

Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci to hit the Valley

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Tuesday, 06 September 2011 14:28 -

Ladies and gentlemen plan for a night at the opera. Two well crafted Italian operas are coming to the Tucson and Phoenix areas. Composer Pietro Mascagni transports the audience to 19th century Sicily where a jealous love triangle unravels at the seams. Ruggero Leoncavallo's opera is composed of suspicion, revenge and ultimately tragedy.



Cavalleria Rusticana opens with Turiddu singing about Lola, a flame from the past. Turiddu has returned to Sicily from the army to discover Lola has married Alfio. Well, Turiddu like any man attempts to seduce a new girl, Santuzza. Will a jaded character rise above and bring attention to a secret love triangle? The audience watches as the character's dishonesty gets the best of him in the end. Audiences will be blown away by the skills singers' tenor Joseph Wolverton (Turridu) and soprano Lori Phillips (Santuzza) bring to the stage.

Pagliacci begins when a theater group arrives in Calabria. The audience is introduced to Canio, the head of the theater company. A mischievous event occurs that will forever change the direction of the evening's opera. The idea of false lovers will lead the audience on a blended journey of what is acting and reality. The character Canio is considered one of the greatest roles in opera. Ruggero Leoncavallo is honored to have Allan Glassman, a frequent artist at the Metropolitan Opera to head their cast. Kelly Kaduce, Nedda is a rising star that audiences will view as exceptional.

Both operas share the same conductor and director, Joel Revzen and Kay Walker Castaldo. The casts consist of many seasoned theater professionals as well as three making their Arizona Opera debut. Joseph Wolverton, Malcome Mackensie, and Susan Nicely make their performance debut during Cavalleria Rusticana. Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci welcome Laura Wilde and Clay Hilley from the Marion Roose Pullin Arizona Opera Studio to the stage.

These acclaimed operas will open at Tucson Music Hall on Saturday, October 1st at 7:30 pm and October 2nd at 2:00 pm. The following weekend the operas will open at the Phoenix Symphony Hall on October 7th and 8th at 7:30 pm and October 9th at 2:00pm. Tickets are available now via Ticketmaster.

For more information visit www.azopera.com.