

the *Coloratura*

Portland Opera Guild Newsletter

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

November 2013 Volume 9 NO. 2

We're sorry that we were unable to get *the Coloratura* out before our recent luncheon. Our technical difficulties are now solved. Norm Krasne

MONC Auditions At Portland State University

For opera devotees in the Portland area the first Sunday in October is a momentous day, one that is eagerly anticipated each year. The Oregon District's 60th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Auditions took place on October 6th at Portland State's Lincoln Hall. On that afternoon fourteen young singers competed for prize money and a chance to move on to the Regional Finals to be held on January 19, 2014 at **Benaroya Hall** in downtown Seattle.



Angela Gribble, Melissa Fajardo, Ariana Wehr, Nicole Haslett, Jacqueline Shoda-Iwasaki at PSU Lincoln Performance Center

“The purpose of these auditions”, as Oregon District Director of MONC, **Jutta Allen** stated, “is to discover exceptional young talent and to provide a venue for young opera singers from all over the country to be heard by a representative of the Metropolitan Opera and to assist those with the greatest potential in their development.” Many current opera divas and stars as Renée Fleming, Ben Heppner, and Angela Meade are all past MONC winners. The three professional judges: **Peter Kazaras**, Director of Opera UCLA, **Joel Revzen**, an award-winning conductor of symphony and opera in North America and Europe, and **Brad Trexell**, recently Director of Artistic Operations with Opera Colorado, undoubtedly had a difficult time selecting winners.

Nevertheless, two of the fourteen, including newly arrived **Portland Opera Resident Artist, soprano Nicole Haslett**, and another Portlander, **soprano Jacqueline Shoda-Iwasaki**, were selected to advance.

Each of the two winning sopranos received \$1,000 in prize money. Nicole had given the first recital by a Resident Artist this season at the Portland Art Museum only five days before.

The judges also selected three others as recipients of “**Encouragement Awards.**” These included yet another of our **new Resident Artists, mezzo-soprano Melissa Fajardo**, as well as **sopranos Ariana Wehr and Angela Gribble**. Each of these women netted \$500. In addition, **Ms. Gribble was chosen as “Audience Favorite,”** an award that added to her prize money.

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The Portland Opera Guild publishes the *Coloratura* four times yearly. Please direct your questions, comments, & story lines to the Editors Norm Krasne & Gail Simmons at
Norm-nkrasne@comcast.net
Gail-gailsimmonspog@gmail.com

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Patricia Holloway, President

Please extend a warm welcome to incoming Guild Board Members Paul Riedel and Gail Simmons, who joined the Board at the September meeting.

The Guild continued its generous support of (MONC) the Metropolitan National Council Oregon District Auditions with a \$2,500.00 grant to fund awards for the October 6, 2013 competition, bringing Portland Opera Guild's support to nearly \$46,000.00 since 2005. Another \$23,000.00 has been donated by individual Guild members—a grand total of \$70,000.

The Guild's 2013-2014 Opera Celebration launched with a delightful event—'Cocktails with Chris' in late September. The lucky subscribers who braved the wind were treated to performances by Portland Opera Resident Artists Nicole Haslett, Melissa Fajardo and Ian Jose-Ramirez accompanied by Nicholas Fox on the piano. Baritone Alexander Elliott will grace Guild luncheons this year and next.

Thank you for your support of Portland Opera Guild.

Patricia Holloway

***Want an update in between
Newsletters
Please provide us with an email
address and we will include you.***

Send to

newsletter@portlandoperaguild.com

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Portland's own **Rodney Menn**, a specialist in coaching and accompanying classical singers for more than 35 years, and official accompanist for the Oregon District MONC for the past 23 years, was once again at the keyboard for most singers. Serving as **Mistress of Ceremonies** for the afternoon was the wonderful **Janet Day**.

An event of such magnitude as these Oregon District Auditions could not go on without superb leadership and many volunteers. So, our thanks to **Oregon District Director of MONC, Jutta Allen**, and the many Portland Opera Guild volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Finally, we must acknowledge donors for their generosity without which this program could take place.

We reserve a special "brava" for our "Angel," Jeannine Cowles, who has been a long-term supporter of Opera in Portland.



Salome Luncheon October 25th

Our lovely first luncheon at Columbia Edgewater Country Club featured highlights of Portland Opera's production of *Salome* presented by Nick Fox.

In addition to presenting the musical synopsis of Richard Strauss' *Salome*, Nicholas Fox accompanied Nicole Haslett, Portland Opera Resident Artist, in a Lied by Richard Strauss.



Alexander Elliott, Nick Fox, and Nicole Haslett



Darlyn Jablonski, daughter Anna, Sarah Duvall, and Norm Krasne

Caitlin Mathes Wows a Cabaret Crowd



Caitlin Mathes

“Electrifying,” Rapturous,” “Incredible;” there wasn’t anyone in the overflowing crowd at Vie de Boheme in Southeast Portland on Sunday evening, September 15th that wasn’t deeply moved by Caitlin Mathes’s incredible voice.

The talented mezzo-soprano, who recently completed her two-year stint as a Portland Opera Resident Artist, offered a program of songs by the 20th-century composer, **Kurt Weill**. Ms. Mathes’s gut-wrenching performance of Weill songs in English, German, and French penetrated deep into every heart and soul.

Classical Revolution PDX, which promotes the idea of *classical music in more casual settings*, sponsored the cabaret style show, **Wild Weill’d West**. (Of course, the multi-dimensional Ms. Mathes came up with its title!) Caitlin won the **Lotte Lenya Competition in 2011**. Lenya, the great German soprano, and twice married to Weill, was the most noted interpreter of her husband’s songs. Ms. Mathes was flawlessly, and wonderfully, accompanied on piano by **David Saffert**.

From Portland, Ms. Mathes went to perform perhaps Weill’s best known composition, **The Threepenny Opera**, with **Indianapolis Opera** in October. Fortunately, for those of us who have watched her grow as an artist and come to love her, and for all Portlanders, Caitlin Mathes will return to sing in Portland Opera’s production of **Dominic Argento’s Postcard From Morocco** next March.

If you missed the show and would like a sample of what you missed, or wish to hear her again (and again), go to Caitlin’s website, www.caitlinmathes.com/live and click on “audio.” The Mathes-Saffert duo performs the great Weill song, *I’m a Stranger Here Myself* (lyrics by Ogden Nash).

Nicole Haslett Gives First Resident Artist Recital of the Season

Nicole Haslett’s recital on October 1st gave us a delightful introduction to her considerable musical abilities. She and pianist Nicholas Fox selected a program which he characterized as essentially a folk song recital. These songs had been transformed, however, by both early and modern composers.

The first set featured songs of Gioaccimo Rossini. In her introduction to the set, Nicole reminded us that they were meant to be performed in a salon setting at home among friends. She invited us to enjoy a lyric tour through fields off flowers, guided by “*Son bella pastorella*.” Poetic songs from the British Isles were given a fresh, modern style by Benjamin Britten in the second set. Ms. Haslett’s expressive delicacy contrasted with the dark bass in the piano accompaniment in Britten’s “The Last Rose of Summer.”

‘Six Elizabethan Songs,’ re-imagined by Dominick Argento (b. 1927) previewed for us early works by the composer of **Postcard from Morocco**.

The recital continued with songs by the English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. The set featured both sacred and secular pieces. The program concluded with ‘*Chansons de Ronsard*’ by Darius Milhaud. The set was originally written for the French coloratura Lily Pons, and proved a lovely conclusion to an evening of song. Rousing applause and a standing ovation met with an encore, ‘*Till there was you*’ from **The Music Man**.

We left with a song in our hearts.



Nicole Haslett and Nicholas Fox

Portland Opera Guild Executive Committee & Board of Directors

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Portland Opera Liaison

Lacey Perry

To Our Treasured Members

*If you would like to attend
one of our Board Meetings
Please contact us and let us
know.*

Next meeting November 12, 2013

Au Revoir, Joe Peacock



Joe Peacock and Jeanne Bushbach

***Joe Peacock** has accepted a new position, leaving Portland Opera effective November 8th to move to Vancouver BC and become the Director of Corporate Giving for Vancouver Opera. This position will provide Joe with experience in the truly international opera market as well as the benefit of once again working directly for his mentor.*

Lacey Perry, Portland Opera's Annual Giving Manager, will be supporting the Guild and attending meetings as the company works through this transition and locating his replacement. The Guild will miss the effective advocacy and support he has provided to us and to the Guild board during his tenure. We wish him the best of luck and say, au revoir.

How to Contact Our Membership

Vice-President:

Changed your address? Moving soon?

Make sure you let
Jan Kem know at:
jankem39@comcast.net

Recording of Portland Opera's Production of Galileo Galilei

Portland Opera is excited to announce the release of the initial recording of **Philip Glass' Galileo Galilei** which only very recently became available to the public. **Recorded live at the Newmark Theater in March, 2012**, the west coast premier of the opera was the Company's first publication of a 21st century opera and its second commercial recording of a Glass work. It follows upon the success of its 2009 recording of *Orphée* which *Opera News* rated among "**the Ten Best of the Year.**"

"The productions and commercial recordings of Galileo Galilei and Orphée have been tremendous experiences for this company," said General Director of Portland Opera, Christopher Mattaliano, *"exploring a contemporary work by a living composer on the stage and then making the music readily available to a world-wide audience is a great source of pride for us.*

This is also a landmark event for our Resident Artist Program and annual chamber opera, both of which have become keystones in our Company's mission."

The *Galileo Galilei* cast was made up primarily of the members of Portland Opera's 2011/12 Resident Artist Program, consisting of **baritone André Chiang, bass-baritone Nicholas Nelson, soprano Lindsay Ohse, and mezzo-soprano Caitlin Mathes. Former Resident Artist, baritone José Rubio**, also appeared singing two roles in the opera.

The Met in HD

After opening its new season of live opera in High Definition with two Russian operas, the Met continues this series with two classics in November and December. Portlanders attend these wonderful productions at one of three cinemas: the Multnomah Cinemas in the Lloyd Center area, the Clackamas Town Center Cinemas, and at Crossroads in Beaverton.

Puccini's *Tosca* (Nov. 9, 10 am; Nov. 13, 6:30 pm) – this great opera features Patricia Racette in the title role and Roberto Alagna as her ill-fated lover, Mario Cavaradossi;

Verdi's *Falstaff* (Dec. 14, 10 am; Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm) – Portland Opera completed last season with Verdi's final masterpiece to great acclaim. Here's your opportunity to see local favorite **Angela Meade** among its splendid cast.

Nicholas Fox Arrives at Portland Opera



Portland Opera is pleased to announce that, after an extensive national search, Nicholas Fox has joined its artistic staff as **Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master** beginning this season. General Director Christopher Mattaliano notes that *"Mr. Fox comes to Portland Opera with a wealth of experience from internationally renowned classical music organizations such as New York City Opera, the Martina Arroyo Foundation, and Deutsche Oper Berlin."*

Mr. Fox served as guest Chorus Master for *Falstaff* last spring and received accolades from patrons and staff, as well as glorious critical acclaim. Says Portland Opera's Musical Director, George Manahan, *"I was impressed by Nicholas Fox's magisterial preparation of the chorus. His ability to elicit the very best from singers and instrumentalists is truly extraordinary, and he will be a terrific addition to the Portland Opera family."*

As Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, Mr. Fox is responsible for working with Maestro Manahan to prepare the Portland Opera Orchestra and Chorus for each production. Additionally, he serves as the primary coach for the esteemed Portland Opera Resident Artist Program. In that capacity, Mr. Fox acts as mentor to the young artists and accompanies each in the **Portland Opera Resident Artist Recital Series.**

"I am very excited to join a company that has such a highly talented staff and fosters such a friendly, warm working environment under General Director Christopher Mattaliano," said Nicholas Fox. He adds, *"The chorus and resident artists are outstanding, and the fact that I'll be relocating to one of the best cities in America seals the deal."*

JOIN US FOR OUR GUILD HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Date: December 4, 2013

Time: 7:30—9:00 pm

Location:

Portland Piano Company
711 SW 14th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

Enjoy performances by
Portland State University
Opera Program Students
led by Prof. Christine Meadows

RSVP to Jeanne at 503.659.5046



Wine & Desserts

Served by Our Board
of Directors

Each member may bring a guest.

Donations of non-perishable food accepted at
the event for the Oregon Food Bank.

Guild Board Member Jan Kem



While you were watching Mario Cavaradossi express his love for Tosca, *E lucevan le stelle* (and the stars shone), in Portland Opera’s 2012 production of that opera, one of the Guild’s Board members, **Jan (“Yon”) Kem**, was standing behind the set, Stage Left, with his rifle and comrades waiting to shoot Mario.

After retiring from 43 years of civil and environmental engineering, Jan finally found time to be a supernumerary in an opera, Portland Opera’s 2007 production of Beethoven’s *Fidelio*. Until then Jan had only been listening to opera broadcasts on the radio on Saturdays and going to live opera in Portland for eight years. Now he enjoys seeing how Portland Opera’s Director, Christopher Mattaliano, and guest directors and the staff put an opera on the stage and he can listen to it in the best stereo arrangement available, sometimes in the midst of the action (even though he cannot sing a note).

And, as Jan has said, “*it is great to be a part of Portland Opera and to be able to support it through the Guild and have this much fun!*” A Guild Board member for about a year, Jan has recently become its new **Membership Chairman**.

When not having fun on stage, Jan lives in a Garden Home area, bikes, hikes, and travels. *Welcome to the Opera Guild Board Jan; we’re glad to have you and thankful for your service!*



*May Your Holidays
Be Bright*

Save the Date

February 22, 2014

Venetian Carnevale

Fundraiser benefitting Portland Opera

Resident Artists and

Portland Opera

Venetian Carnevale

Portland Opera Guild's annual fundraiser supporting the Resident Artists and Portland Opera takes place on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the newly remodeled Portland Golf Club.

With Portland Opera Resident Artists appearing with Nicholas Fox, your ticket per person includes: cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with lively music provided by local celebrity John Bennett and his band, a delicious dinner with fine wines provided by Ponzi Vineyards. Both silent and oral auction of unique items and special experiences available only at this event. All this for the price of only \$125.00 per person. The theme is Venetian Carnevale, and masks will be worn by those who choose to have them, but not required by any means!

Invite your friends and fill a table to benefit Portland Opera. For ticket reservations: [email:info@portlandoperaguild.com](mailto:info@portlandoperaguild.com)

Thanks to our Event Sponsor



If you have someone who should receive a special invitation, please let us know by contacting Jeanne at [503.659.5046](tel:503.659.5046) or Carole M. at [503.659.7387](tel:503.659.7387)

In-Kind Donations

Portland Opera
Ron Allen
John Wilson
Portland Piano Co.
John Bennett
The Diamond Pavilion



Other upcoming Guild Luncheons this season:

Lucia di Lammermoor Preview/Luncheon

Venue: MAC

Date & Time: 1/24/14 11:30 am

Pirates of Penzance Preview/Luncheon

Venue: Waverley Country Club

Date & Time: 5/2/14 11:30 am

Portland Opera Guild

PO Box 61823

Vancouver, WA 98666-1823

Address Correction Requested



RAFFLE TICKETS \$25

Portland Opera Guild, in concert with Portland Piano Company offers a wonderful 4'10" Baldwin BP1 48 Baby Grand Piano valued at \$19,000. for raffle during the course of the opera season to help us fundraise for opera in Portland. '

This beautiful new piano will be on display at Portland Piano throughout the season, and the drawing will be held on May 28, 2014 at the Portland Piano Company Showroom. Raffle tickets cost \$25.00 each and the maximum number of tickets sold will be 760, so your chances of winning for yourself or your favorite organization are good. You need not be present at the drawing to win.

Contact Jeanne Buschbach, Vice President of Fundraising for the Guild, at 503.659.5046. Or, for more information, email info@portlandoperaguild.com

Check with Portland Piano Company or the portlandoperaguild.com website for additional information about the piano specifications.