

the Lyric Letter

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Victoria Willson, Editor



News of the
Denver Lyric Opera Guild

DLOG Officers 2015-16

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VP Education	Nicole Campbell
VP Finance	William Kowalski
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President's Message

Greetings and the best of everything to one and all. As I begin my year as your president, I wish to thank everyone who provided me with their knowledge and encouragement to prepare for the coming year. The Denver Lyric Opera Guild is a tremendous organization and we should all be proud of the Guild's accomplishments and its mission.

Two of my objectives for the coming year are to spread the word of the guild and increase our membership. With the help of all of us, these goals can be realized. We are the Denver Lyric Opera Guild,. Be proud of your affiliation with DLOG and encourage other fans of the opera to join our fine group.

I look forward to being with you at our summer party at Mt. Vernon and our tour to the Central City Opera.

Dick Bronowski, President

Summer Party

Date:	Tuesday, July 14, 2015
Place:	Mt. Vernon Country Club
Time:	10:30 AM Social Hour; 1:00 PM Lunch
Cost:	\$45.00

Invitations will be mailed later in the summer. For questions, call Sandra Corriere 303-832-8132 or 303-596-8148

Central City Opera Tour

Date:	Wednesday, July 29, 2015
Cost:	\$46.45 for opera ticket & reserved parking Due by June 25, 2015
Time:	11:30 AM Lunch at The Teller House (Lunch not included in cost) 2:00 PM Opera <i>La Traviata</i>

Volunteer drivers needed. Please call Carole Cruson for details: 303-638-8870 (email: crusonc6@gmail.com)



President's Corner

HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY , DLOG!
The Denver Lyric Opera Guild was founded in 1965 by Mrs. Helen Burns. Mrs. Burns daughter, Marcia Hoehler, is a long-time member of the Guild and as part of our 50th anniversary remembrance favored us with a talk about her

mother and the founding of this wonderful organization right after the annual meeting on May 5. Thank you, Marcia, for your history lesson!

This will be my last President's letter to you. I have been honored to serve as your President this past fiscal year and have so enjoyed it. None of the special events you all have enjoyed as members would have been possible without the wonderful board of directors with whom I have had the joy to work. They have worked so hard and I want to thank profusely President-Elect Richard (Dick) Bronowski, VP Competition Karen Bruggenthies, VP Education Nicole Campbell, VP Finance Jean Krusemark, VP Membership Marleen Diamond, VP Public Relations Charmaine Peterson, Recording Secretary Jacklyn Writz, Treasurer Golette Hess, Immediate Past President Linda Young, Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Wold, Historian Julie Johnston, Parliamentarian Phyllis Wicklund, Technology/Communications Chair Barbara Berryman, Planning & Development Chair Suzanne Bufton and Tours Chair William Kowalski. Also, thanks to Vicke Willson, Newsletter Editor, our proofreaders Dr. Lyn Barber and Helen Santilli and to all the people who have so graciously and competently served on the various committees. It takes a lot of workers to run this organization and many thanks to all who have volunteered. It is such a great opportunity to get to know other guild members and so fulfilling!

We have had a great year and I think one of the best competitions ever! It seems our vocal candidates get better every year, and the winners have been so grateful for the financial support the Guild has given them, as well as new bragging rights for their bios. What a joy to be able to help these talented young singers. Thank you all for making this possible and a special welcome to all our new members.

Now we welcome the new board of directors and wish them and DLOG great success!

warmly,

Carol Hoffman, President

Save The Date

Saturday, September 12, 2015
DLOG's 50th Anniversary Celebration—Info to Follow

2015 Competition for Colorado Singers

Well, we have finally wrapped up the last of the events associated with the 2015 Competition for Colorado Singers. It was a long haul and took a lot of hard work by a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. I'd like to extend my profound thanks to all of you who generously donated your time, talent, experience and elbow grease. It couldn't happen without you!

Our first event was the Master Class. This year the class was taught by Ms. Julie Simsom, formerly of CU and now with Rice University. We had twelve very talented young singers participate in the class. Our members in attendance found Ms. Simson's instruction both informative and entertaining. Even better, her insight was considered valuable enough by the singers that a number of them stayed to audit the sessions of other singers after finishing their own.

This year we had 40 singers register for the Competition and 38 participate. In the mix we had singers from CU, CSU and DU as well as from the young artists programs of Opera Colorado, Central City Opera and Opera Theatre of the Rockies. We also had a number of singers who reside in Colorado but are no longer in school. It was a good mix and a very, very talented one. Our judges at the Preliminaries mentioned that they had a difficult time whittling the number of singers down to just 15 to move on to the finals because we had such an outstanding group of singers participate this year. From those fifteen, the judges at our Finals chose four to receive Honorable Mention awards (one singer was unable to participate due to a bad case of strep throat), four Certificates of Merit and the 1st through 6th place winners.

Our Judges' Reception was a low-key event that got a bit of a late start due to the amount of time that our judges spent critiquing the singers. This year we had over half of our finalists join us at the reception for those DLOG members who were able to stay until the singers and judges arrived, we had a great chance to visit and a wonderfully informative question and answer session.

The final event of the Competition was the April Opera on Tuesday. Nicole, Helen and Lynn did a great job with the facility, programs and food and our amazing singers (this year's top ten finishers in the Competition) did the rest providing us all with some truly top-notch performances!

A big thank you to all of our DLOG members! All singers who participate in our Competition for Colorado Singers are truly grateful for your generosity and support. Each and every one asked me to make sure I passed along their appreciation for the opportunities and experience this Competition provides and for all that the Guild does to help young singers.

Karen Briggenthies, Competition VP

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Louise Barish
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bettynatelson@hotmail.com

John and Evelyn Kwaak
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Colorado Springs 80918-4024
719-660-7610
jkw1954@gmail.com

Crystal Sundet
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Littleton 80120
720-283-8592
crystalklr@reagan.com

Aida Nabighian
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Highlands Ranch 80126
303-791-1929
aida12@yahoo.com

Joan (Randy) Zisler
6277 W. Prentice Ave.
Littleton 80123
310-980-7793
joanie52@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

DLOG extends sympathy to the family and friends of
Helen L. Driscoll



The winners! Michael Hewitt, Amy Maples, Megan Shirado, Andrew Paulsen, Tatiana Ogan, Taylor Raven



Jeremy Frank, Phebe Berkowitz and Troy Cook –Final Competition Judges



Honorable Mention - Erica Hoaglund, Paul Kroeger, Emily Murdock, Abigail Triemer



Dick Bronowski and Taylor Raven, First Place, Galen & AdaBelle Spencer Foundation Award



Phyllis Wicklund and Tatiana Ogan
Kenneth King Foundation Award



Shirley & Marlis Smith with Amy Maples, Shirley & Marlis Smith Award



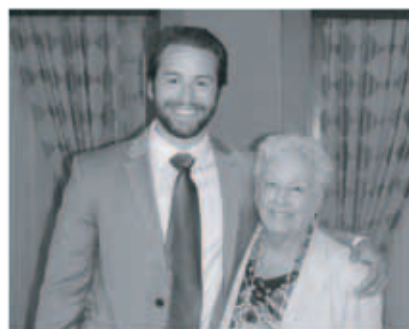
Carol Hoffman and Andrew Paulsen
Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award



Erica Hoaglund, Anne Kotch, and Emily Murdock – Dr. Alex Kotch Memorial Award



Gloette Hess and Abigail Triemer
Liverpool Ladies Card Group Award



Michael Hewitt and Mary Polak
Bernard Polak Memorial Award



Karen Bruggenthies, Competition Chair



Megan Shirado and Jackie Greer
Stasia Davidson Award (in photo)

ABOUT THE TEN FINALISTS

Taylor Raven, Mezzo-Soprano ~~ 23 ~~ *First Place*

Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award

Taylor received her Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina, and is currently working on her Master of Music at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She will be a Central City Opera Studio Artist this summer and was the recipient of DLOG's 2013 Scholarship for CU.

Tatiana Ogan, Mezzo-Soprano ~~ 23 ~~ *Second Place*

Kenneth King Foundation Award

Tatiana received her Bachelor of Music in Voice from the University of Oklahoma and is currently working on her Master of Music at Mannes College The New School for Music. A resident of Fort Collins when not at school, Tatiana was an Apprentice Artist with Central City Opera in 2014 and a Studio Artist with Chautauqua Opera in 2013.

Andrew Paulsen, Baritone ~~ 25 ~~ *Third Place*

Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award

Andrew received his Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College in 2012 and his Master of Music from Florida State University in 2014. He is currently an Opera Colorado Young Artist, was a Studio Artist with Central City Opera in 2014, and will join Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Singer this summer.

Megan Shirado, Mezzo-Soprano ~~ 24 ~~ *Fourth Place*

Stasia Davison Award

Megan received her Bachelor of Music from Northern State University in 2013 and is currently working on her MM Vocal Performance Candidate at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She performed with the Johanna Meier Opera Theatre Festival in 2012 and took 1st place, Senior Division at NATS in 2013.

Amy Maples, Soprano ~~ 28 ~~ *Fifth Place*

Shirley and Marlis Smith Award

Amy received her Bachelor of Music from Lee University in 2009 and her Master of Music from Florida State University. She was an Opera Colorado Young Artist from 2001-2012. She has performed with Boulder Opera, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Loveland Opera and Ohio Light Opera among others. She is currently studying with Martile Roland.

Michael Hewitt, Baritone ~~ 24 ~~ *Sixth Place*

Bernard Polak Memorial Award

Michael is currently pursuing his Bachelor's at DU's Lamont School of Music and studied Musical Theater at Otterbein University. He received the Encouragement Award at the 2013 CO/WYO Met Auditions. He trained at Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Vocal Academy in May and appeared at Seagle Music Colony this past summer.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT:

Dr. Alex Kotch Memorial Award and the Liverpool Ladies Card Group

Erica Hoaglund, Soprano ~~ 31

Erica received her BA from College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University and her MM from the University of Denver. She has performed in several productions with the Opera Colorado Chorus.

Paul Kroeger, Tenor ~~ 23

Paul received his BM from Southern Methodist University in 2013 and is currently working on his MM at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He performed at CU NOW, a new opera workshop at CU, and at Seagle Music Colony this past summer.

Emily Murdock, Soprano ~~ 32

Emily holds a BM in vocal music and flute performance from the University of Montana and received her MM from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Emily performs regularly with the Central City Opera Ensemble Artists and with Rocky Mountain regional orchestras and chorales as a soloist.

Abigail Triemer, Soprano ~~ 25

Abigail received her BM from Wichita State University and is currently working on her MM at University of Colorado, Boulder. She has also studied at the Vancouver International Song Institute, Opera Academy of California and Canta in Italia in Florence, Italy.

Competition Accompanist

Robert Spillman has been a great friend to DLOG, taking on the demanding task of accompanying dozens of singers in the Master Class, Preliminaries, Finals and Awards Luncheon of our Competition for Colorado Singers for many years. While he hopes to be able to join us again next year, he has been cutting back on his commitments significantly over the last few years and may no longer be up for the long hours associated with a competition like ours. With this in mind, the Guild recognized him at the April, 2015 Opera on Tuesday event where, true to form, he accompanied nine of the winners of this year's Competition. Karen Bruggenthies presented him with an engraved glass clock and expressed the Guild's sincere gratitude for his work with us and our appreciation of his great talent. Bob Spillman, Professor Emeritus, was Chair of the piano faculty and Music Director of the Opera Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder for many years. He studied at the Eastman School of Music, receiving a BM degree and Performers Certificate in piano and a MA degree in music theory. His career took him to New York City, Germany and many other music capitals. Professor Spillman also spent numerous summers at the Chautauqua Institution as a student, accompanist and coach and was co-director of the Opera Center at the Aspen Music Festival for many years. Activities as a member of the Artist Faculty of the Aspen Festival include teaching piano, opera and languages, performing frequently on chamber concerts and conducting opera presentations.

He has several compositions published through Edition Musicus. His textbook, *The Art of Accompanying*, was published by Schirmer Books in 1985, *Sight-reading at the Keyboard* was published in 1990 and *Poetry Into Song* was published by Oxford University Press in 1995. Professor Spillman received the Robert L. Stearns Award of the Alumni Association of the University of Colorado in 2004 in recognition of his service and career. Read more about Robert Spillman at <http://www.colorado.edu/music/faculty/bob-spillman>.

Bob recently sent the following note to DLOG in response to the presentation:

"Dear DLOG people, Thank you so much for the amazing clock! It looks terrific on the mantel. Keep up the terrific work you do for and with our young people. You are all an inspiration, to me as well as to them. Sincerely, Bob Spillman"

Denver Lyric Opera Guild

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