



## For Immediate Release

---

### New Handel Opera to Debut in Richmond

Contact: **Gabrielle Maes**, Artistic Director

Phone: **804-300-3768**

Address: **2521 Stuart Ave., Richmond, VA 23220**

Email: [gabrielle.maes@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.maes@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.intothewoods.online/current-production>

**Date: April 3, 2019**

Richmond, VA – A collaboration of local and national artists is developing a new opera that combines baroque music with original music and a modern script on contemporary themes. The new work, **MINERVA Times Change**, will have its world premiere in Richmond in June.

The same core creative team that mounted last year's *Dido and Aeneas* (with Capitol Opera RVA) decided to build on that production's artistic and popular success by showcasing compositions of the baroque master George Frideric Handel (1685-1759). "We took stirring and soulful music from Handel operas and reframed it in a way that spans eras and cultures from ancient Rome to modern Richmond," says Artistic Director Gabrielle Maes. "Our aim is to make the experience meaningful to the audience on multiple levels," she explains.

**MINERVA Times Change** will be performed fully staged in English and Italian with soloists, a chorus, dancers, and an ensemble playing instruments of Handel's time as well as cutting-edge digital instruments. "Audiences do not have to have any familiarity with opera or classical music to understand and appreciate this brand-new work," says Maes. The family-friendly show lasts around 90 minutes.

Evening performances are scheduled for June 6-8 and 13-15, plus a Sunday matinee on June 16. All performances are at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Richmond's Fan District (1603 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220). Tickets are \$30 (\$20 for students) and can be ordered online through [minerva.brownpapertickets.com](http://minerva.brownpapertickets.com).

This is the first public event of a new arts organization, Into the Woods, which was founded in 2019 as a platform for innovative local practitioners of vocal and dramatic music representing many different cultural traditions and musical styles. The organization is applying for non-profit status.

Go to [www.intothewoods.online](http://www.intothewoods.online) for more information about both **MINERVA Times Change** and Into the Woods.

***Gabrielle Maes and members of the core artistic team (see below) are available for interviews. Please arrange through the contact information at the top of this message.***

---

#### MINERVA Times Change Artistic Team

Gabrielle Maes, Artistic Director  
Ryan Tibbetts, Music Director  
Addie Barnhart, Stage Director

Niccolo Seligmann, Composer  
Raphael Seligmann, Author  
Kenneth Putnam, Designer