

Overture to the Opera InSight Webinar: On Being Human
Presenter: Don Fineberg, M.D.
Five 30-minute presentations with Q&A
July 1,8,15,22,29 (Wednesdays 2PM Santa Fe time)

Links to Registration:

<https://www.santafeopera.org/discover/learning/santa-fe-opera-seminars/opera-insight-registration>

and Santa Fe Opera Website:

<https://www.santafeopera.org/discover/learning/santa-fe-opera-seminars>

Summary: Opera is a window to the human experience. It explores beneath the surface of motivation, action and emotion. With its integration of music, narrative, voice and spectacle, opera immerses us into participatory understanding across the spectrum from thoroughly amused to profoundly moved. This webinar is NOT an academic course. Instead, it is an invitation to the opera-curious who want a handle to grasp this artform as well as to the opera enthusiast who wants to deepen their opera experience. It requires no reading or preparation although the featured opera before or after each Webinar might be enjoyed on video. Webinars available as video encore for people signed up for original webinars.

Webinar 1: Now is a Good Time for Opera featuring Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro"

One part of Opera's magic is how it moves us through time. With its zany plot twists and love triangles, "Figaro" informs our human experience of time: A present moment informed by a remembered past and an anticipated future. It reminds us that the "there and then" of opera is truly about the "here and now" of our lives.

Webinar 2: What a Difference a Day Makes featuring Puccini's "Tosca"

Opera engages our most powerful instincts: the passions of Love and Aggression. In this tragedy, we encounter these powerful human motivations that direct the course of events in this one fateful day. We all live our lives with these buried, raw emotions. We discover how they resonate with Tosca's unfolding tale.

Webinar 3: Unfortunate Circumstances featuring Verdi's "La Traviata"

We all want to be the director of the narrative of our life. But when the cast of characters includes a chronic, debilitating illness like tuberculosis, and a social order that precludes marriage to the love of your life, Violetta faces odds that she cannot overcome. In addition to opera's greatest "drinking song" and haunting love duets, the opera invites us to explore the power of external influences on our lives.

Webinar 4: Driven to Murderous Madness featuring Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor"

In a performance that features the greatest "mad scene" in the whole of opera, we are left to wonder what actually drives Lucia into her murderous, psychotic state. The answer may be a lot more complex and yet more eerily familiar than you might imagine. This opera shows us what we all need for "balance" in our lives and how it can go off kilter.

Webinar 5: Trauma and Healing featuring Kaminsky and Reed's "Hometown to the World"

Opera remains a vital and modern artform because it delves beneath the surface of stories. It leads us to new insights about the world around us and more importantly, about ourselves as well. How a community heals after disruption sheds light on how each of can heal from the trauma in our own lives. Stay tuned for the announcement of its world premiere.