

'Tango of White Gardenia' to premiere

In celebration of its 10th season, Cascadia Concert Opera has commissioned and will premiere an original work by Ethan Gans-Morse and libretto by Tiziana DellaRovere.

"Tango of the White Gardenia," a compelling new chamber opera in English, weaves together humor, emotional depth, and timely messages through the riveting music and dance of Argentine Tango.

Cascadia Concert Opera will perform the tango at the Florence Events Center on Friday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

At its core, it is a contemporary story told through a new kind of opera that offers fun winks and nods to the commedia dell'arte style of centuries past.

This opera also features

urgent themes for today's audiences, such as how enduring love and staying true to one's heart are more precious than winning external recognition, how the consequences of parents' mistakes cast a shadow on their children's lives, and how bullies are made, not born.

Specifically, it reveals how parental abandonment of a child often creates emotional insecurity and a sense of not being worthy of love, and many times the absence of care-giving parents creates a compulsion to compete, seduce and win worldly recognition at any cost.

All of this drama unfolds against the background of Argentine Tango, which permeates both the musical score and the choreography of the six dancers who mirror each of the singing char-

acters. In this context, the tango becomes a metaphor for life and a perfect canvas for the expression of intense passion, deep connections, strident conflicts and powerful reconciliation — all in operatic proportions.

The staged production will feature six vocalists from the Cascadia Chamber Opera ensemble, performing parts mirrored by tango dancers from Ballet Fantastique of Eugene, along with a tango "banda" (piano, violin, bass and accordion).

The writing team of composer Gans-Morse and librettist DellaRovere, based in Southern Oregon, drew widespread praise for their last collaboration, "The Canticle of the Black Madonna" in 2014. The Oregonian hailed "Canticle,"

which chronicles a soldier's journey from the desolation of war to the healing embrace of love, "a huge achievement ... generous, carefully crafted and supremely compassionate." Oregon ArtsWatch hailed the work as "one of the most exciting developments of the arts season."

The first-ever stagings of "Tango," will be Sept. 8 and 9, at the Lincoln City Cultural Center. Florence will be the next performance before the production moves to Bend, Astoria and Eugene.

Tickets for the Florence Events Center show are on sale now, \$25 for adults and \$12 for students, at the Box Office, 715 Quince St., by calling 541-997-1994 or by visiting eventcenter.org.

SEAcost prepares for 2018-19 season of performances

SEAcost is bringing Florence an award-winning lineup of entertainment for the 2018/19 season.

October kicks off the season with the Doo-Wah Riders, a high energy country music group with a Cajun twist on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.

Ready to jump into Christmas? Ken Lavigne pops into the holiday season with Christmas songs and carols on Saturday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m.

Start the New Year off with Christian Howes, a world class jazz violinist on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with this generation's First Lady of Jazz, Nicole Henry, during a flat floor cabaret event on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.

Dervish will keep the St. Patrick's Day celebration going as one of the biggest names in Irish music. Dervish will play Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

Seattle's Valse Café Orchestra will perform post-modern renditions of dance hall classics on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m.

The Season Finale will be Ole' World Music and Comedy. These three performers are comedians, tricksters and consummate musicians who will play Florence on Wednesday, May 22, at 7 p.m.

Season Tickets are on sale now for \$23 per show, for a season total of \$160. Purchase online at www.seacosta.org or the Florence Events Center Box Office at 541-997-1994.

Regular Single ticket prices are \$35, with youth/student tickets at \$10.

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