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Contact: Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura Gainor, 206.676.5559, [gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org](mailto:gabrielle.gainor@seattleopera.org)

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# *Il trovatore*: an opera that thrills like 'Game of Thrones'

**Millennial director brings fresh perspective to Verdi masterpiece**

**Jan. 12-26, 2019  
McCaw Hall**

SEATTLE—When Verdi sat down to compose *Il trovatore*, he had no idea that he was creating opera's version of *Game of Thrones*. But this is how stage director [Dan Wallace Miller](#) describes this tale of revenge, which opens at McCaw Hall in January 2019. Similar to a certain TV show, *Il trovatore* is dark and brutal—the most merciless of all nineteenth-century operas. And yet, it's also a crowd-pleaser, one known for lengthy applause during the middle of performances. Why? Miller says it's all about the music.

"In this story, which takes place in a time of seemingly endless war, music is the only salvation. Glorious singing between the four principals, Leonora, Manrico, Azucena and Di Luna, is the sweetness which balances the horrors," Miller said.

Miller ran his own experimental company, Vespertine Opera Theater, and it's his fresh perspective that attracted the attention of **Seattle Opera General Director Aidan Lang**. Lang selected Miller to direct the immersive chamber opera *The Combat*, which earned praise from *The Stranger* as "a profound experience of

theater" created by a "visionary director." When writing about Miller's creation, *The Seattle Times* concluded: "For those who think opera is an antique, elitist art form with no connection to our own time, here is a show to change your mind."

Miller has a knack for changing peoples' minds about opera, particularly young folks. With his own company, he encouraged attendees to get a cheap ticket, bring a flask, and treat the evening like any other night out.

Despite his track record for creating acclaimed, edgy work, Miller's traditional presentation of *Il trovatore* will include grand sets, elaborate period costumes, and 75 cast members, including voices with the chops to sing several of the most difficult roles in all of opera. Alternating as Leonora are rising superstar **Leah Crocetto**, most recently Aida at McCaw Hall, and Centralia, Wash., native **Angela Meade**, a frequent Metropolitan Opera performer hailed as "the most talked about soprano of her generation" (*Opera News*). Alternating as Manrico are **Issachah Savage** (winner of Seattle Opera's 2014 International Wagner Competition) and **Martin Muehle**, a German tenor making his U.S. debut. Celebrated **Maestro Carlo Montanaro**, a frequent Verdi conductor at Seattle Opera, is at the podium.

Despite the fact that this opera is more than 150 years old, *Il trovatore* will still offer much food for thought in 2018. The character Azucena, for example, is an outsider—a Romani woman—who becomes a scapegoat for the dominant society.

"Why is it so easy to marginalize and exclude our fellow human beings?" Miller said. "Who do we choose to trust, or believe, and whose voices are easily dismissed, or considered irrelevant? Great operas of the past can teach us much about ourselves, if we let them."

*Il trovatore* opens Saturday, Jan. 12 and runs through Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019. Tickets are available online at [seattleopera.org](http://seattleopera.org), by calling 206.389.7676, or in person at the box office located at the Opera Center, 363 Mercer Street (beginning

in mid-December). Box office hours are Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
Groups save at least 20 percent: 206.676.5588 or [groups@seattleopera.org](mailto:groups@seattleopera.org).

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## ***Il trovatore***

Music by Giuseppe Verdi  
Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano  
In Italian with English captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall  
Performances: January 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 25, and 26, 2019

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 55 minutes with one intermission  
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.  
Premiere: Teatro Apollo, Rome, Italy; January 19, 1853

### Cast:

Leonora	Leah Crocetto (Jan. 12, 16, 20, & 25) Angela Meade* (Jan. 13, 19, 23, & 26)
Manrico	Issachah Savage (Jan. 12, 16, 20, & 25) Martin Muehle* (Jan. 13, 19, 23, & 26)
Azucena	Elena Gabouri (Jan. 12, 16, 20, & 25) Nora Sourouzian* (Jan. 13, 19, 23, & 26)
Di Luna	Lester Lynch (Jan. 12, 16, 20, & 25) Michael Mayes* (Jan. 13, 19, 23, & 26)
Ferrando	Adam Lau
Inez	Nerys Jones*
Ruiz	John Marzano*

Conductor	Carlo Montanaro
Directed by	Dan Wallace Miller
Original Set & Costume Designer	John Conklin
Costume Designer	Candace Frank
Associate Set Designer	Christopher Mumaw
Chorusmaster	John Keene

\* Company Debut

**2018/19 Season Sponsor: Lenore M. Hanauer**

**Production Sponsors: Seattle Opera Foundation, Ann P. Wyckoff**

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