

# 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

Volume 8 Issue 4 April 2013

### Guild's Salon Brilliant a Huge Success

The University Club of Portland proved the perfect site for the Guild's annual fund-raiser to support the Portland Opera Resident Artists program. From start to finish, good food, good wine, and good cheer filled the Club's premises on Saturday night, April 6<sup>th</sup>. And the music – oh my, what music! From the sublime beauty of the well-known tenor-baritone duet, *Au fond du temple saint* from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* to the levity of, yet no less wonderful, *I am a Pirate King* from Gilbert and Sullivan's riotous *Pirates of Penzance*, the smiles on our faces were broad and the cheers from the revelers loud.



Left to right: André Chiang, Matthew Grills and Caitlin Mathes performing "Pirates of Penzance" at Salon Brilliant; photograph courtesy Melissa Burch

The Salon Brilliant Committee, chaired by Vice President Jeanne Buschbach and Director Carole McDonald, and aided by Board members, volunteers and several of the senior staff of the Portland Opera, especially Joe Peacock, made the evening spectacular! Kudos for them.

We can't thank them enough for the many hours of hard work! Thanks as well to so many of you who donated items for both the Silent and Live Auctions.

Very happily, our old friend, Rob Ainsley, whom we've missed so very much while he's been involved in other operatic arenas, returned to serve as Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer for the Salon. Rob also took his "old spot" at the keyboard to accompany all of the singers: soprano Lindsay Ohse, mezzo Caitlin Mathes, tenor Matthew Grills, baritone André Chiang, and bass-baritone Nicholas Nelson.

All five Resident Artists will be moving on after Portland Opera's production of *Falstaff* this May. Nick Nicholas has delighted us for three years, Matt has graced the program for one year, and André, Caitlin and Lindsay have been part of our Opera family for the past two years.

We'll certainly miss them, but will hold them close in our hearts and wish them our best. And, we'll look forward to meeting and hearing the new Resident Artists in late summer.

Speaking for all the Young Artists, Lindsay recalled how special her association with the Resident Artist Program has been these past two years. She shared that, in addition to all the singing lessons and language lessons she had, what was most valuable is "learning how to sword fight and throw a punch on stage!" In closing, Lindsay acknowledged how vital the Opera Guild's support is to the program.

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## A Message from the President

Dear Guild Members,

It is that wonderful time of the year when the Guild makes grants in support of our mission of stimulating interest and participation in opera in Oregon. This is a banner year for the Guild. The hard work and creative talent of the Guild's dedicated Board of Directors, Portland Opera Liaison Joe Peacock, Portland Opera Resident Artists, generous donors, and wonderful volunteers allows the Guild to nearly double its grant level over last year.

- Portland Opera Association \$45,000: \$30,000 in support of the Resident Artist program and \$15,000 unrestricted
- Portland State University Opera Endowment \$10,000
- Portland SummerFest \$1,000

Our fund raiser, Salon Brillant, is dedicated to the Resident Artist program. If you were not able to attend Salon, and wish to enhance the Resident Artist Program grant, please consider making a donation earmarked for the Portland Opera Resident Artist program, and send it to Treasurer, Portland Opera Guild, P.O. Box 955, Portland, OR 97207-0955 prior to May 31, 2013.

It is also time to renew your membership and continue sharing these wonderful luncheons and other events. We look forward to having each and every member renew, and to urge their friends and family members to also complete the enclosed form and return it with the membership fee to the address indicated. We have added benefits—PSU rehearsals and 75% discount on jewelry from a private jeweler.

*Patricia Holloway, President*

## Volunteer Spotlight *Retiring and Incoming Board Members*

Into the life of every Board of Directors comes the day when directors complete their term of service, and new directors join the Board.

This year, we bid farewell to the following retiring directors, each of whom has made significant contributions to the Guild. Being the loyal Guild member each is, we have high hopes they will continue to lend their talents in new roles on committees and as volunteers.

Please join in extending a heart felt 'thank you' to our departing directors.

- Gerry Allen
- Jutta Allen

- Gunther Hoffman
- Christine Meadows
- Kathi Snouffer
- Marina Stites

We extend a warm welcome to our incoming directors:

- Robert Haley
- Susan Muccigrosso
- Steve Lidston, Treasurer
- Carol Taylor, Secretary



## Astoria Music Festival – June 2013

The Bicentennial celebration of perhaps opera's two greatest composers, Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner, will be the focal point of this year's 11th annual Astoria Music Festival. Scheduled are 22 events over a 17-day period, from the 14<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

The major opening concert at Astoria's historic Liberty Theater on Saturday evening, June 15th, includes highlights from Verdi's *Otello* and Act I of Wagner's *Die Walküre*. Astoria Music Festival Director, Keith Clark, conducts the Festival Orchestra, composed of leading members from several major American orchestras. Ruth Ann Swenson (*Desdemona*), Richard Zeller (*Iago*), and Alan Glassman (*Otello*) will sing the Verdi, while Glassman (*Siegfried*), Stacey Rishoi (*Sieglinde*), and Gus Andreassen (*Hunding*) perform Wagner.

For more information, including ticket sales, call 503.325.9896 or go online to [www.astoriamusicfestival.org](http://www.astoriamusicfestival.org).



Salon Brillant - What a wonderful evening!  
photograph courtesy Melissa Burch

## Angela Meade and Richard Zeller to Sing Verdi's "Otello"

One would expect to see this headline in *The New York Times* Entertainment Section, advising readers to purchase tickets at the Metropolitan Opera Box office at the earliest opportunity. But it is actually Portland SummerFest that is offering an outdoor concert version of the Verdi masterpiece with a magnificent cast. Along with the two headliners are tenor Alan Glassman, singing the title role, and Angela Niederloh who has appeared frequently on the Keller opera stage.

Hailing from Centralia, WA, Angela Meade was one of six winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Finals in New York in 2007. Indeed, the widely and often-shown PBS Documentary, *The Audition*, features that year's competition. She has gone on from there to become one of the world's leading sopranos, singing regularly at the Met and with other major opera companies.

At SummerFest's 2011 Opera in the Park event, Ms. Meade brought a cheering Washington Park crowd of 4,000 to its feet singing Leonora in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. Last June, at The Astoria Music Festival, she sang a scintillating *Norma* with Zeller and Ruth Ann Swenson.

Richard Zeller is no stranger to us here in Portland. His wonderful, melodic baritone is featured regularly on Rose City stages and at Portland State University, where he is a voice/singing teacher. Mr. Zeller's career has included several Met engagements and he has sung alongside his friend "Angie" with SummerFest and in Astoria.

Instead of having to spend \$100 per ticket or more, all you'll need to bring is a blanket or lawn chair to the amphitheater at Washington Park on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The *Otello* performance begins at 6:00 pm, but you better get there early for a place! If you're unable to make that date, or you wish to see it a second time, go to Concordia University Campus Green, in northeast Portland, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, also at 6:00 pm.

At the helm again this year is SummerFest's Artistic Director and Conductor, Keith Clark, who doubles in that role at the Astoria Music Festival each June.

## Matthew Grills and Robert Ainsley Share Portland Art Museum Stage

We knew that he was talented before we ever heard his tenor voice or laid eyes on him. That's because Matthew Grills was selected as one of five Grand Prize Winners of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council (MONC) Competition in the spring of 2012.

He also placed first in the Lotte Lenya Competition that year. Fortunately for us, Matthew came to the Portland Opera Resident Artist Program last summer. During the 2012-13 opera season, we've seen Matthew sing at the Keller and Newmark, at luncheons, and at other Guild events.



*Matt Grills*  
Photograph courtesy  
Melissa Burch

On Tuesday evening, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium belonged to our fabulous tenor, and to Rob Ainsley, who returned to Portland to provide piano accompaniment for Matt. Until recently, Mr. Ainsley was the Associate Music Director and Chorus Master for Portland Opera. Rob is now Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. He graciously served as Master of Ceremonies and Chief Auctioneer for the Salon Brillant only three nights before the recital.

The packed house heard a quite varied recital program, including songs by Mozart, Beethoven, Massenet and Samuel Barber before an intermission. The second half of the program began with a moving and provocative Benjamin Britten song, *My Beloved is Mine, and I Am His*. The concert concluded with song sets by Hugo Wolf (1860-1903), who Ainsley told us was so incredibly productive in just a few short years, and the Italian composer of several popular songs, Francesco Paolo Tosti (1846-1916).

An appreciative audience was reminded of how much we miss Maestro Robert Ainsley. His

commentary about the music and its composers is such a valuable part of the entire recital experience, and his skill as half of the piano-voice duet team is extraordinary.

Grills was recently awarded the Björn Eklund Scholarship through an organization called The Opera Foundation which grants him a year of study at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Germany beginning in the fall. Of course, we're sending Matt abroad with our very best wishes and our thanks for spending the past year with us.



*Rob Ainsley*  
Photograph courtesy  
Melissa Burch



*Left to right André Chiang, Lindsay Ohse and Matthew Grills*  
at Salon Brillant  
photograph courtesy Melissa Burch



*Please Select Membership Level*

- Regular \$40:** Membership in Portland Opera Guild; Reduced price tickets to most of the Portland Opera season production; The Coloratura newsletter with Guild events, opera and recital listings; Invitations to Guild luncheons at member rate; Holiday Event as a Guild guest; 75% discount on curated selection of fine jewelry from Susan Muccigrosso, private jeweler; The Diamond Pavilion
- Supporting \$50:** All of the above, plus guest admission to the annual Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Oregon District auditions at Lincoln Performance Hall, Portland
- Sponsor \$100:** All of the above, plus recognition in Coloratura as a sponsor of the Guild
- Patron \$250:** All of the above, plus two admissions to a piano dress rehearsal for one of Portland Opera's current season productions; two admissions to Portland State University rehearsal of a PSU current production

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send The Coloratura via  E-mail;  U.S. Postal Service;  Both

*Please, on the reverse, tell us how you would like to participate in supporting the Guild*

The Guild's success depends upon its members, and we offer many interesting and creative ways to participate in meeting our mission to stimulate interest and participation in opera in Oregon. Please mark your areas of interest on the reverse, or define your own unique contribution.

**New Member**     **Renewing Member**

Enclosed is my check payable to Portland Opera Guild in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ VCode (3 digit code) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for joining the Portland Opera Guild. Please mail the application and payment to:

**PORTLAND OPERA GUILD – TREASURER, P.O. BOX 955, PORTLAND, OR 97207-0955**

If you have questions or wish additional information, please contact:

**Mr. Jan Kem, Portland Opera Guild Membership, Telephone 503.799.6871, e-mail jankem39@comcast.net**





*Please tell us how you would like to participate in supporting the Guild*

The Guild's success depends upon its members, and we offer many interesting and creative ways to participate in meeting our mission to stimulate interest and participation in opera in Oregon. Please mark your areas of interest on the reverse, or define your own unique contribution.

- Luncheons: attending
- Other Guild events: attending
- Mailings: sympathy and condolence communications; folding and stamping mailing pieces
- Communication: public or media relations; press releases
- Membership: recruiting new members; member tracking and coordination
- Speakers Bureau: speaking about opera before groups; securing speaking engagements
- Information Technology: Guild Web Site / FaceBook / Other Social Media; design; maintenance
- Graphic design: digital or traditional
- Photography and/or digital photo editing
- Event Planning and Implementation: Luncheons
- Event Planning and Implementation: Fundraising Events
- Raffle and/or auction item procurement
- Guild Boutique management: product selection; Boutique staffing
- The Coloratura Newsletter: writing, editing, pre-press composition
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or additional information:

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*Your recommendations to Portland Opera Guild*

The Guild Board of Directors would like to hear from you what we can do to improve Portland Opera Guild and/or strengthen the effectiveness of our 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 in the production of opera.

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## New Guild Members

A warm welcome to new and renewing Guild members:

- Natcharee Ajanaputra, 1814 NW Hoyt Street, Portland, OR 97209, 503.997.1456, natchareea@aol.com
- Dorothy Haley, 10220 SW Greenburg Road, No. 210, Portland, OR 97223, 503.452.9300, doro@adwealth.com
- Robert Haley, 10220 SW Greenburg Road, No. 210, Portland, OR 97223, 503.452.9300, bob@adwealth.com
- Susan Muccigrosso, 13568 SE 97th Avenue, No. 200, Clackamas, OR 97015, susan@thediamondpavilion.com
- Art Schwartz, 8017 SE 64th Avenue, Portland, OR 97206, 503.504.6894, artschwartz2007@yahoo.com
- Gail Simmons, 16096 S. Winston Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045, 360.244.5227, gail@thediamondpavilion.com

## Guild Member Roster Updates

- Jan Kem, 8670 SW 80th Avenue, Portland, OR 97223. 503.799.6871, jankem39@comcast.net

### Portland Opera Guild Executive Committee and Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

Patricia Holloway, President  
Jeanne Buschbach, Vice President  
Kathi Snouffer, Vice President–Events  
Carol Taylor, Secretary  
Gerald L. Allen, Treasurer  
Mary Svela, Past President

#### Directors

Jutta Allen • Gunther Hoffmann • Jan Kem  
Norman Krasne • Steve Lidston  
Rodney Mazour • Marina Stites

Portland Opera Liaison  
Joe Peacock

#### *The Coloratura* Editor

Norman Krasne • nkrasne@comcast.net

## Puccini's "La Rondine" at PSU

Every spring, Portland State University's Opera Program takes center stage in the Rose City. This year, Puccini's *La Rondine*, an opera "for anyone who has been in love or has regretted the missed opportunity" was presented at the University's Lincoln Performance Hall.

The featured tenor in the opera was Zachary Borichevsky, the 2013 Jeannine B. Cowles Distinguished Professor in Residence.

On opening night, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the role of Magda was beautifully sung by Anna Viemeister.

## Resident Artists Shine in Handel Opera "Rinaldo"

Portland Opera Resident Artists, present and past, took center stage for all five fabulous presentations of Handel's *Rinaldo* last month at the Newmark Theatre. Their appearance in the leading roles has become a welcome annual tradition of the company since the program's start in 2005.

The five current Resident Artists, André Chiang, Matthew Grills, Caitlin Mathes, Nicholas Nelson, and Lindsay Ohse, were joined on stage by two former Resident Artists, Sharin Apostolou and Hannah Penn. Sopranos Sharin and Lindsay looked fetching in their colorful gowns while mezzos Caitlin and Hannah were equally attractive singing trouser roles. All seven were in top form and sang Handel's music beautifully. Making his debut here, Gary Thor Wedow, conducted the inspired playing by the Portland Baroque Orchestra.

For many members of the Guild, supporting our Resident Artists is the most important thing we do. It is such a joy to watch them develop over the two years that they're with us, and, indeed, our hearts and hopes are with them when they continue their careers. There aren't many opportunities left to see any of them before they move on.

However, we can expect at least a couple of them at our Falstaff luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and we look forward to baritone André Chiang's recital at the Art Museum on May 14<sup>th</sup>.



*Caitlin Mathes models natural pink sapphire and diamond pendant donated by Susan Muccigrosso, The Diamond Pavilion photograph courtesy Melissa Burch*

P. O. Box 955  
 Portland, OR 97207-0955  
 www.portlandoperaguild.com



*From the wine cellar photograph courtesy Melissa Burch*



*Left to right Charles Poindexter, Ruth Poindexter, Shannon Bromenschenkel photograph courtesy Melissa Burch*



*Rob Ainsley music on piano photograph courtesy Melissa Burch*



*Ursula Luckert and Ravi Vedanayagam photograph courtesy Melissa Burch*

## Portland's Opera Season Concludes With "Falstaff"

The great Giuseppe Verdi wrote his final opera, without question a masterpiece, and surely his most comedic work, in 1893, his 80th year. The title character, Sir John Falstaff "attempts to woo two married women hoping to improve his financial situation and, as a bonus, his love life." Based upon scenes from two Shakespeare plays, *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the remarkable libretto and music afford a most pleasant evening or afternoon.

The three evening performances at the Keller

Auditorium, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, will begin at 7:30 pm while the Sunday matinee on May 12<sup>th</sup> will start at 2:00 pm. If you don't yet have tickets for this truly wonderful opera call Portland Opera at 503.241.1802 or go online to [www.portlandopera.org](http://www.portlandopera.org).

Guild members who attend the *Falstaff* luncheon at the Waverley Golf Club on May 3rd will have an opportunity to obtain a small number of discounted tickets for various performances at that time.