

# A TASTE OF ITALIAN OPERA

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## *L'Elisir D'Amore ~ The Elixir of Love*

### **vino ~ wine**

Dr. Dulcamara, a traveling quack, comes to town touting a potion - the elixir of love. In reality it is wine, but it may as well be magical, for it loosens the tongue and fortifies the soul of the shy Nemorino. The opera begins with people coming together to relax after a hard day's work. Hear the sinister note? While chillaxing,\* the group comments on the perils of love.

### *L'ELISIR D'AMORE*

#### *The Elixir of Love*

by Donizetti, premiered in 1832 in Milan  
Overture & "Bel conforto"

\*chillaxing = chilling & relaxing

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## **Bruschetta Rusticana**



It is Easter morning in a small village in the Sicilian countryside. Here people live in pursuit of the simple pleasures of life and in adherence to their faith and traditions. The townspeople enter the church singing a hymn.

Santuzza prays, but does not permit herself to enter the holy place of worship. She has had an extra marital affair with Turiddu, who has since deserted her. She prays for her honor, her life and her love.



### *CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA*

#### *Rustic Chivalry*

by Mascagni, premiered in 1890 in Rome  
"Regina coeli, laetare.....Inneggiamo, il Signor non e morto!"

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## **Rosina's Sweet & Salty Mebrillo with Manchego**



The heiress Rosina is locked up in the house of her guardian, cranky old Bartolo, who plans to marry her as soon as she comes of age. Rosina, however, plans to marry Lindoro, who is actually Count Almaviva in disguise.

When we meet Rosina, she sings an aria asserting that she is all innocence, sweetness and obedience. "MA!" - "BUT!" If anyone gets in her way she will become a viper and lay a hundred traps before giving way. You go, girl.

### *IL BARBIERE DI SEVIGLIA*

#### *The Barber of Seville*

by Rossini, premiered in 1816 in Rome  
"Una voce poco fa"

## Maddalena's Sweet Sweet Seduction *fresh fig and ricotta drizzled with honey*



Maddalena the seductress and her brother Sparafucile the assassin run a family business - the luscious Maddalena lures Sparafucile's victims to their house, where Sparafucile does them in.



In this quartet Maddalena is working her magic on the Duke while his court jester Rigoletto and his daughter Gilda, one of the Duke's victims, listen from outside.

### **RIGOLETTO**

#### *Rigoletto*

by Verdi, premiered in 1851 in Venice

"Un di, se ben rammentomi.....Bella figlia dell'amore"

## Rigoletto Bonus Track

*Rigoletto* chronicles the activities of another lothario, the Duke of Mantua. In this famous aria the Duke sings about how women are fickle, false and flighty. "La donna e mobile" - "The lady is changeable." The Duke would know about fickle, false and flighty - he's the most changeable of them all!

### **RIGOLETTO**

#### *Rigoletto*

by Verdi, premiered in 1851 in Venice

"La donna e mobile"

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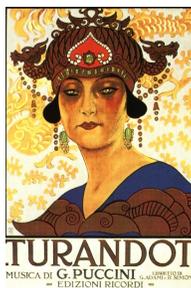
## Prince Calaf's Persian Cucumber Salad



*Turandot* is an Italian opera based on a Persian story, set in China. Naz has fused flavors from Italian, Persian and Chinese cuisines to create Prince Calaf's Persian Cucumber Salad.

"Nessun dorma" is one of the best known and most gripping arias of the Italian operatic repertoire. Calaf

expresses supreme confidence in his ability to win the heart of Turandot the Ice Princess - by sunrise. He concludes with the word "Vincero" - "I will win."



### **TURANDOT**

#### *Turandot*

by Puccini, premiered in 1926 in Milan

"Nessun Dorma"



## Fiery Pits of Hell Shrimp

Don Giovanni is the Don Juan of legend.

At the beginning of the opera we find ourselves at the house of the Commendatore. It is the middle of the night and Donna Anna, Commendatore's daughter, runs out of her bedroom, screaming, with Don Giovanni in hot pursuit. Commendatore appears on the scene and the rather cavalier Don Giovanni kills him in a duel, sealing his own fate - two acts later the Commendatore returns from beyond the grave, dragging Don Giovanni down into the fiery pits of hell.



### *DON GIOVANNI* *Don Giovanni*

by Mozart, premiered in 1787 in Prague  
"Don Giovanni, a cenar teco"



## Don Giovanni Bonus Track

All of the women in the opera are targets for Don Giovanni.

All of the women in the world are targets for Don Giovanni.

In an effort to convince Donna Elvira to move on from her recent three day marriage to Don Giovanni, his wing man Leporello summarizes the Don's little black book:

640 conquests in Italy  
231 conquests in Germany  
100 conquests in France  
91 conquests in Turkey  
1003 conquests in Spain.

Rotund women in winter.  
Skinny girls in summer.  
And so on.

You get the point.

Donna Elvira doesn't, and remains faithful to the bitter end.



### *DON GIOVANNI* *Don Giovanni*

by Mozart, premiered in 1787 in Prague  
"Madamina, il catalogo e questo"

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*A Taste of Italian Opera*  
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## *A Taste of Italian Opera*

took place on the evening of Thursday, August 24, 2017  
at the Elevator Townhouse, 161 West 91st St.  
on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Many, many thanks to those who gave and those who attended!!!



Food was prepared by the Basil & Roses Kitchen.  
Visit <http://basilandroses.com> for simple, healthy recipes,  
beautiful photos, ruminations and inspiration.

The Elevator Townhouse was loaned by David Rosen  
of the Douglas Elliman David Rosen Team.

Contact David for all of your NYC real estate needs and  
check out his blog Apple Sauce for fun Big Apple info.



Pasticceria Rocco donated cannoli for a sweet treat  
to end the night. Visit them at 243 Bleecker St. in the  
West Village for a magnificent selection of Italian desserts.

Kamyar Hassid, Omid Malekan, Ji Young Kim, Rachel Selan  
and Drew Bolander lent able, helping hands and hearts.



Funds were raised for the Berkshire Opera Festival  
(BOF), whose mission is to entertain and enrich the lives  
of people of all ages and backgrounds throughout the  
Berkshire region by providing accessible and affordable  
performances of a broad range of operas with the  
highest artistic standards. In addition to its festival  
programming, BOF holds events throughout the year  
in the Berkshires, Boston, NYC and online.

Please continue to support this incredible organization:

- \* Sign up for BOF news and announcements
- \* Tell your friends about BOF
- \* Get involved by joining the  
BOF Ovation Club or volunteering
- \* DONATE

*And join us for Rigoletto in August 2018!*



August 2018  
[www.berkshireoperafestival.org](http://www.berkshireoperafestival.org)