ART OF THE PIANO

https://artofthepiano.org

July 6-24, Werner Hall, CCM Werner Hall or Memorial Hall, tickets. Several performers

Friday, 7/8, 7:00, Werner Hall. Conrad Tao, piano

About Tao . . .
https://youtu.be/1nrfgg8im7U

- Tao, Improvisation

- John Adams, China Gates
  https://youtu.be/LYMV_ieFaJg

- Bach, Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor BWV 903
  https://youtu.be/7zvyLv7uwyE

- Schumann, Kinderszenen Op. 15
  https://youtu.be/yibf6QNjgGU

- Fred Hersch, Pastorale

- Tao, Keyed In

- Beethoven, Piano Sonata No. 31 in A flat Op. 110
  https://youtu.be/DbnM-1MQSGw

CINCINNATI OPERA

www.cincinnatiopera.org

Thursday, 7/21 through Saturday, 7/30, times and locations (SCPA or Memorial Hall) vary. Castor and Patience, Gregory Spears, composer; Tracy K. Smith, original libretto, tickets

“Think you know this man?”
https://youtu.be/W0kg5fyq5Nw
Friday, 7/22 through Sunday, 7/30, times vary, Music Hall. Verdi, *Aida*

- complete
  https://youtu.be/lI_QmjDyuf8

- Triumphal March
  https://youtu.be/wA4luvqWJLM

**CINCINNATI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

www.ccocincinnati.org

Sunday, 8/21, 4:00, Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, 5950 Montgomery Road 45213, tickets. Eckart Preu, conductor; Vijay Venkatesh, piano; Victoria Okafor, soprano

- Robert Schumann, Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44. Movement I
  https://youtu.be/PU97k1_K3SE

- Clara Schumann, Sechs Lieder, Op. 13, Movements I and III
  https://youtu.be/nyl0MlY8l24

- Brahms, Intermezzi, Op. 118, Nos. 2 and 3
  https://youtu.be/ZIPy-DuF9dE

- Fanny Mendelssohn Hенzel, String Quartet in E-flat Major, Movement IV
  https://youtu.be/biWrl700s1U

- Nadia Boulanger, two songs
  https://youtu.be/5MLIT5DtzBA

- Chopin, Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 35, Movement I
  https://youtu.be/KUQX-eAOWw0

- Brahms, Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34, Movement III
  https://youtu.be/F0wqaUJGJDo

*Castor and Patience* synopsis

*December 31, 1862.* On the eve of the Emancipation Proclamation in a praise house on the coast in the American South, a Watch Night celebration is taking place.
ACT I 2008. Castor and his family have driven from Buffalo, New York, to his birthplace in a rural community in the American South. This is the same location where the Watch Night celebration took place. Castor knows what is at stake on this trip, and his wife Celeste does too, but to a lesser degree. The children, Ruthie and Judah, are oblivious. They stand with him at a ferry landing, awaiting the boat that will take them to where Castor’s cousin Patience lives with her two adult children, West and Wilhelmina.

Patience and West discuss his upcoming departure from the island for work. They both wait for the arrival of Castor’s family.

Castor and his family arrive at Patience’s house. In a private conversation with Celeste, Castor explains that they are financially desperate, and he hopes to negotiate his stake in the family property with Patience. Later, Judah and Ruthie get to know West.

After dinner, Patience reminisces with Castor. Time flashes back to 1966 when Cato and Clarissa, Castor’s parents, decide to leave the island and move north. While Castor and Patience get reacquainted, West and Wilhelmina take Celeste, Judah, and Ruthie to the Whistle, a spot where locals congregate.

ACT II

1870, in the same location. A group of three men and one woman, members of the newly established autonomous freedmen’s community, are gathered on a house porch to swap stories about the many ways whites and the banks have tricked and cheated Black people out of their land deeds.

2008. On the second day of Castor’s family’s visit, West leads them to an unmarked cemetery where some of Castor’s ancestors are buried. Judah and Ruthie learn about the history of their family’s relationship to the land. Castor describes his parents’ experience with redlining in Buffalo in the 1960s. He reveals that a ballooning mortgage underlies his financial struggles. Castor receives a call informing him that he’s defaulted on his loan payments; the bank explains that someone will be repossessing the family car.

Later that same day. Patience’s daughter Wilhelmina comforts the kids. Celeste asks Patience for her blessing in allowing them to sell a few acres. But Patience isn’t convinced that she holds the solution to their problems.

That night. Judah runs outside during a rainstorm and blows off a little steam. At the same time, in one of the guest bedrooms, Castor wakes from a feverish sleep and tries to have it out with his demons.

The following morning. The family all discuss the crisis in the open. Judah, who has been pulling away from his father, informs his parents that he wants to stay on the island rather than return to Buffalo.

The next day. Castor and Celeste’s car has been repossessed. Judah is even more adamant that he wants to stay with Patience’s family. To break the tension, Patience drives everyone to a plot of land and house that once belonged to Castor’s parents. At the house, another flashback to 1966 reveals that Cato was having an affair with Patience’s mother, Jane. This family secret instigated Castor’s parents’ reluctant departure from the island to seek a new life up north. Castor and his family are deeply moved by seeing his childhood home, which
Patience has preserved. Celeste tells Castor that this is what they have come there to find.

_Late in the day._ Cato and Clarissa, as well as Castor, Celeste, and Ruthie, board the ferry for the mainland. Others from both time periods do the same. It remains unknown whether Castor decides to sell the plot of land Patience has saved for him.

*Aida synopsis*

*Ancient Egypt, during the reign of the pharaohs._ The high priest Ramfis tells the warrior Radamès that Ethiopia is preparing another attack against Egypt. Radamès hopes to command the Egyptian army. He is in love with Aida, an enslaved Ethiopian woman, and he believes that victory would enable them to marry. But Princess Amneris loves Radamès, and she senses his feelings for Aida. The king names Radamès to lead the army. Left alone, Aida is torn between her love for Radamès and loyalty to her country, where her father, Amonasro, is king. In the temple, the priests consecrate Radamès, and Ramfis orders him to protect the homeland.

Edith has been defeated, and Amneris awaits Radamès’s return. When Aida approaches, Amneris attempts to learn her feelings. Aida’s reactions leave no doubt that she loves Radamès. Amneris, certain she will be victorious, leaves for the triumphal procession.

The king and Amneris crown Radamès with a victor’s wreath. Captured Ethiopians are led in. Among them is Amonasro, who signals his daughter not to reveal his identity. Radamès asks for the prisoners to be freed. The king grants his request but keeps Amonasro in custody. The king declares that Radamès will have Amneris’s hand in marriage.

On the eve of the wedding, Ramfis and Amneris enter a temple on the banks of the Nile to pray. Aida, who is waiting for Radamès, is lost in thoughts of her homeland. Amonasro appears and coerces Aida to find out the Egyptian army’s plans from Radamès. Amonasro hides as Radamès arrives and assures Aida of his love. Aida asks him about his army’s plans, and just as he reveals the secret, Amonasro emerges. When he realizes Amonasro’s identity, Radamès is horrified by what he has done. Ramfis and Amneris step out of the temple. Amonasro and Aida are able to escape, but Radamès surrenders.

Radamès awaits trial. Amneris offers to save him if he renounces Aida, but he refuses. When he is brought before the priests, he is condemned to be buried alive. Amneris begs for mercy, but the judges are unwavering.

Aida has hidden in the vault to share Radamès’s fate. They express their love for the last time while Amneris prays in the temple above.

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