



First Coast Opera

Presents

# The Magic Flute

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Original German Text by Emanuel Schikaneder  
English Dialogue by Nelson Sheeley

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025  
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025  
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## From the President



Tonight, First Coast Opera is presenting *The Magic Flute*, the final main-stage production of our 25<sup>th</sup> season. We've come a long way in those 25 years and have presented our most exciting season ever as our Artistic Director, Curtis Tucker continues to provide us with creative and innovative leadership and programming.

25 years ago, the first fully staged opera, *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Mozart, was presented by First Coast Opera. We are delighted to present it again as the finale of our season. The cast includes two people who were in that original production. In fact, the role of Papageno is sung by Sean Stork whose father sang that role in the first production in 2001.

During the Romanza Festivale of the Arts, FCO is hosting a re-imagined production of Puccini's *Turandot* on Friday, May 9 at noon. Join us for this free performance.

Carmen is coming! We are excited to announce that we are planning a full production of *Carmen* in the 2025-2026 season. Watch for more details. In addition, we plan another fully staged opera production, a cabaret style program, and a collaboration with the St Augustine Orchestra.

We value your enthusiastic support of First Coast Opera both through attendance at our programs and through your continued generous giving. As we must rely less on public funding, you patrons are our life-line to be able to present these wonderful programs. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Here's to many more seasons with First Coast Opera!

**Kerry Fradley**

Kerry Fradley, President

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Should you need it, a large print version of the  
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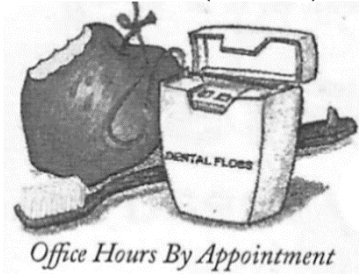


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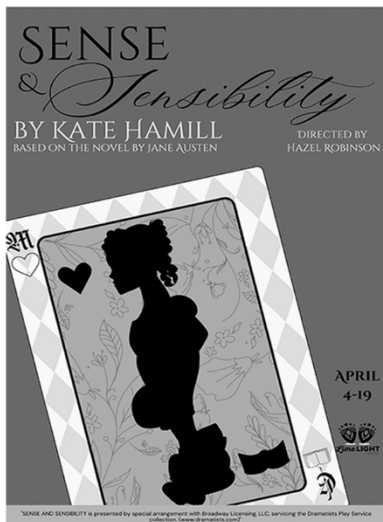
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# **The Magic Flute**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Original German Text by Emanuel Schikaneder and Carl Ludwig Giesecke

English Dialogue by Nelson Sheeley

Premiered September 30, 1791, Vienna, Austria

## **Cast**

Tamino .....	Aaron Smith
First Lady .....	Lisa Lockhart
Second Lady .....	Raquel Rubi
Third Lady .....	Regina Torres
Papageno .....	Sean Stork
Queen of the Night .....	Amber Rose
Pamina .....	McKenna Slack
Monostatos .....	Wyatt Matlock
Speaker of the Temple .....	Joe Colsant
Sarastro .....	Peter Barber
Old Woman/Papagena .....	Katie Merrill
First Armored Man/First Slave .....	Michael Palmisano
Second Armored Man/Priest .....	Dirk McCoy
First Spirit .....	Helena Peterson
Second Spirit .....	Eloise Fleck
Third Spirit .....	Camille Zeigler
Second Priest/Second Slave .....	David Abraham
Third Slave/Priest .....	Ryan Stark
Priest .....	Steve Rich
Kuroko/Dancers .....	Annie Gaybis, Nicole Tristram
Dragon Puppeteers.....	Eloise Fleck, Annika Klee, Camille Zeigler

## **Artistic Team**

Conductor .....	Curtis Tucker
Stage Director .....	Nelson Sheeley
Costume Designer.....	Gina Makarova
Lighting Designer .....	Patrick Mathis
Hair & Makeup Designer .....	Gina Makarova
Stage Manager.....	Susan Roche

Pre-Opera Talk..... Nelson Sheeley, Director

# Synopsis

A mythical land between the sun and the moon. Three ladies in the service of the Queen of the Night save Prince Tamino from a serpent. When they leave to tell the queen, the bird catcher Papageno appears. He boasts to Tamino that it was he who killed the creature. The ladies return to give Tamino a portrait of the queen's daughter, Pamina, who they say has been enslaved by the evil Sarastro. Tamino immediately falls in love with the girl's picture. The queen, appearing suddenly, tells Tamino about the loss of her daughter and commands him to rescue her. The ladies give a magic flute to Tamino and silver bells to Papageno to ensure their safety on the journey and appoint three spirits to guide them.

Sarastro's slave Monostatos pursues Pamina but is frightened away by Papageno. The bird catcher tells Pamina that Tamino loves her and is on his way to save her. Led by the three spirits to the temple of Sarastro, Tamino learns from a high priest that it is the Queen, not Sarastro, who is evil. Hearing that Pamina is safe, Tamino rushes off to follow the sound of Papageno's pipes. Monostatos and his men chase Papageno and Pamina but are left helpless when Papageno plays his magic bells. Sarastro enters, punishes Monostatos, and promises Pamina that he will eventually set her free. Pamina catches a glimpse of Tamino, who is led into the temple with Papageno.

## INTERMISSION

Sarastro tells the priests that Tamino will undergo initiation rites. Monostatos tries to kiss the sleeping Pamina but is surprised by the appearance of the Queen of the Night. The Queen gives her daughter a dagger and orders her to murder Sarastro.

Sarastro finds the desperate Pamina and consoles her, explaining that he is not interested in vengeance. Tamino and Papageno are told by a priest that they must remain silent and are not allowed to eat, a vow that Papageno immediately breaks when he takes a glass of water from a flirtatious old lady. When he asks her name, the old lady vanishes. The three spirits appear to guide Tamino through the rest of his journey and to tell Papageno to be quiet. Tamino remains silent even when Pamina appears. Misunderstanding his vow for coldness, she is heartbroken.

The priests inform Tamino that he has only two more trials to complete his initiation. Papageno, who has given up on entering the brotherhood, longs for a wife instead. He eventually settles for the old lady. When he promises to be faithful, she turns into a beautiful young Papagena but immediately disappears.

Pamina and Tamino are reunited and face the ordeals of water and fire together, protected by the magic flute.

Papageno tries to hang himself on a tree but is saved by the three spirits, who remind him that if he uses his magic bells, he will find true happiness. When he plays the bells, Papagena appears and the two start making family plans. The Queen of the Night, her three ladies, and Monostatos attack the temple but are defeated. Sarastro blesses Pamina and Tamino as they all join in hailing the triumph of courage, virtue, and wisdom.

## Principal Artists



**Aaron Smith (Tamino)** has performed with Arizona Opera, Druid City Opera, First Coast Opera, and at the Brevard Music Festival, with roles including Mr. Erlanson in *A Little Night Music*, The Wigmaker in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*, and Alfredo in *La Traviata*. He has also been a concert soloist, including the tenor soloist in Joseph Julian Gonzalez's *Misa Azteca* and Verdi's *Requiem* under Keith Lockhart.

Aaron returns to First Coast Opera this season to make his role debut as Tamino in *The Magic Flute*.

**Lisa Lockhart (First Lady)** is a frequent performer with First Coast Opera, where she has appeared in *Pasta & Puccini*, *Savitri*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She holds a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from The Boston Conservatory and is pursuing a Master's in Music Education at Columbia University. Lisa also teaches voice at Columbia University and Florida State College at Jacksonville and performs in the St. Augustine Romanza Festival of Music & the Arts.





**Raquel Rubí (Second Lady)**, a Cuban soprano, holds a Master's in Vocal Performance from FIU and a Doctorate from the University of Miami. She has performed principal roles in early music, opera, and operetta internationally, including the Baroness in *The Sound of Music* and Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*. Raquel is also an educator and the founder of RubiMusic, a nonprofit dedicated to classical music and the arts.

**Regina Torres (Third Lady)** returns to First Coast Opera for their 25th season, where she began her operatic career. She has appeared in numerous productions, including *The Trial of BB Wolf* and *La Vie Parisienne*. Regina is a versatile performer and has created cabarets for FCO, including *Cabaret Español* and *Opera Noir*. She teaches voice and shares her passion for performance with students at her private studio and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.



**Sean Christopher Stork (Papageno)** has performed across Florida since graduating from Florida State University. He made his FCO debut in 2001 and returns as Papageno. Past roles include Escamillo in *Carmen* and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. Sean was nominated for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical by Theatre Tampa Bay for his portrayal of Major General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

**Amber Rose (Queen of the Night)** recently performed as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with Greensboro Opera. Her operatic repertoire includes roles such as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*. Amber has earned several accolades, including first place in the South Carolina District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She holds degrees from Palm Beach Atlantic University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.





**McKenna Slack (Pamina)**, a graduate of the University of North Florida, made her FCO debut as Musetta in *La Bohème*. She has won awards at NATS competitions and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Her credits include roles in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Così fan tutte*. McKenna teaches voice at Florida State College and continues to pursue her performance career.

**Wyatt Matlock (Monostatos)** is thrilled to return to First Coast Opera! A St. Augustine native, Wyatt is a recent graduate of Winthrop University in South Carolina, where he majored in Musical Theatre. Since returning home, he works as a Lead History Teller at Old Town Trolley Tours. Wyatt has performed Off-Broadway in New York City and appeared in several college productions. His credits with First Coast Opera include *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *I Pagliacci*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and most recently *Carousel à la Carte*. He made his FCO debut in 2017 in *Trial by Jury* as a member of the jury.



**Joe Colsant (Speaker of the Temple)** is a bass-baritone and conductor with a diverse musical career. He has performed with Opera Orlando and First Coast Opera, including roles in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *The Trial of B.B. Wolf*. Joe has also performed as a bass soloist in the *Faure Requiem* in Rome. He is the music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

**Peter Barber (Sarastro)** is a member of the Marion Roose Pullin Arizona Opera Studio and debuts with First Coast Opera this season. He has performed with notable opera companies, including The Santa Fe Opera and the Music Academy of the West. Peter is also known for his music analysis on YouTube and is part of the award-winning group The Bass Gang. He holds a Bachelor's in Music from James Madison University.



**Katie Matson (Papagena)**, a graduate of Brevard College, relocated to Florida and has performed with First Coast Opera in *I Pagliacci*, *La Traviata*,



and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She has also sung with Opera Orlando and enjoys performing with FCO in various roles, including her debut as Annina in *La Traviata*. Katie is excited to perform as the Old Woman/Papagena in *The Magic Flute*.

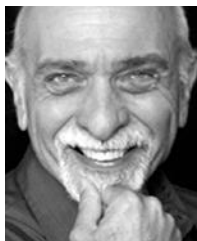
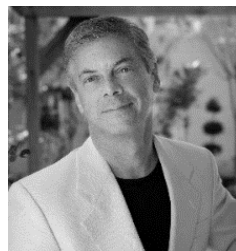
**Michael Palmisano (First Armored Man)** is a young artist with a diverse background in opera, music theater, and sacred music. His recent roles include Gastone in *La Traviata* and Parpignol in *La Bohème*. Michael is excited to return to First Coast Opera for another performance opportunity.



**Dirk Gavin McCoy (Second Armored Man)** is a St. Augustine-based baritone who has performed in multiple productions with First Coast Opera, including *The Barber of Seville* and *The Stranger's Tale*. Dirk has also performed with New York City Opera and Washington National Opera and recently played the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* with Mid-Ohio Civic Opera.

## Artistic Team

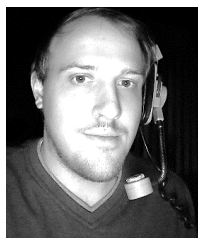
**Curtis Tucker (Conductor)** is in his eleventh season as General and Artistic Director of First Coast Opera, where he often conducts from the orchestra pit or occasionally ventures onstage. This season, he conducts *The Barber of Seville* and *The Magic Flute*. A native of Kansas City, Curtis led Opera Saratoga in New York before relocating to Florida. Last season, he directed performances of his original one-act opera, *The Stranger's Tale*, in Saint Augustine, Jacksonville, and Mount Dora.



**Nelson Sheeley (Stage Director)** has been involved in professional theatre and opera since 1970, acting, directing, and stage managing. He served as Managing Director of Allenberry Playhouse for ten years, directing over 90 productions. Nelson has directed for First Coast Opera, Opera Saratoga, The Liederkrantz Society, and

many more. He has collaborated with Curtis Tucker on multiple productions, including *Penelope Ann's Revenge*, *The Trial of B.B. Wolf*, and *The Stranger's Tale*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, he currently teaches and resides in Dayton, Ohio.

**Gina Makarova (Costume Designer, Hair & Makeup Designer)** returns to First Coast Opera for her second season, having previously designed hair and makeup for *La Bohème* and *Pirates of Penzance*. In Orlando, Gina works full-time in the wardrobe department of Orlando Ballet and has designed for Opera Orlando, with credits including *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Fledermaus*, and more contemporary works like *The Secret River*. In her spare time, she enjoys performing with Phantasmagoria Orlando.



**Patrick W. Mathis (Lighting Designer)** holds an MFA in Theatre Design and Technologies from Utah State University and a BS in Information Science and Technology from Mercer University. He has worked across the nation and internationally in technical theatre, lighting, and media design. Patrick is a member of CITT/ICTS, USITT, and Actors Equity and serves as Assistant Professor of Design and Technology at Flagler College.

Jacksonville resident **Susan Roche (Stage Manager)** is thrilled to make her stage manager debut with First Coast Opera. With 19 years of diverse experience in the Northeast Florida theater community, Susan has contributed to numerous productions in a variety of roles. Her multifaceted background includes work as an actor, singer, musician, photographer, videographer, and board member. Additionally, Susan has honed her skills in technical areas, serving as a stage manager, house manager, and assistant director. Her extensive experience and passion for the arts have allowed her to contribute to a wide range of theatrical and operatic productions. Susan's deep commitment to the performing arts community in Jacksonville makes her a welcome and valued addition to the First Coast Opera team. She looks forward to continuing her work in this new capacity and helping bring exciting new productions to life.





# Orchestra

Helen Morin, Concertmaster

## Flute

Susan Magg

## Horn

Sean Morgan

## Violin

Helen Morin

Tim Edwards

Alyssa Albert

Irsia Ruiz Guzman

## Oboe

Kristin Kusic

## Trumpet

Joe Jamerson

## Clarinet

John Mula

## Trombone

Charlie Propper

## Viola

Ramona Merritt

Evan Guttormson

## Bassoon

Lee Goodhew

## Keyboard Bells

Yelena Kurdina

## Cello

Ian Rivera-Rossario

## Double Bass

Lloyd Hoppe

Orchestral arrangement by Kenneth Roberts

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# Production Staff

Artistic Director ..... Curtis Tucker  
Stage Director ..... Nelson Sheeley  
Stage Manager ..... Susan Roche  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Annika Klee  
Rehearsal Accompanist ..... Yelena Kurdina  
Orchestra Contractor ..... Music by Pegge, LLC  
Property Master ..... Nancy Perry  
Dragon Designer/Builder ..... Serra Drosdak  
Supertitle Operator ..... Vera Gallagher  
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... Deb Smith  
Wig & Makeup Assistant ..... Elijah Babel  
Sarastro Cover ..... Joe Colsant  
Scenic Assistant ..... Charles Ross  
Audio Technition ..... Thomas Rice

## Special Thanks

*FCO would like to recognize the following people and organizations.*

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Bob Bonner

Faith and Daniel Dougherty

Flagler College Theatre Dept.

Friends of First Coast Opera

Restoration Church of Jacksonville

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Sandy Murphree

Fred and Edna Pytlak

Steve Rich

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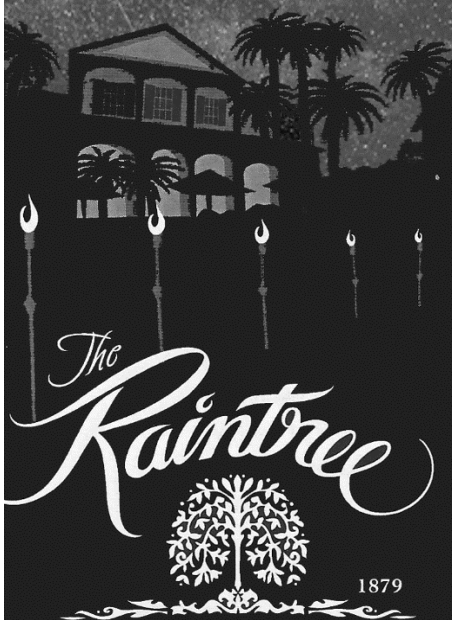
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Denise Baudinet, Vice President

Linda Yerrill, Treasurer

Friends provides volunteer support to the opera company through assistance with Box Office, Ushering, Membership, Publicity, Artist Hospitality, Fundraising Events, and in many other ways. Meetings are held every other month on Tuesday at 1:30 PM at Marsh Creek Country Club. Annual membership dues are \$20 per person. If you would like an “operatunity” to join the Friends, just send your check payable to Friends of First Coast Opera to Linda Yerrill at 413 Fiddlers Point Drive, St Aug 32080.

- |                              |                             |                              |
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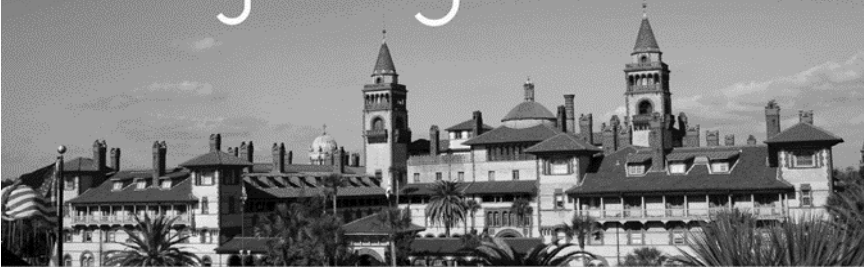
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