CHAMBER MUSIC CINCINNATI

www.cincychamber.org

Sunday, 6/5, 4:00, New Prospect Baptist Church, 1580 Summit Road, 45237 and Monday, 6/6, 7:30, Memorial Hall, tickets. Anthony McGill, clarinet; Gloria Chien, piano

- Telemann, Fantasies  
  https://youtu.be/wbswyWvCO48

- Jessie Montgomery, Peace  
  https://youtu.be/mt3hq2c31EQ

- Brahms, Clarinet Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1  
  https://youtu.be/NpcOJ3fc8xU

- Deng Yu-hsien (arr. Stephen Hough), Pining for the Spring Breeze  
  https://youtu.be/nU2gtymsFQY

- James Lee III, interview regarding Ad Anah?  
  https://youtu.be/7Ur2c84Phjw

- Lee, Ad Anah?  
  https://youtu.be/l_9a09VdPtY

- Carl Maria von Weber, Grand Duo Concertante of Clarinet and Piano  
  https://youtu.be/4rXUtUUuUG4

METROPOLITAN OPERA

www.metopera.org

Saturday, 6/4, 1:00, HD cinemas, tickets. Hamlet, Brett Dean composer

- Ophelia “Mad scene”  
  https://youtu.be/nxUtetStNjQ

- creation of Dean’s Hamlet at Glyndebourne  
  https://youtu.be/LGsfb1KFfrk
CINCINNATI OPERA

www.cincinnatiopera.org

Sunday, 6/12, 4:00 open house, Music Hall. 6:00, Washington Park, CSO brass. 7:30, Washington Park, vocal with orchestra, free.

- Verdi, Rigoletto “Caro nome”
  https://youtu.be/00WendNg5VM

- Kurt Weill, Knickerbocker Holiday, “September Song”
  https://youtu.be/Toei68xELNo

- Richard Strauss, Vienna Philharmonic Fanfare
  https://youtu.be/u8eb2s-llCs

Saturday, 6/18, Thursday, 6/23, Saturday, 6/25, all 7:30, Music Hall, tickets

- Puccini, La Bohème
  
  o  complete
  https://youtu.be/F3IEr3SQPx0

  o  aria, “Che gelida manina!”
  https://youtu.be/gmATq9j1yRQ

Hamlet synopsis

ACT I

Elsinore, Denmark. King Hamlet has died, mourned by his son, Prince Hamlet of Denmark. The king’s funeral is followed fast by the marriage of his widow, Gertrude, to his brother, Claudius. Hamlet is deeply disturbed by his father’s untimely death and his mother’s “o’er hasty marriage,” a state aggravated by the appearance of King Hamlet’s ghost, informing Hamlet that he was in fact murdered by his brother, now husband to Gertrude and King of Denmark. The dead king asks that his son avenge his death by killing Claudius.

Unsure what to do and behaving erratically, Hamlet rejects his soul mate and lover, Ophelia, and dismisses his former classmates, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, whom Claudius has summoned to Elsinore to help discover the cause of Hamlet’s apparent madness.
A group of players arrives in Elsinore. Hamlet asks them to perform a scene mimicking the murder of King Hamlet by his brother. Claudius reacts violently to the performance, proof in Hamlet’s eyes of his stepfather’s guilt. Called to his mother’s chamber to explain his actions, Hamlet comes upon Claudius deep in prayer, yet finds himself unable to kill him.

Once with his mother, Hamlet hears a muffled cry and, thinking that Claudius is spying on him, runs his sword through a tapestry, killing the unsuspecting Polonius, Ophelia’s father. Hamlet then berates his mother for her shamelessness and debauchery. His father’s ghost appears, reminding Hamlet of his primary mission to avenge his death.

ACT II

Laertes, Polonius’s son, returns to Elsinore to avenge his father’s death, threatening Claudius and his kingship. Claudius manages to allay Laertes’s violence by convincing him that Hamlet is the guilty one: Together, Claudius and Laertes conspire to kill him.

Ophelia appears, apparently driven mad by Hamlet’s rejection and the death of her father. This only serves to harden Laertes’s resolve for vengeance, as does, moments later, Ophelia’s death—she has drowned in a nearby stream.

Hamlet and his friend Horatio happen upon Ophelia’s funeral, and upon learning of her death, Hamlet provokes Laertes.

Through the intermediaries Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and according to the plan concocted with Claudius, Laertes challenges Hamlet to a duel. Hamlet accepts the challenge. Many deaths ensue.

La Bohème synopsis

ACT I

Paris, in the 1830s. In their Latin Quarter garret, the near-destitute artist Marcello and poet Rodolfo try to keep warm on Christmas Eve by feeding the stove with pages from Rodolfo’s latest drama. They are soon joined by their roommates—Colline, a philosopher, and Schaunard, a musician, who brings food, fuel, and funds he has collected from an eccentric nobleman. While they celebrate their unexpected fortune, the landlord, Benoit, comes to collect the rent. After getting the older man drunk, the friends urge him to tell of his flirtations, then throw him out in mock indignation at his infidelity to his wife. As the others depart to revel at the Café Momus, Rodolfo remains behind to finish an article, promising to join them later. There is another knock at the door—the visitor is Mimì, a pretty neighbor, whose candle has gone out in the stairwell. As she enters the room, she suddenly feels faint. Rodolfo gives her a sip of wine, then helps her to the door and relights her candle. Mimì realizes that she lost her key when she fainted, and as the two search for it, both candles go out. Rodolfo finds the key and slips it into his pocket. In the moonlight, he takes Mimì’s hand and tells her about his dreams. She recounts her life alone in a lofty garret, embroidering flowers and waiting for the spring. Rodolfo’s friends call from outside, telling him to join them. He responds that he is not alone and will be
along shortly. Happy to have found each other, Mimi and Rodolfo leave, arm in arm, for the café.

ACT II

Amid the shouts of street hawksers near the Café Momus, Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet and introduces her to his friends. They all sit down and order supper. The toy vendor Parpignol passes by, besieged by children. Marcello’s former sweetheart, Musetta, makes a noisy entrance on the arm of the elderly, but wealthy, Alcindoro. The ensuing tumult reaches its peak when, trying to gain Marcello’s attention, she loudly sings the praises of her own popularity. Sending Alcindoro away to buy her a new pair of shoes, Musetta finally falls into Marcello’s arms. Soldiers march by the café, and as the bohemians fall in behind, the returning Alcindoro is presented with the check.

ACT III

At dawn at the Barrière d’Enfer, a toll-gate on the edge of Paris, a customs official admits farm women to the city. Guests are heard drinking and singing within a tavern. Mimi arrives, searching for the place where Marcello and Musetta now live. When the painter appears, she tells him of her distress over Rodolfo’s incessant jealousy. She says she believes it is best that they part. As Rodolfo emerges from the tavern, Mimi hides nearby. Rodolfo tells Marcello that he wants to separate from Mimi, blaming her flirtatiousness. Pressed for the real reason, he breaks down, saying that her illness can only grow worse in the poverty they share. Overcome with emotion, Mimi comes forward to say goodbye to her lover. Marcello runs back into the tavern upon hearing Musetta’s laughter. While Mimi and Rodolfo recall past happiness, Marcello returns with Musetta, quarreling about her flirting with a customer. They hurl insults at each other and part, but Mimi and Rodolfo decide to remain together until springtime.

ACT IV

Months later in the garret, Rodolfo and Marcello, now separated from their girlfriends, reflect on their loneliness. Colline and Schaunard bring a meager meal. To lighten their spirits, the four stage a dance, which turns into a mock duel. At the height of the hilarity, Musetta bursts in with news that Mimi is outside, too weak to come upstairs. As Rodolfo runs to her aid, Musetta relates how Mimi begged to be taken to Rodolfo to die. She is made as comfortable as possible, while Musetta asks Marcello to sell her earrings for medicine and Colline goes off to pawn his overcoat. Left alone, Mimi and Rodolfo recall their meeting and their first happy days, but she is seized with violent coughing. When the others return, Musetta gives Mimi a muff to warm her
hands, and Mimi slowly drifts into unconsciousness. Musetta prays for Mimi, but it is too late. The friends realize that she is dead, and Rodolfo collapses in despair.

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