

PHILIPPINE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

39th Season – Concert VII: Gaetano Donizetti’s “Don Pasquale”

ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:



The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra is the country’s leading orchestra. It was established in 1973 as the CCP Philharmonic Orchestra, which was originally intended to accompany performing artists at the CCP Main Theater. In 1979, it was reorganized through the efforts of former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos together with Maestro Oscar C. Yatco. The PPO has since collaborated with renowned Filipino and foreign artists either as soloists or conductors. It continues to

promote music appreciation among Filipinos through its regional outreach concerts and workshops. The PPO is now headed by its new Music Director and Principal Conductor, Maestro Grzegorz Nowak. Coinciding with its 39th concert season, the PPO is also celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR:



GRZEGORZ NOWAK

Music Director and Principal Conductor

Renowned Polish conductor Grzegorz Nowak, the new Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, brings a wealth of experience from his roles, including Permanent Associate Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Formerly the music director of the Polish National Opera in Warsaw (2017-2020) and conductor for orchestras across Poland, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA, Maestro Nowak's international acclaim is underscored by over 80 award-winning and 5-star-rated CDs featuring orchestral music. His illustrious career, propelled by prestigious awards and performances alongside world-class soloists and singers, marks him as a sought-after and distinguished figure in the classical music realm.

THE CAST (SOLOISTS):

Dorota Sobieska, *soprano*
as Norina



Dorota Sobieska, committed to Cleveland and Northeast Ohio, has performed over 50 leading opera roles across a diverse repertoire spanning composers such as Bellini, Donizetti, Mascagni, and more. Her solo recitals, orchestral performances, and opera stage appearances have captivated audiences in the United States, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, and Canada.

As a stage director, she has helmed over four dozen productions for The Cleveland Opera and Ohio companies, ranging from chamber-size spectacles to large-scale operas at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. Alongside her husband, Jacek Sobieski, she co-founded The Cleveland Opera (originally Opera Circle) and served as its executive artistic director for 27 seasons. Dorota holds a doctoral degree in Philosophy of Art from Kent State University.

**Dariusz Machej, *bass*
as Don Pasquale**



Dariusz Machej is a graduate of the prestigious Chopin University of Music in Warsaw under the tutelage of Prof. Włodzimierz Zalewski. He perfected his vocal art through master classes with mentors like Prof. Ryszard Karczykowski and William Mateuzzi. He made his debut in 1997 in the role of Don Magnifico in Rossini's "La Cenerentola" at the Warsaw Chamber Opera.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dariusz has performed in numerous stages worldwide, collaborating with prestigious institutions such as the Grand Theatre National Opera in Warsaw and the Metropolitan Opera. His extensive repertoire spans a diverse range of iconic roles in operas by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, and more. Beyond the opera stage, Dariusz's versatility shines as he delves into the realms of oratorio and lieder, enchanting audiences in esteemed concert halls across continents. His exceptional talent has been recognized with accolades like the 2020 Fryderyk Music Award for his remarkable recording of Szymanowski's "Hagith," solidifying his place as a luminary in the classical music scene.

**Byeong – in Park, *baritone*
as Dr. Malatesta**



Byeong In Park, an international Korean baritone, honed his craft under renowned tenor Francisco Araiza at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany. Since then, he has graced opera theaters across Europe, delivering standout performances in roles like Germont in La Traviata and Marcello in La Boheme at esteemed venues including Graz Opera Theater and Die Staatstheater Stuttgart.

Transitioning to Asia, Mr. Park made waves with his opera debut as Guglielmo in Cosi Fan Tutte in Singapore and has since become a sought-after performer in the region. Now based in the Philippines, he continues to captivate audiences with his rich baritone voice in acclaimed productions and concerts alongside prestigious orchestras like the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Manila Symphony Orchestra. His notable portrayals of Belcore in Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" and Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor have earned him acclaim, solidifying his status as a standout talent in the opera scene.

**Nohmer Nival, *tenor*
as Ernesto**



Nomher Nival, a distinguished tenor, boasts an impressive array of accolades including First Prize in the 2007 National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) and the 2015 Jovita Fuentes Vocal Competition. He was also honored with the Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Steyer Encouragement Award at the prestigious Marcello Giordani Foundation International Vocal Competition 2013. Known for his captivating performances, Nival has taken on major roles such as Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Crisostomo Ibarra in Felipe Padilla-De Leon's *Noli me Tangere*, showcasing his versatility and talent across different genres.

Having participated in renowned festivals like the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, Nival has had the privilege of working with esteemed conductors such as Fabio Luisi and vocalists like Roberto Servile and Marlis Petersen. He continues to refine his craft as a member of the Viva Voce Voice Lab and under the mentorship of soprano Camille Lopez-Molina. A graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, Conservatory of Music, Nival further honed his skills under the tutelage of Randy Gilongo and Arthur Espiritu, and he continues to elevate his artistry under the guidance of Nelly Miricioiu, a distinguished soprano and renowned voice teacher.

Zadkiel John Yarcia. *Baritone* as Notary



Zadkiel John "Zid" S. Yarcia, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, has earned recognition for his outstanding achievements both academically and musically. Named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of Makati in 2016, he showcased his leadership and academic excellence while representing Don Bosco Technical Institute of Makati. Zid's passion for singing propelled him to success in prestigious competitions like the World Championships of Performing Arts in 2018, where he secured medals in the Opera and Broadway categories. His vocal prowess was further highlighted as the sole male finalist in the Junior Voice category of the National Music Competition for Young Artists.

In addition to competitions, Zid has performed at various events including the Philippine Festival of Youth Action and Archipelago Rising. He has been featured in podcasts like "ASEAN Youth on the Move" and has mentored in workshops such as the CCP Hands-on Choral Workshop. Zid has also graced performances with renowned groups like the Philippine Madrigal Singers and is affiliated with the Philippine Opera Company. As a scholar of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines, he remains dedicated to contributing to the cultural landscape through his exceptional vocal talents and commitment to music education.