



# 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

November 30, 2018

Volume 14, Issue 14

## MAKING MERRY & MUSICAL!

Come join the fun at our annual Holiday Celebration! It will be on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at PSU Lincoln Hall, Room 321. This event is a heartfelt thank you to our members for their support! It is also a great time to invite a friend or two that you think might be interested in joining the Guild, and give them a chance to get acquainted with us. Please renew your membership beforehand or let Carmela Parsons know if you will do that on 12/9.

PSU's World Championship Chamber Choir will perform some classical and holiday related songs for our enjoyment. In addition, there will be savory hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats, along with fun libations and a few nice surprises. And, for those members who will be going to PSU's current production of *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* that day, you can join us before the opera and come back after it ends...we will keep the fun going till you return!

The gathering will be in the Chamber Music Rehearsal Room on the third floor of Lincoln Hall. For easiest access, please enter from the east side of the building on SW Broadway near SW Market Street. Take the Gold Elevator to the third floor and follow the signs to Room 321.

Please RSVP to Patricia Cavanaugh by noon, December 7<sup>th</sup> and include the number of guests and their names. You can reach her by email at [patecavanaugh@gmail.com](mailto:patecavanaugh@gmail.com) or by cell at 971.645.6322. We look forward to seeing you!



Newsletter Editor: Norm Krasne • [nkrasne@comcast.net](mailto:nkrasne@comcast.net)

### Portland Opera Guild

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<https://www.portlandoperaguild.org>

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Left-Right:  
**Jasmin White**, Soprano;  
**Camille Sherman**, Mezzo-Soprano;  
**Sonia Cummings**, Soprano - all three are advancing to the Regionals in Seattle on

February 10, 2019.

**Helen Zhibing Huang**, Soprano; **Morgan Balfour**, Soprano - both received encouragement awards

## MONC Oregon Auditions Results

On a lovely autumn day, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 17 talented singers sought prize money and an opportunity to advance in the Metropolitan Opera's annual singing competition. The event, the Metropolitan Opera National Council (Oregon) Auditions, took place inside PSU's superb venue, the Lincoln Performance Hall. Our venerable MONC Chairperson, **Jutta Allen**, organized a wonderful afternoon for the dedicated audience once again this year. She and her committee of volunteers saw to a flawless procedure from beginning to end.

The Opera Guild's newly anointed President, **Patty Cavanaugh**, who also organizes POG special events, SE, worked tirelessly to provide food for the singers and volunteers. **Professor Christine Meadows**, Director of the Portland State Opera Program, served as the perfect Mistress of Ceremonies throughout the afternoon. **Dr. Chuck Dillard**, recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in PSU's Music School, provided extraordinary piano accompaniment for all the singers!

The expert panel of judges, **Bruce Donnell**, **Richard Harrell**, and **David Holloway**, all with substantial careers as Opera Directors, handled their difficult duties with aplomb. They selected the second aria, from a list of five, after hearing the initial selection from each singer. Their main task, never an easy one, is to award the prizes at the conclusion of the competition. More, they meet with each of the competitors afterward to offer expert advice.

*continued on page 2*



## President's Message

Dear fellow members and friends,

Jutta Allen, past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, very kindly introduced me as your new President at the Portland Opera Guild's first Luncheon of the

season on October 19, 2018 at the MAC. I have only been part of this fine organization since 2016, and will definitely need your support and input to ensure the continued growth and success of the Portland Opera Guild.

As you have heard many times, we are an ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION! This includes our excellent Board of Directors, who volunteer their time and energy to promote opera in Oregon and provide developing opera artists with financial and performance opportunities in front of an appreciative audience. What is key here is that we ALL have the chance to make a difference in a young artist's life: whether it is by paying membership dues, or sponsoring a performer's lunch, donating a raffle basket (like Jean Miller's wonderful Chocolate Basket last May) or just coming to a POG Luncheon to hear a young performer sing and give them encouragement to keep following their dreams. Every performer and every accompanist receives a compensatory honorarium for their performance.

What is also important is that this is YOUR Portland Opera Guild. If you want to submit an article to *Coloratura* about an opera adventure you had (such as our Editor, Norm Krasne did with Wagner's Ring Cycle in San Francisco), please contact Norm by email. If you are working on decluttering or downsizing, maybe you have a "treasure" to donate as a raffle item for our next Luncheon. Or, if you'd like to volunteer a couple of hours a month, you can let us know what area you might like to help in—believe me, we welcome your participation!

If you have other ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear them. Your active participation will only strengthen and enrich Portland Opera Guild. Let's enjoy the 2018-19 season together! With your help, I hope to be an effective President, and a credit to this organization.

Best regards, *Patricia Cavanaugh*



## Angela Meade to Sing at Seattle Opera

Our local favorite diva will sing the role of *Leonora* in Seattle Opera's production of Verdi's masterpiece, *Il Trovatore*, for four performances in January, 2019: on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Hailing from nearby Centralia, WA, Angela first caught our eye (ear!) as a winner of the October, 2006 Oregon Auditions. She went on to win the Northwest Regional competition in Seattle in 2007 and, in the spring of that year, was one of a group of six fabulous winners in the National Finals in New York. Now singing on most of the great opera stages in the world, many of us have seen Angela sing that same role (*Leonora*) in Astoria and in Portland's Washington Park. Some might argue, including your *Coloratura* editor, that Angela is today the world's greatest *Leonora*!

## MONC Oregon Auditions Results, cont'd

Three ladies each garnered a \$1,500 top prize from the judges. These were mezzo-soprano **Camille Sherman**, and two sopranos, **Sonia Cummings** and **Jasmin White**. Ms. Sherman just arrived in Portland where she is rehearsing *La Traviata* with Portland Opera as a first-year Resident Artist with the Company. Ms. White was one of three to advance to the Northwest Regional Auditions held in Seattle last March. She was selected **Audience Favorite again this year** which earned her the additional \$500 prize provided by the Portland Opera Guild. Many of you will remember her wonderful singing at our Fall Luncheon last November. Two more sopranos were given **Encouragement Awards** of \$500 each: **Morgan Balfour** and second-year Portland Opera Resident Artist, **Helen Zhibing Huang**.

The three top prize winners will go on to the next round of the National Competition, the **MONC Northwest Regional Auditions**, where they will compete against Auditions winners from the Washington, Montana/Idaho, and Western (actually, all of) Canada Regions. This very exciting event will take place in Seattle's **Benaroya Hall** on Sunday afternoon, February 10, 2019. A single Seattle competitor will go on to the **Grand Finals Concert** at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in March, 2019.

# Operatic Events In Portland

## PSU Opera: Francis Poulenc's *The Breasts of Tiresias*

Students in Portland State University's Opera Program will be demonstrating their wares in a short opera by the great 20<sup>th</sup> century French composer, Francis Poulenc, beginning on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The 1 ¼ hour hilarious "gender-bending, surrealist" opus will be staged in the Lincoln Studio Theater, a smaller, quite intimate venue. Evening performances, beginning at 7:30 pm, will take place on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Two matinees on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will start at 3 pm.

Your Opera Guild is a proud supporter of the PSU Opera Program and it is hoped that many of you will want to take the opportunity to see students in that program close up and in performance. The program's Director, Dr. Christine Meadows, is making tickets available to POG members at a Group Rate of just \$15! So go online to [tickets@pdx.edu](mailto:tickets@pdx.edu), select General admission (not Senior rate) and in Promotion Code enter code "POG," or call the PSU box office at (503) 725-3307 and indicate that you are a POG member for your reduced price.



## CORRECTION: PSU OPERA CLASS DATES

We included an insert in the October Coloratura regarding a FREE Opera Class series called "Relating to Opera." This series of opera talks will explore the rich history of the art form while attempting to answer the question, "what makes opera relevant today?" Each session will offer background and insight on current local presentations and productions. Part of the talks will include playing definitive recordings and live performances by PSU students, faculty and guest artists. The dates in the article were correct, but the days of the week were WRONG! Some of our sharp-eyed readers brought it to our attention. Here is the scoop:

There are 4 FREE classes, all at PSU Lincoln Hall, Room 225 at 4pm and all on Tuesdays!

1. **Tuesday, January 8: *WHERE WE ARE AND HOW WE GOT HERE***
2. **Tuesday, February 12: *ROMANTICISM AND THE LYRIC STAGE***
3. **Tuesday, March 12: *OUR STORIES: OPERA TOPICS FROM 1935 TO THE PRESENT***
4. **Tuesday, April 9: *REVIVING THE 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Handel, Rameau, Gluck, Mozart***

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about opera from true professionals!

## Baritone Benjamin Appl to Offer Recital at PSU

Afficionados of vocal recitals are fortunate that one music organization in our town is dedicated to bringing the world's greatest voices to the Rose City each year: **Friends of Chamber Music (FOCM)**! Over the past few years we've heard Lawrence Brownlee, Susan Graham, Matthew Polenzani, and Gerald Finley among others.

Mentored by perhaps the world's most beloved *lieder* singer of all time, **Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau**, the young German baritone, **Benjamin Appl**, will offer a recital at 3 pm on Sunday, January 13 in PSU's splendid Lincoln Performance Hall. Mr. Appl was winner of the *Gramophone Young Artist of the Year Award* in 2016. He'll be accompanied on piano by South Africa born **James Baillieu**, an accomplished Chamber musician and accompanist who studied at the renowned Royal Academy of Music in London. You can get your ticket(s) to hear this wonderful recital online at [www.focm.org](http://www.focm.org) or by calling them at (503) 224-9842.

Perhaps you'll be interested, too, in taking FOCM's **Vocal Appreciation Class** offered by local Musicologist extraordinaire, **Theresa Koon**; there is no better way to prepare for the Appl recital! The two classes are on Thursday evenings, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm and are in Room 225 at PSU. The two classes cost \$40 per adult or \$21 for a single class. Register on the FOCM website.

Appl and Baillieu will offer a free Master Class to singers from four local universities, PSU, UP, UO, and L&C on Saturday, January 12 at 1:30 pm in the Lincoln Recital Hall at PSU. This event is open to the public at no cost.

## Audrey Luna to Sing at PSU

Sought after for her "power and blazing coloratura facility that most lyric sopranos can only dream of" (*Opera News*), Salem, OR-born Audrey Luna returns to her alma mater to perform a rare Sunday afternoon recital on February 10, 2019. Ms. Luna set the record for the highest note ever sung at the Metropolitan Opera in Thomas Adès's *The Exterminating Angel* last season. She is now a regular at the Met and has sung in many of the world's leading opera houses. For her program at PSU Ms. Luna will perform works by Debussy, Strauss, and Samuel Barber's moving and wonderful song, *Knoxville Summer of 1915*.

She will be accompanied by PSU Assistant Professor, who was brought to the school to create a new Graduate Program in Collaborative Piano, **Chuck Dillard**. Professor Dillard wowed audience members at the recent MONC Oregon Auditions where he accompanied all of the singers. At the Guild's October Luncheon, he accompanied Amy Hansen who sang a lovely Violetta (of *La Traviata*).

You'll want to get your ticket(s) to hear Audrey Luna before the word gets out and they're gone! Check the accompanying information for ticket details.

Portland State University Opera presents

# Audrey Luna

*in recital*

Sunday, February 10 at 3 p.m. Lincoln Recital Hall

Opera star Audrey Luna set the record for the highest note ever sung at the Metropolitan Opera!

Tickets: \$15-\$30 [pdx.edu/boxoffice](http://pdx.edu/boxoffice) or 503.725.3307

 Portland State UNIVERSITY



## 2018-19 Opera Guild Luncheon Series Reservations

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Come enjoy our special Opera programs at Multnomah Athletic Club. Each luncheon will feature an opera program, as well as news of opera events in the area. You may sign up for one or all luncheons using this form. Sign up for four lunches and receive a free raffle ticket at each luncheon. Reservations may be made securely online at <https://portlandoperaguild.org/events/> The price for lunch increases to \$38 in 2019 to reflect the increase in prices charged to us for cost of food and room rental at MAC. Questions? Contact Patricia Cavanaugh at [patecavanaugh@gmail.com](mailto:patecavanaugh@gmail.com) or 971-645-6322

<b>January 25, 2019</b> - 11:30 am at Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland	
Meal Preferences: Regular # _____ Vegetarian/Vegan # _____	
Yes, I would like to sponsor a Performer's Luncheon _____	
January 25 <sup>th</sup> Total # _____ Members/Guests @ \$38 =	
Please Print Guest Names:	
<b>March 22, 2019</b> - 11:30 am at Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland	
Meal Preferences: Regular # _____ Vegetarian/Vegan # _____	
Yes, I would like to sponsor a Performer's Luncheon _____	
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> Total # _____ Members/Guests @ \$38 =	
Please Print Guest Names:	
<b>May 17, 2019</b> - 11:30 am at Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland	
Meal Preference: Regular # _____ Vegetarian/Vegan # _____	
Yes, I would like to sponsor a Performer's Luncheon _____	
May 17 <sup>th</sup> Total # _____ Members/Guests @ \$38 =	
Please Print Guest Names:	

Grand Total # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$38 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: **Portland Opera Guild, PO Box 25028, Portland OR 97298**

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Portland Opera Guild 2018-2019 Luncheon Series Reservation Form

Note: Portland Opera Guild is a separate 501©(3) nonprofit, not affiliated with Portland Opera Association or other nonprofits.

## Sunshine in January

Our next Luncheon will be on Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Multnomah Athletic Club at 11:30 am. "Sunshine in January" is an annual Guild event to perk up our spirits, banish the winter blues and reconnect with old friends. A sea of yellow flowers will greet you, a delicious gourmet meal will follow, and then beautiful singing will commence! We will have two wonderful local opera singers performing: Ian Timmons, baritone and Madeline Ross, soprano. Both singers participated in the MONC Oregon Auditions last month. They will perform a variety of musical selections that range from arias to musical theater that we know you will enjoy. You can mail a check for \$38 per person payable to POG, PO Box 25028, Portland, OR 97298, or reserve and pay securely online at our website <https://www.portlandoperaguild.org>. Please RSVP to Patricia Cavanaugh by Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bring a guest to share the joy of music and our brand of sunshine!

## The Met in HD

At the time you're reading this, the Met has already shown 4 opera productions on the big screen: Verdi's *Aida*, Saint-Saëns's *Samson and Delilah*, Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* and a new opera, commissioned by the Met. *Nico Muhly's Marnie*. Six more operas will be shown in theaters during the Met's 2018-19 Season. We, here in the Portland Metropolitan area, can view the operas in any of four cinemas: the Regal Lloyd Center 10, the Century 16 Eastport Plaza, the Clackamas Town Center Cinemas, and at Cedar Hills Crossing in Beaverton. All broadcasts begin at 10 am, local time on Saturday mornings, and are re-shown at both 1 and 6:30 pm on the following Wednesdays. The Wednesday matinees are new this year.

### Schedule of Upcoming Productions:

**Dec. 15:** Verdi's *La Traviata* – Diana Damrau, Juan Diego Flórez, and Quinn Kelsey sing the leads;

**Jan. 12:** Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* – Anna Netrebko tackles Cilea's larger-than-life actress for the first time at the Met;

**Feb. 2:** Bizet's *Carmen* – Clémentine Margaine reprises the role of her riveting 2017 debut. Roberto Alagna sings Don José.

In addition to these HD Opera Broadcasts, **Siriusxm** Satellite Radio (Channel 75) plays live Met operas each Saturday morning and, locally, **All Classical Radio** (89.9 FM) will carry each Saturday Met Broadcast beginning in December. Of particular interest to Opera Guilders might be local favorite diva, **Angela Meade**, singing a new role for her, Margherita, in **Boito's Mefistofele** on Dec. 1.

## Portland Opera's Resident Artists for the 2018-19 Season

Two returnees and two newcomers make up this Season's contingent of young talent in the Portland Opera Resident Artist (PORA) Program. As in past Seasons, the quartet of artists will appear in main-stage opera productions, both at the Keller and in the Newmark. Additionally, all will appear in Portland Opera's annual extravaganza, *Big Night* on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The duo of returning PORA singers is soprano **Helen Huang**, and tenor, **Tom Cilluffo**. Ms. Huang won an **Encouragement Award** at the recent Oregon Auditions at PSU in October, while Mr. Cilluffo was one of the winners in the MONC San Diego Auditions held November 10th. Both graced the Portland Opera stages in a number of opera productions last Season and gave wonderful recitals at the Portland Art Museum, which they will offer again this Season (see schedule below).

The two new Resident Artists for the coming Season are mezzo-soprano, **Camille Sherman** and baritone, **Geoffrey Schellenberg**. Ms. Sherman, who hails from the California North Bay area, received her BA from the New England Conservatory and an MA from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She spent the 2017-18 Opera Season as an Artist in Residence with Opera Pensacola, and won an Encouragement Award at the recent MONC Middle/East Tennessee competition. Even more recently, Ms. Sherman was selected as one of three to advance from our own Oregon Auditions!

Mr. Schellenberg, a Minnesota native, has spent the last number of years in the Pacific Northwest, but in Canada. He was a winner of the Western Canada District's MONC competition in 2015 and obtained his MA in Musical Performance at the University of British Columbia in 2017. He has sung with Vancouver Opera and with that city's Symphony as well. He also had the opportunity to sing in Italy and the Czech Republic.

For a number of Guild members, hearing these young artists in recital at the Portland Art Museum is one of the highlights of any opera season. The museum's Whitsell Auditorium is a perfect venue for an evening of Art Songs and *lieder* and offers the opportunity to see them collaborate with Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, **Nicholas Fox**, who is a talented pianist, a font of knowledge and most entertaining in his own right.

Each recital begins at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings. They are offered at no cost, but a suggested contribution of \$20 to help support and maintain the program is much appreciated. In addition, *please make reservations to attend the concerts!*

For recital schedule see back page.

# Special Upcoming Concerts for the 2018-19 Season

## Recital Schedule

**February 19:** Helen Zhibing Huang, soprano

**April 10:** Tom Cillufo, tenor

**May 14:** Geoffrey Schellenberg, baritone

**June 25:** Camille Sherman, mezzo-soprano

*See you at the recitals!*



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