



NEWSLETTER

November 2010

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The election will be held on Nov. 2, 2010 at the general meeting of Guild members at the Church of the Latter Day Saints, 15985 Rose Avenue, Los Gatos at 10:00 A.M. Lecture to follow.

On September 8th, 2010, the Board of Directors of the San José Opera Guild accepted the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, as follows:

2010 OFFICERS

Vice-President - Olga Nespole

Treasurer - Elliot Swanson

Recording Secretary - Margaret Boddy

Corresponding Secretary - Nina Gherardi

Parliamentarian - Argo Gherardi

President Susan English will serve the second year of her two-year term.

DIRECTORS RETURNING FOR THE 2010 TERM

Margaret Boddy

Corinne Elliott Carter

Wendy Dewell

Susan English

Jan Eurich

Nina Gherardi

Argo Gherardi

Peggy Heiman

Edna Herman

Gretchen Gregersen

Olga Nespole

Mary Riley

Hannelore Romney

Joan Shomler

Elliot Swanson

Alice Swanson

Doug Turner

Phyllis Whitney

Augusta Wilson

Connie Zilles

Steve Zilles

NEW DIRECTORS

Laurel Kaleda

Jackie Pighini

Serving on the Nominating Committee were Margaret Boddy, Gretchen Gregersen, Phyllis Whitney, Peggy Heiman (co-chairperson) and Hannelore Romney (co-chairperson).

Please plan to attend and cast your vote.

Colorado's Mountain Opera Festival

A Theatrical Experience Like Non Other

By Susan English

Central City Opera's national summer festival attracts patrons from all over the country and abroad to enjoy intimate opera in its 550 seat Opera House. The House was built in 1878 by Welsh and Cornish miners, drawn to the Rocky Mountains 35 miles west of Denver to mine the more than \$85 million in gold extracted from the surrounding hillsides. When the Colorado Territory was established in 1861, Central City was the most prominent town and was home to the state's entire congressional delegation when Colorado was admitted to the Union in 1876.

Fifty years later, the gold rush was over. Central City became a ghost town and its beautiful theatre fell on hard times. Then a group of civic leaders founded the Central City Opera House Association for the purpose of restoring the Opera House as a venue for a summer music and theatre festival. In July 1932, the carefully refurbished Opera House reopened with a gala performance of *Camille*, which starred Miss Lillian Gish, and was broadcast live by the new National Broadcasting Company's radio network. The festival not only revived the Opera House but also the town of Central City. Some 5,000 visitors arrived on opening day, launching an annual tradition of summer festivals in Central City that continues to this day.

Early festivals featured both opera and theatre, and, more recently, a six-week festival has celebrated traditional and progressive works. In addition to Lillian Gish, other stars of the opera and stage have performed in the

summer festivals, including Beverly Sills, Jerome Hines, Helen Hayes, Samuel Ramey, and Catherine Malfitano. Successful commissions for the company include the American classic *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, by Douglas Moore, the popular one-act opera *The Face On The Barroom Floor* by the South Bay's very own Henry Mollicone, and the world premiere of *Gabriel's Daughter*, also by Henry Mollicone.

The Central City Opera House Association is now the nation's fifth-oldest opera company. Their most recent festival ran from July 3, 2010 through August 8, 2010. Included in their season were Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Heggie's *Three Decembers*, and Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. (This writer and her spouse were delighted with the enthusiasm and polish of the performers in *Orpheus*.)

Many of the performers at each opera are part of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation's Artists Training Program which is in its 32nd year. Approximately 30 participants are selected from more than 800 applicants each year. Some of America's most notable opera professionals, including Denyce Graves, Cynthia Lawrence, Mary Mills, Emily Pulley, Samuel Ramey, Celena Shaffer, Matthew Polenzani, and Gregroy Turay, are former students in the program. The ten week program is rigorous, and a national model for the professional development of young singers. It also incorporates outreach to community and schools, helping to build a future for the Arts.

From a small group of volunteers who could see the potential in the old Opera House, the Central City Opera House Association has

Continued on P. 4

SJSU Opera Theater Ensemble

A New Twist On Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*

By Alexandra Mena

The San José State University Opera Theater Ensemble proudly presents W. A. Mozart's masterpiece *Die Zauberflöte*. This will be a fully staged production with orchestra and will open on Friday, December 3rd, at 7:30 pm and close with a matinee on Sunday, December 5th, at 2 pm.

For budding performers, the opportunity to work with inspired professionals while in an uninhibited setting is a treasure. Opera Theater students are involved in just such an experience in a production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute), the Singspiel that speaks of the pursuit of love in the midst of a power struggle set in a fantastical reality. At the opera class, the students are enriching their own performance ability as well as their artistic creativity in the field of musical performance while exploring the possibilities for interpreting the score. They are taught to seek inspiration for interpretation of character and storyline from the motivation implied by the music, which leads to a harmonious marriage of text and music. This also leads to an exciting production especially with an operatic piece such as *Die Zauberflöte* in which the space for artistic interpretation is limitless. The class is motivated by the principle that the interpretation of the production must come from the cast collectively, making it possible for the students to feel free to be daring with interpretation, and has led to many fruitful ideas that are incorporated into the production. The students decided to look at the story with a modern mindset underlining feminism as part of the concept. The setting of the pro-

duction that was chosen embraces the "wild" nature of the characters. Experience was gained by exploring different aspects of costume and prop design. The exciting approach to creating this production will make SJSU's *Die Zauberflöte* a production you will relish experiencing.

Hot on the heels of their successful production of Francesco Cavallia's *La Didone*, the SJSU Opera Theater Ensemble moves forward in its firm commitment to bring forth fresh interpretations of classic works, while staying true to their original intent. With director Daniel Helfgot at the helm, this gifted ensemble continues to express its unique voice by exploring the impact of women in this story, such as the importance of Pamina's efforts in Tamino's journey, the strong bond of a mother and daughter, and the overall strength of femininity as portrayed by the Three Ladies.

Joining this talented ensemble are new singers Michael Imbimbo in the role of Tamino, Corey Liggans as Papageno, Nathaniel Gallagher and Norman Espinoza sharing the role of Sarastro, Alby Mabeza as Monostatos, Jennifer Mitchell, Cathy Williams and Wendy Walsh as the Spirits, and Christine Capsuto as the First Lady. The cast is completed by returning students Lori Schulman in the role of Pamina, Summer Latimer as the Queen of the Night, Jennifer Graves as Papagena, Jennifer Jensen as the Second Lady, and Alexandra Mena as the Third Lady. Also assembled is a wonderful group of new and returning students like Jose Mendiola, Nick

Continued on P. 4

Opera Theater Ensemble

continued from P. 3

Molle, Rebecca Wallworth, Jessica Titherly, Daniel Loy, and Christy Rohayem in the roles of the priests, priestesses and slaves.

Mark the dates on your calendars and join SJSU in celebrating Mozart's work, as embodied by the talented group of singing actors that is the SJSU Opera Theater Ensemble.

SJSU Opera Theater Ensemble Friday, December 3, 2010, 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 5, 2010, 2 pm, Concert Hall - Music Bldg, San José State University

###

Colorado's Mountain Opera

Festival

continued from P. 2

grown into a professionally run organization now celebrating its 78th anniversary. It is a treat to visit this jewel box theatre and enjoy the performances of dedicated and talented young professionals. The entire Black Hawk National Landmark Historic District, where this opera company performs, is a delightful step back in time.

More information about the Central City Opera can be found at www.centralcityopera.org.

###

Career Updates

Lori Phillips made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Senta in the *Flying Dutchman* on May 3, 2010 when she filled in for Deborah Voigt. She got a standing ovation! She has also sung this year for Hawaii Opera Theater, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Portland Opera, and Nashville Opera.

Also in great demand is **Christopher Ben-gochea**, but you don't have to go so far to see him. He returned to Opera San José as Stiva in *Anna Karenina*, and will be in Opera San José's *Tosca* in November. He has recently performed with Opera Idaho, the Atlanta Opera, and Opera Saskatoon. He has been a soloist with the San Juan Symphony, the Modesto Symphony, the Great Falls Symphony, and the San José Chamber Orchestra.

Another recent Opera San José resident artist, **Khori Dastour**, returned as Kitty in all eight performances of *Anna Karenina*. And she will be coming back again as Musetta in

La Boheme in April 2011.

Brian Leerhuber performed in Spoleto, Italy in *Gianni Schicchi*.

Michele Detwiler will be in the Bay Area soon at West Bay Opera in *La Forza del Destino* in October, 2010. She will also be Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly* at Opera Idaho in case you miss her in Palo Alto.

Kirk Eichelberger has been busy. he just finished a recording called *Bass & Vile*. You can contact him to buy a copy at his website www.kirkeichelberger.com. Kirk has also been performing as Mephistopheles in *Faust* for the Dayton Opera and will perform it again for Opera Birmingham this winter. This summer he sang for Festival Opera in Walnut Creek in *Lucia de Lammermoor* and this Fall he returned to Opera San José in *Anna Karenina*.

###

Calendar

November

2 San José Opera Guild Lecture, Derek Katz speaking on *The Makropulos Case*, by Leos Janacek, LDS Church, 15985 Rose Avenue, Los Gatos, SJOG Members or \$10 at the door.

2 Opera San José Free Preview and Lecture for *Tosca*, 2nd floor, room 225/229, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Fourth and San Fernando streets, San Jose. 12 noon. Free.

2 Opera San José Tuesday Night Preview for *Tosca*, San Jose Woman's Club, 75 South 11th street, San Jose. \$25. Wine and light hors d'oeuvres, 6:30pm; lecture and singing, 7pm. Reservations required; 408-437-4450.

13, 14m, 18, 20, 21m, 23, 26, 28m (m=matinee) Opera San José presents Puccini's powerful, political thriller *Tosca* at the California Theatre, 8 pm except Sundays at 3pm. Tickets: Opera San José Box Office 408-437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

13 Metropolitan Opera Simulcast in HD, *Don Pasquale* by Donizetti, live at CineArts Oakridge 20 225-7340; Santana Row 6, 554-7010; and AMC Eastridge Mall 15, 274-2274. Simulcasts are at 10AM and cost \$24.00 for adults, \$22.00 for seniors. (The encore is Dec.1 at 6:30 PM and costs \$22.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors).

December

3-5 Event (page 5 article) San José State University Music Department directed by Layna Chianakas, will be presenting *The Magic Flute* on Dec. 3 and 5, 7:30 pm in room 150.

3 Carmel Music Society Concert Featuring Opera San José's resident artists singing highlights from the 2010-2011 season and popular Mozart selections. All Saints Church, Carmel; 8 pm. For tickets (\$27) call 831-625-9938.

10 Italian American Heritage Foundation Dinner and Concert Benefitting Opera San José. Social Hour, 6:30 pm; Dinner, 7:15 pm, Opera San José Concert 8:30 pm. For information or to purchase tickets call 408-293-7122 or visit www.iahfsj.org.

11 Metropolitan Opera Simulcast in HD, *Don Carlo* by Verdi, live at CineArts Oakridge 20 225-7340; Santana Row 6, 554-7010; and AMC Eastridge Mall 15, 274-2274. Simulcasts are at 10AM and cost \$24.00 for adults, \$22.00 for seniors. (The encore is Jan. 5 at 6:30 PM costs \$22.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors).

12 Opera San José presents its K-6 program, a one-act version of Engelbert Humperdinck's classic opera *Hansel and Gretel*, as a special holiday treat. Opera San José Rehearsal Hall, 2149 Paragon Drive, San José. Adults, \$25; children under 18, free (includes a reception following the performance). Call the OSJ Box Office at 408-437-4450.

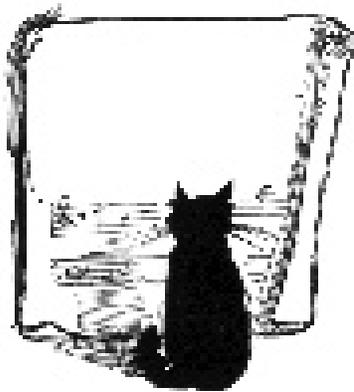
Calendar

Continued from P. 5

January

8 Metropolitan Opera Simulcast in HD, *La Fanciulla del West* by Puccini, live at CineArts Oakridge 20 225-7340; Santana Row 6, 554-7010; and AMC Eastridge Mall 15, 274-2274. Simulcasts are at 10AM and cost \$24.00 for adults, \$22.00 for seniors. (The encore is Jan 26th at 6:30 PM and costs \$22.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors).

###



Publisher

San José Opera Guild

President

Susan English

Editor

Argo Gherardi

Publicity

Jan Eurich

Career Updates

Wendy Dewell

Calendar

Connie Zilles

SJOG Newsletter is published four times a year in Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. by:

San José Opera Guild

P.O. Box 33025

Los Gatos, CA 95031-3025

National Opera Week Celebration

From October 29 through November 7, OPERAAMERICA, the National Endowment for the Arts, and opera organizations across the United States will participate in a variety of fun, free activities that bring the inventiveness and excitement of opera to new audiences. As part of the week-long celebration, Opera San José will present two free public performances at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library in downtown San José.

On Friday, October 29 at 5 pm, children of all ages are invited to a performance of a one-act touring opera based on Engelbert Humperdinck's classic opera *Hansel and Gretel* sponsored by the Target Foundation. Performed in English by Opera San José's singers, *Hansel and Gretel* provides children with positive experience of an art form that may be new to them.

On Tuesday, November 2 at 12 noon, the company will present a preview of Puccini's powerful, political thriller *Tosca*. The program will include a selection of arias and duets performed by members of the cast, followed by a lecture and Q&A hosted by Opera San José's general manager, Larry Hancock. Both events will be held on the 2nd floor of the library, Room 225/229 located at 150 East San Fernando Street at 4th Street in downtown San José. No reservations are required. For more information, visit www.operasj.org.

###

Membership Roster Additions and Changes

King, Kitty & Robert (408) 356-8806
17177 Crescent Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95030
kitkinglg@verizon.net

Kaleda, Laurel & Ray (408) 983-0588
18400 Overlook Road. Unit 52, Los Gatos. CA 95030

Lorraine, Ted (408) 281-3965
541 Elder Street, San Jose, CA 95123

Pakula, Laurie S. (831) 624-8435
28092 Barn Way, Carmel, CA 93923
LauriePak1@yahoo.com

Salmonson, Gerd (408) 356-2711
304 Charles Street, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Simpson, Winifred B.
winnisimpson@gmail.com

Turner, Douglas (408) 528-9098
9010 Village View Drive, San Jose, Ca, 95135
enidp@sbcglobal.net

Tice, Carrie & Christian (408) 374-2300
466 Mia Circle, San Jose, CA 95136
ctice@yahoo.com

Vernon, Jane W. (408) 354-0395
110 Wood Road, Apt.E205, Los Gatos, CA 95030
jvernon55@gmail.com

San José Opera Guild
c/o Argo Gherardi
P.O.Box 33025
Los Gatos, CA 95031-3025

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Saratoga, CA
Permit No. 5

Return Service Requested

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.

Name _____

Name of Family Member _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Membership Individual	\$45
Levels: Under 30	\$30
Family	\$60
Organization	\$75
Donation	\$_____
Total	\$_____

Make check payable to SJOG
Mail this form and check to:
Membership Chairman
San José Opera Guild
P.O. Box 33025
Los Gatos, CA 95031-33025

The San José Opera Guild is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization.

Contributions are deductible to the extent provided by law.

Does your company have a matching grant program?

Visit our website at www.sjoperaguild.org