

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

Felicia Moore Wins MONC NW Regional Auditions

Felicia Moore photo courtesy of Studio McDermott

On a beautiful January day in Seattle, first-year Portland Opera Resident Artist, **Felicia Moore**, was selected by an expert panel of three judges as the winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Northwest Region Auditions.



As such, Ms. Moore received the \$5,000 first prize and will be the only singer, of the 13 Seattle competitors, to advance to the National Semi Finals at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City on March 6th, with a chance to become a Grand Finalist the following Sunday.

Many of us got our first look at Felicia when Portland Opera introduced a new group of Resident Artists last September. Ms. Moore's exciting soprano riveted her listeners and we knew we had a young opera star in our midst! In Seattle, she first performed Vitellia's dramatic Act II aria from Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*, "*Non più di fior*" (*No more flowers*). The aria demands extraordinary breath control to reach the top and bottom of the soprano range. Ms. Moore demonstrated that she was up to that task.

The judges asked Felicia for "*Einsam in trüben Tagen*" (*Lonely, in troubled days*) from Wagner's *Lohengrin*. She had led with the very same aria at the Oregon Auditions last October. Once again, she filled the auditorium, Seattle's wonderful Benaroya Hall, with her incredible sound that obviously impressed the judges as well as the rest of us. Portland Opera's Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, **Nicholas Fox**, was a brilliant accompanist, playing flawlessly and beautifully on the keyboard.

Alasdair Kent, a tenor from faraway Perth, Australia, was awarded the \$3,000 second prize after singing arias from Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. The \$2,000 third prize went to bass-baritone **Daren Small** of Billings, Montana. Mr. Small presented an aria from Verdi's *Attila* and a second from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*

The distinguished three judge panel consisted of the Director of the MONC Auditions, Gayletha Nichols, Elizabeth Hynes, and Patricia Craig, a last-minute substitute for Carol Vaness, who was unable to be there. David McDade, provided superb keyboard accompaniment for nearly all the singers. Dick Foley once again proved to be a knowledgeable and charming host. While the judges were deliberating, mezzo-soprano **Michaela Martens**, **winner of the 1992 MONC NW Auditions**, now with an international career, performed two musical selections and chatted with the audience.

As always, this event provided a fabulous afternoon of singing.



The Met in HD

Don't miss the last four Met HD productions of the 2015-16 Season:

- March 5 - Manon Lescaut by Puccini;
- April 2 - Madama Butterfly by Puccini;
- April 16 – Roberto Devereaux by Donizetti;
- April 30 - Electra by Richard Strauss.

Each Saturday opera begins at 10 am and re-airs at 6:30 pm the following Wednesday.

For details about libretto and cast, go to www.metopera.org

President's Message

Hello and most happy greetings to you all!

Again, I sit in amazement at how fast time is flying by and what a wonderful New Year we are having already!



In this early morning, I have had cause to reflect upon my history with the Portland Opera Guild and how blessed I am to have been able to play a small role in the success of this wonderful organization. Years ago, at a small gathering of friends, then Opera Guild President, Jutta Allen, asked me if I liked opera. At the time I was truly a novice of this beautiful art form and knew very little about it. On occasion, however, both Cathleen and I enjoyed listening to opera.

Jutta was kind enough to offer me an opportunity to join the Portland Opera Guild and promised that we would truly "love" being a part of the Opera World in Portland. Although Cathleen and I are still far from being experts, we love everything about the art form and remain committed to supporting its continuance and growth in the Portland area and beyond.

As I "dipped my toe" into the Portland Opera scene, I immediately found that this Portland Opera Guild is full of wonderful people who share our enjoyment of opera. Over the past years, our passion has grown to a level that is providing a rich legacy in our lives and we are privileged to call some wonderful people good friends.

I'm certain that we'll continue to be surrounded by numerous friends and retain many of the associations we've made because of our involvement with The Portland Opera Guild.

Sincerely; and best regards to you all.

Rodney Mazour

Portland Opera's 2016 Season

The 2016 Portland Opera Season will run from May into August: no more cancellations due to Saturday ice storms! The new season includes new productions of operas by Tchaikovsky and Rossini, as well as works by Mozart and Sondheim in "internationally acclaimed designs." An expanded Street Fair program and collaboration with other local Arts organizations will also characterize this Summer Season.

The opening performance, on May 6, 2016 at the Keller, is Mozart's profound and delightful *The Magic Flute*. In announcing the new season last spring, General Director of Portland Opera, Chris Mattaliano, stated "I'm especially excited that our production of 'Flute' features the acclaimed scenery and costumes designed by Maurice Sendak." Evening performances of the Mozart opus will be given on May 6, 12, and 14, with a matinee on the 8th of the month.

In June, a classic American work that is "truly operatic in scope," Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, will receive six Keller performances, on the evenings of the 3rd, 7th, 9th, 10th and 11th, with a matinee on June 5th. *Sweeney Todd* was born on Broadway and won a Tony for Best Musical in 1979. Internationally renowned baritone David Pittsinger returns to Portland Opera to sing the title role, and will be joined in the cast by local favorite, Susannah Mars, and a number of Portland Opera Resident Artists past and present.

July will feature two great operas at the Newmark Theater: Tchaikovsky's wonderful opera based on a Pushkin "novel in verse," *Eugene Onegin* and Rossini's delightful romp, *L'italiana in Algeri (The Italian Girl in Algiers)*. Mr. Mattaliano admits to being extremely proud that the Onegin cast will include two "wonderful young singers who can believably portray the drama, jealousy, and passion of 20-somethings in love." These are **Jennifer Forni**, who will sing the opera's heroine, Tatiana, and **Alexander Elliott**, who will be portraying the opera's title role. Ms. Forni was a Resident Artist here from 2009-11 and sang the role of Micaëla, to critical acclaim, in Bizet's *Carmen* last season. The very talented Mr. Elliott was a Portland Opera Resident Artist baritone from 2014-15. Evening performances of *Onegin* will be given on July 8, 14, 15, 23, and

26 with matinees on July 10 and 17.

Rossini's side-splitting *L'italiana* will conclude the 2016 season in late July and August, offering music of great vitality and charm in addition to its Marx Brothers like plot. World renowned Director **Christian R ath** will make his Portland Opera debut directing this new production created especially for the 2016 Festival. Similar to Onegin, *L'italiana* will be performed seven times, evenings on July 22, 27, 29, and 31, and on August 4 and 6, with matinees on the 24th and 31st of July.

You'll note that these two July (and August) productions will feature *the very first rotating repertory performances*, allowing patrons to experience two great opera masterpieces on consecutive evenings as do many Opera Festivals worldwide.

Subscription packages and individual tickets are still available at the Portland Opera Box Office. To get yours, go online to www.portlandopera.org or call (503) 241-1802.



Opera Guild Nominating Committee

The month of May marks not only the end of another fiscal year of The Portland Opera Guild, but also that several Officers and Board Members will conclude their terms of service on that Board. While we've added a number of active and dedicated individuals to our rolls recently, some already serving on the Board, we would welcome the participation of even more of you to serve in the coming year(s).

Please let our Nominating Committee Chairman, Norm Krasne, who is also the Editor of this publication, know that you would like to serve the Opera Guild as a Board Member. He can be reached at (360) 241-7691 or at nkrasne@comcast.net

Additionally, please spread the word among your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues that The Portland Opera Guild is very much worthy of their membership and support.

Portland Opera Resident Artist Recitals

A new group of Portland Opera Resident Artists was introduced to the community this past autumn, including stellar soprano, **Katrina Galka**, the lone returnee from last season. The new roster includes another soprano, **Felicia Moore**, who recently was the only singer (of 13) selected to advance from the MONC Northwest Auditions in Seattle to the National Semi-Finals in New York in March (this, after having gone on from the Oregon contest last October), **Abigail Dock**, recipient of an Encouragement Award at the Oregon Auditions, tenor **Aaron Short**, and baritone **Ryan Thorn**. This is an extremely talented corps of young singers: you'll want to hear them at every opportunity!

Each of the Portland Opera Resident Artists performs in recital at the Art Museum's intimate (376-seat) Whitsell Auditorium during the year. The singers are accompanied by the informative, entertaining and talented Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor of Portland Opera, **Nicholas Fox**. *The Portland Opera Guild is a proud sponsor of this series!*

Portland Opera encourages a donation of \$20 per person to help sustain this series of wonderful music. You will not want to miss any of these Tuesday evening performances, each beginning at 7 pm, so mark your calendars now:

March 15: Felicia Moore and Abigail Dock;

April 12: Katrina Galka and Aaron Short;

May 17: Steven Brennfleck (tenor) – Resident Artist Alumnus;

June 14: Ryan Thorn.

Michelle DeYoung Offers Recital/ Master Class

Internationally renowned mezzo-soprano, **Michelle DeYoung**, will offer a recital of German lieder in Portland, at 3 pm on Sunday, March 6th at PSU's intimate



Lincoln Performance Hall. **Friends of Chamber Music (FOCM)**, the only music organization in our city that sponsors recitals by world class operatic singers annually, is proud to sponsor this event. In the past few years, Matthew Polenzani, Gerald Finley, and Stephanie Blythe have presented such music, always accompanied by superb pianists and in front of full houses. Tickets will be scarce, so get yours now: call FOCM at (503) 224-9842 or go online to www.focm.org

A three-time Grammy Award winner, Ms. DeYoung also was among the MONC National Auditions winners in 1992 and has performed at the Met and in other major opera houses around the world since then. This season she sang the role of Venus in each performance of Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser* at the Met. Certainly, a number of Guild members viewed that opera in High Definition last December.

Ms. De Young will conduct a **Master Class for four Portland Opera Resident Artists the very next day, March 7th, at the Hampton Center**, from 11am-12:30 pm (we expect that the fifth PO Resident Artist, Felicia Moore, will still be competing in New York at that time). ***This is a free event and no advance registration is required.***

In addition, FOCM is offering a series of three classes (no prior knowledge required), "The Agony and the Ecstasy or What's in a Song" in the weeks leading up to the DeYoung recital. For details go to <http://focm.org/education/vocal-class>

An Evening with Frederica von Stade

Mark your calendar now - Saturday evening, April 2, 2016 at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall, for an exciting evening with world-renowned



Frederica von Stade

mezzo-soprano, Frederica von Stade. "Flicka," as she is often called, debuted at the Met in 1970 and is still quite active in the opera world. Last October, she sang in the world premier of a new opera, *Great Scott*, by Jake Hegge (libretto by Terrence McNally) in Dallas, joining a fabulous cast. In May, Ms. Von Stade will appear in the west coast premier of that same opera in San Diego.

Join the party at PSU that evening as Flicka sings and speaks about her career. The next day, April 3rd at 2 pm, Ms. von Stade will offer a Master Class to PSU Opera Students. Tickets are \$102 for the Party and \$27 for the Master Class (both for \$125) and free for PSU students. Call the PSU Box Office (503) 725-3307 or go to www.pdx.edu/boxoffice to reserve your place.

The Coloratura Editor

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