

# the Lyric Letter

Volume 15, Issue 8, Jan/Feb 2015  
Victoria Willson, Editor



News of the  
Denver Lyric Opera Guild

## President's Corner

I wish you all a healthy, happy and fulfilling New Year! We at DLOG are eagerly looking forward to our upcoming competition events in February and March. Please try to attend as many of the events as possible. Where else can you hear such wonderful music—and for free!

I wish there were room in the newsletter to print some of the heart-warming letters I have received from voice students who have been the beneficiaries of our grants to the various colleges and universities. They are so grateful for the monetary help and many could not continue their studies without scholarships. Please know that all of you may be helping a star to be born!

Be sure to check out our upcoming opera plane tour to Chicago, March 2-5. Reservations and full payment must be made by January 19, which is coming up fast.

Carol Hoffman, DLOG President

Dear DLOG Members:

We would love to see more members and guests attend Opera on Tuesday and get involved in this wonderful organization. Bring your friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, fellow choir members and introduce them to DLOG. Let them know about our support of young singers, college music programs, our upcoming annual gala, the master class which is educational for everyone and, of course, the excellent singers participating in our annual competition. It would be fun to share all of this with your friends. Attending Opera on Tuesday with entertaining singers and a great lunch at a country club is an excellent way to introduce them to DLOG. Come, enjoy and encourage your friends to join the Denver Lyric Opera Guild.

Marleen Diamond, Membership Vice President

## 2015 Competition for Colorado Singers Calendar

<b>MASTER CLASS</b> Conducted by Julie Simson	Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM *
<b>PRELIMINARY COMPETITION</b>	Saturday, February 28, 2015 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM *
<b>FINAL COMPETITION</b>	Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm *
<b>JUDGES RECEPTION</b> (Tickets required) \$25 per person	Saturday, March 21, 2015 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

All events will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church

Attendance for the full length of any of these events is optional

\*You may come and go as you please between performers

### Opera on Tuesday, April 7, 2015

10:30 AM	Social Time
11:00 AM	Program
	2015 Competition Winners
12:00 Noon	Lunch

Cost: \$40.00  
Pinehurst Country Club  
6255 W Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 and will be accepted by mail or PayPal. Make checks payable to DLOG and mail to Dr. Lyn Barber, 32 Pinyon Pine Rd., Littleton, CO 80127. Access PayPal at the DLOG website:  
[www.denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://www.denverlyricoperaguild.org)

## DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD ANNUAL GALA

Thursday, January 29, 2015  
6:00 PM Cocktails  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:15 PM Performance  
Cherry Hills Country Club

Entertainment will be provided by the University of Wyoming  
Patrick Newell, Baritone  
Lauren Newell, Soprano  
Meng Xu, Accompanist

Invitations have been mailed to all members. **Don't forget to send in your reservations!**



James Held, Paul Kroeger, Taylor Raven,  
Rebecca Robinson, Meagan Mahlberg,  
Christina Lalag Seal – CU Opera program



Rusty Wilkins, Rob Natelson, Betty Natelson



Nicole Campbell



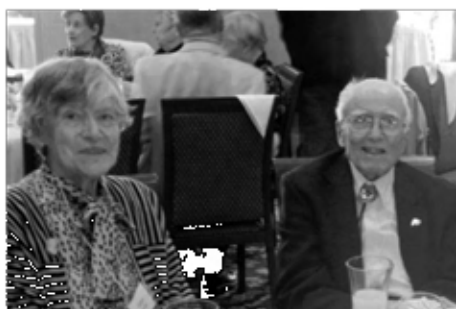
Dolores Bronowski, Lila Steward, Dick Bronowski



Linda Levin



Mary Kloewer and Jeanette Thrower



Ginny Leitz and Robert S. Graham



Karoline Barnett, Nathan Snyder, Emily Morris,  
Tessa Espinosa – Opera Fort Collins



Stan Janiak and Marion Colliander



Helen Cerretti and Geri Sheldon



Scott Finlay



Marie Wheatly and Peter Johnson



## **1986 Competition Winner Has Impressive Opera Career**

Have you ever wondered what has happened as the lives of our competition winners progressed? Elizabeth Hagedorn was our second competition winner in 1986. She completed music degrees at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Colorado. With her prize money from the DLOG competition, she was able to continue her training with a stipendium to the American Institute of Music in Graz, Austria. Hagedorn has had a 24 year European career and performed over fifty leading roles, debuting as a lyric-coloratura (*Violetta, Konstanze, Elvira*), and developing through the heavier lyric roles (*Mimi, Rusalka, Suor Angelica, Don Carlo Elisabetto*) to spinto and jugendlich-dramatic repertoire (*Salome, Ariadne, Elsa, Ellen Orford, Tosca, Fidelio Leonore, Senta, Wozzeck Marie*). Various world and European premieres of contemporary operas included the first Austrian performance of Michael Nyman's "*The Man who mistook his Wife for a Hat*," and a world premiere recording of Veerhoff's "*Desiderata*" at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig.

Since 2010, Hagedorn and her husband, the conductor Andreas Stoehr, have lived in Vienna. She established *Wien.Oper.Intensiv* performance workshops in Vienna and has taught master classes at University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, University of Colorado-Boulder and the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Currently she is Visiting Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Wisconsin and will performed on November 14, 2014 at a faculty recital. You may find more information about her at:  
<http://www.elizabeth-hagedorn.com>

### **WELCOME New Members**

Midge Abel  
 7056 S. Andes Cir,  
 Centennial, CO 80016  
 303-720-5011

Joyce Cook  
 5847 Granite Way  
 Castle Rock, CO 80108

Karen Duncan  
 11075 W. Rowland Ave.  
 Littleton, CO 80127  
 303-904-3732  
[karen178@comcast.net](mailto:karen178@comcast.net)

Beth Ellis (Harry)  
 11 Cherry Vale Dr.  
 Englewood, CO 80113  
 303-789-2993  
[bethells9@gmail.com](mailto:bethells9@gmail.com)

Stan Janiak  
 10001 E. Evans Ave., #74C  
 Aurora, CO 80237-3556  
 303-507-5105  
[upcreek@aol.com](mailto:upcreek@aol.com)

Peter Johnson  
 12191 Mount Powell  
 Littleton, CO 80127  
 303-973-1077  
[peter\\_johnson@comcast.net](mailto:peter_johnson@comcast.net)

Lois Ream  
 2897 W. Riverwalk Cir., #103  
 Littleton CO 80123  
 303-795-3079  
[driehm@msn.com](mailto:driehm@msn.com)

Barbara Wetzel  
 8181 S. Peninsula Dr.  
 Littleton, CO 80120  
 303-797-8676  
[barbara8181@icloud.com](mailto:barbara8181@icloud.com)

### **Changes to Roster**

1. Helen Olson Hull: new address is 1500 Little Raven St., #425, Denver, CO 80202
2. Linda W. Lewis: new address is 6851 S. Gaylord St., #2537, Centennial, CO 80122-1679
3. Barbara Skramstad: new email address is [barb80skram@outlook.com](mailto:barb80skram@outlook.com)
4. Marie Belew Wheatly: correct spelling of last name to Wheatley

### **News from the Nominating Committee**

Greetings to all and wishing you a very happy 2015. The nominating committee has been selected and is in the process of seeking nominees for next year's board members.

The committee would greatly appreciate it if our fellow DLOG members would please consider volunteering for a board position. We have very talented members who could assist you in learning any position on the board. Once again, please consider accepting our invitation to serve as a board member. Your help is needed to continue the success of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. For further information or any suggestions, please contact either Carole Cruson at 303-638-8870 or email to [crusonc6@gmail.com](mailto:crusonc6@gmail.com) or Dick Bronowski at 303-989-2206 or email to [rbb0307@aol.com](mailto:rbb0307@aol.com).

Dick Bronowski, President-elect

### **Update from the Finance Committee**

We go through a budgeting process at the beginning of each year. We estimate what we will receive from member dues, donations, investment income, Opera on Tuesday events, etc. We also try and determine what our expenses will be—competition costs, CPA fees, newsletters, etc. For the last few years, we have given over \$61,000 each year in Competition award money and grants to university and other opera programs. We have over a million dollars in an investment account under the supervision of our longtime financial advisor, Sheri DiPaglia. This account contains mutual funds and exchange-traded funds which total about 29%. The rest consists of certificates of deposit, high quality bonds and cash. We are restricted by our bylaws from invading the account in any one year to 5% of the account balance.

Every non-profit organization would like to balance its books every year and we are no different. However, with our declining interest income from the investment account and hardly any profit from our annual gala, we have been running a deficit. We would charge more money for our Opera on Tuesday events in order to generate more income. However, the Board felt that attendance might be negatively affected and so our goal with the lunches is to simply break even. We could also reduce the amount that we give away as prizes or grants. However, we felt this was not a good thing to do when the economy took a turn for the worse in 2008 and beyond. We thought that our singers and opera programs needed the money even more than we needed it to balance our budget. This is why we decided to send an appeal letter to our members in November. We hope to encourage some additional donations in support of the Competition so that we can continue to award meaningful monetary prizes and grants.

Jean Krusemark, Finance Vice President

### **In Memoriam**

DLOG extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of  
**Carolyn Hill**



### Competition Information

Our mission at the Denver Lyric Opera Guild is two-fold; to support and encourage young singers pursuing a career in opera and to provide for the continuing education of members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera.

Over the past four years DLOG has awarded grants totaling over \$100,000 to five universities and four young artist programs: Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, University of Colorado, Opera Fort Collins, Central City Opera Association, Opera Colorado and Opera Theatre of the Rockies. During this short period of time, over 139 opera students and young artists have received DLOG grants to assist them with tuition and other expenses associated with their training. In return for our grants, these programs agree to provide singers for DLOG's Opera on Tuesdays at no charge. By doing this, our grant program fulfills both parts of our mission statement.

Nowhere, however, does our two-fold mission blend as seamlessly as in DLOG's annual Competition for Colorado Singers. Each year the Denver Lyric Opera Guild hosts a competition for opera singers age 23 to 32. All participants must either have Colorado residency or attend a Colorado college or university. Between 35 and 50 candidates perform before a panel of distinguished judges vying for over \$30,000 in prize money. These singers represent all of the programs for which DLOG provides grants as well as other young opera singers who have chosen to make Colorado their home. This age group was chosen specifically to target those singers who are either just finishing their studies and about to enter the opera "job market" or those who are already working to launch their careers. This is a particularly challenging time financially for young singers as they must pay for travel to auditions, proper audition attire, continued private lessons, and much more. The prize money awarded by DLOG has helped hundreds of young singers over the years make this difficult transition from student to professional.

While the primary aim of the Competition is to provide financial support to young singers at the beginning of their careers, we at the Denver Lyric Opera Guild are also beneficiaries of the program. Where else can you hear up to 50 talented young opera singers perform free of charge in such an intimate setting? Each year we have a chance to hear sopranos, mezzos, tenors, baritones and basses singing a wide variety of repertoires from lyric to dramatic. It is also a treat to have a chance to spend some time getting to know these extremely talented and delightful young people.

Another benefit of the Competition is the chance for both the singers and DLOG members to meet our panel of judges. Over the years, DLOG's Competition has been host to an exemplary group of judges representing some of the finest singers, universities, opera houses and young artist programs in the United States. It is always interesting to listen to the singers during the Competition and see how your choices compare with those of the judges and even more interesting to get insight into the judges' thought processes at the Judges Reception following the Competition Finals. It is not every day that you get an opportunity to spend time talking opera with luminaries such as Jack Heggie (composer of *Dead Man Walking* and *Moby Dick*) or Cynthia Lawrence. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

Mark your calendar and be sure not to miss the Competition for Colorado Singers **Master Class** (Saturday, February 14, 2015, 10:00 AM—4:30 PM); **Preliminaries** (Saturday, February 28, 2015, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM); **Finals** (Saturday, March 21, 2015, 1:00 PM—5:00 PM) and **Judges Reception** (immediately following the Finals). All events will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E Hampden Ave., Cherry Hills Village, CO. Days can be long but you can come and go as you please, staying for all or part as you see fit. Your participation and attendance mean a great deal to our singers. It is much easier and much more exciting to sing in front of a full house than empty seats. Let's show them our support with a great turnout in 2015. See you there!

Karen Bruggenthies, Competition Vice President

Hello Opera Lovers

With the holiday season over, it's time to treat yourselves to a culture-rich vacation. On March 2nd to March 5th, the DLOG will be traveling to Chicago to enjoy our Annual Opera Plane Tour. Spend your evenings enjoying the beauty of opera as we experience Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, Puccini's *Tosca* and *The Passenger* by Weinberg before resting at the historic Palmer House hotel for the night. During the day we will take a tour of old Chicago during the Prohibition era as well as an additional tour of Tiffany glass located throughout the city. It will be a wonderful experience in the windy city and we hope to see you there!

Registration is closing fast so please use the following link to sign up by January 22nd:

<http://be-dynamic.net/DLOGgroupRegistration.asp>

For any questions or additional information, contact me at: [William.kowalski@raymondjames.com](mailto:William.kowalski@raymondjames.com)

or 720-629-9771

William Kowalski, Opera Plane Tour Leader

**Denver Lyric  
Opera Guild**

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Englewood, CO 80151

