

## SPOTIFY SERIES: Great Singers in Palm Beach Opera History

Curated by James Barbato, Director of Artistic Administration

Over the past 59 seasons, Palm Beach Opera audiences have enjoyed performances by many of the world's greatest singers. In this Spotify Series, we celebrate our company's artistic heritage with four playlists that feature these exceptional artists in some of their best commercial recordings. Each week, we highlight 10 singers from one period in PBO history, beginning with the Paul Csonka era (1962-1983), continuing with the Anton Guadagno era (1984-2002) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2002-present), and ending with a celebration of some of our outstanding Gala artists throughout the decades.

### WEEK #3

#### PBO in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2002-present)



Since the turn of the century, the Palm Beach Opera baton has been taken up by several wonderful conductors who have helped to usher the company into a new era of excellence that continues to this day. Distinguished conductor Julius Rudel, the former General Director of New York City Opera, stepped in to lead productions between 2002-2004, noted Italian conductor Bruno Aprea took the podium as Artistic Director from 2005-2012, and our Chief Conductor David Stern has led inspired performances since 2014. Among the many exciting singers over the last 18 years, one that stands out as a particular point of pride is our homegrown soprano Nadine Sierra, who is featured on this playlist in a special recording from 2010 when she was only 21 years old. Nadine began singing small roles on our stage as a teenager, and returned in her first leading role in 2011. She has

since gone on to headline at every major opera house around the world, and we are thrilled that she returns to Palm Beach Opera as our Gala artist in 2021.

#### [Playlist - PBO 21st Century](#)

##### 1. Nadine Sierra – *Je veux vivre* (Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*)

@PBO: 2004 *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Nun), 2004 *Hansel and Gretel* (Sandman), 2006 *Die Zauberflöte* (1<sup>st</sup> Spirit), 2007 *PBO Vocal Competition* (1<sup>st</sup> place, Junior Division), 2011 *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Euridice), Returns to PBO as our 2021 Gala Soloist

##### 2. Denyce Graves – *Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix* (Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*)

@PBO: 1999 *Gala* (Soloist), 2012 *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala* (Carmen/Amneris), 2013 *Salome* (Herodias), 2018 *Candide* (The Old Lady), 2018 *Rising Stars Concert* (Master of Ceremonies)

##### 3. Kenneth Tarver – *O blonde Cérés* (Berlioz's *Les Troyens*)

@PBO: 2007 *L'italiana in Algeri* (Lindoro)

**4. Vivica Genaux – Sta nell'Ircana (Handel's *Alcina*)**

@PBO: 1992 *PBO Vocal Competition* (4<sup>th</sup> place, Junior Division), 1993 *PBO Vocal Competition* (2<sup>nd</sup> place, Junior Division), 1994 *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Berta), 1994 *Die Zauberflöte* (Third Lady), 2013 *La cenerentola* (Angelina)

**5. Nicole Cabell – Summertime (Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*)**

@PBO: 2003 *PBO Vocal Competition* (1<sup>st</sup> place, Advanced Division), 2006 *Die Zauberflöte* (Pamina), 2012 *Roméo et Juliette* (Juliette)

**6. Vladimir Chernov – Ja vas lyublyu (Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*)**

@PBO: 2003 *La traviata* (Germont)

**7. Ailyn Pérez – Je suis encore (Massenet's *Manon*)**

@PBO: 2002 *PBO Vocal Competition* (1<sup>st</sup> place, Junior Division), 2002 *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina), 2004 *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Sister Constance), 2006 *Die Zauberflöte* (Papagena)

**8. Stephanie Blythe – Priva son (Handel's *Giulio Cesare*)**

@PBO: 2017 *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ruth), 2019 *Die Fledermaus* (Orlofsky)

**9. Bryan Hymel – Asile héréditaire (Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*)**

@PBO: 2002 *PBO Vocal Competition* (3<sup>rd</sup> place, Junior Division), 2007 *Madama Butterfly* (Pinkerton)

**10. Ruth Ann Swenson – Ave Maria (Verdi's *Otello*)**

@PBO: 2009 *Norma* (Adalgisa), 2009 *Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony* (Soloist), 2012 *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala* (Rosalinde/Mimi)