

Special Event in March

Save the Date

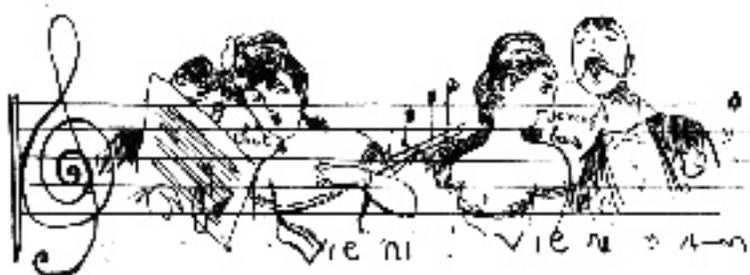
March 17 will bring an important event to San José Opera Guild when the General Director of San Francisco Opera, David Gockley, will be attending a luncheon in his honor sponsored by the Guild at beautiful Villa Montalvo.

The luncheon will be preceded by a champagne reception. Mr. Gockley will be interviewed by Ms. Barbara Day Turner, after which he will entertain questions from the audience.

Mr. Gockley comes to San Francisco from Houston, where he led the Houston Grand Opera for thirty-three years. A significant anecdote is told that he, a big Astros fan, appeared at his first press interview in a Giant's baseball cap, thus signifying his new allegiance to San Francisco.

Amidst many pressing matters, he immediately began planning to do what had been very successful in Houston: to have an opera simulcast to two outside locations, the SF Civic Center Plaza, and Stanford's Frost Amphitheater. In May of 2006, the opera, *Madama Butterfly*, was presented without charge to all who came. The new audience watched it on a huge screen with excellent surround sound.

David Gockley is the sixth general director of SF Opera, a native of Philadelphia and a man of great accomplishment in the opera world. Barbara Day Turner is a Bay Area favorite, well known for her conducting of opera and her work with young singers. We are thrilled to welcome them both on March 17th. Please mark your calendars now! Invitations will follow.



OPERA TRAVELERS

2006 RICHARD TUCKER GALA

by Olga and Tony Nespole

The Richard Tucker Music Foundation, which was founded in 1975, is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the artistic legacy of the great American tenor through the support and advancement of the careers of talented American opera singers by bringing opera into the community. The Foundation seeks to increase appreciation for opera by offering free performances in the New York Metropolitan area and by supporting music enrichment programs. It awards grants to singers selected through competitions and each year confers the Richard Tucker Award upon one artist who has achieved a high level of artistic accomplishment and who seems destined for a major international career.

Past winners of the Richard Tucker Award have included such names as John Relyea, Christine Goerke, Stephanie Blythe, Patricia Racette,

Ruth Ann Swenson, Deborah Voigt and Renée Fleming. The 2006 winner was Lawrence Brownlee who will be appearing as Count Almaviva in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* this spring.

We have been fortunate to attend the Richard Tucker Gala in New York at Lincoln Center several times. This past November 12, 2006 performance was especially rewarding, not only because of the singers who performed, but also because of our dinner partners following the performance.

The cast included many stars, such as Joseph Calleja, José Cura, Marcello Giordani, Aprile Millo, James Morris, René Pape, Patricia Racette, Sondra Radvanovsky, Samuel Ramey and Charles Taylor among others. A few of the many arias sung included the Coronation Scene from *Boris Godunov* (René Pape),

“Ah! Lève-toi, soleil” from *Roméo et Juliette* (Joseph Calleja), “Tutto pareva sorridere...Sì! de’ Corsari il fulmine” from *Il Corsaro* (José Cura), “L’altra notte in fondo” from *Mefistofele* (Patricia Racette), “Credo” from *Otello* (James Morris) and “Ascolta. S’agita il bosco...ecco il mondo” from *Mefistofele*. These superb artists were backed up by the hundred voices of the New York Choral Society and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

At dinner, we had the pleasure of dining with Elinor Ross, a former Met singer who has many fond memories of Irene Dalis. She shared interesting anecdotes from her Met career. Having put Ms. Ross and Ms. Dalis in touch with each other once again, we hope that their former friendship can once again flourish.

All in all, a very exciting and enjoyable evening.

Career Updates

Former resident artist **Deborah Berioli** (2004-2006) returns to Opera San José to appear in the title role in *Madama Butterfly* in April of this year. Another former resident artist soprano, **Barbara Divis**, will perform in *Madama Butterfly* as Cio-Cio-San. She'll sing the role for the Arizona Opera in January and February, then perform the same role for the Hawaii Opera Theatre in March.

Cynthia Clayton has expanded her role as teacher and mentor to emerging singers by becoming the newest member of the voice faculty of the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. She and her husband, **Hector Vasquez**, are the proud parents of two sons: Milo (4) and Tino (8). Hector is the Program Director for the Studio for Young Artists for the Houston Grand Opera.

Baritone **Jason Detwiler** has a busy beginning to 2007. He will sing Yeletsky in *Pikovaya Dama (Queen of Spades)* with West Bay Opera in February (16-18 and 23-25). Then he will sing Billy Bigelow in *Carousel* with the Shreveport Opera in March.

Also busy this new year is **Adam Flowers**. In February he'll sing Gherman in *Queen of Spades* at West Bay Opera in Palo Alto. In March he will be Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* at Rimrock Opera in Billings, Montana. Then in April he will return to West Bay Opera to sing Camille in *The Merry Widow*.

Tenor **Jonathan Hodel's** 2007 schedule lists three roles as well. He will sing Radames in *Aida* on February 2 and 3 for Opera Fort Collins. He'll perform in Verdi's *Requiem*

March 2 and 3 for the Sacramento Choral Society, then in March he'll travel to West Palm Beach to sing in *Norma*.

Nmon Ford performed in Danielpour's *Past-time* with the Pittsburg Symphony in January. He will sing Billy Budd in *Billy Budd* with the Hamburg State Opera in March. His website is interesting to visit: nmonford.com.

Joseph Wright sang Count di Luna in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* with Opera Memphis in January. He will make his debut with Sacramento Opera as Escamillo in *Carmen* in February (23, 25, and 27). His fiancée, and fellow former resident artist, **Lori Decter**, will make her debut in Verdi's *Requiem* with Symphony Silicon Valley in March. Both she and Joseph will perform scenes from *Il Trovatore* with Symphony Silicon Valley as a part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration Concert for San José State University.

Christie Hageman, who won the San José Opera Guild's second prize in 2006 and third prize in 2005, has won the title of Miss Montana for 2007. After she competes for the Miss America Pageant, she'll audition for graduate schools to pursue her studies in Opera Performance.

Please visit our website at
sjoperaguild.org

Calendar

FEBRUARY 4, 9, 11, 18, 24, MARCH 11: Donald Pippin's POCKET OPERA will present Friedrich von Flotow's *Martha*. The Feb. 4, 11 and 24 performances will take place at 2PM at the Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor, San Francisco; the Feb. 9 performance at 7:30 PM at the Legion of Honor; the Feb. 18 performance at 2PM at the Napa Valley Opera House; the March 11 performance at 2PM at the Osher-Marin JCC. Tickets, \$18-\$32. Information: 415-972-8934 or www.pocketopera.org.

FEBRUARY 6: SAN JOSÉ OPERA GUILD'S DOWNTOWN LECTURE/PREVIEW. Larry Hancock will lecture on Verdi's *La Traviata* at noon at the San José Museum of Art, Wendel Center. Artists from Opera San José will sing excerpts from the opera. Free admission. Co-sponsored by Opera San José and San José Opera Guild. Information: Gerry Pighini 408-275-6199 or mail to:MrPio@comcast.net.

FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 25: OPERA SAN JOSÉ will present Verdi's *La Traviata* at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San José. Tickets \$65 to \$85. Information: 408-437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

FEBRUARY 16 -18 and 23 - 25: WEST BAY OPERA will present Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets, \$25 to \$50. Information: 650-424-9999 or www.wbopera.org.

FEBRUARY 18: SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present the Schwabacher Recital Series Program #2 featuring New York Festival of Song with Steven Blier, at 5:30 PM in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake Street (at Arguello Boulevard), San Francisco. Tickets, \$20. Information: 415-864-3330 or www.sfopera.com/octix.

MARCH 25: SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present the Schwabacher Recital Series, Program #3 featuring Laquita Mitchell at 5:30 PM in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake Street (at Arguello Boulevard), San Francisco. Tickets, \$20. Information: 415-864-3330 or www.sfopera.com/octix.

MARCH 31; APRIL 1 AND 15: Donald Pippin's POCKET OPERA will present Handel's *Flavio*. The March 31 and April 1 performances will take place at 2PM at the Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor, San Francisco; the April 15 performance at 2PM at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. Tickets, \$18-\$32. Information: 415-972-8934 or www.pocketopera.org.

APRIL 17: SAN JOSÉ OPERA GUILD'S DOWNTOWN LECTURE/PREVIEW. Larry Hancock will lecture on Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at noon at the San José Museum of Art, Wendel Center. Artists from Opera San José will sing excerpts from the opera.

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Free admission. Co-sponsored by Opera San José and San José Opera Guild. Information: Gerry Pighini 408-275-6199 or mail to: MrPio@comcast.net.

APRIL 21-MAY 6: OPERA SAN JOSÉ will present Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street, San José. Tickets \$65 to \$85. Information: 408-437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

APRIL 22: SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present the Schwabacher Recital Series Program #4 featuring Melody Moore at 5:30 PM in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake Street (at Arguello Boulevard), San Francisco. Tickets, \$20. Information: 415-864-3330 or www.sfopera.com/octix.

APRIL 27, 29 AND MAY 6: Donald Pippin's POCKET OPERA will present Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The April 27 performance will take place at 7:30 PM at the Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor, San Francisco; the April 29 and May 6 performances at 2 PM at the Legion of Honor. Tickets, \$18-\$32. Information: 415-972-8934 or www.pocketopera.org

July 22: Opera in the Park, Los Gatos Civic Center. Invitations to after concert dinner at Dio Deka to follow in June.



SJSU to Present One-Acts

The San José Opera Guild is changing its long-standing support for the Annual Vocal Competitions held at San José State University for full-time music students. From now on the Opera Guild will alternate its yearly support between the SJSU Opera Workshop and the Annual Vocal Competition. Every two years, the Opera Workshop will present fully-staged operas at The Theatre on San Pedro Square in downtown San José. On alternate years, the Opera Guild will help Professor Erie Mills organize the Vocal Competitions as we have done in the past. The next competition will be in April of 2008.

The guild's board of directors is in full accord with the new direction of the Opera Workshop in presenting complete, fully staged operas. This first year two one-act operas, *A VILLAGER SINGER* by Stephen Paulus and *ROMAN FEVER* by composer Robert Ward, will be presented. Performances will be at 8 PM May 10, 11, and 12, with a 2 PM matinee on May 13. Admission is \$25. The Opera Guild will hold a reception after one of the performances for a nominal admission of \$10. Mark your calendars with these dates and watch the May Newsletter for more information.

San José Opera Guild
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An Invitation to Join

Established in 1947, the San José Opera Guild was formed to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the operatic arts and to provide both volunteer and financial support to opera.

The Guild incorporated in September 1958 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of California. The original purpose of the Guild has not changed over the years since its founding. Financial support of promising young artists in the community is a high priority for the Guild, which helps sponsor singers each year at Opera San José, and the Merola Opera Program, as well as other opera groups.

Throughout the year, the Guild sponsors lectures and previews at three different venues to coincide with the San Francisco Opera and Opera San José's seasons.

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