



CARMEN

Curtis Tucker | Conductor
Mark Freiman | Stage Director

December 31 · January 2 · January 4
Lewis Auditorium, St. Augustine

Historic City. Timeless Opera. Lasting Legacy.



Robert A. Dawkins, Esq.

Board Certified Wills, Trusts, and Estates Attorney

RDawkins@FisherTousey.com

(904) 483 2404

Office located in Ponte Vedra Beach

- **Estate Planning**
- **Probate & Trust Administration**
- **Charitable Planning/Planned Giving**
- **Tax Law**

FISHER  TOUSEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

From the President



George Bizet's *Carmen* is one of the world's greatest and most popular operas. It continues to be performed at opera venues throughout the world. In addition, there are dozens of film adaptations, ranging from silent films and traditional opera versions to modern musical adaptations. It is with pleasure, pride, and great excitement that First Coast Opera presents it for you.

Set in Seville, Spain, the opera tells the story of the gypsy Carmen. Although first performed in 1875, *Carmen* appears to be more of a 21st century woman: independent and strong willed, with a mind of her own. The music contains some of the most memorable music in all of opera, including the Habanera and the Toreador song.

This production of *Carmen* brings principal singers from all across the country, with adult and children choruses of local singers. *Carmen* contains music the cast loves to sing; and you will love to hear.

On March 20th and 21st, we will present *The Mikado*, another satirical masterpiece by Gilbert and Sullivan. In English, with both spoken and sung dialogue, this operetta shows how well their humor and wit from 1885 transfers to modern times.

Opera is the most expensive of the performing arts. If we sold every seat for every performance, we would still fall short of meeting production costs. So please consider making a donation to support these performances at firstcoastopera.com. Thank you, and enjoy *Carmen*.

Steven Rich

Steven Rich, President



Galleon Capital Advisors

A private wealth advisory practice of
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Feel more confident and secure about your financial future.

Let's work together to identify and document your financial goals and unique needs. Along the way, we'll meet to review your progress and update your goals to make sure you're on track. I am committed to helping you feel more confident, connected and in control of your financial life.

Call me today to get started.

Christopher Smith, CFP®, APMA®

Private Wealth Advisor

Galleon Capital Advisors

A private wealth advisory practice of
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

904.471.9969

2225 Hwy A1A S, Ste B9, St. Augustine, FL 32080

christopher.e.smith@ampf.com

ameripriseadvisors.com/christopher.e.smith

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured	No Financial Institution Guarantee	May Lose Value
--------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S.

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.

© 2023 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

First Coast Opera

FOUNDERS BARBARA NORRIS AND ANTHONY FAST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Rich, President
Jean Rahner, Vice President

Robert Dawkins, Treasurer
Kerry Fradley, Secretary

Daniel Altman
Michele Bova
Joanne Everett
Ginger Lindberg

Gray Mason
Maria Isabel Montoya
Patricia Nolton

Nancy Perry
Dawn Russell, Ph.D.
Kathy Schirmacher
Christopher Smith

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Curtis Tucker, General and Artistic Director
Renee Unsworth, Marketing Director
Cathy Marshall, Administrative Director

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

J. Daniel Altman, Bonnie & Scott Bartosch, Phyllis Bucsko, Jane Collins,
Drs. Paul Schilling & James Dutton, Carl Duyck & Dennis Jack Flood
Nancy & Raymond Frankle, Susan & Dr. Patrick Hale
Dr. Irwin Hall & Joann Rossi Hall, Hal LaMott, Joan & Al LeBeau
Mona Rooker, Ellen Sackett, Cynthia & Fred Stellar, Shirley Thompson
Andreea & Phillip Vineyard, Linda & Victor Yerrill

First Coast Opera, Inc, is a registered nonprofit.
We are a professional company member of Opera America.

**OPERA
AMERICA**



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of companies, grants, charitable foundations, and patrons like you, whose contributions make our performances possible.



The Vineyard
Family Foundation



Galleon Capital Advisors



**FIRST COAST HISPANIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Your Premier Hispanic Chamber



**HAYWARD CONSTRUCTION
GROUP, LLC**

Morgan Stanley

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT



**ST. JOHNS
CULTURAL COUNCIL**
ST. AUGUSTINE | PONTE VEDRA | FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST



Your commitment to the arts helps us bring exceptional opera to our community, nurture emerging artists, and share the joy of music with audiences of all ages. Thank you for being an essential part of our story. Please visit us online to learn more. FirstCoastOpera.com/support-the-arts

First Coast Opera Donors

2025-2026 SEASON

PREMIER DONOR (\$10,000 & ABOVE)

The Joseph W. & Faith K Tiberio Charitable Foundation
Vineyard Family Foundation
St. Johns County Tourist Development Council

SEASON SPONSOR (\$6,000 TO \$7,999)

Michele Bova Chapman

DIVA (\$4,000 to \$5,999)

Carl Duyck & Dennis Jack Flood
Nancy Perry
Steven Rich
Kathryn & Andrew Schirmacher

OVATION (\$2,000 TO \$3,999)

Covington Alsina; First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;
Fisher Tousey, Attorneys at Law; Hayward Construction;
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.
The Boxer Family in honor of Edith Balogh
Bonnie & Scott Bartosch, Laura Weiss & Robert Dawkins,
Kerry & Dale Fradley, Nancy & Raymond Frankle, Julie Hammack

CRESCENDO (\$1,000 TO \$1,999)

Ameriprise Financial; Dr. An Vu, Harmony Medical.
J. Daniel Altman, Phyllis Bucsko, Jane Collins,
Susan & Dr. Patrick Hale, Dr. Irwin Hall & Joann Rossi Hall, Hal LaMott,
Joan & Al LeBeau, Gray Mason, Jr. M.D., Mona Rooker,
Ellen Sackett, Paul J. Schilling, MD & James T. Dutton, CPA, DVM,
Christopher Smith, Cynthia & Fred Stellar,
Shirley Thompson, Linda & Victor Yerrill

MAESTRO LEVEL (\$500 to \$999)

Anastasia Storage; Hyundai of St. Augustine.
David Abraham, Marcelle & Paul Gallucci,
Deborah & Lee Geanuleas, Wendy & Burry Gowen,
Jackie Shank & Laurence Layne, Kathy Dodge & Adam Michelin,
Clifford Parrish, Thomas Rodgers, Barbara Berlin & Robert Silverman,
Christina & Roger Van Ghent, Dr. Bob & Gerri Walker

ARIAS LEVEL (\$250 to \$499)

Sandra Burke, Michael Clark, Marcus M. Cornelius III,
Lynda & Fred Hathorn, Marcia & Joseph Lakovitch, Dr. Jan & Erling Larson,
Jane M. Mathis, Barbara Norris, Carmen Slack,
Debra Hollingsworth & Mark Stayce, Arthur F. Wildblood, John Young,
Helena Binder & Jim Zien

CHORUS LEVEL (\$100 to \$249)

Craig Funeral Home.
Anonymous, Suzanne & Neil Beck, Eline & Hans Breukhoven,
Sandy & Tom Burke, Kathleen Clarke, Barbara Crittenden,
Dr. Ronald Dixon, Eva Doolittle, Linda & Peter Dytrych, Robert F. Evans,
Joanne & Roger Everett, Mattie Harms, Herb Hudolin,
Janet & Tyree Landers, Elena & Paul Lankau, Janet Liles, Joy Lordahl,
Lori & Robert Luciano, Anna & Stephen Marr,
Diane & John McWhorter, Brian Miller, Harry Metz,
Patricia & John Nolton, Dr. Quenton & Mrs. Lorraine Novinger,
CeCe & Peter Orvis, Marcia & William Pappas, Theo Prousis, Jean Rahner,
Raquel Rubi, Diane Mataraza & Michael Schleiffer, Michael Sanflippo,
Mary Alice & Paul Sapp, Mary Siess, Susan Stone,
Deborah Spiller, Linda & Jim Tisony, Kathleen & James Vande Berg,
Judy Wenscott, Gina & Alex Wilson III

PATRON LEVEL (up to \$99)

Jacqueline Bowen, Katherine K. Burtin, Phyllis Cipollone, Christina Daguillo,
Paul Hand, Marta Hahn, Margaret Hershey, Laurie Keller, Richard Lahey, Jr.,
Brian Miller, Edward Newman, Anita Ribeiro, John Ridges,
Dale Marie Roseman, Anne Serra, Jean Swann, Judy Wenscott

Arts Around Town

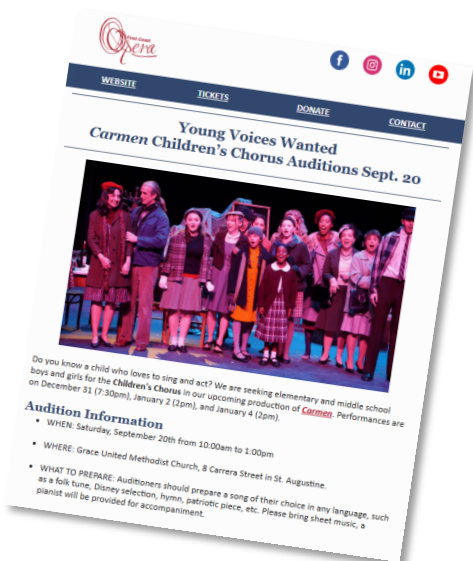


Don't miss a note of the local arts scene. When you subscribe to the First Coast Opera newsletter, you'll

get updates on *all* the area's performing arts events — plus exclusive news, special offers, and behind-the-scenes stories from your local opera company.

Stay in the Know!

Sign up today at FirstCoastOpera.com and join our community of arts lovers who never miss a performance!



totallystaugustine.com



THINGS TO DO IN ST. AUGUSTINE

FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





2025 2026 SEASON

**ST. AUGUSTINE
COMMUNITY
CHORUS**

Rejoice! Sat Dec 20 at 7:30pm & Sun Dec 21 at 2pm
at The Cathedral Basilica

**Journey
Americana** Saturday March 7 at 7pm &
Sunday March 8 at 3pm

The Way to Peace Saturday May 9 at 7pm

3rd Annual Messiah Sing In Saturday Dec 13 at 2pm
at Memorial Lutheran Church

*Season Tickets available
Join us on Facebook or at our website
Sta Augustinecommunitychorus.org*



2025 - 2026 Season Schedule

OCT
30

FALL CONCERT

DEC
11

HOLIDAY CONCERT

MAR
6

SPRING CONCERT

MAY
8

SEASON FINALE




WWW.STAUGBAND.ORG

2025 - 26 CONCERTS

NEWS-JOURNAL CENTER



Daytona Beach
symphony
SOCIETY

THURSDAY
JAN 8
7:00 PM

**JACKSONVILLE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
JOHN WILLIAMS
SALUTES AMERICA



FRIDAY
JAN 30
7:00 PM

CARMEN
TEATRO LIRICO D'EUROPA



THURSDAY
FEB 26
7:00 PM

**MANHATTAN
CHAMBER PLAYERS**
MUSIC OF DVORAK & TCHAIKOVSKY



74th SEASON! | DBSS.ORG | 386.253.2901

LOVE THEATRE? STAY IN THE KNOW.

SIGN UP FOR THE



JAXPLAYS

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER!

Did you know there are **over 30** active theaters and opera companies in Northeast Florida?

Get the latest theatre news, show reviews and find out what's on stage this week!



Scan here to
subscribe instantly

jaxplays.org/signup

LimeLIGHT THEATRE SEASON 34



From hilarious nuns not making much sense, to climbing every mountain, our 34th season is one of faith! There is something for everyone, and we are so excited to share the Limelight with you.



to become a SUBSCRIBER!



44 Old Mission Avenue – St. Augustine, FL
Limelight-Theatre.org • 904-825-4164

St. Augustine Orchestra

Scott C. Gregg, Artistic Director

Fall Concert

Tocoi Creek High School
Friday, October 24, 2025 7:30pm

Fall Concert

Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center, Palm
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:30pm

Sounds of the Season

Kelly Farm
Saturday, December 6, 2025
2:00pm and 5:30pm

Winter Concert

Tocoi Creek High School
Friday, March 13, 2026 7:30pm

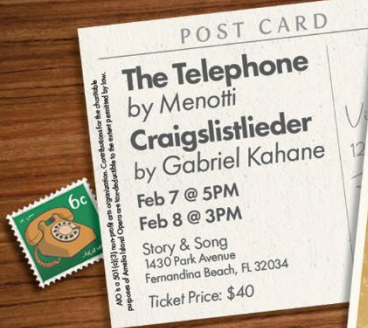
Afternoon Tea

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
Saturday, May 2, 2026 4:00pm



904-540-6664
StAugustineOrchestra.com

AIO AMELIA ISLAND OPERA





North Florida
WOMEN'S CHORALE
 Kerry Fradley, Director
 Kathleen Vande Berg,
 Collaborative Accompanist

AMERICA /250

In St. Augustine:
Friday, May 1, 2026 at 6pm
Cathedral Basilica of St Augustine
 38 Cathedral Place, St Augustine, FL

www.womenschorale.org



**FLAGLER
 COLLEGE**

2025-2026

THEATRE ARTS SEASON

 <p>MEN ON BOATS BY JACLYN BACKHAUS</p>	 <p><i>A full serving of satire</i> The Thanksgiving Play BY LARISSA FASTHORSE</p>	 <p>TWELVE ANGRY JURORS BASED ON SYMMONDS L. BLOOM ADAPTED BY JACOB GORDON</p>	 <p><i>Roald Dahl's</i> JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH</p>
OCT 3-6, 2025	NOV 14-17, 2025	FEB 27-MAR 2, 2026	APR 10-13, 2026

LEWIS AUDITORIUM 14 GRANADA ST

TICKETS: \$20-25 GENERAL ADMISSIONS/\$5 STUDENTS
BOX OFFICE (904) 826-8600 • FLAGLER.UNIVERSITYTICKETS.COM



FOR MORE INFO



**Join us at the Water Works for
The Festival's 2025
Spring Sunday Series**

January 18, 3pm

Kevin Sharpe, piano

"From the Sacred to the Profane"

February 8, 3pm

Chelsea Wang, piano

"Elegance and Expression"

March 22, 3pm

Aaron Lehrian, piano

"Where Jazz Meets Strings"

April 19, 3pm

Piotr Szewczyk and Alex Cooper

"Insights into Composing"

staugustinemusicfestival.org

Is this your audience?

**Before the lights go
down, share your
message here.**

**Learn more about
playbill ads.**

FCOpera@gmail.com



**BEFORE the MATINEE...
ENJOY SUNDAY BRUNCH
9:30 - 1:00**

**OR BEFORE
the EVENING SHOW...
DINNER FROM 5 P.M.**

**... and AFTER the SHOW
JOIN US FOR
COFFEE & DESSERT!**

Courtyard Dining!



**CASUAL DINING
HISTORIC LOCATION**

Start the new year with two of modern American theatre's most acclaimed plays presented as Staged Readings.

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

by A.R. Gurney
Directed by Joseph Stearman

January 23, 2026

A poignant yet humorous exploration of family relationships and the clash between personal truth and social expectation.

Eureka Day

by Jonathan Spector
Directed by Matt Whaley

February 20, 2026

The play uses humor to explore how consensus-building breaks down when faced with divisive issues like public health, facts, and personal beliefs.



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT aclassictheatre.org

Presented at The Center for Spiritual Living
1795 Old Moultrie Rd., St. Augustine



Find the Celt in You!

CELTIC MUSIC & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

www.celticstaugustine.com

March 14-15, 2026

ST. AUGUSTINE

ST. JOHNS CULTURAL COUNCIL
ST. JOHNS COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
St. Augustine



EMMA
CONCERT ASSOCIATION
Celebrating 47 Years!

TICKETS
emmaconcerts.com
904-797-2800

Oct 11: Voctave
Dec 16: Gainesville Orchestra
Jan 17: Neil Berg's The 70s
Jan 24: A Midsummer Night's Dream
March 8: Jacksonville Symphony
April 25: Chicago Tap Theatre

First Coast Opera presents

THE MIKADO

March 20 - 7:30pm

March 21 - 4:00pm

Lewis Auditorium, Historic St. Augustine



Tickets now on sale!

firstcoastopera.com/tickets

For group rates:

FCOpera@gmail.com

(904) 417-5555

St. Francis Inn

ST. AUGUSTINE BED & BREAKFAST

PROUDLY SUPPORTS FIRST COAST OPERA



Old world charm permeates the St. Francis Inn, dating back to 1791. Walled courtyard garden, antique-filled rooms and suites, private balconies, whirlpool tubs, complimentary amenities include full breakfasts, social hour, desserts, heated pool, bikes, on-site parking, all from our Old City location.



279 St. George St., St. Augustine

(904) 824-6068 • 1-800-824-6062

www.stfrancisinn.com

New Year. New Journey.



Start 2026 exceptionally

Enjoy a concierge dealership experience
at Hyundai of St. Augustine



**HYUNDAI of
ST.AUGUSTINE**

exceptional service from exceptional people

📍 1111 Marketplace Drive | St. Augustine, FL 32084

☎ (904) 593-6502 🌐 [HyundaiofStAugustine.com](https://www.hyundaiast.com)

CARMEN

Music by Georges Bizet

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Premiered March 3, 1875, at the Opéra-Comique in Paris

Cast

Carmen	Sarah Nordin
Don José	Matt Morgan
Micaëla	McKenna Slack
Escamillo	Luis Orozco
Zuniga	Mark Freiman
Moralès	Jacob Pence
Frasquita	Elena Galván
Mercédès	Katherine Kincaid
El Dancairo	John Daugherty
El Remendado	Daniel Bates
Cigarette Girl #1.....	Caragh Zeigler
Cigarette Girl #2.....	Haley Kirk
Lillas Pastia	Charles Ross

Chorus of Soldiers, Townspeople, Cigarette Girls, Gypsies, and Smugglers

Artistic Team

Conductor	Curtis Tucker
Stage Director	Mark Freiman
Set Designer and Technical Director	Valeriya Nedviga
Costumes, Hair & Makeup Designer	Gina Makarova
Lighting Designer	Patrick Mathis
Stage Manager	Emily Ann Fluchel

Pre-Opera Talk.....Curtis Tucker, General and Artistic Director

There will be a simulated gun shot in Act 3.
The intermission will be between Acts 2 and 3

Synopsis

Act 1 – A public square in Seville

A company of dragoons is lounging in the plaza. The officer on guard, Moralès, flirts with Micaela, a country girl who has arrived looking for the brigadier Don José. Intimidated, Micaela leaves before José arrives. Girls from the cigarette factory come out for their noon break, followed by the gypsy Carmen. To the admiring men, she sings about the fickleness and danger of love. Piqued by José's indifference, she throws a flower at him, taunting him. Micaela returns to give José a message and letter from his mother, then she modestly withdraws. An uproar in the factory leads to accusations that Carmen injured another worker. Zuniga, José's captain, charges José to guard Carmen before she goes to prison. She promises José a passionate rendezvous at Lillas Pastia's inn outside Seville if he lets her go. José is torn, but ultimately agrees to free her. He is demoted and imprisoned for his action.

Act 2 – The Inn of Lillas Pastia

Carmen and her friends Frasquita and Mercédès dance and revel in their gypsy life. The bullfighter Escamillo arrives, recounts his adventures in the bullring, and becomes enamored of Carmen. All leave except the three women who remain to plot a smuggling expedition with Remendado and Dancairo; except that Carmen refuses to go, citing her newfound affection for José, who arrives having been released from prison. Carmen dances for him but, when José insists he must return to camp, she questions his love. José counters that his passion for her survived his prison stay, producing the dried flower she once threw at him. Carmen insists that he prove his love by joining their band of smugglers. He refuses, but when Zuniga arrives hoping for a tryst with Carmen, the two men fight. The gypsies disarm the situation, but José's only option is now to desert the army and join the gypsies.

INTERMISSION

Act 3 – A mountain pass

The smugglers and gypsies have set up camp. José still adores Carmen but has grown jealous of her, and she is tiring of him. Frasquita and Mercédès read their happy fortunes in the cards, but when Carmen deals, she reads only death. The band sets off for a smuggling expedition, leaving José to

guard the camp. Micaela approaches in search of José, but hides when Escamillo arrives looking for Carmen. Escamillo and José duel, but are interrupted by Carmen and the returning smugglers. The bullfighter leaves after issuing an invitation to the bullfight in Seville, and the others are about to resume their activities when Micaela is discovered. She reveals to José that his mother is dying, and he leaves with her after warning Carmen that they will meet again.

Act 4 – Outside the bullring in Seville

Spectators anticipate the bullfight. Escamillo arrives with Carmen, and the two vow their love to each other. Carmen's friends warn her that José lurks about, but she shows no fear. As all retreat inside the bullfighting ring, a disheveled and agitated José confronts Carmen, pleading her to return to him. She refuses. As Escamillo's triumph is heard in the bullring, Carmen's demise comes at José's hands.

Principal Artists



Sarah Nordin (Carmen)

Mezzo-soprano Sarah Nordin returns to First Coast Opera as Carmen, following standout performances as Rosina (*The Barber of Seville*, 2025) and Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*, 2024). Praised by *Opera News* for the “clear beauty” of her voice, she appears this season with Redlands Symphony, St. Petersburg Opera, and Gulfshore Opera. A noted interpreter of Rossini, Mozart, and Bizet

heroines, she has performed *Carmen* with Bel Cantanti Opera and the Missouri Symphony. Also a choreographer and advocate for new works, Sarah enjoys teaching, dancing, and exploring Florida's coastal trails with her family.



Matt Morgan (Don José)

Tenor Matt Morgan returns to First Coast Opera as Don José after prior appearances as Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*) and in *Bernstein's Broadway*. He made debuts at three Lincoln Center theaters and at the Kennedy Center, later appearing on PBS broadcasts and world premieres including *Sister Carrie* (*Opera News*' “Top Five New

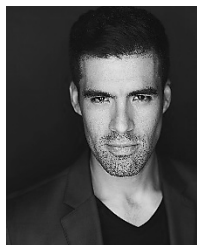
Works of 2018”). Upcoming performances include *Eisenstein* with Opera

Theater of Connecticut and *Magnificat* with Music at Holy Trinity. A passionate mentor, Matt also coaches young singers and enjoys exploring Florida's coastal communities with his family.



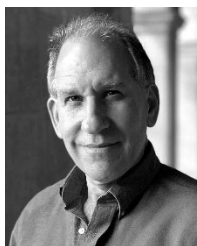
McKenna Slack (Micaëla)

Soprano McKenna Slack returns to First Coast Opera after performances as Musetta (*La Bohème*, 2023) and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*, 2025). A graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University and the University of North Florida, she is a two-time NATS winner and Metropolitan Opera Encouragement Award recipient. Her operatic credits include Susanna, Fiordiligi, and Rosalinde. McKenna teaches voice and aural theory at Florida State College at Jacksonville and enjoys collecting vintage vinyl and exploring Florida's trails.



Luis Alejandro Orozco (Escamillo)

Making his First Coast Opera debut, baritone Luis Alejandro Orozco's recent roles include Moncada in *Zorro* (Pacific Opera Project), Silvio in *Pagliacci* (Opera San José), and Marcello in *La Bohème* (Knoxville and Nashville Opera). He has appeared with The Metropolitan Opera, Opera Omaha, Madison Opera, and Gulfshore Opera. Orozco is internationally recognized for his portrayal of El Payador in Piazzolla's *María de Buenos Aires*, performed with Opéra de Lyon, Florida Grand Opera, and Arizona Opera.



Mark Freiman (Zuniga / Stage Director)

Baritone and stage director Mark Freiman returns after directing *The Barber of Seville*. A former Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus member, he has sung Zuniga with Virginia Opera and Escamillo with New York's Amato Opera. His directing credits include *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Sarasota Opera), *Carmen* and *Salome* (Union Avenue Opera), and *Rigoletto* (Indianapolis Opera). Recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant, Mark has performed with major companies nationwide and appears on the Sony recording of *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.



Jacob Pence (Moralès)

Baritone Jacob Pence returns to First Coast Opera after *The Stranger's Tale* and *The Tender Land* (2024). Recent roles include Judge Turpin (*Sweeney Todd*), the Slave (*Candide*), and Franz/Dennis (*Sunday in the Park with George*). He has performed with Opera Tampa, Opera Orlando, and the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, and previously with Kentucky and Indianapolis Opera. Away from the stage, Jacob enjoys woodworking and cheering for the Kentucky Wildcats.



Elena Galván (Frasquita)

Soprano Elena Galván returns to First Coast Opera following *Pagliacci* (2018) and concert appearances. This season she sings Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*, Winter Opera St. Louis), Miss Lightfoot (*Fellow Travelers*, Opera Parallèle), and performs with Anchorage Opera. She has sung Susanna with multiple U.S. companies and held Young Artist residencies with Des Moines Metro Opera and Opera Saratoga. A graduate of Ithaca College and the San Francisco Conservatory, Elena enjoys exploring local cafés and sharing her journey at elenagalvan.com.



Katherine Kincaid (Mercédès)

Jacksonville native Katherine Kincaid joins *Carmen* as Mercédès after prior First Coast Opera performances and singing the same role with the Jacksonville Symphony. A recent Resident Artist with Nashville Opera, she has appeared with Indianapolis, Toledo, and Florida State Opera, and internationally with Oberlin in Italy. Also a pianist and songwriter, Katherine runs a private studio teaching piano, voice, and guitar, and performs original music regionally. Learn more at katherinekincaid.com.



John Daugherty (Dancairo)

Baritone John Daugherty returns to First Coast Opera following *The Stranger's Tale*. Director of the Opera Program at the University of North Florida, he has appeared as Count Almaviva, Joseph de Rocher, and Mercutio, and in concert with the Albany and Detroit Symphonies. His recital credits include Mahler's *Lieder*

eines fahrenden Gesellen, Barber's *Dover Beach*, and Brahms' *Die schöne Magelone*. Upcoming: Marcello in *La Bohème* at the Oslo Operaball.

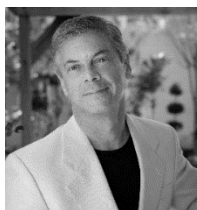


Daniel Bates (Remendado)

Tenor Daniel Bates returns to First Coast Opera following *Pagliacci* and *Trial by Jury/The Trial of B.B. Wolf*. A Grammy-nominated artist, he has performed with Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Anchorage Opera. Daniel is Artistic Director of Florida Singing Sons and teaches at American Heritage Schools. A past winner in

the National Society of Arts and Letters Voice Competition and a Metropolitan Opera Regional Finalist, he continues to champion arts education throughout Florida.

Artistic Team



Curtis Tucker (General & Artistic Director / Conductor)

Now in his twelfth season as General and Artistic Director of First Coast Opera, Curtis Tucker continues to lead both from the podium and stage. This season, he conducts *Carmen* and plays Ko Ko in *The Mikado*. A Kansas City native, Tucker previously served as General Director of

Opera Saratoga in New York and has composed several original works, including *The Stranger's Tale*, recently performed in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, and Mount Dora.



Valeriya Nedviga (Set Designer)

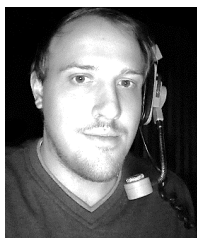
Valeriya Nedviga is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Technical Direction at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a drama teacher at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Florida. She holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Indiana University and advanced degrees in violin performance and string pedagogy from The Ohio

State University. Her design credits span theatre and opera nationwide, with work in Indiana, New York, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and beyond.



Gina Makarova (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Gina Makarova returns for her third season with First Coast Opera, having previously designed *La Bohème*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Magic Flute*. Based in Orlando, she works full time with Orlando Ballet's wardrobe department and has designed for Opera Orlando productions including *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Secret River*, and *The Juniper Tree*. Also a performer, she appears with Phantasmagoria Orlando as an actor and dancer. Gina brings creative flair and theatrical precision to every production.



Patrick W. Mathis (Lighting Designer)

Patrick Mathis holds an MFA in Theatre Design and Technologies from Utah State University and a BS in Information Science and Technology from Mercer University. His professional career spans theatre and live entertainment across the U.S. and abroad, specializing in lighting and media design. Patrick is a proud member of CITT/ICTS, USITT, and Actors' Equity Association. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Design and Technology at Flagler College, where he mentors the next generation of theatre artists.



Emily Ann Fluchel (Stage Manager)

Emily Ann Fluchel is a freelance stage manager originally from St. Louis, Missouri. Now based in the Boston area, she works nationwide in technical theater and stage management. Her credits include productions with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Union Avenue Opera, the Southern Illinois Music Festival, Buck's Rock Creative and Performing Arts Camp, Black Hills Playhouse, and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. *Carmen* marks her First Coast Opera debut, and she is delighted to collaborate with such a talented company of artists.

Chorus

Keith Teepen, Director

David Abraham
Shannon Acevedo
Jessica Bergstol
Clare Bowen
Evan Bowen
Noah Cummings
Greyson Dickason

Haley Kirk
Mary-Camila Klotz
Tamara Law
Ginger Lindberg
Wyatt Matlock
Jacob Pence
Helena Peterson

Steven Rich
Aaron Snodgrass
Ryan Stark
Laura Weiss
Caragh Zeigler
Camille Zeigler

Children's Chorus

Kerry Fradley, Director

Carmen Arena
Mabel Kirk
Pauline Putnam

Lydia Ruffino
Ava Santini
Rosalie Sills

Della vonWerssowetz
Adriana Watkins

Orchestra

AJ Pullium, Concertmaster

Flute/Piccolo

Susan Magg
Don Gottlieb

Horn

Sean Morgan
Matt Monroe

Violin

AJ Pullium
Katie Smedley
Leila Neyens
Jessye Russom
Ty Russom

Oboe/English Horn

Kristin Kusic

Trumpet

David O'Toole

Clarinet

John Mula
James Hall

Trombone

Charlie Propper

Viola

Breanna Lang
Armando Atanda

Bassoon

Lee Goodhew

Percussion

Bill Cain

Cello

Ian Rivera-Rosario
Nolan Haupt

Harp

Isabelle Scott

Double Bass

Aaron Kinman

Orchestral edition by Bryan Higgins, by arrangement with
Motet Music Publishing Company.

Production Staff

Artistic Director Curtis Tucker
 Stage Director Mark Freiman
 Stage Manager Emily Ann Fluchel
 Rehearsal Accompanist Yelena Kurdina
 Chorus Master Keith Teepen
 Children's Chorus Master Kerry Fradley
 Orchestra Contractor Music by Pegge, LLC
 Property Master Nancy Perry
 Props Crew Kathy Schirmacher, Jean Rahner
 Assistant Stage Manager Annika Klee
 Supertitle Operator Katie Merrill
 Wardrobe, Hair & Makeup Rachel Cravener, Elijah Babel,
 Deborah Smith
 Carpenter Alexander Davis

Special Thanks

Bob Bonner

Robert Samuels

First Church of Christ Scientist
 Flagler College
 Grace United Methodist Church
 Jax Beach Brunch Haus

Opera Orlando
 Restoration Church, Jacksonville
 St. Anastasia Catholic Church

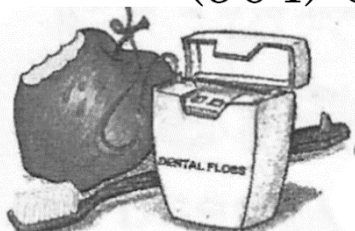
Hosts and Drivers

John Bova and Chong Ae Whang
 Sandra Murphree
 Margaret Nicholson

Fred and Edna Pytlak
 Steven Rich



Dr. Alberto David
1971 Old Moultrie Rd.
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 829-5111



Office Hours By Appointment

Brenda Zeigler
Office Manager

Terry Borders, RDH
Cindy Brenner, RDH
Christy Souza, RECPT
Cherry Burchfield, DA
Amanda Partin, DA
Connie Pratt, RDH



HERBIE WILES
INSURANCE
The House That Trust Built

400 North Ponce De Leon Blvd
St. Augustine, FL 32084

904.829.2201 | www.HerbieWiles.com



Auto



Home



Business



**Life &
Health**

SAN AUGUSTIN
EYE FOUNDATION

100 Whetstone Place, Ste 106
Saint Augustine, FL 32086
www.williamjoktavecmd.com

William J. Oktavec MD

Kathleen Krepley MD MHS

Elizabeth McLeod MD

Call Us Today! (904) 826-3937



Ken Goldberg Construction Company, LLC.

Residential and
Commercial
New Construction and
Remodeling and
Renovations

Specializing in Historic and
Period buildings for
structural repairs,
restorations, and adaptive
use projects.

386-804-3732
gbergconstruction.com



*Building Today with
Tomorrow in Mind*



Explore your voice and musical development in a positive and empowering environment, in Deland studio or online!

- Voice lessons for all levels of experience, ages 12+
- Banana Street Piano & Voice Lesson option for kids aged 6+

Cass Panuska, owner & instructor has a master's degree and over a decade of professional performance and teaching experience.

For pricing and information, contact Cass:
casspanuska@gmail.com
www.casspanuskasoprano.com



Friends of First Coast Opera

Kathy Schirmacher, President, Secretary

Denise Baudinet, Vice President

Linda Yerrill, Treasurer

Love opera? Want to get involved behind the scenes? Join the Friends of First Coast Opera, a lively group of volunteers who help make our performances possible. Friends assist with box office and ushering, publicity, artist hospitality, fundraising events, and more—while enjoying camaraderie and shared passion for the arts.

Learn more at <https://www.firstcoastopera.com/friends>

- Barbieri, Maggie
- Baudinet, Denise
- Benincasa, Anna
- Bliss, Peggy
- Bond, Linda
- Bova, Michele
- Breukhoven, Hans & Eline
- Cohey, Bibiana
- Cole, Helen & Allen
- Cashat, Marie
- Conlon, Rosemary
- Curtis, Anne
- Dowie, Doni
- Everett, Joanne
- Fradley, Kerry
- Frankle, Ray & Nancy
- Gallucci, Paul and Marcelle
- Goodwin, Jeanne
- Greiner, Frances (Frauke)
- Hamza, Renate
- Haobsh, Dima
- Hart, Gail
- Hingson, Jesse J & Katya M
- Hollingsworth, Debra
- Stacey, Mark
- Kuehn, Margrit
- Kish, Linda & Ivan
- Landers, Janet
- Le Beau, Joan & Al
- Marshall, Cathy
- Nicholson, Margaret
- Nolton, Pattie & John
- Panzar, Carmen
- Penton, Christine
- Perry, Nancy
- Piontek, Jackie
- Pytlak, Edna
- Rahner, Jean
- Ribeiro, Anita
- Schirmacher, Kathy
- Seifart, Cara
- Shammass, Diana
- Siess, Mary
- Siriani, Toni
- Stark, Ryan T.
- Stellar, Ryan & Cindy
- Symeonides, Stacy
- VandeBerg, Kathy
- Van Ghent, Christina (Tina)
- Wenscott, Judy
- Wilson, Kimberly
- Wright, Laura
- Yerrill, Linda

Healing Waters Clinic

is Proud to Support First Coast Opera!

We offer

- Acupuncture
- Osteopathic Manual Therapy
- Chinese Herbal Medicine
- Massage
- Myofascial Release

Call for appointment:

904-826-1965

Visit online:

HealingWatersClinic.com



Smiles by

DR CRAIG HADGIS

ORTHODONTIST

Show Stopping Smiles

Free Initial Visit

904.79.SMILE (797.6453)

www.DrCraigOrtho.com

Voted Best
Orthodontist
St Augustine
and
St Johns

Anastasia
**STORAGE
CENTER**

1985 Mizell Road
St. Augustine, FL
32080

*Conveniently located
just west of the 312
bridge.*

From small 5'x5' units to 42' outdoor boat
storage: We have you covered!!

Wash down station on site
for boats and RVs!

(904) 460-9222
asc@personalministorage.com





Anh Vu, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED PLASTIC SURGEON

*We are proud to support our
local artists and enjoy the show!*

 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS

(904) 245-1320 · WWW.ANHVUMD.COM
301 HEALTH PARK BLVD., SUITE 109, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

BOTOX & JUVEDERM · FACE & NECK LIFTS · TUMMY TUCKS
FACETITE · NEOGRAFT® HAIR TRANSPLANT · BREAST AUGMENTATIONS
VASER LIPO · BODYTITE · COOLSCULPT® · LASER RESURFACING
MORPHEUS8 THERAPY · IPL TREATMENTS



Morgan Stanley

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Stella Williams Group
at Morgan Stanley
Private Wealth Management
Is Proud To Support
First Coast Opera

David J. Stella

Family Wealth Director
Senior Vice President
Private Wealth Advisor

Theresa A. Williams

Family Wealth Director
Senior Vice President
Private Wealth Advisor

201 E. Pine Street, 11th Floor
Orlando, FL 32801
407-849-4764
[advisor.morganstanley.com/
the-stella-williams-group](http://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-stella-williams-group)

© 2023 Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management, a division of
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.
PWM002 CRC 5067527 11/22 CS 9899356



HAYWARD CONSTRUCTION
GROUP, LLC



Specializing in all types of
Marine Construction:

Seawalls
Marinas
Docks
Bulkheads



Full-service marine and general construction firm serving the Northeast Florida area since 2006. HCG specializes in custom seawalls, docks, boathouses, bulkheads, boat lifts, decks, and other services for the protection and enhancement of your waterfront investment.

904-886-7122 HaywardConstructionGroup.com

Financial Advice That Fits Your Life

*Personal plans.
Clear steps. Real progress.*



CovingtonAlsina.com

904.449.7326

2114 Oak St. Jacksonville, FL 32204

Info@CovingtonAlsina.com

CovingtonAlsina is a registered investment advisor.
Investing involves the risk of loss.



Upcoming Events

Sips & Serenades

February 14

A valentine's opera salon & fundraiser

THE MIKADO

March 20 - 7:30pm

March 21 - 4:00pm

Gilbert & Sullivan's topsy-turvy operetta

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

May 8

Romanza Festival of Music & The Arts

Yankee Doodle Dandy, Songs from America's Past

July 2

Celebrating America 250! in partnership
with the EMMA Concert Association

firstcoastopera.com