

Opera Companies Active in NYC in 2013 (compiled by Mark Schubin)

2013 saw the bankruptcy of New York City Opera (but not before they could present 23 performances of five operas) and cutbacks or cessation by two other long-time NYC companies: Dicapo Opera Theatre and New York Grand Opera. On the other hand, in 2013 New York's other big artistic Met, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, inaugurated a chamber opera series; the Prototype Festival of opera began; the 32-organization (so far) New York Opera Alliance <<http://nyoperaalliance.org>> was formed; and the Foundation for Filipino Artists produced the first opera in New York City to be performed in Tagalog.

New York City changes all the time. Amato Opera closed in 2009; three companies (and a college program) have been created (so far) to try to replace it; one has already suspended operations, and another is in New Jersey, so those two are not on the list below.

Like many of the other small companies on this list, Amato Opera used non-professional singers, but its performance programs regularly listed those "alumni" who went on to sing at New York City Opera and the Met, including Mignon Dunn, Neil Shicoff, George Shirley, and Tatiana Troyanos. Amato Opera presented not only well-known grand operas on its tiny stage but also, for example, a fully staged version of Verdi's rarely performed *Alzira*, paired with the Voltaire play on which it was based; in 2013, Amore Opera, one of Amato's would-be replacements, paired *The Magic Flute* with the rarely performed part II from the same librettist, *Das Labyrinth*. All of Gotham Chamber Opera's offerings in 2013 were rarely performed works. Others of New York's smaller companies develop new operas, something that's been going on in the city since the late 18th century.

Here's a link to an old article by Stefan Zucker on New York City's smaller opera companies, covering some of their history: <http://www.belcantosociety.org/pages/ugo.html>. When the original version of the article was published in 1989, its author counted 92 opera companies in New York City. This 2013 list below also has 92 but different companies (OPERATION Brooklyn, below, doesn't count in the 92 because it's a joint effort of two others on the list).

In 2013 *The New York Times* reviewed operas performed in New York City by about 40 different companies. Some of those were visiting companies, so they are not on the list below.

Because New York City Opera was active in 2013, it's on the list. I've removed many companies that were on my previous lists, based on their inactivity and their not responding to my inquiries. I've also added many others. My apologies to anyone I might have left out (and I'd love to learn about you).

Bold type indicates a company actively involved in developing new operas. I did not include Lincoln Center Theater on the list (even in plain type), even though they are part of an opera-development group, because they have are not involved primarily in opera. Similarly, I did not include Harlem Stage, even though *The New York Times* has covered an opera they've been developing for presentation in Haiti, because they, too, have other primary interests.

I've tried to limit the list to those involved primarily in opera. Thus, I decided not to include the New York Philharmonic on the list, even though they recently (but not in 2013) presented two staged operas (Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* and Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*); in 2013 they presented staged versions of *Carousel* and a music-dance-theater piece called *A Dancer's Dream* (based on two works by Stravinsky), as well as a concert version of Dallapiccola's *Il Prigioniero*. And, even though the Park Avenue Armory did present operas in 2013, and appeared in the "Opera Watch" column of the December issue of *Opera News*, they're not on the list because they, too, are not primarily in the opera business.

Similarly, although the Lincoln Center Festival and Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival and White Lights Festival all presented operas this year, that's not their main business.

I also did not include Chautauqua Opera because even though they are based in New York City their opera performances are not. And, finally, though their repertoire includes many operatic pieces, I did not include L'Opera Burlesque - <http://www.loperaburlesque.com/>.

A note on URLs (links): They change often. I contacted the two companies listed below without links, and they assured me that they are active. Another company appears to have changed recently from a direct web presence to one on Facebook. All of the links below worked when the list was compiled.

There are a few more comments after the list.

American Composers Alliance - Opera Works in Progress - <http://composers.com/youngcomposers>

After Dinner Opera - <http://www.afterdinneropera.org/>

American Lyric Theater - <http://www.altnyc.org/>

American Opera Projects - <http://www.operaprojects.org/>

Amore Opera - <http://amoreopera.org/>

Ardea Arts (includes the Family Opera Initiative) - <http://ardeaarts.com/>

Martina Arroyo Foundation - <http://martinaarroyofdn.org/>

dell'Arte Opera Ensemble - <http://dellarteopera.org/>

Blue Hill Troupe - <http://www.bht.org/>

Bronx Opera - <http://www.bronxopera.org/>

Brooklyn College Opera Theater - <http://bcmusic.org/>

Capitol Heights Lyric Opera - <http://www.capitolheightslyricopera.com/>

Center for Contemporary Opera - <http://www.centerforcontemporaryopera.org/>

Chelsea Opera - <http://www.chelseaopera.org/>

Citywide Youth Opera - <http://www.citywideyouthopera.org/>

Columbia University Opera Ensemble - <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/opera/>

Dicapo Opera Theatre - <http://www.dicapo.com/>

Downtown Music Productions - <http://downtownmusicproductions.org/>

Empire Opera - <http://www.empireopera.org/>

Encompass New Opera Theatre - <http://www.encompassopera.org/>

Experiments in Opera - <http://experimentsinopera.com/>

Gateway Classical Music Society - <http://www.gatewayclassical.org/index.html>

Golden Fleece Ltd. - <http://www.goldenfleeceltd.org/>

Gotham Chamber Opera - <http://www.gothamchamberopera.org/>

Harlem Opera Theater - <http://www.harlemoperatheater.org/>

Harmonia Opera Company - <http://www.harmoniaopera.com/>

Hunter College Opera Workshop - <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/music/>

Juilliard Opera - <http://www.juilliard.edu/>

Paula Kimper Ensemble - <http://paulakimper.com/wordweb/>

Liederkrantz Opera Theatre - <http://www.liederkrantzny.org/description.html>

Light Opera of New York - <http://www.lightoperaofnewyork.org/>

Little Opera Theatre of New York - <http://www.lotny.org/>

The Little Orchestra Society - <http://www.littleorchestra.org/>

Magic Circle Opera Repertory Ensemble

Manhattan Lyric Opera - <http://www.manhattanlyric.com/>

Manhattan Opera Association

Manhattan Opera Studio - <http://www.manhattanoperastudio.org/>

Manhattan School of Music Opera (includes Amato Opera-in-Brief, Discover Opera!, and MSM Opera Theater) - <http://www.msmnyc.edu/Instruction-Faculty/Academic-Departments/Opera-Studies>

Mannes College (New School) Opera and New Light Opera - <http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Metropolitan Opera - <http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/>

Metropolitan Opera Guild's Students Compose Opera - (the Guild is a separate entity from the Met) http://www.metguild.org/uploadedFiles/MOG/Opera_in_the_Classroom/StudentsComposeOpera2013-14.pdf

Morningside Opera - <http://www.morningsideopera.com/>

Beth Morrison Projects - <http://www.bethmorrisonprojects.org/>

Music-Theatre Group - <http://www.musictheatregroup.org/>

New Opera NYC - <https://www.facebook.com/TheArmidaProject>

New York Chinese Opera Society - <http://nycos.org/>

New York City Opera - <http://www.nycopera.com>

New York Concert Opera - <http://home.bway.net/hartung/met.html>

New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players - <http://nygasp.org/>

New York Grand Opera Company - <http://www.newyorkgrandopera.org/>

New York Lyric Opera Theatre - <http://www.newyorklyricopera.org/>

New York Opera Exchange - <http://www.nyoperaexchange.com/>

New York Opera Forum - <http://www.nyoperaforum.com/>

New York Opera Society - <http://www.newyorkoperasociety.com/>

New York Opera Studio - <http://www.newyorkoperastudio.org/>

NYU Opera - <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/voice/>

One World Symphony - <http://www.oneworldsymphony.org/> (almost every concert includes opera)

On Site Opera - <http://www.osopera.org/>

Opera Breve - <http://www.operabreve.com/>

Opera Collective - <http://www.operacollective.com/>

Opera Company of Brooklyn - <http://operabrooklyn.org/>

Opera Ebony - <http://www.operaebony.org/>

Opera Exposures - <http://operaexposures.org/>

Opera Feroce - <http://operaferoce.com/>

Opera Hispánica - <http://operahispanica.org/>

Opera Index - <http://www.operaindexinc.org/>

operamission - <http://operamission.org/>

Opera Moderne - <http://www.operamoderne.com/>

Operanauts - <http://operanauts.net/>

Opera New York - <http://www.operany.com/>

Opera Noire of New York - <http://www.operanoireofnewyork.org/>

Opera Oggi New York - <http://www.operaogginy.com/>

Opera Omnia - <http://www.operaomnia.org/>

Opera on Tap - <http://www.operaontap.com/>

Opera Orchestra of New York - <http://www.operaorchestrany.org/>

Opera Singers Initiative - <http://operasingersinitiative.org/>

Opera Slavica - <http://www.operaslavica.org/>

OPERATION Brooklyn (American Opera Projects & Opera on Tap) - <http://www.operationbrooklyn.com/>

Pocket Opera Players - <http://www.pocketoperaplayers.org/>

Prototype Festival - <http://www.prototypefestival.org/>

Queens College Opera Studio - <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/music/index.php?L=5&M=53>

Queens Opera - http://www.queensopera.com/Home_Page.html

Regina Opera Company - <http://www.reginaopera.org/>

Rhymes with Opera - <http://www.rhymeswithopera.org/>

Riverside Opera Company - <http://www.riversideoperacompany.org/>

Riverside Opera Ensemble - <http://www.riversideopera.org/>

Teatro Grattacielo - <http://www.grattacielo.org/>

Underworld Productions Opera Ensemble - <http://underworldprod.com/>

Utopia Opera - <http://utopiaopera.org/>

Varispeed Collective - <http://www.varispeedcollective.com/>

Vertical Player Repertory - <http://www.vpropera.org/>

Village Light Opera Group of New York City - <http://www.villagelightopera.org/>

Vocal Productions NYC - <http://www.vocalproductionsnyc.org/>

Lighthouse International's Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School also has a "tradition of producing full-staged one-act operas" - <http://lighthouse.org/services-and-assistance/music-school/>. In 2013, they presented Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, favorably reviewed in *The New York Times*.

Other New York City institutions have been producing and performing opera recently, including American Symphony Orchestra, Baroque Aria Ensemble, Collegiate Chorale, DiMenna Center, Harlem Stage, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York Fringe Festival, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Park Avenue Armory, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, and Talea Ensemble.

Then there's Washington, D.C.-based Opera Lafayette - <http://www.operalafayette.org/> - which lists more reviews of its New York City performances on its web site than it does its Washington performances: <http://www.operalafayette.org/reviews>. If you want to go slightly beyond the confines of the city's five boroughs, there are also New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, New Jersey State Opera, North Shore Opera, Opera New Jersey, SUNY Purchase, Taconic Opera, etc. Some out-of-town opera producers (Bard, Caramoor, Peak Performances) provide dedicated bus transportation from New York City.