

Portland Opera Guild Newsletter

the *Coloratura*

Mission: To stimulate interest and participation in opera for the benefit of cultural, educational and musical life in all of Oregon and to assist artists in the arts and aid in the production of opera



The Opera Guild's Spring Luncheon: March 24th

It's a certainty that Portlanders have had enough of winter by now, and what better way to usher in the Spring than having lunch at the Multnomah Athletic Club and listening to opera performed by young artists?

Please join your fellow Guilders and plan to bring a guest or two to enjoy the afternoon (and perhaps join our organization). Professor **Christine Meadows**, a talented mezzo herself, will bring along a few of her PSU opera students to offer selections from two of Puccini's one act operas, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*, that will be performed at the school's Lincoln Hall in April. Moreover, the Guild proudly supports this program and your attendance at the luncheon will help us continue to do so.

The cost of the luncheon and entertainment is \$35 per person.

PLEASE HELP US OUT by letting Patty Cavanaugh know (even if at the last minute) that you plan to attend. She can be reached at (971) 645-6322.

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Ping and Woof Opera

At our January luncheon, Jocelyn Claire Thomas and Zachary Lenox performed scenes from **La Boheme**. Both are performing in the upcoming production of **La Boheme** at OperaBend, which will include full orchestra and the Cascade Chorale. Tickets for the MARCH 10 and 11 performances in Redmond and MARCH 12 in Madras are at operabend.org

Ping & Woof Opera will next appear locally in performances of **Stabat Mater** by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, March 15 & 16 at St Peter and Paul Episcopal Church, 247 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, and March 17th at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, 6300 SW Nicol Road, Portland.

This lovely work was originally scored for soprano and alto soloists, violins I and II and *basso continuo*, and was written by Pergolesi during his final weeks in 1736. The **Stabat Mater** is one of Pergolesi's most celebrated sacred works, achieving great popularity after the composer's death. Jean-Jacques Rousseau praised the work, and described the opening movement as "the most perfect and touching duet to come from the pen of any composer." Admission to these concerts is by donation at the door.

President's Message

I can hardly believe it; the POG's third Luncheon of the year is just around the corner!



This glorious New Year is off with a BANG and the world of Opera is in full swing within our community. Our first Luncheon of the New Year provided an opportunity for us to enjoy the talents of "Ping and Woof" up close and personal. This delightful, small Opera Company is expanding in our local community and outside of it as well. Thank you to all who attended and please mark your calendars for the next Luncheon on March 24th!

As I have shared on previous occasions, our membership continues to grow and we are thrilled to have your participation and support. The Opera Guild promotes local opera, especially by Young Artists, and without your continued support, we would not be able to accomplish this most worthwhile goal.

Spring is just around the corner and the Opera Calendar is filling up with many terrific opportunities to experience the live performances that will abound. This issue of The Coloratura, along with our website, has information on all of these upcoming operatic events. I look forward to the opportunity of greeting many of you on these occasions.

Since I have your attention as you peruse this letter, I would like to officially thank Norm Krasne for all of his brilliant work on the Coloratura! Norm and his gifted Team assemble a wonderfully informative Newsletter that is the best way to stay in touch with one another about the operatic and concert events here in the Portland Area. I know that we all appreciate what Norm's hard work provides us and please, when you see him at various events, shake his hand and share your appreciation!

Rodney V. Mazour

Portland State Opera Spring Production

One of the programs your Opera Guild is proud to support is that of Portland State University Opera. We are fortunate to have PSU opera students sing for us each December at our Holiday celebration. And, this March, at our Spring Luncheon, Professor Christine Meadows will bring several of her talented singers to perform excerpts from Puccini's one-act operas, *Gianni Schicci* and *Suor Angelica*.

Indeed, the Portland State Spring Opera is always a welcome event in the Rose City; there's no surer sign that winter has ended! All performances of the Puccini duo will take place in PSU's fabulous Lincoln Performance Hall: at 7:30 pm on April 21, 25, 28, and 29 and at 3 pm at the April 23rd and 30th matinees. Tickets are \$30 per adult, \$25 for seniors, and \$17 for students and can be purchased online at pdx.edu/boxoffice or calling (503) 725-3307.



The Met in High Definition

Six completed; four remaining (in the 2016-17 Season) – that's the Metropolitan Opera's HD productions, shown in movie theaters to audiences around the world. Four cinemas in our area, two in Portland, one each in Clackamas and Beaverton, carry these live from the Met broadcasts. All Saturday broadcasts begin at 10 am (PST), unless otherwise noted, and are repeated on the following Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Broadcast Schedule

March 11: Verdi's *La Traviata* – Sonya Yoncheva, Michael Fabiano, and Thomas Hampson sing the leads in Verdi's tragic, but magnificent opus;

March 25: Mozart's *Idomeneo* (King of Crete) – Here's an opportunity to see one of Mozart's less-known operas. James Levine conducts a fabulous cast.

April 22: Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. You won't want to miss the great **Anna Ntrebko's** portrayal of Tatiana in this, surely the composer's most popular opera.

May 13 (9:30 am): Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* – See **Renée Fleming, Elina Garanča, and Matthew Polenzani** in this sumptuous German classic (with an Italian-singing character).

See you at the movies!



Know someone who needs a special note? Call Cathleen Mazour at 360-256-5011 with the details she will send a card or other appropriate recognition of that request.



Left to Right: Ryan Thorne, Aaron Short, Antonia Tamer and Kate Farrar (photos from Jen W.)

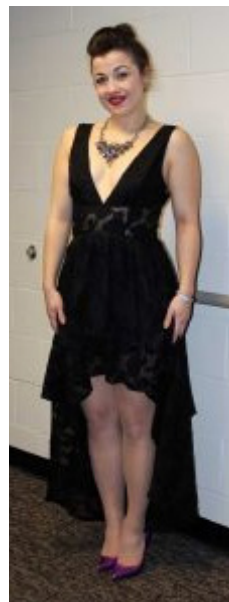
Meet Portland Opera's 2017 Resident Artists

Many Opera Guild members will admit that their favorite aspect of any Portland Opera Season, and the one worthiest of Guild support, is the Company's Resident Artist Program. Indeed, watching these young singers mature as artists and people, and realizing that they are the future of the art form we love so much, is so very rewarding!

For the 2017 Season, Portland Opera will feature four Resident Artists, two men returning for a second season, and two new female singers. All four sang superbly in the recently completed "Songs of Love and War" by Claudio Monteverdi at the Hampton Center and will appear in the **Big Night Concert** at the Keller on April 8th. They all will appear in *Man of La Mancha* this June and *will sing the leading roles in* Mozart's *Così fan tutte* during six shows at the Newmark in July. Only the tenor and baritone will sing in *La Bohème* this May, but an alumnus of the program, soprano **Jennifer Forni**, will sing Musetta in Puccini's popular opera. One of the highlights of the 2016 Season was Ms. Forni's wonderful Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* last summer.

Our returning baritone, **Ryan Thorne**, advanced from the MONC Oregon Auditions last October when selected by the panel of judges while tenor **Aaron Short** was brilliant as Lenskii in *Onegin* last summer. Mr. Short recently returned to Portland for the new Season with his new bride, Clarissa.

Those of us who witnessed last October's Auditions at PSU got our first look at lyric soprano **Antonia Tamer**, who, like Mr. Thorne, advanced as one of the competition's winners. She comes to us from Boston after recently completing a Masters in Voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Our new mezzo-soprano is **Kate Farrar**. Ms. Farrar is a native of North Carolina where she was a winner of the MONC competition in 2014. Most recently, she sang the title role of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Saratoga Opera.



Pascale Spinney

Northwest Regional Auditions Held in Seattle

Neither snow, nor rain, nor sleet...leads the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) to cancel or postpone its Northwest Regional Auditions. So, despite the freezing rain in our area that began the evening before, the "show" went on in Seattle's Benaroya Hall on Sunday, January 8th. Ten talented young singers representing four Districts: (all of) Canada, the Montana-Idaho Region, and the Washington and Oregon Regions, competed for prize money and the right to advance to the Semi-Finals in New York in March. Two of our own Resident Artists, soprano **Antonia Tamer** and baritone **Ryan Thorne**, who had advanced from the Oregon Auditions the previous October, made the trip up to Seattle to participate.

Ms. Tamer, who has joined the Portland Opera Resident Artist Program this year, began by singing the same aria that she had started with at PSU last October, "Das wahr so gut" ("This was very good") from Richard Strauss's *Arabella*. The judges then asked her to perform Donna Elvira's "Ah, fuggi il traditor" ("Beware this wicked man") from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Mr. Thorne began with Valentin's aria from *Faust*, "Avant de quitter ces lieux" ("Before leaving this place") and was asked by the judges to sing Argante's "Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto" ("All around I seem to hear") from Gounod's *Faust*. It was reported that both acquitted themselves splendidly.

The judges selected soprano **Pascale Spinney**, a member of *Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal*. As first-prize winner, Ms. Spinney will go to the National Semi-Finals in New York on March 12 where she will compete with the winners of 12 other Regional Auditions and receive coaching from the Met's artistic staff.



Susan Graham



Malcolm Martineau

Susan Graham to Sing In Portland This April

Truly one of the opera world’s greatest and most beloved singers, mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** will perform in Portland on Sunday afternoon, April 9. Accompanied by the equally renowned keyboardist, **Malcolm Martineau**, the concert will take place in PSU’s Lincoln Hall beginning at 3 pm.

Ms. Graham, along with Renee Fleming and Ben Heppner, were among the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Winners in New York in April, 1988. From then until now, the Texas native has appeared on most of the world’s major opera stages and concert halls. Her interpretation of French music and German *lieder* has also earned her critical admiration. Indeed, Ms. Graham was awarded the French government’s prestigious “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur” for her popularity as a performer in France and in honor of her commitment to French music. *Gramophone* magazine has dubbed her “America’s favorite mezzo.”

How very fortunate we Portlanders are that **Friends of Chamber Music (FOCM)** is insistent on bringing the world’s greatest operatic voices to our city year after year. Already, last December, FOCM brought German baritone, Christian Gerhaher, with pianist Gerold Huber, to town to sing an all-Mahler concert. Anyone who was there will tell you how special that day was!

Robert Schumann’s song cycle ***Frauenliebe und Leben: Variations (A Woman’s Love and Life)***, “will serve as the impetus and inspiration for an incredible varied program musically, dramatically, and stylistically.”

To better acquaint concert-goers with the songs that Ms. Graham will sing in her program, FOCM is offering a three-session class (7:30-9 pm: March 15, 22, and April 5) conducted by Opera for the Hesitant founder, Musicologist **Theresa Koon**. These classes

offer live performances by local mezzo-soprano **Hannah Penn** and pianist **Susan McDaniel**.

The recital is certain to be a sell-out so you’ll want to get your ticket(s) now: go to www.focm.org or call (503) 224-9842, where you can also register for the classes. In addition, Ms. Koon will be on hand to give a pre-concert lecture on April 9.

The day after Ms. Graham’s recital, on Monday, April 10, she will conduct a **Master Class for at least two of the current Portland Opera Resident Artists, one of PSU’s Opera Program students, and the winner of the recent NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) at the Hampton Opera Center at 12 noon. This exciting offering is open to the public at no charge!**



Portland Opera’s 2017 Season

Subscriptions and tickets for individual operas are still available for all performances of Portland Opera during its 2017 Season (except a concert of “Songs of Love and War” by Claudio Monteverdi, which will have completed its run in February). An annual, one performance only of **Big Night** will take place at the Keller on Saturday evening, April 8. Come hear many of opera’s greatest hits, performed by our Resident Artists and other stellar voices along with the Portland Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

Perhaps opera’s most beloved and performed opus, Puccini’s ***La Boheme*** will have four performances at the Keller, on May 5, 7 (m), 11, and 13. The great American musical that won five Tony Awards, ***Man of La Mancha***, will undoubtedly fill all the Keller seats during its four June performances, on the 9th, 11th (m), 15th, and 17th. Mozart’s profoundly beautiful comic opera, ***Cosi Fan Tutte***, will be performed at the more intimate Newmark Theater on six July dates: 14, 16 (m), 20, 22, 26, and 29. All the major roles in *Cosi* will be performed by four Resident Artists! Concluding the season, also at the Newmark, will be two short, but wonderful works by the American composer **David Lang: *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*** and ***The Little Match Girl Passion***. Lang’s music is paired with the creative direction of **Imago Theatre’s** Artistic Co-Director **Jerry Mouawad**.