



Damien Geter

Welcome Maestro Geter

Damien Geter helps guide new season

Portland Opera is opening a new season with a new interim music director.

Damien Geter, a composer based in Portland, is known for infusing classical music with various styles from the Black Diaspora to further the case for social justice. He is an acclaimed composer whose growing body of work includes chamber, vocal, and orchestral works.

Recently, his compositions have been com-

missioned for Resonance Ensemble (An African American Requiem), The Washington Chorus (Cantata for a Hopeful Tomorrow), Washington National Opera, Opera Theater Oregon (Invisible), the University of Michigan (The Justice Symphony), and All Classical Portland (Neo-Soul).

Geter also is an acclaimed bass-baritone and actor with performance credits ranging from the operatic stage to the television screen. He is the artistic advisor for the social justice-focused award-winning vocal ensemble Resonance Ensemble and is a scholarly author and educator.

This past season, Geter

curated Portland Opera's production of Journeys to Justice, in tandem with the launch of Portland Opera Onscreen. Since July of 2020, he has acted as co-Artistic Advisor for Portland Opera.

A native of Chesterfield County, Va., Geter received a bachelor's degree in music education from Old Dominion University, and a master's degree in conducting at Indiana State University.

Portland Opera's 21/22 season commenced with Tosca on Friday at the Keller Auditorium, directed by Linda Brovsky and conducted by Tiffany Chang. Tickets and information can be found at portlandopera.org.

Touring Exhibit on Tupac's Legacy

Showcasing music, poetry and activism

(AP) — Tupac Shakur's handwritten lyrics from classic songs such as "California Love" and "Dear Mama" along with galleries that pay homage to his upbringing and late mother are among the features in a massive touring museum exhibit.

The Shakur Estate announced Tuesday that the "Tupac Shakur. Wake Me When I'm Free" will open Jan. 21 in Los Angeles. The exhibit is described as a fully immersive, thought-provoking museum experience that explores the life and legacy of the late rapper.

Shakur, one of the most prolific figures in hip-hop, died in 1996 from gunshot wounds. He was 25.

The exhibit is expected to spend six months in Los Angeles with the hopes of touring other cities.

"There are thousands of pieces of paper, handwritten pieces of paper — which is everything from his lyrics to all of the songs and poetry that you know down to a grocery list for a birthday party," said Arron Saxe, president of Kinfolk Management + Media, who is working with Shakur's estate.



Tupac Shakur

"The whole point of this exhibit was to not only show the kaleidoscopic nature of Tupac, but also show how he is relatable," Saxe said. "There are incredible pieces of clothing. This exhibit is also a mix of contemporary art and technology too. Many of the artifacts have never been seen before."

The 20,000-square foot exhibit will showcase Shakur's music, poetry, wardrobe, activism journey and other items in galleries.

One of the galleries will be dedicated to the rapper's late mother, Afeni Shakur, the former Black Panther who inspired the work of

her son. She died in 2016.

Saxe said Shakur's mother is the "guiding light" of the exhibition.

"Afeni was the baddest Black woman to walk the planet," said Jamal Joseph, the rapper's godfather and special advisor to the estate, in a statement. "She raised awareness and shifted the atmosphere wherever she went. Tupac's brilliance shined brighter than the sun. He lived and moved with creative - revolutionary - fearless-passion fueled speed of a comet. Afeni and Pac challenged, re-imagined, and transformed history."

Shakur's estate-sanctioned museum experience is produced in partnership with Universal Music Group, CAA, Round Room Live and Kinfolk Management + Media.

"Tupac Shakur was my Malcolm; he was my Martin, and to build an experience that honors such a prolific man, cannot be summed up in words," said Jeremy Hodges, whose firm, Project Art Collective, is working with The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on the creative portion of the exhibit. "We wanted to create a memorable experience that will inspire you to be better than when you walked in, all while leaving you with the knowledge that he was a true revolutionary spirit."



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