

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

Portland Opera Guild Newsletter

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Amy Hansen to sing at Guild Luncheon October 19th

Mark your calendar for Portland Opera Guild's first luncheon of the 2018-19 Season. Enjoying a delicious three-course lunch in a lovely setting at the Multnomah Club with a wonderful program included is an exceptional way to spend an afternoon! On Friday, October, 19th, the Guild Luncheon will feature soprano, **Amy Hansen**, who will perform selections from *La Traviata* as well as other operatic favorites. Ms. Hansen has entertained us on several occasions, and always to rave reviews! Currently a faculty member of PSU's School of Music, she will be accompanied by her colleague at the school, **Chuck Dillard**.

We expect that this luncheon event will sell out quickly, so reserve your spot by sending the enclosed form with your check to the Guild PO Box. Due to increased costs from the club, luncheon prices are now \$38. The MAC Club room prices are up **33%**, and **16%** more for food on average. We have checked all over Portland, and the MAC Club still offers the best value, quality and location. Reservation can be made safely online at the Guild website. To reserve a table for you and your friends, please contact our Vice President-Events, Patricia Cavanaugh at (971) 645-6322 or patecavanaugh@gmail.com
See you October 19th at the MAC!

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Portland Opera Guild

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Portland Opera Guild is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit not affiliated with Portland Opera Association, or with other nonprofits to which we contribute.

Metropolitan Opera National Council Oregon Auditions October 14th

Always an important date for Opera Afficianados in our region, the Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) **Oregon Auditions** will take place on Sunday afternoon, October 14, beginning at 1 pm, in Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall. On hand to compete for cash prizes and a chance to advance to the Regional, and perhaps National Competitions, will be some 15 to 20 talented young singers. This is always a very special day for these aspiring singers, their families and friends, and for all who attend. The cost of a ticket is \$20, but those Opera Guild members at the supporting (\$50) level or above are welcome at no additional cost.

Those singers selected to advance by the expert panel of judges will perform at the next level of competition – the Northwest Regional Auditions in Seattle's Benaroya Hall on Sunday, February 10, 2019. There, they will be joined by other competitors from (all of) Canada, Washington, and the Idaho/Montana regions. One, perhaps two, of those singers will go on to the National Auditions in New York next spring. The expected panel of judges for these Oregon Auditions are **Bruce Donnell**, long-time Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera, **David Holloway**, Director of Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Program for Singers for the past 13 years, and **Richard Harrell**, an internationally recognized leader in the field of opera training and production.

In addition to the panel's awarding prizes, audience members vote for their favorite singer. That young artist receives the \$500 **Audience Favorite Award**, funded by Portland Opera Guild.

President's Message



Dear fellow members and friends,

Amazing... I've just noticed that we are already in the "dog days of

summer" and a most delightful season is nearing its completion!

As I reflect over the past months we have seen an almost continuous array of wonderful programs such as "The Three Divas" and wonderful recitals at PSU... the Young Artists that we all have been supporting are flowering into brilliant, talented Operatic performers and all of you are an important part of that growth!

Your Portland Opera Guild thanks you all... without you, much of what we enjoyed would not have happened!

You and I are looking forward to an even more exciting New Season chock full of events that you will truly enjoy. You will be seeing your friends at these events and you will, again, feel the tangible rewards of your contribution to the arts.

I must sign off with the following few words. Without you this will not happen... be there!

Best regards, ***Rodney Mazour***

Note: Due to personal circumstances, Doris Pascoe has resigned her role as President. Rodney Mazour will continue as President for this year.

3 Divas Concert

On Sunday, July 22nd, Drs. Karen and Cliff Deveney hosted a wonderful event, the *Three Divas Concert*, in their southeast Portland home. The idea for this fundraiser emanated from the three young singers, all working on their Masters degrees in vocal performance and hoping to defray graduate school expenses.

3 Divas Concert (cont.)



They contacted the Guild's Vice President – Events, Patricia Cavanaugh, who agreed to help them put on the concert on. Before and after the concert in the home's wonderful piano room, participants enjoyed a variety of beverages and tidbits in the kitchen and dining areas.

Of course, the main chit-chat focused on opera. After about 30 minutes with refreshments, some 60 attendees took their seats for the concert. Sopranos **Hannah Consenz** and **Saori Erickson** and mezzo-soprano **Grace Skinner**, accompanied by noted Portland pianist **Michael Barnes**, treated us with a delightful program.

Ms. Consenz performed popular arias from (Johann Strauss') *Die Fledermaus* and (Puccini's) *Gianni Schicchi*; Ms. Erickson sang arias from (Bellini's) *La Sonnambula* and (Mozart's) *Le Nozze de figaro...* and Ms. Skinner offered two very dramatic arias by Handel, from *Giulio Cesare*, and Barber, *Vanessa*. In addition, Hannah and Grace performed the well-known flower duet from Delibes' *Lakmé* (I never met anyone who has seen this opera performed!) while the two sopranos offered a duet from Mozart's *Le nozze...* All three divas sang the Final Trio from R. Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* to conclude the concert.

All three talented young women came out of the excellent Portland State University School of Music Opera Program, one that the Opera Guild is proud to sponsor and support, and have opted to pursue graduate degrees in singing at notable institutions. Ms. Consenz just completed her first year at the University of Cincinnati's fine school and Ms. Erickson, at the New England Conservatory. Ms. Skinner has enrolled at Indiana University's noted music school and will soon head there for her first year. All three spoke to the audience about how expensive it is to attend these programs and how devoted one must be to try to advance in their chosen careers.

Michael Barnes, professional accompanist extraordinaire for the 3 Divas Concert and many Portland Opera Guild Luncheon performances, is looking dapper and dashing in tux and glitzy bow tie, as you can see from this photograph. We look forward to hearing more from him in the future.



Member Care and Concern

Please let Cathleen Mazour know when a Guild member needs a bit of ‘TLC’. Reach her at: clmazour@comcast.net or (360) 256-5011.

Guild Member and Opera Supporter, Dr. Joe D. Schweinfurth Passed Away Recently



We were saddened to learn of Dr. Joe Schweinfurth’s passing July 27th, 2018, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 68

years, Bettie Schweinfurth, who is also a long-time Guild member and supporter, as well as their children Liz Davis and Bill Schweinfurth and their families.

Joe served on the Portland Opera Guild Board of Directors, supported MONC. and PSU School of Music Opera Program and Portland Opera. Joe and Bettie traveled to many of the great opera houses of the world, including the Sydney Opera House.

His distinguished career in medicine and medical education at OHSU, his military service during the Korean conflict and more are shared on OregonLive.com.



Puccini’s *Tosca* Featured in Astoria and Portland

Each June, the coastal community of Astoria hosts two weeks of splendid classical music played and sung by superior young talent. June, 2018 was no exception and the Festival’s Director, maestro Keith Clark, brought in opera superstars to perform the featured opera – Puccini’s dramatic *Tosca*. Another Angela, **Angela Brown**, a blossoming young diva who debuted at the Met singing *Aida* and who has appeared in many of the world’s noted opera houses, sang the title role in Astoria. Singing the roles of Cavaradossi and Scarpia were **Allan Glassman** and **Richard Zeller** respectively. Both of these fine singers have had long Met careers. On the podium for the concert performance in Astoria’s Liberty Theater was **Imre Palló**.

On Saturday evening, July 28th **Portland SummerFest** sponsored its annual Opera-in-the-Park extravaganza in Portland’s Washington Park. This fabulous event is something that all of Portland looks forward to each year. As always, thousands of Portlanders and visitors to the Rose City gathered in the outdoor amphitheater alongside the Rose Gardens with their chairs and picnic blankets to hear *Tosca* performed by the same cast as in Astoria.



Portland Opera Guild is proud of its sponsorship of both these fabulous Summertime events!

Coloratura Editor Attends San Francisco Ring Cycle



This past June, actually from the 26th till July 1, I attended San Francisco Opera's new production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Richard Wagner's magnum opus. A devotee of opera who has attended numerous live opera performances in Europe, Canada and the United States, I had never previously made the commitment to attend the four operas that comprise the Ring Cycle. (Indeed, I've reached that stage in my life when I can no longer take the "one of these days" stance!).

Those of you who have seen the entire Cycle understand my use of the word "commitment" above. You know the financial cost involved: for the required donation, for tickets to the operas, and for travel and hotel expenses if you don't reside in a city that's performing it. Above the costs, the devotion of so many hours of sitting in the opera house for the entire Cycle requires more than a little stamina: *Das Rheingold*, the first of the Cycle, lasts 2 hours 35 minutes without intermission; *Die Walküre*, the second, 4 ½ hours with two intermissions; *Siegfried*, nearly 5 hours with two intermissions; and *Götterdämmerung*, 5 hours 10 minutes with two intermissions. Moreover, I attended all of the pre-opera lectures given an hour prior to each performance and found them most worthwhile.

Typical for a Ring Cycle, though it can vary, the operas are given on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and a Sunday matinee.

Many attendees arranged ahead to receive box suppers during one or another of the Intermissions. I generally spent intermissions talking with my Ring neighbors about what we had seen and heard.

Krasne Attends San Francisco Ring Cycle (cont.)

So much has been written about Wagner's Ring Cycle by men and women far more knowledgeable and eloquent than I. From my perspective, there is nothing equivalent in music history! Consider that it requires 14 CDs to hear the complete Cycle.

I spent weeks reading articles and libretti and listening to excerpts in order to get the most out of my experience. The cast, containing many of the world's leading opera stars, including Greer Grimsley (Wotan), Irène Theorin (Brünnhilde), Jamie Barton (Fricka), Falk Struckmann (Alberich), and Daniel Brenna (Siegfried) was fantastic. But for me, and I believe most listeners, the 93-piece San Francisco Opera Orchestra under the direction of the renowned Donald Runnicles, was the star of the Cycle. They took their rightful place on stage for applause after the final curtain of *Götterdämmerung*.

While there is a small possibility that I'd attend another Ring, I'll never forget this, my first such experience: it was worth every penny it cost and every minute of my time!

For those of you who might be interested in going to San Francisco Opera in the late summer and autumn, the two One Acts, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, and Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* (with the great Sondra Radvanovsky singing the lead role) have several September dates; *Tosca* and Richard Strauss' *Arabella* have several performances in October; while the West Coast Premier of Jake Heggie's *It's a Wonderful Life* will be given in November and early December.

Check out www.sfopera.com for further details.

See you at San Francisco Opera!

Portland Opera Guild Welcomes The Following New Members

Leslie Faught
Joel Godbey
Carmela Parsons
Maria Teresa Pietrok
