

# 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

## Spring Luncheon at the Multnomah Athletic Club

The Portland Opera Guild will hold its final luncheon of the 2015-16 Season at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Friday, April 22 (check-in begins at 11:30 am). The MAC never fails to provide delicious cuisine and superb service, in a wonderful setting. Please plan to spend a couple of delightful hours with your fellow opera-lovers on that date. The cost for the event is \$35. Make your reservation by contacting Doris Pascoe: (503) 260-5854 or [Mailbox@sterlingcmi.com](mailto:Mailbox@sterlingcmi.com) or pay online at the Guild's website.

Operatic entertainment will be provided by "**Ping & Woof Opera**," a small Opera Company in Portland that is dedicated to making operatic repertoire accessible to modern audiences without sacrificing the artistic integrity of the music. Admission to all its shows is donation-based. Pianist accompaniment for the singers is sponsored by Sterling Community Management. *Sponsorship opportunities to provide lunch for the entertainers are available and would be greatly appreciated.*

As is customary at our luncheons, there will be a no-host bar and the Guild expects to offer a number of fabulous Raffle prizes.

## Opera Guild Mourns Jeannine B. Cowles



Shortly after the publication of the last *Coloratura*, in early February, we learned of the passing of our dear, long-term member and supporter, **Jeannine B. Cowles**. Jeannine is irreplaceable as a patroness, enthusiast, and participant on the Portland Opera scene. Her financial support for the art form she loved most is manifest in our community: Portland Opera, which has dedicated its 2016 Festival Season to her memory, the Opera Guild, MONC, the PSU Opera Program, SummerFest, the Astoria Music Festival, were all recipients of her dollars and exuberant presence.

But, she was much more than an important financial contributor. Jeannine loved singing, especially that of young voices. She was a fixture at Guild luncheons, which featured the ("Studio") Resident Artists offering arias of upcoming operas. She was in her usual seat, stage right, in PSU's Lincoln Hall, for the school's annual

*Continued on page 2a*

## President's Message

As I've said often before in this column – time is flying by! All of us have experienced profound joy, excitement, and even sadness and all these emotions are woven into the fabric of opera.



Sadly, since my last message, we have lost two wonderful friends: Jeannine Cowles and Gerry Allen. Both have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge into the dearest memories of our hearts. You and I have been inspired by Jeannine's selfless and passionate support of Opera's Young Artists, MONC, and many other operatic endeavors while her bright smile, laughter, love and applause rang out around us. Yes, a heartfelt loss for us all, but I can see her smiling face right now at the POG luncheons, in Lincoln Hall at PSU's Spring Opera and at many MONC events!

Gerry Allen's memory is solidly etched in the long history of the Portland Opera Guild as he had masterfully provided important fiscal support of our endeavors, joyful mentoring, and kind-hearted guidance. His success and positive inspiration as a 28-year recipient of a heart transplant has inspired many of us to re-think the challenges that we all face in this blessed life of ours. Fair winds my friend...!

Ladies and gentlemen, ahead of us the spirit of Opera's timelessness is waiting to provide a roller coaster of feelings, and I join with you as we enjoy what is waiting for us all and will continue to see Jeannine and Gerry in the wings... sharing their exuberant applause and smiling proudly knowing that they remain in our hearts!

Sincerely,

Rodney Mazour

## A Bite, a Drink, ...and "Butterfly"

Last October, a dozen Opera Guild members and some friends enjoyed a Happy Hour at Stanford's at the Lloyd Center, and then walked across the street to the Multnomah Cinemas to watch the Met's first HD production of the 2015-16 season, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. Needless to say, it was a rewarding experience and so much fun; **let's do it again!**

On Wednesday evening, April 6<sup>th</sup>, we propose to enjoy one another's company and good fellowship at Stanford's (about 5:15 pm), and then to view Puccini's wonderful *Madama Butterfly*, perhaps the world's most popular opera. The exciting young Latvian soprano, who was magnificent singing Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* in March at the Met, Christine Opolais, will sing Cio-cio san (*Butterfly*).

While no advance reservation is required, please let Norm Krasne (360-241-7691 or [nkrasne@comcast.net](mailto:nkrasne@comcast.net)) know that you would like to attend so that he can reserve space at Stanford's that afternoon.

We expect there will be enough interest in these friendly operatic gatherings to plan more like them. Indeed, the Met in HD will offer two additional productions this spring (the last of Donizetti's trilogy of *Tudor Queens*, *Roberto Devereux*, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and Richard Strauss' *Electra*, on May 4<sup>th</sup>), and we can plan to see them together.

*See you for Happy Hour and for opera at the movies!*

The Coloratura Editor

Norman Krasne • [nkrasne@comcast.net](mailto:nkrasne@comcast.net)

## Resident Artist Alumni Return to Sing with Portland Opera

Three former Portland Opera “Studio”/ Resident Artists will be back to sing in the Rose City during Portland Opera’s 2016 Festival Season. Tenor **Steven Brennfleck**, who was here from 2009-11, baritone **Alexander Elliott** (2013-15), and soprano **Jennifer Forni** (2009-11) are all thrilled to return to Portland and we certainly look excitedly forward to hearing them perform again.



Mr. Elliott will appear in two of the Season’s operas: as Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd*, at the Keller Auditorium, and *Eugene Onegin*, in which he’ll sing the title

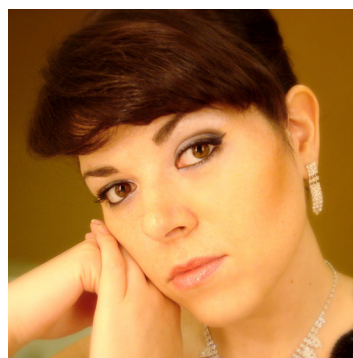
role, opposite Jennifer Forni’s Tatiana, at the more intimate Newmark Theater. We last heard Alex as “an oaken-voiced, confidence radiating Belcore” (*Opera News*) in last summer’s performances of Donizetti’s “spaghetti western” *L’elisir d’amore*. Last October, shortly after he married, Alex sang Marcello in Puccini’s beloved *La Boheme* with Tulsa Opera. Earlier this year, he sang a concert with Opera Louisiane and appeared as Pilatus in Bach’s *St. John Passion* with the Pittsburgh Symphony. In April, he’s due to perform Papageno with the Orlando Philharmonic.



Mr. Brennfleck will appear in a single opera here, as Tobias Ragg (‘Toby’) in Sondheim’s thrilling *Sweeney Todd*. In addition, Portland Opera is pleased that Steven will offer

a Recital at the Portland Art Museum’s Whitsell Auditorium on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Brennfleck was one of Portland Opera’s very fine group of “Studio Artists” from 2009-2011 and made his Carnegie Hall debut in Handel’s great oratorio, *Messiah*, in 2012. During its 2014-15 Season, Brennfleck returned to that revered hall to sing with the Met Chamber Ensemble.

Prior to the Brennfleck recital on May 17, Guilders will meet for Happy Hour, beginning at 5 pm, at Southpark, 901 Salmon Street.



Jennifer Forni was also a “Studio Artist” in Portland from 2009-11. Her Micaëla in last season’s *Carmen* was a tour de force. *Willamette Weekly* reported that,

“Forni provided the night’s plushest star turn with her expansive phrasing, and round, yet incisive tone in the opulent aria, *Je dis que...*” In January, 2013 Forni joined the roster of the New York Metropolitan Opera and sang in its new production of Richard Wagner’s *Parsifal*. This summer, Ms. Forni will sing all seven performances of one of opera’s great heroines, Tatiana, in Tchaikovsky’s wonderful *Eugene Onegin*.

Welcoming these talented young singers back to Portland is another reason for you to obtain or renew your subscription to Portland Opera for its very first Festival Season. The easiest way to do so is by calling the Box Office at (503) 241-1802.

## **The Coloratura**

P. O. Box

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[portlandoperaguild.org](http://portlandoperaguild.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/Portland.Opera.Guild>

**Join Today**

### **A Special Thanks to Our Donors**

The Guild is deeply grateful for the generous contributions by our supporting, sponsoring, and patron members. By paying more than their regular annual dues, they assist us in supporting and promoting opera in Oregon. Bravo and thank you, to all of them!

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## *Die Fledermaus* – PSU’s Annual Spring Opera



\$17 for students. Contact the PSU Box Office to acquire yours at (503) 725-3307.

David McClure, usher coordinator for PSU’s opera, needs volunteer ushers for April 23, 29, and 30.

If you would like to volunteer as an usher for a performance please contact David at [mcclured@pdx.edu](mailto:mcclured@pdx.edu)

There is still time to reserve your place to spend Saturday evening, April 2, at a party with one of the world’s great divas, mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade**, as she sings and speaks about her career. The next day, Ms. Von Stade will offer a Master Class to PSU opera students. The April 2<sup>nd</sup> event is priced at \$102 (to benefit PSU’s Opera Program) and the Master Class, \$27 (free for PSU students), both for \$125. Call the Box Office for tickets.



*Jeannine Cowles (continued from page 1)*

Moving clocks ahead an hour is a sure sign of spring. In Portland, it also means that Portland State University’s Opera Program, directed magnificently by Dr. Christine Meadows (who also possesses a stunning mezzo-soprano) will be on display at the school’s Lincoln Performance Hall. This year Johann Strauss’ delightful opus, considered the “Supreme example of Viennese operetta,” *Die Fledermaus*, will be given in English at five evening performances, at 7:30 pm: April 22, 23, 26, 29, and 30, and a single matinee on May 1 at 3 pm.

The hilarious story centers on a magnificent masked ball given by the Russian Prince, Orlofsky, in Vienna on New Year’s Eve, 1899. Of course, all the main characters are in disguise and “unknown” to one another. Tickets are available at a quite reasonable cost: \$30, \$25 for seniors and

Spring Opera and at the Metropolitan Opera National Council’s Oregon Auditions each October. Jeannine never tired of talking about 2007 MONC National Auditions winner Angela Meade and former PSU professor and voice teacher, baritone Richard Zeller, who sang several roles at the Met and appeared regularly on Portland stages.

I feel privileged and honored to have called Jeannine my friend and never passed up the opportunity to chat about opera with her. Over many years, whether at the Keller or Newmark or at PSU or the Hampton Center here in town, or “on the road” in Astoria, it was always such a great pleasure for me to run into Jeannine. Her spirit will always remain a strong presence among all of the Portland Opera community, and beyond.

Norm Krasne, Editor

## Abigail Dock and Katrina Galka Open Recital Series



Abigail Dock

Katrina Galka

On Tuesday evening, March 15, two of Portland Opera's Resident Artists, mezzo-soprano **Abigail Dock** and soprano **Katrina Galka**, provided a fabulous evening of song for the sizable audience in the Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium. The two singers were accompanied masterfully on the piano by Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, **Nicholas Fox**, whose broad knowledge about the music and composers is always delightfully delivered. This was the first such recital of the Portland Opera Season and reminded everyone how special such evenings are.

After an opening duet by Robert Schumann, Ms. Galka presented four always pleasing Schubert *lieder*. Ms. Dock followed with a stirring interpretation of five Berlioz songs from his *Les nuits d'été*. This quite varied quintet of songs featured the hauntingly beautiful and movingly sung *Le Spectre de la Rose*. Ms. Galka returned to the stage to sing yet another wonderful set of six songs by the 20<sup>th</sup>-century French composer Francis Poulenc.

After an intermission, Abigail and Katrina offered "A Tribute to Judy Garland," that included songs by noted American composers, like Irving Berlin and Richard Rodgers. It goes without saying that the audience "ate this music up."

The Resident Artist Recital series gives us the opportunity to hear Portland Opera's

youngest voices in an intimate setting and enables us to watch them mature and grow. Moreover, we get a chance to listen to often very challenging music that most of us have not heard before. Those who have attended these concerts will surely return. If you've not attended previously, you should mark these forthcoming Recital dates on your calendar:

April 12: (soprano) Felicia Moore & (tenor) Aaron Short;

May 17: Alumni (tenor) Steven Brennfleck;

June 14: (baritone) Ryan Thorn

*While there is no charge for these concerts, a donation of \$20 per person to help support this program is greatly appreciated. Sponsorships are also appropriate and valued.*



### Portland Opera's 2016 Festival Season

Portland Opera's inaugural Festival Season begins this May and there are still opportunities to get Subscriptions or single tickets to individual performances (call 503-241-1802). Here is a list of the operas, venues, and performance dates:

The Magic Flute by Mozart (at the Keller, sung in English): May 6, 8 (m), 12, 14;

Sweeney Todd by Sondheim (at the Keller): June 3, 5(m), 9, 10, 11;

Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky (at the Newmark): July 8, 10 (m), 14, 15, 17 (m), 23, 26;

L'italiana in Algeri by Rossini (at the Newmark): July 22, 24 (m), 27, 29, 31 (m), and August 4 and 6.

Information about the Astoria Music Festival (June 17-July 3 2016) can be found at <http://astoriamusicfestival.org/>

Check Summerfest website <http://www.portlandsummerfest.org/> for information about Opera in the Park this summer.

***Please join us for our April 22, 2016 Luncheon***

Multnomah Athletic Club on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon for lunch (11:30 social/check-in).  
MAC address: 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR 97205

Advance reservations are required, \$35 per member or guests.

Operatic entertainment will be provided by “Ping & Woof Opera,” a small Opera Company in Portland that is dedicated to making operatic repertoire accessible to modern audiences without sacrificing the artistic integrity of the music. Pianist accompaniment for the singers is sponsored by Sterling Community Management.

Make your reservation by contacting Doris Pascoe: (503) 260-5854 or Mailbox@sterlingcmi.com or pay online at the Guild’s website, Portlandoperaguild.org

Sponsorship opportunities to provide lunch for the entertainers are available and would be greatly appreciated. As is customary at our luncheons, there will be a no-host bar and the Guild expects to offer a number of fabulous Raffle prizes. (\$5.00 for 3 tickets, or ask for a ticket by bringing a guest to the luncheon.)

To reserve please mail your payment to Portland Opera Guild – April 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon  
Payment must be received 5 days prior to each event. Sorry, we cannot guarantee seating for unreserved members or guests. There will be a surcharge of \$5 for day-of-event accommodation if space permits.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_\_\_

Payment @ \$35 for \_\_\_\_\_ members \_\_\_\_\_ guests \_\_\_\_\_ for sponsorship for artist luncheons  
for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ expiring \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (3-digit code) \_\_\_\_\_

For secure online reservations, go to [portlandoperaguild.org](http://portlandoperaguild.org) to make your payment.

Mail this form to: Portland Opera Guild  
PO Box 25028  
Portland OR 97298

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

*A Portland Tradition for over 50 years!*