

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

The Metropolitan Opera in High Definition

The Metropolitan Opera will continue its popular broadcasts of major operas in theaters around the country during its 2015-16 Opera Season. Where else can one see the world's greatest opera singers from the comfort of a movie theater seat at such a reasonable cost?

Four theaters in our area will host these performances: the Lloyd Center 10 on NE Multnomah St.; the Theaters at Clackamas Town Center; the Cross Hills Theaters in Beaverton; and at a new site, Century 16 Eastport at 4040 SE 82 Ave. ***As noted elsewhere in this Coloratura, Guild members plan to attend these Met Opera broadcasts together and gather before or after each showing.***

Met Broadcast Schedule for 2015:

All Saturday morning broadcasts will be re-broadcast at all theaters at 6:30 pm on the next Wednesday.

Oct. 3 (10 am): Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (repeated at 6:30 pm on Oct. 7):

See a fabulous cast, including perhaps the world's reigning soprano, Anna Ntrelko, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, and Younghoon Lee in the leads.

Oct. 17 (10 am): Verdi's *Otello*:

Aleksandrs Antonenko, a Latvian tenor who has wowed European audiences, will make his Met debut in the title role while the great Željko Lučić sings the Moor's deadly antagonist, Iago.

Oct. 31 (9 am; note early start): Wagner's *Tannhäuser*:

James Levine returns to the podium to conduct an all-star cast, including **Michelle DeYoung, who will give a recital in Portland**

Opening Luncheon at the Multnomah Athletic Club

The Portland Opera Guild will open its new season in fabulous style: with a luncheon at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Friday, September 25th. Over the years, our members have come to learn that the setting and cuisine at the MAC are second to none. After lunch, enjoy a unique and entertaining couple of hours with your Guild fellows.

A friendly game of Opera Trivia, in the form of "Family Feud" and "Jeopardy" will take center stage at the conclusion of our meal. The competing teams will consist of the PSU Opera Program Staff vs Local Opera Talent. What fun: put your own knowledge of opera to the test as you observe the contest. In addition, the Portland Chapter of "Opera on Tap" will do a short presentation to introduce their program to our members.

What could be a more delightful way to spend a couple of hours on a September Friday than with your fellow opera lovers at a MAC luncheon? Reservations are \$35 per person, Make yours today: go online to www.portlandoperaguild.org to use your credit card or call our Treasurer, Doris Pascoe at 503-260-5854.



next February, in this great romantic masterpiece.

Dec. 2 (9:30 am; note early start): Alban Berg's *Lulu*:

Maestro Levine will once again lead the Met orchestra and soprano Marlis Peterson who has excited audiences around the world with her portrayal of the title role.

See you at the movies with our group of Guilders!

President's Message

Hello to you all!

I'm sitting here looking at our beautiful summer disappear in the rear view mirror and amazed at how quickly these last few months have passed. This summer has been full of eventful experiences with the thrill of Summerfest still in my heart and a delightful Portland Opera Summer Festival still ringing in my ears!



To you, our wonderful friends, we look forward to an autumn filled with special events that are noted in our Coloratura and more exciting opportunities this winter to enjoy passionately presented operatic performance. In the not too distant future, the Guild has plans for delightful Luncheon Programs and our festive Holiday gathering in December.

As we all move forward together it is important to share that our organization is anxious to expand its ranks of opera lovers and we do enter this Fall/Winter Season with a few open positions on our Board of Directors. Should you be interested in taking a more meaningful role in the support of Opera within our community the Portland Opera Guild would be privileged to include you in our efforts either as a volunteer or, possibly, a place on our Board. The POG exemplifies the precepts of a non-profit supporter of the Arts and we are proud of our many years of expanding art's positive impact on our community...

A possibly little known fact is that the Portland Opera Guild is the organization that brought Opera to Portland and the roots of the Portland Opera Association can be traced to the efforts and dedication of the Portland Opera Guild... a proud part of our history!

As is always the case, I look forward to seeing you all at the many events coming along this year. In the event you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call anytime. I thank you all for the privilege of serving your interests and your passion in the arts!

Best Regards, *Rodney V. Mazour*

The Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Auditions

Opera devotees in the Portland area know to expect a fabulous afternoon of singing in early October, for that is the time of the **Metropolitan Opera National Council (MONC) Auditions in Oregon**. Portland State University's wonderful Lincoln Hall will be the site for this exciting operatic competition once again, on Sunday, October 11, 2015 beginning at 1 pm. **Oregon District Director for MONC, Jutta Allen**, will be in charge of the day's schedule so we are assured of a flawless, awesome afternoon! Besides, where else can one listen to thirty or more arias in an intimate recital hall for so little cost?

Tickets, at \$18 can be purchased at the door that afternoon, while donors to MONC are welcome at no cost. **Janet Day** will emcee the program in her usual expert manner while **Valéry Ryvkin, John Keen, and Vera Calabria**, all with years of experience in the world of opera, will handle the challenging role of judging the singers.

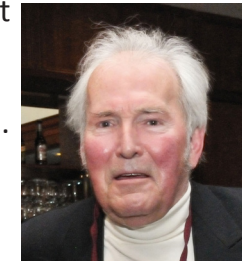
Singers selected by the judges advance to the next round of the MONC Competition, to be held at Seattle's magnificent Benaroya Hall on Sunday, January 10, 2016. There, they will compete against the winners from the Washington, Montana, Idaho, and (all of) Canada Regions. At least one will emerge from that contest to move on to the National Finals, and perhaps Grand Finals, on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York next March.

From each of the last two Oregon Auditions Competitions, the winner of the Northwest Region has moved on to New York: soprano Nicole Haslett, a former Portland Opera Resident Artist, in 2013, and mezzo-soprano Anne Maguire, a Washougal, WA resident, last year. So – you will certainly want to be at PSU on October 11th!

Please keep your eye on the Guild website, www.portlandoperaguild.org for the most up-to-date news about the MONC Competition and other opera news in our area.

Stefan Minde, influential former head of Portland Opera, died earlier this summer at 79

Stefan Minde was honored at the Guild's 50th Anniversary Gala for his Portland Opera directorship from 1970-1984.



He brought demanding German repertory and national attention to Portland Opera during those years. The late conductor was praised for his leadership of Portland Opera.

Minde was born on April 12, 1936, in Leipzig, Germany. For several years, he sang in the boys' choir at St. Thomas Church, where J.S. Bach had worked for 27 years. He studied conducting at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, then worked in German opera houses in Frankfurt and Wiesbaden.

In 1970, Minde was invited to take over Portland Opera following the death of Herbert Weiskopf. Under his direction, Portland Opera mounted many of the great German romantic and post-romantic operas: "Fidelio," "Der Freischütz," "The Flying Dutchman," "Lohengrin," "Die Walküre," "Tristan und Isolde," "Die Meistersinger," "Salome," "Elektra," "Der Rosenkavalier," "Ariadne auf Naxos." His 1977 "Meistersinger" won a rave review from Martin Bernheimer in the Los Angeles Times at a time when Los Angeles had no opera company of its own.

Christopher Mattaliano stated, "Stefan Minde made enormous contributions to the musical life of Portland over four decades, both with Portland Opera and with many other organizations." The opera dedicated the production of Stravinsky's "The Rake's Progress" to Minde's memory.

Mezzo-soprano Alyce Rogers sang many roles under Minde, and remembered him as "a musician from the top of his head to the tips of his toes." She recalled his special approach with vocalists: "The way he conducted singers allowed you to be free and sing your best," she said.

Guild Event:

Happy Hour + MET Opera in HD

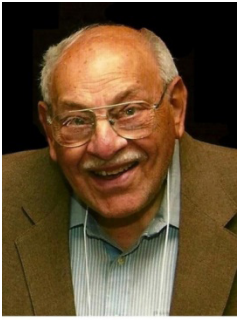
For a number of years, Opera Guild members have inquired about combining Social Gatherings with attending Met Opera performances in HD shown at a number of area cinemas; "what a great idea," could often be heard at luncheons and elsewhere. On Wednesday evening, October 7th, a number of us plan to do just that: gather at Stanford's, 913 Lloyd Center (on Multnomah Street) for Happy Hour (or more, if you prefer) at 5 pm, then walk across the street together to view the Live from the Met performance of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (airing at 6:30 pm). Please plan to join us for an evening of good cheer and superb opera! No advance reservations or payments are necessary. If you plan to join us at Stanford's please RSVP to info@portlandoperaguild.org of your intention.

As four cinemas around the Portland area offer these Met operas, it is quite likely that we will rotate theaters in the future so that the locations are more convenient to many. Moreover, as the first showing of each opera is always on a Saturday morning, we will certainly consider get-togethers, perhaps a lunch afterwards, on those dates. **We'd like to hear your ideas so that we can plan for the season.** Always check the Guild's calendar online at www.portlandoperaguild.org to stay up-to-date with these and other events. And, please check out the Met in HD schedule for the remainder of 2015 elsewhere in this edition of the *Coloratura*.



Ben Whiteley was quoted in the Oregonian announcement about Minde's passing, "Stefan was a wonderful person who had his own ideas about opera and presented Portland with a wonderful array of operas to view."

Minde is survived by his wife Edith; sons Matthias of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Bernd of Portland; and four grandchildren.



Long time Opera Guild member, A.J. Colasurdo, died Mar. 10, 2015. As an opera lover, Angelo “A.J.” John Colasurdo, served on the Opera Guild Board and as Guild Treasurer for many years. He and Marie have been long time supporters

and season ticket holders for Portland Opera.

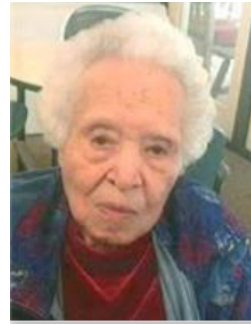
His life was one of compassion, hard work and success. He graduated from Seattle Preparatory, served in the U.S. Coast Guard in Alaska during WWII and graduated from Seattle University in 1950. While attending Loyola University Dental School in Chicago, he met Marie. They were married in 1951, and A.J. graduated in 1953. In 1955, they settled in Portland, where A.J. began a dental practice at the Medical Dental Building. During his 53-year career he scarcely missed a day of work and was devoted to his patients. His practice continues today with his son, John; and grandson, Vini. A.J. contributed to many charitable causes and served on the boards of the Multnomah Dental Society, Italian Businessmen’s Club and Portland Opera Guild. He will be deeply and forever missed.



It is that Glorious Time of the Year to Renew Your Membership in the Guild

September is upon us, and it is time to renew, or sign on for the first time, your membership in the Portland Opera Guild. Membership dues are only \$35 per member for the year (June 1 – May 31). Your patron membership, at \$100 for the year, is most welcome and much appreciated. We expect the year ahead to be challenging, but very innovative and exciting as you can tell by reading the rest of this issue of the Coloratura.

Please go to our website www.portlandoperaguild.org to use your credit card or send your check, made out to Portland Opera Guild, to our current address: **PO Box 61823, Vancouver, WA 98666.**



Remembering Chloe Elizabeth Chase Irby

Portland Opera Guild member Chloe Irby contributed to Portland Opera Guild’s support of opera.

A generous bequest from the estate of Chloe Irby recently reached Portland Opera Guild.

Chloe had recently celebrated her 105th birthday in March in Somerford Place, an assisted living residence in Redlands. She was honored by her family, friends and representatives from the offices of Rep. Pete Aguilar, Assembly member Marc Steinorth and state Sen. Mike Morrell. Those who attended the celebration were encouraged to wear pink, Irby’s favorite color.

Irby was born March 8, 1910, in New Jersey and married Charles Henry Irby II in 1929. During World War II, her husband served in the U.S. Navy, and she worked for the War Department in publications. After the war, she worked in the book publishing industry and later for Xerox Corp.

After retiring from Xerox, she became a fan of opera and was a member of the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild and Portland Opera Guild. While there she served on a panel that selected potential music students for further studies in the opera field. She was a friend of Australian operatic soprano Joan Sutherland and traveled all over the world with Sutherland. Irby loved traveling and has visited Fiji, countries in East Africa and all 50 states of the United States.

She lived most of her retirement years in Portland, OR, where she was an active member of Portland Opera Guild. She had moved to California so she could be close to her son Charles Henry Irby III, her three grandchildren and her five great-grandchildren, and she moved into Somerford Place in 2010.

The Coloratura Editor
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