

For Immediate Release

THE
SANTA FE
OPERA



The Santa Fe Opera announces
**Leah Hawkins will perform Tosca in all
remaining performances for the
2023 Season, replacing Angel Blue**

5 July 2023

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Santa Fe, NM — **The Santa Fe Opera** announces soprano **Leah Hawkins** will sing all remaining performances of *Tosca*, which opened the **2023 Season** on **June 30** and runs for 11 performances through **August 26**. This comes as a result of the withdrawal of **Angel Blue**, who was most recently scheduled for four performances: **July 14, 21, August 1 and 7**. **Blue** has stepped down owing to an unexpected family emergency and has also withdrawn from all other upcoming engagements in the month of July.

Writes Ms. **Blue**, “I am deeply saddened to confirm that, due to an unexpected family emergency, I will be canceling all of my professional engagements in the month of July and therefore will be unable to sing the role of Tosca at Santa Fe Opera. I am heartbroken not to be performing this season, as Santa Fe Opera is truly a highlight for any opera singer, but I am confident that the audiences on those nights will be astonished by Leah Hawkins’ phenomenal talent and brilliant interpretation of the title character. I would like to extend my heartfelt apologies for the sudden change, as I know that I would not be the Tosca that Santa Fe Opera deserves while managing this personal matter. Thank you for your understanding.” The Santa Fe Opera wishes **Angel Blue** and her family well during this difficult time.

On **June 30** rising soprano **Leah Hawkins** made her Santa Fe Opera debut in the titular role; early critical acclaim for her performance includes:

“Her opening night performance was riveting throughout, but her Act 2 aria “Vissi d’arte,” in which the character entreats God wondering what she has done to deserve such a fate when she only lived for love and for art, was a showstopper... those of us who saw Hawkins in the role will someday boast of catching her early in her career.”

— Julia Goldberg, *Santa Fe Reporter*

“In the title role, Leah Hawkins provided tonal and dynamic variety vocally, along with beautiful tone...”

— Mark Tiarks, *Santa Fe New Mexican*

“Hawkins truly has a splendid voice: powerful, with a golden medium range and clear-cut high notes.”

—Christian Dalzon, *Concertonet.com*

About Leah Hawkins

Leah Hawkins is a graduate of the **Lindemann Young Artist Development Program** at **The Metropolitan Opera**, 2021 winner of the **Dallas Symphony Orchestra’s** Women in Classical Music Career Advancement Award and 2022 **Richard Tucker Career Grant** recipient. Her Santa Fe Opera debut as Tosca is her second journey into the opera world’s beloved diva. When asked for three fun facts about herself, Hawkins shared:

- I started piano lessons at 9, voice lessons at 12 and I have performed 25+ operatic roles, including 5 that I premiered/created.
- I love costume jewelry. One-of-a-kind, funky, geometric pieces make me happy!
- I also collect magnets. They are usually from places I have visited or worked.

Media Resources for Leah Hawkins in SFO’s *Tosca*

Santa Fe Opera *Tosca* production photography (for editorial use only, inquire for password)

<https://www.santafeopera.org/company/image-galleries-login/image-galleries/image-galleries-2023/>

95.5 KHFM Classical Public Radio, Leah Hawkins on SFO’s *Tosca*: <https://soundcloud.com/santa-fe-opera/leah-hawkins-on-sfos-tosca-part-one?>

Albuquerque Journal, Soprano Leah Hawkins set to soar as the titular *Tosca*:

https://www.abqjournal.com/lifestyle/soprano-leah-hawkins-set-to-soar-as-the-titular-tosca/article_763b88aa-0ecc-11ee-b437-6fd4e0d3b3ed.html

Santa Fe New Mexican Pasatiempo, A toast to ‘*Tosca*’:

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/pasatiempo/opera/a-toast-to-tosca/article_0f3e6e18-0230-11ee-98ca-5354baf99c9f.html

Tosca

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Premiered 14 January 1900, Teatro Costanzi, Rome

A New Santa Fe Opera Production

11 Performances — June 30; July 5, 8, 14, 21; August 1, 7, 12, 19, 23 & 26

Sung in Italian with opera titles in English and Spanish

Run Time: Approximately 2 hours 24 minutes; includes a 25-minute intermission

Please be advised: This production contains atmospheric and depictions of violence including sexual assault, torture, blood, suicide and simulated cannon and gunfire.

Production support generously provided by

The Estate of Suzanne Hanson Poole

The Tobin Endowment

James R. Seitz, Jr.

Additional artistic support provided by

The L.A. Crosby and A.O. Crosby Endowment Fund

E.H. Corrigan Foundation Fund

The performances of John Fiore are supported by

The John Crosby Conductor's Chair endowed by Flora L. Thornton

The performances of Joshua Guerrero are supported by

The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

The performances of Freddie De Tommaso are supported by

The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

The performances of Leah Hawkins are supported by

The Peter B. Frank Principal Artist Fund

Creative Team

Conductor John Fiore

Stage Director Keith Warner*

Scenic & Costume Designer Ashley Martin-Davis

Lighting Designer Allen Hahn

Associate Director Katharina Eva Kastening*

Chorus Master Susanne Sheston

Fight & Intimacy Directors Rick Sordelet, Christian Kelly-Sordelet, Shireen Yehya*

Cast

Tosca Leah Hawkins*

Cavaradossi Joshua Guerrero (June 30 – August 1)

Cavaradossi Freddie De Tommaso*~ (August 7 – 26)

Scarpia Reginald Smith, Jr.*

Angelotti Blake Denson*

Sacristan Dale Travis

Spoletta Spencer Hamlin*=

Sciarrone Ben Brady*=

Shepherd Boy Kai Edgar*

Jailer Dylan Gregg*=

The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra & Chorus

**Santa Fe Opera debut, =Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice,
+Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, ~U.S. Debut*

The 2023 Season

Scheduled in the Santa Fe Opera's **66th Festival Season** are **38 performances** including two evenings of **Apprentice Scenes**. The company holds to its mission and time-tested programming model: a balanced and varied repertory of new, lesser-performed and standard works. Having opened on **June 30** and **July 1** are two standard works, **Tosca** and **The Flying Dutchman**, followed by two lesser-performed works, **Pelléas et Mélisande** and **Rusalka**, on **July 15** and **July 22**. Rounding out the season and presented for the first time on **July 29** will be Monteverdi's seminal **Orfeo** with a world premiere orchestration by American composer **Nico Muhly**. Tickets are on sale now at santafeopera.org.

About The Santa Fe Opera

The Santa Fe Opera annually draws 85,000 people from New Mexico and around the globe. Nestled atop a mountain vista in northern New Mexico, the company's iconic Crosby Theatre is open on three sides, allowing visitors to enjoy performances complemented by the elements. Since 1957, the company has presented over 2,000 performances of 179 operas by 91 composers spanning five centuries of opera, creating a legacy of 45 American premieres and 18 world premieres. In November 2022, the company was recognized as "Festival of the Year" at the **International Opera Awards**.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility at the Santa Fe Opera

Opera has the power to speak truth, broaden perspectives and invite empathy. The Santa Fe Opera is committed to the continuous work of becoming an antiracist and anti-oppressive organization and incorporating the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility. Our goal is to create a joyful and engaging environment in which a diverse community of artists, staff, volunteers and audiences alike belong.

The mission of the Santa Fe Opera is to advance the operatic art form by presenting ensemble performances of the highest quality in a unique setting with a varied repertory of new, rarely performed, and standard works; to ensure the excellence of opera's future through apprentice programs for singers, technicians and arts administrators; and to foster an understanding and appreciation of opera among a diverse public.

Discover More: [santafeopera.org](https://www.santafeopera.org)

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