



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

Board of Directors Election Held

Members of the San José Opera Guild elected directors and officers at a general membership meeting held on October 28, just before the scheduled *Cenerentola* lecture, at the JCC, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos.

The following slate was recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Serving on the Nominating Committee were Phyllis Whitney, Diane Snow, Colette Siegel, and co-chairs, Susan English and Connie Zilles.

Officers

Vice President	Jan Eurich
Recording Secretary	Laurel Kaleda
Corresponding Secretary	Alice Swanson
Treasurer	Elliot Swanson

President Peggy Heiman and Parliamentarian Susan English will complete the second year of their two-year terms as required in our bylaws. ###

Directors

Corinne Elliot Carter	Colette Siegel
Wendy Dewell	Joan Shomler
Edna Herman	Diane Snow
Olga Nespole	Phyllis Whitney
Monica Restifo	Connie Zilles
Hannelore Romney	Steve Zilles
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Opera book Review

Bringing together the two amazing operatic careers of the “diva, impressaria, legend”: our own Irene Dalis

by Mort Levine

Irene Dalis had an amazingly successful run on the world’s most prestigious and demanding operatic stages. But, she considers the second career she created as the more important one. That is the founding, care and nurturing to its present eminence of Opera San José, arguably one of the most inspiring training programs and successful regional performing companies in the nation.

All of the above is solidly documented in the fine volume produced by Linda Riebel and published in a picture-packed, easily read volume by Print and Pixel Press of Lafayette, Ca.

She got the idea of the biography after a dinner with Ms. Dalis who told her that no memoir or autobiography was in the offing. “Who would
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Opera Book Review

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want to read that?" A typical Dalis response, but, clearly, the story had to be told in full, and Linda Riebel has done just that.

Most moving is the emigrant story that precedes this fabulous pair of careers. It goes back to 1903 and the arrival in New York of Padaskivas Nicholas Thelyis. The Ellis Island officials Americanized that to Peter N. Dalis, a sturdy man who loved to sing. He married Mamie Boitano, of an Italian Sacramento family six years later. They moved to San Jose and had five children, of whom Yvonne (later to be renamed Irene for the stage) was the youngest, born in 1925.

The book follows the upbringing and musical education at San José State. Armed with a double major in piano and voice and pushed by her older sister Marge, she went to Columbia Teachers' College for a master's degree. There she caught the ear of the professor of vocal pedagogy who dissuaded her from returning home to a career in education. He recommended some outstanding voice coaches, and she ultimately came to work with Edyth Walker, a most demanding mentor who traced her techniques back to opera's most venerated singers.

The rest is an amazing story of going to Europe and signing up as a resident artist with a small company in Oldenburg, Germany. She met and auditioned for the Metropolitan's Rudolf Bing who was scouting young voices. He was impressed, suggested the name change, and then agreed to wait four years while she learned her craft as a resident artist singing lead roles in Oldenburg, Germany. The program they had there eventually became the model for Opera San José's successful method of training young singers.

The book doesn't skimp on highlights of the career as a star at Beyreuth, Covent Garden and the Met. It also details the many legendary performers who sang with her and their praise of her

astonishing performances in *Parsifal*, *Don Carlo*, *il Trovatore*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and so many more. Her wide ranging mezzo-soprano spanned Wagner to Puccini.

The decision to retire, the book relates, came partially because Rudolf Bing ended his long Met reign. It also came about because she found she no longer had confidence to sing certain roles. After a benefit concert back home in San Jose's St. Joseph's Cathedral in 1977 she concluded it was time to stop singing. Her long-time husband, George Loinas, supported her decision. A spontaneous offer of a professorship and the ability to start an opera workshop came from San José State's president.

From that grew, step by careful step, the amazing program that is Opera San José. The book pulls together lots of reference information as well as a strong narrative of these two careers. Lists are given of all OSJ's performances, its many singers who have gone on to important careers, a Dalis discography and a large number of quotes from her admirers locally and worldwide, especially other performers, maestros and administrators of opera companies.

There is also an extensive chapter on how opera lovers can help the company and the Dalis successor, Larry Hancock, for year's her right hand man. All proceeds from the \$20 sale price for the book go to Opera San José. It is obtainable at Barnes and Noble, Amazon or from either iredalis.com or operasj.org.

It is a highly recommended read and a useful reference tome for your opera bookshelf.

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Career Updates

Soprano **Cynthia Clayton** (OSJ 1992-1996) sang the role of Leonora in West Bay Opera's Oct., 2014 production of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. She also sang Desdemona in WBO's recent production of *Otello* by Verdi. In the Oct., 2014 WBO performance of *Il Trovatore*, baritone Krasen Karagiozov (OSJ 2014-2015) sang the role of Count de Luna. Also in this performance, mezzo-soprano Patrice Houston made her WBO debut as Azucena .

Baritone **Daniel Cilli** (OSJ 2006-2010) returned to Opera San José in the 2014-15 season to appear as Marullo in *Rigoletto*. Recent performances include the role of Javert in *Les Misérables* for Utah Festival and Le Directeur/Presto (*Les Mamelles de Tiresas*).

Roles performed in 2013-14 by tenor **Christopher Bengochea** included Marco (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*) for

Music in the Mountains and the title role in *Gesualdo, Prince of Madness*, in a premiere reading with Opera Parallèle of San Francisco. On the concert stage, he appeared as soloist in Faure's *Requiem* with the Louisiana Philharmonic and for the Avedis Chamber Ensemble he performed as soloist in Ravel's *Chansons Mécasses*.

Mezzo-Soprano **Betany Coffland** (OSJ 2008-2012) performed as a soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with the Sacramento Philharmonic and in the 405 Shrader concert series in San Francisco, both in the Spring of 2013. In May, Ms. Coffland sang the role of Carmen in concert with the Diablo Symphony and performed as a soloist at the Firehouse Theater in Pleasanton with Livermore Opera. Previous 2012-13 engagements included the role of Nicklausse/Muse (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) for West Bay Opera and the role of Flora (*La Traviata*) for Livermore Opera.

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Membership Updates

New Members:

Jajko, Pamela & Edward 408-446-1306
6235 Shadygrove Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014
pjjajko@gmail.com / eajajko@gmail.com

Prak, Karen Burtness (650) 329-1374
651 College Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
operanut13@gmail.com

Smith, Andrea B. 650-322-0607
194 Walter Hays Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303
andreasmith@sbcglobal.net

Wilcox, Marianne 408-267-7757
1740 Marina Way, San Jose, CA 95125
mmwilcox@gmail.com

Renewals:

Elaine & Mort Levine 408-255-8099
22800 Prospect Road, Saratoga, CA 95070
mortlevine123@gmail.com

Carole & Robert A. Williams 408-377-3957
1138 Bent Drive, Campbell, CA 95008
arnberger@aol.com

New phone number

Margaret & Ron Boddy - 408-354-0310

Change of email address:

Colette Siegel <coletteasiegel@aol.com>
Alma Taylor <alleetaylor100@gmail.com>
Janet Souza <jmsynt@outlook.net>
Rita Horiguchi <Rhorighome@yahoo.com

Calendar

OCTOBER 31, November 1 at 8pm and November 2 at 2pm, Opera Cultura presents *la Llorona* at the Mexican Heritage theater in San Jose, \$10 to \$35, For more information please call 888-838-3006 or <[http:// www.operacultura.org/calendar/La-Llorona_2013](http://www.operacultura.org/calendar/La-Llorona_2013)>.

NOVEMBER 4, Preview of *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, Opera San José. 12:00pm - 1pm, free, Dr. MLK Jr. Library, Fourth and San Fernando St., 5th floor.

NOVEMBER 15, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30, Opera San José presents *L'Italiana in Algeri* by Rossini, California Theater, 8pm except Sundays at 3pm. Tickets: 408-437-4450 or www.operasj.org. Free introduction to opera talks one and a half hours before the opera every performance.

DECEMBER 5, 6PM-9PM, Italian American Holiday Dinner Concert, IAHF Hall, 425 N. fourth Street, San Jose, please call 408 293-7122 for more information and tickets.

For further opera opportunities consider the Met's HD and Camera 3's Cinema opera performances as listed below.

Met Opera HD performances

The Metropolitan opera simulcasts in HD are shown at CineArts Oakridge 20, 225-7340; Santana Row 6, 554-7010; and Cupertino 16, 871-2262. Cost \$24.00 for adults, \$22.00 for seniors. Simulcasts are at 9:55am and Encores are at 6:30pm (The encores cost \$22.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors. Prices may vary for the various HD operas. More information available at Met Opera Broadcasts.

Bizet's *Carmen* — November 1, 2014, Encore Nov. 5

Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, November 22, Encore Nov 26

Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* December 13, 2014, Encore Dec. 17

Lehar's *The Merry Widow (Die Lustige Witwe)*—New Production January 17, 2015, Encore Jan 21

Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* — January 31, 2015, Encore Feb. 4

Opera in Cinema

Now at Camera 3 Cinema, located at 288 S. Second Street in the heart of downtown San Jose: an exclusive series of first class pre-recorded operas from the legendary European opera houses in HD Digital Projection with Dolby Digital sound. There is an opera scheduled each month, with screenings Sunday mornings at 12 noon, and a repeat show Tuesday evening at 7:15pm. For ticket information, Camera Cinemas

November 23 (12 noon) & 25 (7:15pm) *Il Trovatore* (Verdi) — Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden (2013)

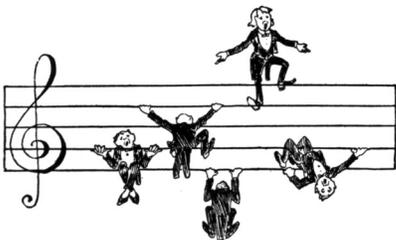
December 14 (12 noon) & 16 (7:15pm) *La Cenerentola* (Rossini) — Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona (2007)

January 18 (12 noon) & 20 (7:15pm) *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Rossini) — Opéra de Paris (2014)

February 22 (12 noon) & 24 (7:15pm) ' (Verdi) — National Theater of Munich (2014)

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NOVEMBER 2014

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

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 it's 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 to coincide with the San Francisco Opera and Opera San José's seasons.

Name _____

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Memberships: Family \$60
 Single \$45
 Organization \$75
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