

OPERA TOPICS

CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF JACQUES OFFENBACH LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN (THE TALES OF HOFFMANN)

Presenter: Richard Ferris

June 20, 2019 will be the 200 year anniversary of the birth of Jacques Offenbach. The famous French, Catholic composer, who was originally neither French nor Catholic, having been born the son of a cantor at a synagogue in Cologne, Germany. He was sometimes referred to as the man who brought humor to opera. With farcical plots many of the composer's works became the toast of mid-19th century Paris. *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, his first and last true opera, the one for which he is most remembered was first performed a year after his death and is considered an operatic masterpiece. The Hoffman featured as the hero in Offenbach's opera was a real person, and the stories that form its central episodes had been entertaining and intriguing readers for some years before the opera saw the light of day. Hoffman travels from youthful infatuation to idle tarrying and genuine reciprocated love. There are dark, powerful messages in our story but, a work in which the hero falls in love with a mechanical doll is clearly not a tale of serious or profound issues.



***This program is offered through a grant from the
Sephardic Home for the Aged Foundation***



Sephardic Home
for the
Aged Foundation

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019
TIME: 10:30 AM (NOTE TIME)
COST: FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
AS SPACE PERMITS *Pre-registration Recommended*



Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County
1775 Oak Tree Road
Edison, New Jersey 08820
732-494-3232
www.jccmc.org



OPERA TOPICS

OPERA WITH AND WITHOUT SINGING

Presenter: Richard Ferris

Opera is pretty much all about singing for if it weren't for the singing it would not be called opera. Opera is however, a combination of many different art forms. It combines the drama and all the theatrical components of the theater with the emotional power of music.

This program is designed to inform and entertain newcomers to opera as well as opera enthusiasts and everyone in between. The first part of Mr. Ferris's presentation will concentrate on the non-vocal parts of opera exploring some of the most famous operatic orchestral music composed to provide a tonal or pictorial sensation which plays such an important role in setting in motion a mood composers believed was so important to enhancing audience involvement and enjoyment. In the second half the operatic voice will be featured as we sample a variety of selections which make opera really opera.

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DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019
TIME: 10:30 AM (NOTE TIME)
COST: FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY AS SPACE PERMITS. PRE-REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED



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