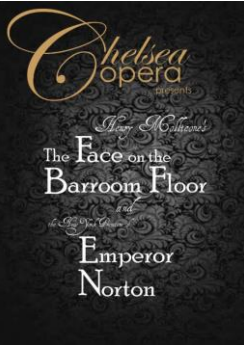


"...a diamond among small companies..." - Opera News



**Chelsea Opera presents...**  
***The Face on the Barroom Floor* and *Emperor Norton* (NY Premiere)**

**Composer Henry Mollicone conducts performances of his one-act operas on November 7 & 8 in New York City**

Chelsea Opera launches its 2014-2015 season with a pair of one-act operas by acclaimed American composer Henry Mollicone: *The Face on the Barroom Floor* and *Emperor Norton* (NY premiere). Performances are on November 7th (7:30PM) and November 8th (4:00PM), 2014 at St. Peter's Church in Chelsea (346 W. 20th St, New York City). The composer, [Henry Mollicone](#), conducts these performances which are directed by Lynne Hayden-Findlay.

*The Face on the Barroom Floor* (libretto by John S. Bowman) is loosely based on a poem written by Hugh Antoine D'Arcy in 1887, which inspired Herndon Davis' famed [painting](#) on the floor of the Teller House Bar in Central City, Colorado. This uniquely American opera is already considered a classic by many opera aficionados. It tells the tale of parallel love triangles, one in the present and one in the past, connected by a mysterious curse. The stellar cast features soprano [Molly Mustonen](#), tenor [Benjamin Robinson](#), and baritone John E. Callison. The opera was commissioned by Central City Opera in 1978 and is produced there annually. More information on the work can be found [here](#).

The program also features the New York premiere of Mollicone's *Emperor Norton*, about one of San Francisco's original eccentric characters from the 19th century who declared himself [Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico](#). In John S. Bowman's libretto, the story centers on the playwright Marla (soprano Vira Slywotsky) who is writing a play about Norton's life and the mysterious intruder (baritone [Justin Ryan](#)) who interrupts her rehearsal. The cast also features soprano [Rosa Betancourt](#) as Diana and tenor [David Gordon](#) as Michael.



[Molly Mustonen](#)



[Justin Ryan](#)

Tickets: Preferred seats: \$35 in advance/\$45 at the door, General admission \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door, Seniors/students: \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Click [here](#) to buy tickets online or call 212-260-1796. For more [production information](#), [synopses](#), and [casts](#), click the links or visit [ChelseaOpera.org](#).



[Henry Mollicone](#)  
(Photo by Felipe Buitrago)

Henry Mollicone is "...one of the most distinctive American opera composers" ([The Washington Post](#)). A graduate of the New England Conservatory, Henry Mollicone has been active as a composer, conductor, and pianist professionally since his first job at New York City Opera as an assistant conductor. He was a musical assistant for Leonard Bernstein's bicentennial show *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, working directly with Mr. Bernstein. His compositions, including seven operas to-date, have been performed throughout the U.S. and in Europe, and he has conducted at several American opera companies and festivals. In addition to opera, Mr. Mollicone has written works for orchestra, voice, chorus, ballet, and various chamber combinations, as well as music for film, television, and theater. Newport Classic Ltd. has produced a feature documentary film, [The Face on the Barroom Floor: The poem, the place, the opera](#), largely about Mr. Mollicone's one-act opera. For more information visit [HenryMollicone.com](#).

**About Chelsea Opera**

Chelsea Opera presents fully staged operas with chamber orchestra, a concert series and other musical endeavors. Founded in 2004 by professional singers Lynne Hayden-Findlay and Leonarda Priore, Chelsea Opera has given hundreds of artists the chance to practice their craft in a supportive professional setting. Chelsea Opera's productions of new and classic repertoire provide enthusiasts and newcomers the chance to see high quality productions with chamber orchestra in a relaxed and welcoming location with ticket prices that are affordable to a broad spectrum of the community. Performances take place in locations where the intimacy and superior acoustics make the experience exceedingly attractive for all involved. Learn more at [ChelseaOpera.org](#) and on the [Chelsea Opera Fact Sheet](#).



## Praise for Chelsea Opera

"...polished and eloquent." - Zachary Woolfe, The New York Times

"...Chelsea Opera, which should certainly rank as one of the country's preeminent "small" opera companies." - Jon Sobel, Blogcritics

"But where it counted most -in the acting- the stage direction was superb, as there was breathing humanity from every member of the cast." - Eric C. Simpson, New York Classical Review

## **Calendar Listing**

**November 7, 2014 at 7:30 pm & November 8, 2014 at 4:00 pm**

### **The Face on the Barroom Floor and Emperor Norton (NY Premiere)**

Music by Henry Mollicone, Libretti by John S. Bowman  
Henry Mollicone, conductor

St. Peter's Church in Chelsea  
346 West 20th Street  
New York, NY

**Tickets:** Preferred seats:\$35 in advance/\$45 at the door, General admission \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door, Seniors/students:\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Click [here](#) to buy tickets online or call 212-260-1796.

## **Chelsea Opera's 2014-2015 Season**

### **The Face on the Barroom Floor and Emperor Norton (NY Premiere)**

By Henry Mollicone

November 7, 2014 at 7:30 pm & November 8, 2014 at 4:00 pm

St. Peter's Church in Chelsea - New York, NY

### **Chelsea Opera presents...Quinntessentially Yours II**

January 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - New York, NY

### **Chelsea Opera presents...Purely Puccini**

March 24, 2015 at 8:00 pm

Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - New York, NY

### **Tosca**

By Giacomo Puccini

June 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm & June 6, 2015 at 4:00 pm

St. Peter's Church in Chelsea - New York, NY

### **A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams**

Music by Gary Fagin, Libretto by Terry Quinn

June 21, 2015 at 2:00 pm

[Adams National Historical Park](#) - Quincy, MA