



# *The Immersive* **COFFEE CANTATA** *Experience*

**February 14-25, 2024**

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach  
New English Libretto and Orchestration  
by Geoffrey McDonald  
presented at

**The Lost Draft**  
398 Broome St  
New York, NY, 10013

**PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**



**SUPERTITLES**

## SYNOPSIS

The *Coffee Cantata* is a short comic opera written by Johann Sebastian Bach, likely composed in the 1730s during his time in Leipzig, Germany. It is a secular work, depicting a humorous story about a father, Schlendrian, who tries to convince his daughter, Lieschen, to give up her love for coffee. In the cantata, Lieschen insists that she cannot live without coffee, while her father attempts to forbid her from drinking it. The *Coffee Cantata* is a delightful blend of music and comedy, showcasing Bach's mastery of vocal and instrumental composition, and providing a lighthearted commentary on the coffee culture of the time.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

Runtime is approximately 45 minutes.

Sung in English with supertitles via mobile device.

Click [HERE](#) to access supertitles.

Throughout the show there will be a coffee tasting provided by The Lost Draft.

# TASTING FLIGHT



**Mama Mina Coffee**  
TASTING #1

This coffee's journey to the stage with On Site Opera is epic! Sourced by InterAmerican Coffee, this single origin comes from Nicaragua's high mountains, where the Mierisch family owns and operates the Mama Mina farm. With over a century of experience in the region, they have cultivated a coffee masterpiece combining Red Catauai, Javanica and Red Pacamara varieties. It's a full-bodied, flavorful brew with malic acidity that dances with tropical red fruit and green apple notes. Enjoy this virtuoso performance in your cup!



**Kahawa Chungu**  
TASTING #2

Meet our aromatic artist! This blend of medium-roast coffee with cinnamon, cardamom, and clove is inspired by Kenya's traditional Kahawa Chungu, reflecting the region's spice trade legacy. Served hot with oat milk, it's a comforting winter warmer. For our performances, this sumptuous drink is crafted in-house with a coffee that has been naturally decaffeinated through the Swiss Water process, ensuring a soothing, savory sip!



**The Queen's Cup**  
TASTING #3

Our rebel with a cause! This daring blend by TSalon combines Ethiopian coffee with Queen of Earl tea, boasting bergamot and molasses notes. It's a diplomatic delight, bridging the coffee-tea divide with flair. A show-stopping sensation sure to please both coffee aficionados and tea advocates!



## FOOD & ALLERGEN INFORMATION

The Lost Draft is pleased to offer a rotating selection of the following snacks during each performance:

Freshly Popped Popcorn

Passion Fruit Red Velvet Cookie

Sesame Chocolate Chip Cookie

Chocolate Espresso Cookie



*(Allergens: Cookies contain eggs and dairy; may have come into contact with nuts.)*





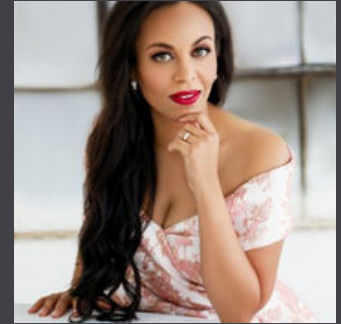
# CAST



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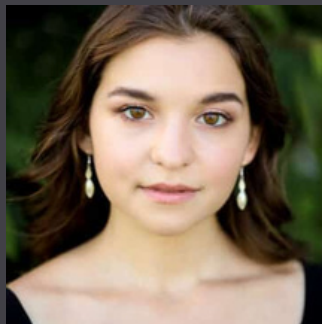
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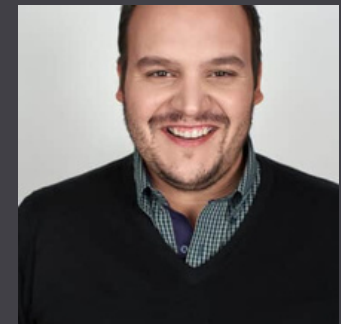
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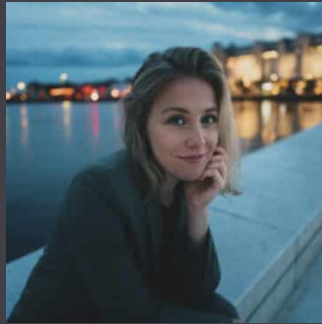
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*Featuring members of the American Modern Ensemble*

VALERIYA SHOLOKOVA — CELLO

NIKITA YERMACK — VIOLIN

DAN LIPPEL — GUITAR

JOHN ROMERI — FLUTE/RECORDER

## VENUE PARTNER



Art is an expression that can never be perfected. It is indefinite, ever-evolving. Artists reveal the highest versions of themselves when they are lost in their work. There is no final draft. There is only the draft that best represents you as an artist. And what artist doesn't love coffee? That is the inspiration behind The Lost Draft. A creative space for creative people who love coffee.



## HISTORY & QUIZ

Bach's *Coffee Cantata*, formally known as *Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht* (Be still, stop chattering), is a delightful secular cantata composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. It was likely composed around 1732, during Bach's tenure as the music director in Leipzig, Germany.

The libretto of the *Coffee Cantata* is attributed to Christian Friedrich Henrici, known as Picander, who collaborated with Bach on several other works as well. The text is in the form of a comic dialogue between a father (Schlendrian) and his coffee-addicted daughter (Lieschen), with additional commentary from a narrator. The plot of the cantata revolves around the father's efforts to dissuade his daughter from drinking coffee, which was a relatively new and fashionable beverage in Europe at the time.

Musically, the *Coffee Cantata* features a charming blend of Bach's intricate contrapuntal writing with more lighthearted, dance-like movements characteristic of secular vocal music of the time. It includes several arias and recitatives, with the characters engaging in witty exchanges throughout.

Despite its humorous tone and light subject matter, the *Coffee Cantata* still showcases Bach's mastery of composition and his ability to infuse even the most mundane topics with musical richness and depth. It remains a popular and frequently performed work in the repertoire of Baroque vocal music.

**Waiting for the performance to start? Take this short quiz about coffee created by donor & patron Mark Schubin!**

**QUIZ**



# COMING UP NEXT...

## Opera in the Garden

Celebrate summer with this  
FREE opera concert series at the  
West Side Community Garden

[MORE INFO](#)

**On Site Opera is a nonprofit organization. Our  
unique productions are fueled by donors like you!**

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or ask a team member for details.







## MISSION

On Site Opera is dedicated to reimagining the operatic experience by bringing this art form into unconventional venues and pushing the boundaries of what opera can do and be. Our mission is to break down traditional barriers, making opera more accessible and engaging for diverse audiences and artists. Through immersive performances, we strive to create an intimate connection between artists and audience, fostering a deeper appreciation for the special places in which we present our work. With each production, On Site Opera seeks to leave a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of those who experience the magic of live opera in unexpected settings.





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On Site Opera's primary activities take place on and around the island of Mannahatta (presently and commonly known as Manhattan), the Homeland of the indigenous Lenape people, and on ancestral land of the Wappinger people and many other Indigenous groups. As a producer of site-specific performance, our art takes us into many spaces within this geographic footprint and often beyond. On Site Opera recognizes that this is unceded land. We work to honor past, present, and future generations of people who have been displaced from the area and we acknowledge the contributions that have been made by enslaved and displaced people to shaping, building, and maintaining what is now known as New York City. We show gratitude to the many thousands of Indigenous people who are living in and contributing to New York City and we pay our respects to elders past, present and future.

Site-specific performance invites our artists and audiences to consider the relationship between the story of each performance and the place in which we present it. While our productions most frequently embrace each venue's current usage and aesthetic, we also encourage all participants to explore the relationship of each performance site to its past history as a home to Indigenous people. As part of our ongoing practice, we will provide resources for our participants to enhance their connection to each performance location with information about the Indigenous people who once inhabited that particular area as well as the area's ecological history.

To learn how you can honor native land, visit the US Department of Arts and Culture, by clicking [here](#).

To learn about the land you currently occupy, visit Native Land's interactive map, by clicking [here](#).

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