

Opera Venues in NYC in 2013 (compiled by Mark Schubin)

There are currently only two opera-presenting auditoriums in New York City actually called opera houses: the Metropolitan Opera House and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House. But opera has often been presented in the city in venues not called opera houses, starting with the Nassau Street Theatre in 1750. New York City's first major long-lasting opera venue was a 4000-seat 19th-century auditorium called the Academy of Music.

Some other sites formerly called opera houses still stand. One, the old Manhattan Opera House, still has concerts and could do fully staged opera (though I'm not aware of any there since the Met paid to end the competition of the Manhattan Opera Company in 1910); it's now called the Hammerstein at Manhattan Center. Another, the old Gallo Opera House, now Roundabout Theater's Studio 54, offers musical theater and could also present fully staged opera. The old Central Opera House (the only pre-20th-century NYC opera house still standing) is now the Fox Television Center; the gutted Amato Opera House is on its way to becoming a retail/residential building; and the Bronx Opera House is now a hotel.

There are, however, many other locations where opera was performed in New York City in 2013, including one of New York City Opera's two long-time homes: the City Center (where NYCO performed in 2013). The other, the New York State Theater, now named the David H. Koch Theater, had no opera in 2013 unless *Monkey: Journey to the West* counts as an opera. In 2013, opera was performed in NYC not only in theaters, concert halls, churches, and schools but also in museums, a burlesque house, a bar, night clubs, and a botanical garden (it had previously been performed here in a planetarium, a zoo, parks, and the Polo Grounds baseball stadium). Some of the unusual 2013 opera venues (e.g., bar, botanical garden, and burlesque house) were chosen as appropriate to the plots of the operas performed in them.

Although some of the New York City venues where opera was performed in 2013 were small, others weren't. Not counting the botanical garden or churches, six of the NYC venues used for opera in 2013 (seven if one includes *Monkey*) had seating capacities in excess of 2000; another two had capacities in excess of 1000. An appendix listing the large ones and their capacities follows the main list below.

In 2013 in New York City, the Metropolitan Opera performed complete operas only in the Metropolitan Opera House, and that house was not used for any other opera performances. On the other hand, in 2013 Symphony Space was used for opera performances by eight different NYC opera companies, and New York Opera Forum performed in nine different NYC venues.

In the list below, I've tried to use the names by which New Yorkers refer to the venues, not their official names. There are, for example, four geographically diverse venues in New York City all officially named the Peter Jay Sharp Theater; three (BAM, the Juilliard Theater, and Symphony Space) had operas performed in them in 2013. There are also multiple Howard Gilman venues.

The list of 2013 NYC opera companies has 92; the list below of 2013 NYC opera venues has 95.

Roy Arias Theater
BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) - Gilman Opera House
Barnard College - Glicker-Milstein Theater
Baruch Performing Arts Center - Engleman Hall
Baruch Performing Arts Center - Nagelburg Theater
Baryshnikov Arts Center - Gilman Space
The Blue Building
Bohemian National Hall at the Czech Center

The Box | Theatre of Varieties
Brooklyn Botanical Garden (Cherry Esplanade - outdoors)
Buttenwieser Hall at 92Y
Cabrini Repertory Theatre
Carnegie East House
Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium)
Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò
Cell Theatre
Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy
Church of the Covenant
Church of the Holy Apostles
(New York) City Center
Clark Studio Theater at Lincoln Center
The Club at the Ellen Stewart Theatre
Connelly Theatre
Cotton Club
Dicapo Opera Theater
DiMenna Center for Classical Music
East 13th Street Theatre
Esplanade Hotel
59E59 Theater B
Fisher Hall
Flamboyant Theater at CSV Arts Center
Flatbush Reformed Church
Freddy's Bar in Brooklyn
The Gershwin Hotel
Greenwich House Music School - Weiler Concert Hall
Henry Street Settlement - Abrons Arts Center
HERE Arts Center - Mainstage Theatre
HERE Arts Center - Dorothy B. Williams Theatre
Jack Arts Center
Jewish Community Center - Goldman-Sonnenfeldt Family Auditorium
Juilliard Theater (Peter Jay Sharp)
Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center
Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College
Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College
LeFrak Concert Hall at Queens College
Liederkrantz of New York City
Lovinger Theatre at Lehman College
Lynch Theater at John Jay College
Manhattan Movement and Arts Center
Manhattan School of Music - Ades Performance Space
Manhattan School of Music - Borden Auditorium
Manhattan School of Music - Greenfield Hall
Metropolitan Museum of Art - Rogers Auditorium
Metropolitan Opera House
Miller Theatre at Columbia University
Museo del Barrio - El Teatro
National Opera Center of Opera America
The New Victory Theater

New York Public Library - Bronx Library Center
New York Public Library - 96th Street Branch
New York Public Library of the Performing Arts - Walter Auditorium
New York Public Library - Mid-Manhattan Library
New York Public Library - Schomburg Center - Hughes Auditorium
New York Public Library - 67th Street Branch
New York Public Library - Tompkins Square Branch
Nola Studios
NSD (New School Drama) Theater
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Auditorium
Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church
Pace University - Schimmel Center for the Arts
Park Avenue Armory Drill Hall
Park Avenue United Methodist Church
Pier 17
Le Poisson Rouge
Queens Library - Flushing branch
Queens Library - Forest Hills branch
Riverside Theater
Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center
St. Anthony of Padua Shrine Church
St. Luke's Church Forest Hills
St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery
St. Peter's Church in Chelsea
St. Peter's Church at Citicorp Center
Skirball Center at NYU (New York University)
South Oxford Space (The Great Room)
Symphony Space (Peter Jay Sharp)
Thalia at Symphony Space
Theater 80
Theater for the City
3LD Art & Technology Center
Tully Hall
Union Theological Seminary - James Chapel
Unitarian Church of All Souls
Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College
Williams Residence

Appendix - Capacities of the largest venues where opera was performed in New York City in 2013:

Metropolitan Opera House - ~4000, including standing room

Carnegie Hall - Stern Auditorium - 2804

Avery Fisher Hall - 2738

Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn Center (Brooklyn College) - 2348

(New York) City Center - 2257

Howard Gilman Opera House at Brooklyn Academy of Music - 2090

Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center - 1109

Alice Tully Hall - 1087

Capacities of other large venues previously used for opera performances in NYC but not in 2013:

Radio City Music Hall (where *Porgy & Bess* was performed in 1983) - 6015

David H. Koch Theater (New York State Theater, former home of New York City Opera) - 2586

Hammerstein at Manhattan Center (Manhattan Opera House) - ~2200

Majestic Theatre (where *Porgy & Bess* was performed in 1942) - 1645

Neil Simon Theatre (where *Porgy & Bess* was performed in 1935, when it was called the Alvin) - 1362

Richard Rodgers Theater (where *Porgy & Bess* was performed in 2012) - 1319

Roundabout Studio 54 (Gallo Opera House) - 1006