

For Immediate Release

**THE  
SANTA FE  
OPERA**



The Santa Fe Opera Announces the Return of  
**Opera in the Park: Bring a Picnic and Enjoy a  
Free Screening of *Rusalka* on September 10**

**17 August 2023**

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**Santa Fe, NM** — The Santa Fe Opera is pleased to announce the return of **Opera in the Park**. A free and public screening of **Antonín Dvořák's *Rusalka*** will take place at the **Santa Fe Railyard Park** on **Sunday, September 10** at **4:30 pm**. This event is part of the opera's 66th Festival Season celebrations and ongoing commitment to bringing the joy of opera to the communities of New Mexico.

**Opera in the Park**

In Santa Fe, a free screening of Dvořák's ***Rusalka*** will take place at the **Railyard Park in Santa Fe**. Lawn seating opens at **4 pm MDT** and the screening begins at **4:30 pm**. There will be no intermission. The Santa Fe Opera invites opera fans and newcomers to bring a picnic and enjoy the performance. The screening will be presented on two LED walls (17' x 10' 3.9mm resolution video trailer system) while sound will be broadcast via outdoor speakers.

The Santa Fe Opera wishes to acknowledge Opera in the Park sponsors **Exxon Mobil Corporation, Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation, City of Santa Fe and the Hankins Foundation**. The performance recordings are directed by **Jesse Fisher** and assistant directed by **Nathan Troup**, with sound engineering by **Kabby Sound Studios**. Artist appearances are made possible through the **American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO** and the **American Federation of Musicians**. The screening of *Rusalka* is made possible by arrangement with **Boosey & Hawkes**. More information about the events can be found online at <https://www.santafeopera.org/opera-in-the-park-2023/>

**For Calendar Keepers**

**When:** Sunday, September 10

**Where:** Railyard Park, 740 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Time:** 4 PM Seating Opens on the Lawn

**Performance Begins:** 4:30 PM

**Run Time:** Approximately 2 hours 32 minutes (no intermission)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do I need a ticket?**

No registration or ticket is required! The Opera in the Park event is free to everyone. We encourage anyone who is feeling unwell not to attend a performance.

### **Advisory**

This production contains depictions of violence.

### **Are the screenings suitable for children?**

The opera is suitable for families; however, we urge caution in bringing young children. For more information or to discuss the suitability of these productions for members of your family, please contact **Anna Garcia** at [agarcia@santafeopera.org](mailto:agarcia@santafeopera.org).

### **How early can I arrive?**

Seating opens on the lawn at 4 PM and is first-come, first-served.

### **Weather**

Opera in the Park will proceed rain or shine. However, under adverse weather conditions such as (but not limited to): lightning, high wind, or torrential rain or hail, we may cancel the event, if necessary. Check the Santa Fe Opera's social media channels for updates.

### **Bathrooms**

Facilities are available on-site.

### **Sight & Sound**

Two LED walls (17' x 10' 3.9mm resolution video trailer system) will provide attendees with a state-of-the-art viewing experience, while sound will be broadcast via outdoor speakers.

### **Subtitles**

English and Spanish subtitle translations will be provided.

### **Parking**

FREE parking is available on-site.

### **Directions**

The Railyard Park Santa Fe is located at 740 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87505, on the corner of Cerrillos Road and Paseo de Peralta.

## What Should I Bring?

Guests are encouraged to bring their own portable seats, blankets and lawn chairs.

## Food & Beverage

We encourage guests to bring a picnic and non-alcoholic beverages.

If you plan to bring your own picnic, please plan accordingly:

- Bring water for yourself and your pet
- Bring a blanket or cloth camping chair
- No glass containers of any kind
- No alcohol is permitted at the event
- Plastic utensils only – metal forks and knives are not allowed on site
- Coolers are permitted
- No large umbrellas; small folding umbrellas only
- No tables or tents
- No open flames

## Pets

Pets are allowed but must be on a leash and under control at all times.

## Contact Information

For questions about the venue or event, please contact **Anna Garcia** at [agarcia@santafeopera.org](mailto:agarcia@santafeopera.org).

**About *Rusalka*** — Sir David Pountney’s electrifying new production of *Rusalka* meets Dvořák’s turn-of-the-century masterpiece at the potent intersection of timeless fairy tale and timely psychological drama. Scenic Designer **Leslie Travers** and Lighting Designer **Malcolm Rippeth** return to Santa Fe while Costume Designer **Marie-Jeanne Lecca** makes her company debut alongside Costume Realizer **Zeb Lalljee**. **Nicola Bowie** is the Choreographer. **Susanne Sheston** is the Chorus Master and **Rick Sordelet**, **Christian Kelly-Sordelet** and **Shireen Yehya** serve as Fight and Intimacy Directors.

Dvořák began writing *Rusalka* late in his career when he had turned his attention almost exclusively to mythical themes. With echoes of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Little Mermaid*, the opera weaves the tale of a water nymph who pays the ultimate price for the chance to love a human being. Responding with sharply contrasting vocal styles and sound worlds for the opera’s mortal and supernatural characters, Dvořák vividly portrays the impossibility of merging the two worlds and the despair of the individual caught between them.

The title character’s well-known “Song to the Moon” provides a mere taste of *Rusalka*’s vast musical riches. This opulent score has often been called Dvořák’s most Wagnerian work, not only for its equal treatment of orchestra and voices and for its subtle use of leitmotifs, but also for its shimmering, nearly impressionistic instrumentation, evoking the lapping of waves on water, nocturnal forest sounds and even the reflection of moonlight on the lake.

Led by conductor **Lidiya Yankovskaya** in her company debut, the company welcomes the return of soprano **Ailyn Pérez**, who makes a notable role debut as *Rusalka*. Three other cast members make their company debuts: tenor **Robert Watson** sings the role of the Prince, mezzo-soprano **Raehann Bryce-**

**Davis** is Ježibaba and soprano **Mary Elizabeth Williams** is the Foreign Princess. Bass **James Creswell** sings Vodník, and numerous Apprentice artists make company debuts: **Ilanah Lobel-Torres** (First Wood Sprite); **Lydia Grindatto** (Second Wood Sprite); **Meridian Prall** (Third Wood Sprite); **Jordan Loyd** (Gamekeeper); **Spencer Reichman** (Hunter); and the role of the Kitchen Girl is shared by **Kaylee Nichols** (through **August 8**) and **Tessa Fackelmann** (August 17, 22).

## ***Rusalka***

Music by Antonín Dvořák

Libretto by Jaroslav Kvapil

Premiered on 31 March 1901, Prague

A Company Premiere and New Santa Fe Opera Production

6 Performances — July 22, 26; August 4, 8, 17 & 22

Sung in Czech with opera titles in English and Spanish

Run time: Approximately 2 hours 57 minutes; includes a 25-minute intermission

*Please be advised: This production may contain depictions of violence.*

Production support generously provided by

**The John Crosby Production Fund**

**Robert & Ellen Vladem**

Additional artistic support provided by

**National Endowment for the Arts**

The performances of Lidiya Yankovskaya are supported by

**The Marineau Family Foundation**

The performances of Ailyn Pérez are supported by

**Martha Allday in memory of Dr. Robert L. Allday**

The performances of Raehann Bryce-Davis are supported by

**The MacKay Fund for Debut Artists**

Original production support generously provided by

**The Avenir Foundation, Inc.**

**Robert & Ellen Vladem**

### **Creative Team**

**Conductor** Lidiya Yankovskaya\*

**Stage Director** Sir David Pountney\*

**Scenic Designer** Leslie Travers

**Costume Designer** Marie-Jeanne Lecca\*

**Costume Realizer** Zeb Lalljee\*

**Lighting Designer** Malcolm Rippeth

**Chorus Master** Susanne Sheston

**Choreographer** Nicola Bowie

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

## Cast

**Rusalka** Ailyn Pérez

**The Prince** Robert Watson\*

**Vodník** James Creswell

**Ježibaba** Raehann Bryce-Davis\*

**The Foreign Princess** Mary Elizabeth Williams\*

**First Wood Sprite** Ilanah Lobel-Torres\*=  
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**Second Wood Sprite** Lydia Grindatto\*=  
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**Third Wood Sprite** Meridian Prall\*=  
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**Gamekeeper** Jordan Loyd\*=  
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**Kitchen Girl** Kaylee Nichols\*=(through August 8)

**Kitchen Girl** Tessa Fackelmann\*=(August 17 & 22)

**Hunter** Spencer Reichman\*=  
=

## The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra & Chorus

*\*Santa Fe Opera Debut, = Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, +Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice*

### 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 recently 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** was be Monteverdi's seminal *Orfeo* with a world premiere orchestration by American composer **Nico Muhly**. Tickets are on sale now at [santafeopera.org](http://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.

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*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.*

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