



The Three Italian Tenors

Direct from Rome, Italy

Thursday
March 26, 2026
7:30pm

Foellinger Great Hall



PROGRAM

The Three Italian Tenors

Direct from Rome, Italy

GIANNI LECCESE
ALEXANDRO FANTONI
UGO TARQUINI

GAETANO AMORE, special guest
FABRIZIO MOCATA, piano

ITALIA MUSICA AMORE

A unique tribute to Italian song and aria, this program is a salute to the great Italian tenors tradition:
Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Mario Lanza, and Enrico Caruso.

Piano Introduction: *Nei Cieli Bigi*

Mamma

La Spagnola

E lucevan le stelle

Dicitencello vuje

Musica Proibita

Nel blu dipinto di blu (Volare), a tribute to Dean Martin

Caruso

20-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Piano Introduction: *Roma*

Cielito Lindo

La donna è mobile from *Rigoletto*

Torna a surriento

'O surdato 'nnammurato

Granata

Funiculi funiculà

Nessun dorma from *Turandot*

POSSIBLE ENCORES

O sole mio

Core 'ngrato

Non ti scordar di me

THE ACT OF GIVING

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PROFILES



ALESSANDRO FANTONI

Alessandro Fantoni, born in Genoa, studied at the Opera Academy Zürich, Switzerland, with Roberto Sèrvile. As an emerging artist, Fantoni received multiple awards at prestigious International

Singers' Competitions: third prize in the 2010 "Ruggiero Leoncavallo," special prize in the 2011 "Toti dal Monte" (for his performance of Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*), "Cappuccilli, Respighi, Patané" in Grosseto, and first prize in the 2014 "Una voce per l'Arena."

Fantoni debuted professionally as Gabriele Adorno (*Simon Boccanegra*) and Ismaele (*Nabucco*) in Piacenza, followed quickly by performances at the Danish National Opera in Aarhus as Roberto (*Maria Stuarda*), Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Duca (*Rigoletto*), Alfredo (*La Traviata*), Manrico (*Il Trovatore*), and Rodolfo (*La Bohème*).

The many roles in Fantoni's repertoire include Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Arlecchino (*Pagliacci*) in Pavia; Arvino (*I Lombardi alla prima crociata*) with Teatro Comunale di Piacenza; and Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) and Alfredo (*La Traviata*) with Festival di Casamari. During the 2013-2014 season, he was a member of the International Opera Studio (IOS) at the Zürich Opera House, where he sang in *La Bohème* (cover for the role of Rodolfo) conducted by Nello Santi; *Fidelio* (Erster Gefangener) under Fabio Luisi and Andreas Homoki; *Les contes d'Hoffmann* under Fabio Luisi and Grischa Asagaroff; *La fanciulla del West* under Marco Armiliato and Barrie Kosky; and *Andrea Chenier* (title role) under Nello Santi and Grischa Asagaroff.

In subsequent seasons, he performed leading roles in *Andrea Chénier* (The Incredible), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Edgardo), *Billy Budd* (Novice), *Don Giovanni* (Don Ottavio), *Manon Lescaut* (Edmondo), *La rondine* (Ruggero/Prunier), *Carmen* (Don Josè), *La capinera* (Nino), *Cavalleria rusticana* (Turiddu), and *Gianni Schicchi* (Rinuccio). He has performed in the opera houses of Rovigo, Napoli, Genoa, Verona, Bologna, Torre del Lago, Capri, Pisa, Lucca, Bari, Tunisia, Varese, Slovakia, Moscow, and Cairo.

Fantoni has appeared in many concerts with Fondazione Luciano Pavarotti, including Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* in addition to operatic performances. He has worked with Accademia Chigiana, with Società Arturo Toscanini di Parma, and Cantiere Lirico del Teatro Goldoni di Livorno; and with conductors, singers, and directors such as Alberto Paloscia, Francesco Torrigiani, Alessio Pizzech, and Giovanna Casolla. In recent years, Fantoni debuted in Verdi's *La forza del destino* in the Ancient Theater of Plovdiv under the direction of Abzal Mukhitdinov; the new opera *Edith*, dedicated to Edith Piaf, in the Theater Carlo Felice of Genova; *Die Fledermaus* in Teatro Comunale di Ferrara; and *Salome* in Teatro Petruzzelli di Bari.

GIANNI LECCESE



Gianni Leccese, a recognized Italian tenor, was educated under the supervision of outstanding artists William Mattcuzzi and Leone Magiera, a legendary pianist and conductor as well as a close collaborator of Luciano Pavarotti. Leccese made his debut in Leoncavallo's opera *Pagliacci*, performing as part of opera seasons and festivals in cities such as Pisa, Grosseto, Massa Marittima, Pescara, and Viterbo. His career quickly gained international momentum, leading to concert and opera performances on four continents—China, Japan, Egypt, Indonesia, Great Britain, Greece, France, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus—and winning him both critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences.

As a collaborator with stars of the Italian opera scene such as Katia Ricciarelli, Gianfranco Cecchele, Leo Nucci, Carlo Colombara, and Pietro Ballo, Leccese has performed on some of the most important stages in Europe and the world, including the Teatro Sociale di Como, Teatro Petruzzelli di Bari, Teatro G. Verdi di Trieste, Wrocław Opera, Opéra de Nice Côte d'Azur, Kitakyushu Performing Arts Center in Japan, Cairo Opera House in Egypt, and many other prestigious theatres. His repertoire includes leading roles in works such as *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Nabucco*, *Simon Boccanegra*, and *Così fan tutte*, as well as in sacred works like Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and Traetta's *Stabat Mater*.

In 2011, Leccese received the Erbe Award from the Arena Foundation in Verona as a "tenor of the new generation." He also successfully starred as Tony in Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*—a Music Theatre International (MTI) approved production—in Bulgaria and Romania in the year 2019.

Since 2018, Leccese has been the Artistic Director of the Oltre Lirica Music Festival, held in the picturesque amphitheater Cave di Fantiano in the Apulia region of southern Italy.

UGO TARQUINI



Ugo Tarquini began studying piano and choral singing at the age of eight. Eventually, he majored in lyrical singing, receiving high marks from the Licinio Refice Conservatory of Music in

Frosinone, Italy. He continued his postgraduate studies under the guidance of some of the most important figures of the Italian technical and interpretive operatic tradition, including Nicola Martinucci, Alfredo Zanzotto, Lucetta Bizzi, and Alberto Gazale. After completing training at the Puccini Festival Academy in Torre del Lago in 2014, Tarquini was engaged for that year's edition of the prestigious Festival as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, and joined the cast of *Il Trittico* with artists Amarilli Nizza and Alberto Mastromarino, under conductor Bruno Nicolì.

In 2013, after competing in the As.Li.Co. Singing Contest, Tarquini obtained the role of Erik/Steuermann in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*. He went on to perform this role in some of the most important

PROFILES

Italian theatres: Teatro Regio of Turin, Arcimboldi in Milan, Teatro Sociale di Corno, Teatro Ponchielli in Cremona, Teatro Comunale in Bologna, and also in Magdeburg Opernhaus in Germany during the bicentenary commemoration of Wagner. In addition to his musical studies, Tarquini also completed a degree in telecommunications engineering.

Tarquini has collaborated with many of Italy's leading opera institutions and foundations, including the Puccini Festival Foundation, As.Li.Co., Teatro Regio of Parma, Teatro Regio in Turin, Muscat Opera House, and Arena di Verona, as well as Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and Seoul Arts Center. He has worked with conductors Daniel Oren, Sir Jan Latham-Koenig, Stefano Montanari, Matteo Beltrami, Carlo Goldstein, Andrea Battistoni, Valerio Galli, and Bruno Nicoli, as well as prestigious stage directors such as Franco Zeffirelli, Pier Luigi Pizzi, Mario Martone, Ettore Scola, Vivien Hewitt, and Ivan Stefanutti.

In 2013, Tarquini was selected for the artistic company of the Luciano Pavarotti Foundation, an idea which was envisioned by the famous tenor and realized by Dr. Nicoletta Mantovani to promote the artistic careers of talented singers emerging on the international scene. The events in which he has performed on behalf of this foundation include the opening night of the 2013 season of the Arena di Verona; two prestigious concerts at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow; and the Ruben Dario Theater in Managua, Nicaragua, all celebrating the great Maestro Pavarotti.

Tarquini has appeared in leading roles such as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* for the Puccini Festival's 155th anniversary celebration of the passing of the composer,

and later on at the Teatro Ariston in Sanremo and at the Pompei Opera Festival. In 2014, he appeared as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* at Teatro Aurelio in Rome; and in Verdi's masterpieces *Don Carlo* and *Nabucco* in a tour of important theatres in the regions of Liguria and Piemonte. Over the next decade, Tarquini added many great tenor roles to his repertoire: Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (2015); Don Basilio-Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Goffredo in *Rinaldo*, Calaf in Busoni's *Turandot* (2016); the primo tenore in Ricordi's *Ettore Majorana, cronache di infinite scomparse* (2017); Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* and Roberto in Puccini's *Le Villi* (2018); the protagonist in the contemporary opera *Tredici Secondi* produced for the Biennale di Venezia (2019); co-star in Franceschini's *Alice*, Don Jose in Bizet's *Carmen*, and Turiddu in Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* (2021); Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca*, Canio in Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, and Manrico in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (2022-2023); and the protagonists in Franceschini's *Dorian Gray* and Zandana's *La Coppa del Re* (2024). In the last couple seasons, he added two of the most representative Puccini roles to his repertoire: Luigi in *Il Tabarro* and Calaf in *Turandot*.

Ugo Tarquini was appointed Principal Professor of Singing at the Carlo Bergonzi Academy in Busseto, and was invited to the Taranto Opera Festival as curator of masterclasses for opera singers. He now presents masterclasses throughout Europe, including special associations with Chiaravalle, Italy, and Santander and Madrid, Spain.



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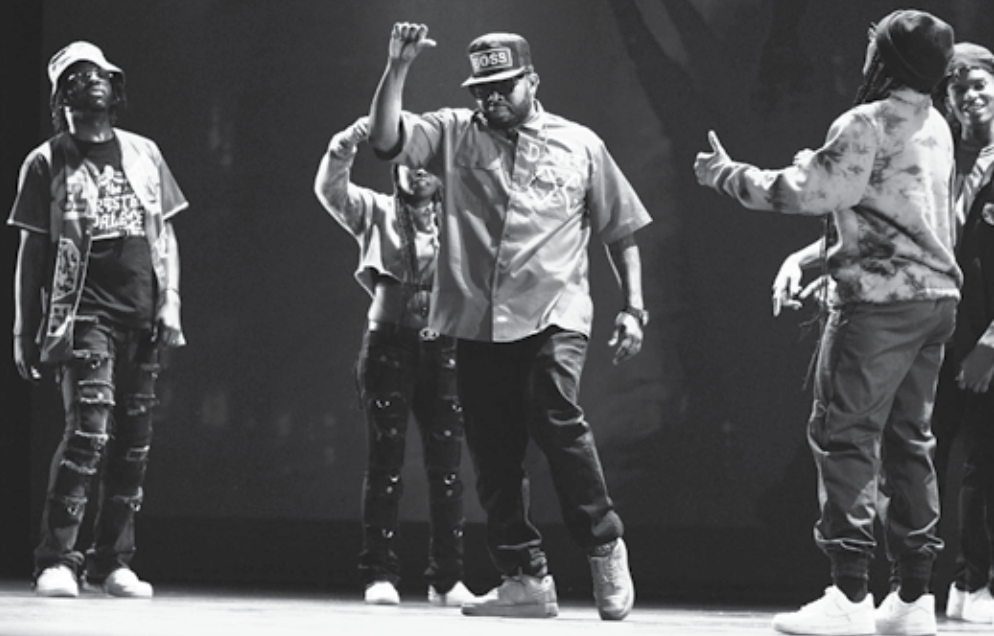
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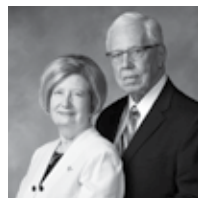
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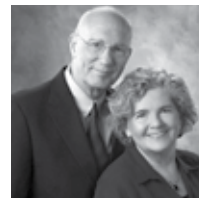
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Julian Carrero
Felix Chan
Molly Chartrand
Yvonne Chen
Kathy Cimakasky
Pamela De Ley
Karen Decker
Lori Deyoung
Sun Dieker
David Dorman
Debra Eichelberger
Roger Epperson
Pat Fang
Judy Federmeier
Roger Fredenhagen
Robin Goettel
Barbara Gordon
Gene Grass
Katherine Hansen
Sophia He
Kathleen Henry
Jill Hieronymus

Marcy Joncich
Mary Ann Judd
Carl Kagawa
Bruce Kruger
Rudy Leon
Lynda Lopez
Penny Lopez
Pezz Lopez
James McEnerney
Linda Meachum
Brenda Mehnert
Kathleen Metcalf
David Mies
Sharron Mies
Carol Miles
Carol Miller
Julie Mills
Patrick Mills
Frank Modica
Heather Munro
Christina Myers
Marjorie Olson
Natalia Ospina-
Munoz
Brenda Pacey
Jane Pica
Jerry Pica
Renee Potter
Rosa Pullen
Carol Sato
Barbara Schleicher
Christel Seyfert
Lei Shanbhag

Carrie Storrs
Neil Sullivan
Alice Taylor
John Taylor
Rodney Vanous
Yuankun Wang
Kelly Warner
Jay Weber
Jean Weigel
Liesel Wildhagen
Benjamin Williams
Douglas Williams
Julie Wirth
Krystal Ye
Hahwi Yoon
Joseph Zumalt

Krannert Center Student Ambassadors

Kaitlyn Adaya
Fiyin Adekoya
Saksham Aggarwal
Emily Aldrich
Smaya Anand
Aditya Barman
Zuzana Bielak
Ann Bijou
Thomas Bobitz
Zoe Bohannon
Zach Bottoms
Lexi Cao

Kayla Cash
Xixi Chen
Leon Chien
Iyesha Childress
Rachel Choi
Leanna Cui
Nooriyah Doriwala
Nicole Dudek
Joseph Edamala
Nia Ellis
Maricruz Figueroa
Myra Gallant
Andros Gao
Shuoyuan Gao
Jada Giddens
Finn Gray
Vedansh Gupta
Jiho Han
Grace He
Atalhea Herman
Kaye Hidalgo
Yanshu Hou
Justin Huff
Hemanth Itte
Uma Iyer
Fasih Javed
Hyorim Jin
Yixuan Jin
Jade Johnson
Rachana Kanathur
Asheera Kaul
Sophie Kim
Ellen King

Pallavi Kochar
Kyle Krisdakumtorn
Amelia Lamis
Maddie Lawson
Irie Lee
Isabella Lee
Julianna Lee
Jungeun Lee
Leo Lee
Tristan Lee
Zachary Lee
Ava Lendman
Tavisha Lijhara
Hanning Lin
Sara Lin
Marlo Lindquist
Chenzhi Liu
Chunyu Lu
Yamini Malli
Julian Martinez
Maddie McCammon
Margaret Meagher
Daniel Mend
Zixiang Meng
Audrey Miller
Francis Moffatt
Emily Murawski
Samuel Naatz
Ruka Nakatani
Stuti Pai
Dhairya Vibhav
Parikh

Diana Patiño-	Lixin Wu
Carreon	Sissi Wu
Karol Penuelas	Lily Xie
Christopher Perez	Ziruo Yang
Niranjan Pillai	Qingping Ye
Adithya Raman	Haelly Young
Carolina Rosas	Qihao Zhan
Sukhbir Singh Saggi	Canwen Zhang
Ava Saldana	James Zhang
Eva Santoyo	Jie Zhang
Ellie Schmidgall	Qi Zhang
Santino Schrieber	William Zhang
Carissa Schultz	Xinyu Zhang
Megna Sivakumar	Yijia Zhang
Julia Stern	Jiesheng Zheng
Cliff Sun	Ryan Zhou
Aiki Suzuki	Yifna Zhu
Mann Talati	Margaret Zywicki
Greyson Talkington	
Thomas Valerius	
MacKenzie Van	
Ryne	
Alex Von Holten	
Connor Waddell	
Rebekah Wakayama	
Archie-Em Walker	
Tess Walker	
Jiaxin Wan	
Xile Wang	
Elodie Ward	
Ari Warner	
Jastina Washington	
Trey Weitner	

KRANNERT CENTER STAFF

Mike Ross, Director
Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement
Terri Anne Ciofalo, Associate Director for Production
Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for
Administration and Patron Experience
Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations
Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming
and Engagement
Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and
Communications

EVENTS

Andrew Almeter, Senior Production Coordinator
for Events
Bree Brock, Production Coordinator for Events
Rebecca Russell, Assistant Technical Director for Events
Rachel Gladd, Performing Arts Events Coordinator

PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

Julianne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming
and Engagement
Jason Finkelman, Artistic Director of Global Arts
Performance Initiatives
Emily Laugesen, Director of Community Engagement
Sam Smith, Director of Civic Engagement and Social
Practice
Nick Wurl, Engagement and Programming Coordinator

ADVANCEMENT

Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement
David Drake, Advancement Team Assistant

OPERATIONS

Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations

Director's Office

Vanessa Lane, Office Manager
Zia Moon, Krannert Center Showcase Director, Office
and Communications Support Specialist

Building Operations

John O. Williams, Facility Manager
Tony Mapson, Assistant Facility Manager
Joe Butsch, Building Electrician
Steven Lessor, Assistant Chief Building Operations
Engineer
Scott Butler, Eric Carr, Emmett Catlin, Austin Dearth,
Sara Dietrich, John Ekstrom, Jessica Fancher, Bryan
Franzen, Salatheo Kindle, Jacob Lerch, Chabu Nsokoshi,
Chad Schwenk, Robert Shaw, Attendants

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and
Communications
Sean Kutzko, Assistant Communication Director
Nicholas Mulvaney, Art Director

ADMINISTRATION AND PATRON SERVICES

Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for
Administration and Patron and Patron Experience

Food Services

Amy Thomas, Food Services Director
Michael Bunting, Hospitality Supervisor
Elizabeth Henke, Stage 5 Bar Manager
John Ingalls, Intermezzo Kitchen Lead

Ticketing and Patron Services

Whitney Havice, Ticketing and Patron Services Director
Ann-Marie Dittmann, Patron Services Assistant Director
Ty Mingo, Assistant Ticket Services Director
Jon Proctor, Ticket Sales Supervisor
Adrian Rochelle, Front of House Performance Supervisor

PRODUCTION

Terri Anne Ciofalo, Director of Production
Maria Miguens, Production Manager

Audio Department

Rick Scholwin, Audio Director
Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director and Video Director
Tyler Knowles, Assistant Audio Director, Live Stream
Engineer

Costume Shop

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director
Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director and Associate
Costume Shop Director
Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair and Makeup Supervisor
Julianna Steitz, First Hand
April McKinnis, EB McTigue, Cutters/Drapers

Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher
Chantel Renee, Costume Crafts

Lighting Department

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director
Nicole Rataj, Assistant Lighting Director

Properties Department

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

Scene Shop

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director
Bill Kephart, Office Administrator
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator
Anna Atkinson, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant
Rebecca Russell, Acting Crew Head
Kayley Woolums, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant

PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER

Jenell Hardy, Director of Business Services
Macauley Allen, Business Services Specialist
Debbie Delaney, Accounting Staff
Angela Wang, Business Services Specialist

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

Necessaries

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location which will be announced to you.

Phones and Devices

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

Late Arrivals

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

Lost Items

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

Ticket Returns

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

Accessibility

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit please contact patronservices@krannertcenter.illinois.edu or 217.333.9716 or visit go.KrannertCenter.com/Accessibility.

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는...
에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU
217.333.9716



COME BE MOVED.

Art at Krannert Center isn't something you just watch—it's something you feel.

COME ON IN.
WE'LL SAVE A SEAT FOR YOU.



 krannert center

SU MAR 29 AT 3:00PM

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



krannert center