

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

January 6, 2014 Volume 9 NO. 3

Venetian Carnevale—Raising funds for Portland Opera

Portland Opera Guild
publishes the *Coloratura*

Please direct your questions, comments, and stories to Norm Krasne at nkrasne@comcast.net

Save the Date February 22, 2014 Our Fundraiser benefitting Portland Opera Resident Artists Program

Be a part of this important and exciting evening. 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 live auction of unique items and special experiences available only at this event. All this for the price of only \$125.00 per person, or reserve a table for eight and save \$100. 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. Or call with a donation or auction item. For reservations: email: info@portlandoperaguild.com or register online at portlandoperaguild.com. If you have someone who should receive a special invitation, please let us know by contacting Jeanne at 503-659-5046

Many thanks to our generous event wine sponsor:



In-Kind Donations

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



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Patricia Holloway, President

It is that wonderful time of year when we rejoice in the warmth of family and friends. The 2013 Guild Holiday Event was great fun, the décor was lovely and the cuisine exquisite. Christine Meadows and her talented PSU students led carols and delighted us with the opera we love and support. Thanks to the generosity of Guild members and guests, we contributed 126 pounds of food plus \$20 to the Oregon Food Bank, an increase from our donation last year.

Next up – Venetian Carnevale! February 22, 2014 – mark your calendars and prepare for a wonderful evening. No stuffy gala this! Dixieland jazz and opera elegance! Masks and mystery!

Don't miss your opportunity to buy that winning piano raffle ticket. There are only 760 tickets being sold!

Membership Information:

Contact Jan Kem

503.799.6871

Or apply online

Portlandoperaguild.com

Want an update in between
Newsletters?

Please provide us with an email
address and we will include you.

Send to

newsletter@portlandoperaguild.com

Lucia di Lammermoor Preview Luncheon

Date: 1/24/14 Time: 11:30 am Location: Multnomah Athletic Club

The Guild's second luncheon of the 2013-14 opera season will take place at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Southwest Portland beginning at 11:30 am on Friday January 24th. A few discounted tickets to Lucia will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

The "MAC" always provides excellent cuisine, served impeccably in a lovely setting, and we expect that the usual festive air on these occasions will prevail. Raffle tickets will be available for the special prizes and event tickets will be available. Proceeds benefit help us benefit opera in Oregon.

Most importantly, **Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, Nicholas Fox**, will be on hand with all four of the **Resident Artists** to entertain and enlighten us about **Donizetti's** masterpiece.

Bringing guests to our luncheons is a delightful way to encourage other devotees of our favorite art form to become members.

Paid reservations are required. If you have not yet made a reservation, please call **Susan Muccigrosso at 503-939-5172 or Jeanne Buschbach at 503-659-5046** Use the sign up sheet on page seven to register, and send the form with payment to the Guild at our new address:

Portland Opera Guild
PO Box 61823
Vancouver, WA 98666

Secure registration and payment using your credit card is also available on our website: <http://portlandoperaguild.com>

Guild Website Now Offers Online Reservations and Payments

Same place, new site:

The Guild's website at **portlandoperaguild.com** has been updated.

Besides a visual refresh, the site now works on your mobile phone.

You can now get your tickets to luncheons and events directly on the site, and sign up and securely pay for your annual membership or renewal.

Check out the events and reserve your seats today.

Elliott Offers Season's Second Resident Artist Recital



On Tuesday evening, November 5th, **Alexander Elliott, new Portland Resident Artist baritone**, sang a diverse and exciting program at the Portland Art Museum. He was accompanied on the keyboard by **Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, Nicholas Fox**.

“This Recital Series is a very important component of the (Portland Opera) program, both for the singers and the audience,” said **Portland Opera’s Director of Artistic Operations Clare Burovac**. “The combination of solo voice and piano presents a distinct set of challenges to the performers and allows our audience to get to know these singers in a way that is uniquely personal, and also quite different from their presentations on the Keller or Newmark stages.”

Mr. Elliott’s selection of songs by **Maurice Ravel, Erich Korngold, Stefano Donaudy (1879-1925), Samuel Barber, Paul Bowles (1910-99), and Tim Cipullo (b. 1956)** spanned the 20th century. Though quite demanding for both Mr. Elliot and Mr. Fox, the two artists gave the sizable audience more than their money’s worth! (*Of course, there is no charge for attending these wonderful concerts though a contribution of \$20 is greatly appreciated.*)

The German composer, Erich Korngold is probably best known for his Romantic old Hollywood film scores. Yet his vast repertoire of lovely songs is often on the programs of recitalists. German appears to be Elliott’s strongest language and one might argue that our vocalist was at his best in this set. Moreover, the communication between singer and pianist excelled in the quartet of Korngold songs.

Mr. Elliott treated his audience to a hilarious conclusion with four songs from Tom Cipullo’s “Another Reason Why I Don’t Keep a Gun in the House.” Stated Katie Taylor, a Portland opera singer, director and librettist, “*Flames* (the third song in the sequence) *in particular was just about as perfect as it could be. The queasy half-sung, half-spoken description of a demented and disheveled Smokey Bear, striding purposefully into the woods with a can of gasoline, was pure delight.*”

The Portland Opera Resident Artist Recital series continues when mezzo-soprano **Melissa Fajardo**, selected to win an **Achievement Award in the MONC Competition in Portland last October**, appears at the Art Museum’s Whitsell Auditorium on Tuesday evening February 4, 2014. **You can make your free reservation by calling the museum at 503-226-2811 or going online to <http://www.portlandopera.org/recitals>.**

MONC Northwest Regional Auditions – January 19, 2014



For the very first time, downtown Seattle's **Benaroya Hall** will host the **Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Northwest Regional Auditions on Sunday afternoon, January 19, 2014** beginning at 1 pm.

That might just be the time and place where the audience discovers the next **Renée Fleming, Ben Heppner, or Thomas Hampson**, all previous winners of the competition who went on to have international careers in opera. Indeed, our own local favorite soprano, **Angela Meade**, advanced from the Portland and Seattle contests to become a national winner on the Met Opera stage in 2007. **Ms. Meade will be present at the Seattle Auditions** and participate in festivities there for the entire weekend. Another recent Northwest winner, **tenor Anthony Kalil**, will make his debut on the Met Stage in 2014.

Portland Opera Guild members have reason to be especially excited about the Seattle MONC Auditions because first-year Resident Artist soprano, **Nicole Haslett**, is one of two singers selected by judges in the Portland Auditions to advance. Ms. Haslett exhibited more of her extraordinary artistry in an October recital at the Portland Art Museum. Portlander **Jacqueline Shoda-Iwasaki**, who also was named to advance last October, will be among the dozen singers in Seattle competing for additional prize money and the opportunity to go on to New York next spring.

Among the twelve competitors in the Seattle Auditions are seven sopranos, one mezzo-soprano, three tenors, and a single baritone. In addition to the two Portland winners are five singers from the **Western Washington/Alaska District**, two from **Western Canada**, and three from **Eastern Washington/Idaho and Montana**. The three judges include the **Executive Director of MONC, Gayletha Nichols**, and former **Met stars Elizabeth Hynes and Judith Forst**. **David McDade** will accompany the singers on piano as he has for a number of years.

Tickets for the Regional Auditions are \$20 and can be purchased at the door on the day of the event. *For more information about the upcoming MONC Western Regional Auditions, including opera events over the entire weekend, visit www.metoperanw.com*

The Guild celebrates the Holiday Season with Song

As one might suspect, the very cold weather did not hamper the celebratory mood at the Opera Guild's annual holiday gathering on December 4th at the Portland Piano Company.



The excellent wine, tasty snacks and desserts, and singing by Professor Christine Meadows' opera students gladdened our hearts. Beginning with *Oh Tannenbaum* and concluding with *Auld Lang Syne*, to conclude the program. We were delighted by many young singers of the PSU Opera Program, and all of us were able to add our voices to songs of the season.



Christine wove together a program of German songs and carols along with our traditional favorites. She hearkened back to the early days of support for opera in Portland by the German community, of which Stefan Minde and Dorothea Lensch were active.

This annual seasonal event is the Guild Board's way to say "thank you" to our wonderful members. Thanks to the Board Members for bringing goodies to the gathering and for setting up and helping to serve. Special thanks to **Vice Presidents Jeanne Buschbach and Susan Muccigrosso**, and **Rodney Mazour and the many board members who participated**, for their extraordinary efforts to make the evening very special for all.



The food bank donations made by all event attendees were a welcome delivery to the Oregon Food Bank, and our largest contribution to date to the food program.

The Metropolitan Opera in HD

The Metropolitan Opera's "Live in HD" broadcasts are attracting a growing number of opera lovers who know the value of sitting in the comfort of a movie theater, at a reasonable cost, to hear the greatest singers in the world. Here is the schedule for the next four operas:

Feb. 8, 10 am (repeated on Feb. 12 at 6:30 pm) – **Dvořák's *Rusalka*** – Renée Fleming sings one of her signature roles in Dvořák's soulful fairy tale;

March 1, 9 am (note early time) (re-run 3/5 at 6:30 pm) – **Borodin's *Prince Igor*** – famous for its **Polovtsian Dances**, this opera has not appeared at the Met for nearly 100 years;

March 15, 10 am (re-run 3/19 at 6:30 pm) – **Massenet's *Werther*** – Jonas Kaufmann sings the title role;

April 5, 10 am (re-run 4/9 at 6:30 pm) – **Puccini's *La Bohème*** – the most performed opera in Met history...and with good reason!

See you at the movies

Portland State University Opera Program will produce Benjamin Britten's wondrous opera, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, at PSU's Lincoln Hall, April 26, 29, May 2, 3 and a Matinee at 3:00 pm on April 27th. One of the composer's masterpieces, the opera is full of inventive, evocative and enchanting music. Recently revived at New York's Metropolitan Opera, the story is based on Shakespeare's very popular play.

For tickets, call the PSU box office 503-725-3307 or go online to www.pdx.edu/boxoffice. Please save the date of June 7, 2014 for the PSU Opera Program Fundraiser, ***Voce d'amore***.

Next Up for Portland Opera

Lucia di Lammermoor



After opening its 2013-14 season with a brilliant and thrilling production of Richard Strauss' *Salome*, Portland Opera next offers "a pinnacle of Italian romantic opera," Gaetano Donizetti's ***Lucia di***

Lammermoor beginning on Friday January 31st.

Perhaps best known for its 15-minute long "*Mad Scene*," '***Lucia***' is often thought of as Donizetti's crowning achievement and one of the greatest operas of the *bel canto* period.

Internationally renowned coloratura soprano **Elizabeth Futral** makes her Portland Opera debut singing the title role, the same role she sang at her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1999. Likewise, tenor **Scott Ramsay** makes his Portland Opera debut as Edgardo, a role he was praised for singing earlier with Lyric Opera of Chicago.

This could very well be an opera that you will want to see more than once. There will be four performances of '***Lucia***' at 7:30 pm on January 31, February 6 and 8, and a Sunday matinee on February 2nd at 2 pm.

A limited number of seats will be made available to Guild members at the luncheon on January 24th. To order tickets now, call **503-241-1802** or go to the opera website www.portlandopera.org.

Please join us for our 2014 Luncheons

A Portland Tradition for over 50 years!

Luncheons occur at 11:30am on the Friday prior to openings of each Portland Opera series performance, and are held at private clubs in the Portland area. Entertainment features sparking introductions and musical illustrations for each upcoming opera by **Assistant Conductor** and **Chorus Master, Nicholas Fox**, and the **Portland Opera Resident Artists**.

In addition, tickets to each opera will be available for purchase at special Opera Guild discounted prices.

Advance reservations are required, at the cost of \$30 per member or \$35 for non-members.

(Please check each luncheon for which you request reservations:)

() Jan. 24, 2014 ~ *Lucia di Lammermore Preview Luncheon* at Multnomah Athletic Club – reserve by Monday, Jan 20

() May 2, 2014 ~ *Pirates of Penzance Luncheon* at Waverley Country Club reserve by Monday, April 28th.

To reserve please mail your payment to : Portland Opera Guild – Luncheons, PO Box 61823, Vancouver, WA 98666-1823

by email to info@portlandoperaguild.com, or telephone Jeanne at 503. 659.5046

Payment must be received 5 days prior to each event. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE SEATING FOR UNRESERVED MEMBERS OR GUESTS.** There will be day-of-event accommodations only if space permits.

Name: _____ email: _____ telephone: _____

Address: _____

Names of guests: _____

dietary restrictions? _____ assistance in transportation needed? _____

Payment for ____ members @\$30 ____ guests @ \$35 for a total of \$ _____

Form of payment to Portland Opera Guild: check ____ or credit card: VISA ____ MASTERCARD ____

Card number _____ expiring _____ (3-digit code) _____

NEW! Register online at portlandoperaguild.com

We look forward to seeing you and your guests at our upcoming Luncheon!

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 \$19,000.00 for raffle during the course of the opera season to help us raise funds 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 only 760 tickets will be sold, 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.