to purchase starting Monday, August 18. If you are not a season ticket holder and want to secure your seats for what promises to be the hottest ticket in Austin, [ticket packages](#) are available starting \$99.

Inside the Trade | Building Towards the Future

The new **Butler Performance Center** retrofit continues with major advancements made since construction began in May. Site preparations were completed with demolition taking place in the area that will become the theater and bathrooms, the steel beam that will be used to reinforce the roof in the 3,600 sq ft open area was delivered this week, and selections were made for the wood floors and theater seat fabric color – a gorgeous emerald green!

Regularly scheduled hard hat tours for donors and community partners will begin taking place in early September once the site is safe for groups of visitors. If you are interested in a tour, please contact Jennifer Basten at jbasten@austinopera.org

Find out more about how you can join the movement [online](#), and stay tuned for more updates through our eNewsletter.



Community & Education



Austin Opera is now midway through its second year of partnership with the Austin Public Library for **MEET THE OPERA**, a six-week children's series exploring various aspects of opera at library branches throughout the city. Each week, families gather to learn about topics such as The Singers, The Storytelling, The Set Design, The Orchestra, and The Choreography of opera, with a final session where participants put all of these elements together.

The curriculum was developed by Dr. Liliana Guerrero, Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Texas Butler School of Music and an Austin Opera principal artist, and is designed to be interactive and accessible for students of all ages. This partnership allows Austin Opera to bring the art form into neighborhood libraries, offering children and families a hands-on introduction to opera in a welcoming community space. Join us for the final events this month on **July 25** at the **Twin Oaks Branch** and **July 31** at the **Little Walnut Creek Branch**!

Learn more about [MEET THE OPERA](#)

Resident Stars

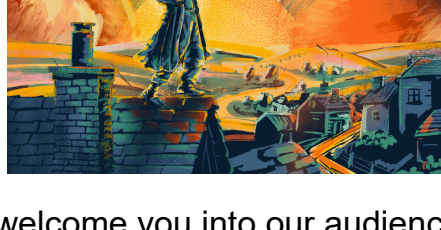


Austin Opera's Resident Star Program wrapped up its second season with the annual showcase on **June 10, 2025**, at KMFA's Draylen Mason Studio. The program highlights gifted Austin-based artists during the season. Resident Stars have opportunities to perform in Long Center productions as part of the chorus, at community events, and serve as teaching artists for in-school programs. In addition to performance opportunities, Resident Stars receive coaching from Music Director Timothy Myers and Associate Director of Artistic Administration Claudia Chapa as well as opportunities to learn about the business of opera and arts administration by working alongside Opera staff on special projects.

The Resident Stars Showcase was also professionally filmed, providing the artists with high-quality footage they can utilize for audition submissions and showcase on their websites, ultimately aiding in the advancement of their careers.

Watch Resident Stars perform the final trio from 'Der Rosenkavalier'

2025-2026 Long Center Season



Austin Opera is delighted to welcome you into our audience for a season of glorious music and powerful story-telling that will unite both newcomers & longtime opera lovers through unforgettable experiences.

With construction on our new rehearsal facility underway during 2025, we open with **Celebrate Opera! A Spectacular Birthday Concert** featuring iconic arias and ensembles from *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, and *Don Giovanni*, including "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's *Turandot*.

Making a company premiere is an enduring story of the faith, love, and resilience, ***Fiddler on the Roof***. This new-to-Austin production features an extraordinary cast of award-winning vocalists, joined by the Austin Opera Orchestra & Chorus, bringing all the memorable hits of this family-friendly masterpiece "To Life!"

For both new and seasoned fans, we welcome back Rodolfo, Mimi, and the rest of the bohemians in one of opera's greatest love stories, Puccini's ***La Bohème***.

Secure your seats today with a Create Their Own 3 Package! Mix your performance days and seats to fit your schedule at the price that's right for you.

Individual tickets for these performances will be available starting Monday, August 18.

Explore the 2025-2026 Season

Explore Ticket Packages

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