

TULSA OPERA

RENÉE FLEMING'S  
VOICE OF NATURE

The Anthropocene

MAY 10, 2025

7:30pm | Chapman Music Hall, Tulsa Performing Arts Center

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ARIA YOGA AT RIVER PARKS

Every Tuesday  
6-6:45 pm

*No class on July 1*

(17th & Riverside Dr.)

## TULSA OPERA CHORUS AUDITIONS

May 17-18

(Laven Sowell Opera Center)

## FIRST FRIDAY AT TULSA ARTIST COALITION

June 6 - 7 pm

## THE HOBBIT

June 7 - 6:30 pm

June 8 - 2:30 pm

(Lorton Performance Center)

## TULSA YOUTH OPERA AUDITIONS

June 14 - 10 am - 5 pm

(Laven Sowell Opera Center)

## OPERA STORY TIME AT GUTHRIE GREEN

July 9 - 9-10 am

(Guthrie Green)

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### WELCOME CONCERT

July 13 - 7:30 pm

(Baden Hall at the Laven Sowell Opera Center)

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### ARIA EXTRA-VAGANZA CONCERT

July 25 - 7:30 pm

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### TOSCA

### GALA OPERA IN CONCERT BENEFITTING SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS

July 26 - 7:30 pm

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### THE HIDING TREE

### TOURING CHILDREN'S OPERA

July 28 — August 8

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

August 1 & 2 - 7:30 pm

(The Studio Theater at the VanTrease PACE)

## SPOTLIGHT ON OPERA AT TULSA OPERA

### LA TRAVIATA

August 9 - 7:30 pm

August 10 - 2 pm

(The Studio Theater at the VanTrease PACE)





# RENÉE FLEMING'S VOICE OF NATURE

The Anthropocene



Renée Fleming  
soprano

Robert Moody, conductor

featuring  
THE TULSA OPERA  
ORCHESTRA

Renée Fleming appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, [imgartists.com](http://imgartists.com)  
Ms. Fleming's jewelry is by Ann Ziff for Tamsen Z.

Visit [www.reneefleming.com](http://www.reneefleming.com) for up-to-date information about all her upcoming appearances and recordings.

# Artist Message

When I was 14, the film *Soylent Green* was released, a sci-fi thriller about a dystopian future of worldwide pollution, dying oceans, depleted resources, and rampant starvation. The story was set in the year 2022.

The movie has faded from memory, but one scene left a profound impression. An aged researcher, unable to go on, has chosen assisted suicide at a government clinic. To ease his last moments of life, he is shown videos of a world that no longer exists: flowers and savannahs, flocks and herds, unpolluted skies and waters, all set to a soundtrack of classical music by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, and Grieg.

This scene captured my imagination in a terrifying way. The impact increased when I later learned that the actor playing the researcher, Edward G. Robinson, was terminally ill at the time it was filmed.

Fast forward to the pandemic. After more than two decades of constant touring, usually to urban cultural centers, performances abruptly ceased, and I suddenly found myself at home. I sought comfort in long walks outside near my house. I needed this time outdoors to maintain my emotional equilibrium, and I was reminded that nature would always be my touchstone. At the same time, the news about climate change grew more alarming: the extinction of animals we took for granted when we were children, the knowledge that white rhinos had disappeared from the wild, and daily reports of heat, fires, and flooding. I realized that the crisis we had been warned of for so long had arrived.

I thought of the great legacy of song literature that I love, when Romantic-era poets and composers reveled in imagery of nature, finding reflections of human experience in the environment. I decided to record some of this music, and to juxtapose these classics with the voices of living composers, addressing our current, troubled relationship with the natural world.

The result, in collaboration with my friend Yannick Nézet-Séguin, was the album *Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene*. When it received the 2023 Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album, I was thrilled, and I had the idea to tour music addressing this theme of nature as both our inspiration and our victim.

I was incredibly fortunate to connect with the imaginative, dedicated leadership at the National Geographic Society, the global non-profit committed to exploring, illuminating, and protecting the wonder of our world. It has been so exciting to work with this universally respected, landmark institution. I am deeply grateful for the help of President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Ulica, Chief Executive Officer Jill Tiefenthaler, and Producer/Editor Sam DeLeon, whose expertise and vision have been instrumental in creating the video you will see in the second half of tonight's program.

Thankfully, the stunning natural world depicted in this film still exists, unlike that movie scene so upsetting to my younger self. In blending these beautiful images with music, my hope is, in some small way, to rekindle your appreciation of nature, and encourage any efforts you can make to protect the planet we share.

Sincerely,



# PROGRAM

*The following accompanied by a film provided by National Geographic. The audience is asked to kindly hold applause until the end of the film.*

<b>Pretty Bird</b> .....	Hazel Dickens (1925-2011), arr. Jeremy Kittel
<b>Care selve from <i>Atalanta</i></b> .....	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
<b>Endless Space</b> .....	Nico Muhly (b. 1981)
<b>Baïléro from <i>Songs of the Auvergne</i></b> .....	Joseph Canteloube (1879-1975)
<b>Our Finch Feeder from <i>Winter Morning Walks</i></b> .....	Maria Schneider (b. 1960)
<b>All is Full of Love</b> .....	Björk (b. 1965), arr. Hans Ek
<b>Epilogo from <i>Floresta do Amazonas</i></b> .....	Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) reduced orchestration by Abel Rocha
<b>Twilight and Shadow from <i>The Lord of the Rings</i></b> .....	Howard Shore (b. 1946)
<b>Evening</b> .....	Kevin Puts (b. 1972)
<b>Red Mountains Sometimes Cry</b> .....	Curtis Green/Pearce Green
<b>What the World Needs Now</b> .....	Burt Bacharach (1928-2023) and Hal David (1921-2012)

## Intermission

(20 minutes)

<b>Entr'acte: Jackson Brown "Before the Deluge" (recording)</b> .....	arr: Caroline Shaw, with Rhiannon Giddens, Alison Krauss, Renée Fleming, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, piano
<b>Overture from <i>Die Fledermaus</i></b> .....	Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)
<b>Musette svaraia sulla bocca viva from <i>La bohème</i></b> .....	Ruggero Leoncavallo (1857-1919)
<b>O mio babbino caro from <i>Gianni Schicchi</i></b> .....	Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
<b>American Salute</b> .....	Morton Gould (1913-1996)
<b>A Letter from Sullivan Ballou</b> .....	John Kander (b. 1927)
<b>Begin the Beguine</b> .....	Cole Porter (1891-1964), arr. Ralph Hermann
<b>Love and Love Alone / Winter from <i>The Visit</i></b> .....	John Kander (b. 1927)
<b>You'll Never Walk Alone from <i>Carousel</i></b> .....	Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)
<b>The Diva</b> .....	Andrew Lipa (b. 1964)

"Endless Space" by Nico Muhly is presented under license from G. Schirmer Inc. and associated music publishers, copyright owners.

"Twilight & Shadow" by Howard Shore is presented under license from Theodore Presser Company and associated music publishers, copyright owners.

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## RENÉE FLEMING

Soprano

**Renée Fleming** is one of the most highly acclaimed singers of our time, performing on the stages of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. A 2023 Kennedy Center Honoree, winner of five Grammy® awards and the US National Medal of Arts, she has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Diamond Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. In 2008 she became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to solo headline an opening night gala, and in 2014, she brought became the first classical artist ever to sing the national anthem for the Super Bowl. In 2023, the World Health Organization appointed her as a Goodwill Ambassador for Arts and Health, and this year at Davos, she became an inaugural member of the World Economic Forum's Global Arts and Culture Council.

Renée's latest recital and concert program, *Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene*, inspired by her 2023

Grammy -winning album, includes an original film created by the National Geographic Society to reflect the musical selections. In 2024 at the Metropolitan Opera, she reprised her role in *The Hours*, an opera based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and award-winning film. In 2023, she portrayed Pat Nixon in a new production of *Nixon in China* at the Opéra de Paris.

Renée's anthology, *Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness*, was published in 2024. A prominent advocate for research at the intersection of arts, health, and neuroscience, Renée launched the first ongoing collaboration between the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and America's largest health research institute, the National Institutes of Health. She created her own program called *Music and the Mind*, which she has presented in more than 70 cities around the world. She is now an advisor for major initiatives in this field, including the Sound Health Network at the University of California San Francisco and the NeuroArts Blueprint at Johns Hopkins University.

Renée has recorded everything from complete operas and song recitals to indie rock and jazz. In 2023, Decca released a special double-length album of live recordings from Renée's greatest performances at the Metropolitan Opera. Known for bringing new audiences to classical music and opera, Renée has sung not only with Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli, but also with Elton John, Paul Simon, Sting, Josh Groban, and Joan Baez. Renée's voice is featured on the soundtracks of Best Picture Oscar winners *The Shape of Water* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Co-Artistic Director of the Aspen Opera Center and VocalArts at the Aspen Music Festival, Renée is also Advisor for Special Projects at LA Opera, and Artist Development Advisor at Wolf Trap Opera. Renée's other awards include the 2023 Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit, Sweden's Polar Music Prize, and honorary doctorates from 10 major universities. [www.reneefleming.com](http://www.reneefleming.com)



Photo by Timothy White



**ROBERT MOODY**  
Conductor

Conductor **Robert Moody** celebrates his ninth season as Music Director of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and eighteenth season as Music Director of Arizona Musicfest. He was named Music Director of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra in June 2024. Under his leadership, the Memphis Symphony has enjoyed exponential growth in programming, recording, new commissions, and endowment growth to well over \$25 million dollars, while AZ Musicfest has become the premiere winter music festival orchestra in North America, boasting a roster of players from the world's greatest orchestras.

In 2022, Moody was invited to conduct the Lakeland Symphony Orchestra in Florida in a gala concert with Renée Fleming. Following that experience, he was immediately named Principal Opera Conductor for Lakeland Symphony/Opera.

Prior to Memphis, Moody was music director of both the Portland Symphony (Maine) and the Winston-Salem Symphony (North Carolina). Earlier in his career, he held conducting positions with the Phoenix Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, Santa Fe Opera, Brevard Music Center, Interscholar Orchestras of New York City, and apprenticed at Landestheater Opera in Linz, Austria.

During the 2024-25 season, Moody makes his debut with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Tulsa Opera, both in performances with Renée Fleming; the Tampere Philharmonic and Romania's Filarmonica Banatul; and returns to conduct the Portland and Greensboro symphony orchestras.

He has led many of the major orchestras and opera companies of the world, including the Chicago, Dallas, Houston, and Toronto symphony orchestras; Los Angeles and Buffalo Philharmonics, Minnesota Orchestra, and Washington National Opera. Internationally, his recent engagements include the Aachen and Baden Baden Symphony Orchestras in Germany, Orquesta Filarmonica de Bogotá (Colombia), and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra (Austria). He made his debut in China in 2024 with the Shen Zhen Symphony Orchestra. He is a frequent guest conductor in South Africa, returning this season for the third time to conduct the three major orchestras there – Cape Town, Johannesburg, and KZN Philharmonic in Durban.

Passionate about mentoring the next generation of musicians, Moody has spent recent summers conducting at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, and Highlands Opera Festival.

Moody's work is available on several commercial recordings, including the Canadian Brass albums *Bach and Legends*, R. Carlos Noy's *Fourth World* album, and with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and trumpet legend Ryan Anthony on his *Re:Mission Rubato* album.

Robert is a close friend and collaborator with Grammy winning composer Mason Bates. Their friendship spans over 30 years, and Moody was the first conductor to commission a full orchestral work from Bates. Robert also commissioned several major works of Mason's, including *Rusty Air in Carolina*, and the much-lauded *Desert Transport*.

A South Carolina native, Moody holds degrees from Furman University and the Eastman School of Music, where he earned his conducting degree with Donald Neuen. Additional studies included an undergraduate term abroad in Vienna, Austria, and a summer of study with Otto Werner Mueller at Le Domaine Forget in Quebec. He is a Rotarian and has served on the boards of AIDS Care Services, Winston-Salem YMCA, WDAV Classical Radio, and the Charlotte Master Chorale.

# The Tulsa Opera Orchestra

**Robert Moody,**  
CONDUCTOR

## VIOLIN I

Gina Davis, *Concertmaster*

Paulo Eskitch,  
*Associate Concertmaster*

Patti Gaddis

Greg Lynch

Maureen O'Boyle

Mimi Dye

Elena Gavrilov

Corbin Bodley

Laura Talbott

## VIOLIN II

Sheri Scales-Neubauer\*

Dominique Corbeil\*\*

Martha Mattes

Nick Bashforth

Micah Neely

Rachel Hay

Dina Litrinova

Mitchell Kallman

## VIOLA

Jeff Cowen\*

Phil Wachowski\*\*

Vesko Todorov

Cat Simmonds

Melissa Miller

Ronnamarie Jensen

## CELLO

Kari Caldwell\*

Krassimira Figg\*\*

Phil Ince\*\*\*

Kathy Rad

Diane Bucchianeri

Lauren Green

## BASS

Marc Facci\*

Chad Johnson\*\*

Glenn Dewey

Jesus Villarreal

## FLUTE

Dana Higbee\*

Juliana Overmier

John Rush

## OBOE

Lise Glaser\*

Kristin Weber

Lauren White

## CLARINET

David Carter\*

Amanda Hudnall

Angela Carter

## BASSOON

Richard Ramey\*

Charlotte Couch

KC Chai

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

Johnny Salinas\*

## HORN

Derek Matthesen\*

Josh East

Marci Falvey

Lanette Compton

Marie Smith

## TRUMPET

Steve Haefner\*

Kade Goforth

Ben Hay

## TROMBONE

Paul Compton\*

Doug Fletcher

Greg Funk

## TUBA

Ryan Robinson\*

## TIMPANI

Steve Craft\*

## PERCUSSION

Roy Smith\*

Jeff Lawless

Jim Clanton

## HARP

Jill Wiebe\*

## PIANO/CELESTE

Lyndon Meyer\*

## ELECTRIC GUITAR/ BANJO

John Ford\*

## ORCHESTRA LIBRARIAN

Marc Facci

*\*Principal*

*\*\*Associate Principal*

*\*\*\* Assistant Principal*



# 2024/25 TULSA OPERA

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# THE HOBBIT

Saturday, June 7 - 6:30pm

Sunday, June 8 - 2:30pm

Gussman Concert Hall  
Lorton Performance Center  
University of Tulsa



[www.TulsaOpera.com](http://www.TulsaOpera.com)

## 2025 SUMMER SEASON

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(full opera in concert)

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RUSTICANA

LA TRAVIATA

THE  
HIDING TREE

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PERA  
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[www.SpotlightOnOpera.com](http://www.SpotlightOnOpera.com)

# TULSA OPERA

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.TulsaOpera.com](http://www.TulsaOpera.com)



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