

*Great Sacred Music* host **Rob Kennedy** joins me on this Thursday evening's special Spring Membership Drive edition of the *WCPE Opera House*. We'll be playing arias, choruses and ensembles from our vast library of opera recordings, including our thank-you gifts (see below), while asking for your new or ongoing financial support. We have a couple of wonderful gifts we'll be happy to send you as thanks for your fulfilled pledge:

- **For \$120, *Montserrat Caballé: Great Operatic Recordings*.** The world lost an incredible voice in 2018 with the passing of Spanish soprano **Montserrat Caballé**. Here she sings works by Bellini, Verdi, Puccini, and more, including Spanish art songs. (4 CDs)
- **For \$150, *Mozart's The Magic Flute*.** **Matthew Polenzani, Nathan Gunn, and Erika Miklósa** star in a Metropolitan Opera performance sung in English. An imaginative staging first recorded for the Met's *Live in HD* series. (1 DVD)

**Nathan Gunn** performs Papageno's Act 2 aria "A Cuddly Wife" ("Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen") in *The Magic Flute* at the Metropolitan Opera.: <https://youtu.be/S2NxvM-rlkQ>

You can call in your pledge at 919-556-5178 or 800-556-5178; you can send your check to WCPE, P.O. Box 828, Wake Forest, NC 27588; or you can also contribute online at our secure website: <http://www.theclassicalstation.org>.

Be sure to tune in to The Classical Station this Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. for the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Camille Saint-Saëns's biblical epic *Samson et Dalila*. Mezzo-soprano **Anita Rachvelishvili** and tenor **Aleksandrs Antonenko** sing the title roles, and **Sir Mark Elder** conducts.

Join me next Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, for Arrigo Boito's *Mefistofele*, based on episodes from Goethe's *Faust*. The devilish Mefistofele (**Nicolai Ghiaurov**) bets God that he can successfully ensnare the elderly Faust (**Luciano Pavarotti**) by hooking him up with the lovely young Margherita (**Mirella Freni**). Faust is briefly smitten by Helen of Troy (**Montserrat Caballé**). **Oliviero de Fabritiis** conducts the National Philharmonic Orchestra in this 1984 Decca recording.

The Opera House is heard every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock in the Eastern time zone on 89.7 FM in central North Carolina. We're streamed online world-wide at <http://www.theclassicalstation.org>, or you can listen on WCPE's Android or iPhone apps.

*Bob Chapman*

**W. Robert Chapman, Host of the Opera House**