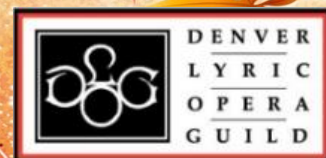


The *Lyric* Letter



Volume 19, Issue 3, August, 2019



Mary Jo Weiker

2019-2020

DLOG President

As the president of Denver Lyric Opera Guild, I am constantly reminded of and surprised by the dedication of the board members and volunteers who help make this organization run so well. Speaking of volunteers, we currently need a Recording Secretary for the Board. Please contact me if you might be interested.

Our summer functions were a great success! We had a lovely evening at the Melting Pot in Littleton where we enjoyed laughter and conversations in addition to great food and fun door prizes. Thank you to Marleen Diamond for organizing such a fun night!

Our party at Mount Vernon Canyon Club was one that we will be talking about for years. Megan Marino entertained us with a performance that was absolutely outstanding! She is a DLOG member, a former competition winner and a Metropolitan Opera star. We are so lucky to have her with us. Thank you to Maradith Wilkins, Leigh Maclay, Deanna Leino, Mary Sharon Wells, Becky Gantner, Wendy Cogdal and Karen Stevens for your work on such a great party. A special thank you goes to Mary and

Robert Quillin and Central City Opera for the door prize tickets for Madame Butterfly and Billy Bud.

I've heard rave reviews about our trip to Central City Opera to see Madame Butterfly. The lunch, lectures and then the opera were more than expected.

I hope you will all be able to join us as we start our Opera on Tuesdays. The first date is September 10th at Cherry Hills Country Club. Maradith Wilkins has done an excellent job arranging our venues and singers for this season.

I hope to see you all on September 10th!

From Lisa Curtis, Development V.P.

Welcome, New Members!

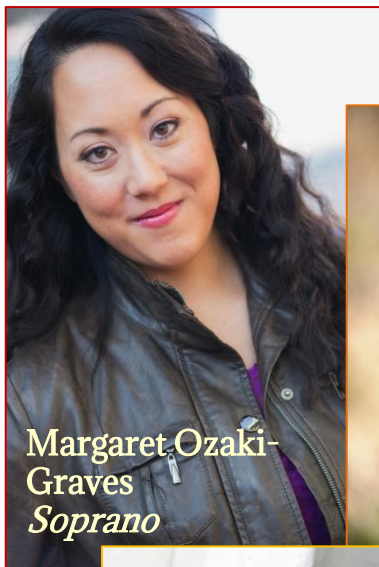
The Guild is growing! We welcome and thank these new members for their generous support. New members will have red ribbons on their name tags at Operas on Tuesday, so be sure to warmly welcome them and invite them to sit with you. New members and their sponsors will be invited to a Champagne Reception just prior to the December 3rd Opera on Tuesday.

We currently have 194 members, including 25 Patron Circle and 17 Encore Circle members. We need YOUR help to continue to grow our membership and to financially support generations of aspiring young opera singers! Our **One Member, One New Voice for Opera** campaign continues throughout the year. Please help us by sponsoring one new member and providing another new voice for opera!

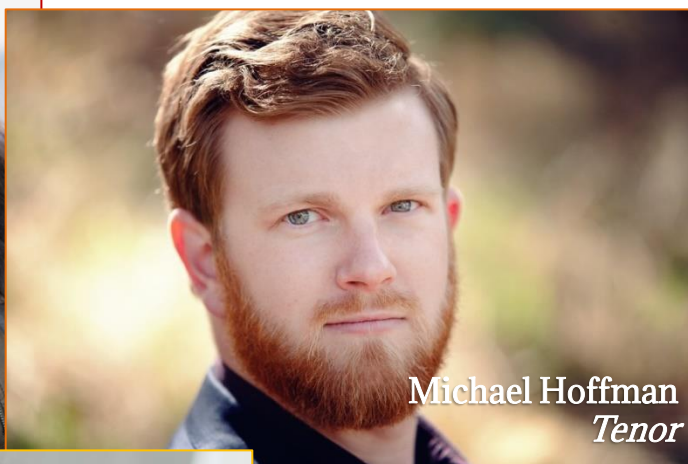
Chris Barrington	David Little
Cathy Bruno	Jessica Loving-Campos
Francine Butler	Veryl & Dr. Michael
Kathryn Chinburg	McBride
Wendy Cogdal	Jill McKenzie
Pat Diamond	Nancy Parker
Haley Doty	Barbara Roidal
Jane Fleener	Larry Stephens
Janet Freed	Linda Strauch
Jutta & Peter Golas	Mary Thro
Yvonne Kowalewski	Kathleen Van Arsdale
Gayle & Gary Landis	Dr. Valerie Wassill
Susan Leach	Jim White

OPERA ON TUESDAY: Fall Kick Off!

with Central City Opera Touring Artists at Cherry Hills Country Club



Margaret Ozaki-Graves
Soprano



Michael Hoffman
Tenor



Jennifer DeDominici
Mezzo Soprano



Steven Aguiló-Arbues
Accompanist



Emily Murdock
*Associate Director
of Education*



Josh DeVane
Baritone

WHEN:

Tuesday, September 10th

Social Hour: 10:30

Program: 11:00

Luncheon: 12:00

WHERE:

Cherry Hills Country Club
4125 S. University Blvd.,
Cherry Hills Village 80113

COST:

\$40 per person payable to
Denver Lyric Opera Guild.
Reservations must be
received by September 4.

RESERVATIONS:

Send checks and any
dietary restrictions to:

Mary Sharon Wells
10695 W. 17th Avenue,
Apt. 318
Lakewood, CO 80215

Or make online
reservations at

DenverLyricOperaGuild.org/opera-on-tuesday

and click on "Details and
Reservations."

QUESTIONS

For any questions OR if a
check might be late OR if
to reserve a table for a
group, call Wendy Cogdal
at 303-794-4538

SORRY, BUT . . .

No doggie bags
Cash Bar only at Cherry
Hills Country Club (NO
credit cards).

Please, Join Us!

SPOTLIGHT: DLOG Member Tells Her Own Story



Mary Jo Weiker

Music has always been a lifestyle for me. I come from a lineage of professional musicians, and music is simply part of my DNA. Growing up in the Denver music scene, I was exposed to amazing live music including The Denver Grand Opera, summer shows at Cheesman Park, the Denver Symphony and concerts at Red Rocks.

My first touch with opera was a production of *Carmen* which was produced by the Denver Grand Opera under the baton of Rudolph Fetch and staged by John Newfield. I was in the children's chorus and my mother sang the role of Micaela. My mother was a magnificent soprano who fostered my love of Opera. My favorite photo of the two of us is when she was singing the role of Gilda in *Rigoletto*.

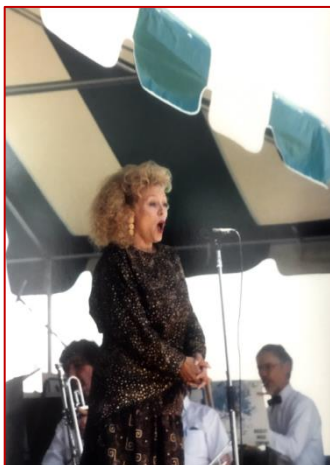
My first real role in Opera was as Emily in *Albert Herring* under the direction of Dr. Brico. I was 16 years old and was studying with Josephine Neri. I attended Colorado State College (now UNC) when the music school there began expanding into opera. I loved performing as Helen Chow in *Flower Drum Song* and Letitia in *The Old Maid and The Thief*.

After college I auditioned for Mario Lalli and became a Mario's Singer, "where they sing while you dine". Singing at Mario's gave me incredible opportunities to expand my repertoire while singing for some famous musicians such as Sammy Davis Jr.

I loved singing with many local opera companies over the years, including Opera West, The Morrison Opera Company, Call Us Opera, The American Apprentice Opera Company, Young Artist Studio and several others. Some favorite roles include Violetta (*La Traviata*), Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), the Queen of The Night (*The Magic Flute*), Musette (*La Boheme*), Rosalinda (*Die Fledermaus*) and Sister Angelica (*Suor Angelica*).

Other regular performing gigs included The Padre Restaurant, La Fontanella, The Executive Towers, The Stanley Park Hotel, The Stage at DCPA, Singing "Bee" Telegrams with Al McKittrick, and many summers as a featured soloist with the City Park Band.

I believe I have led a blessed life as a singer, mother, wife and teacher. I look forward to being able to foster the love of Opera in our younger generations too.



Flag Day at the Melting Pot

Members and friends of the Guild celebrated a belated Flag Day at the Melting Pot on June 18th. The event was moved inside because of weather which made it very cozy and festive.

We sang patriotic songs, had drawings and gifts for many of the 37 participants. The food was great, as always, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. We really appreciate the Melting Pot's service and generosity. There was \$2070 raised for Competition.



from Marleen Diamond, Membership V.P.

Summer Party at Mount Vernon Canyon Club



Over 100 members and guests attended our July 9 Summer Party, which was held at Mt. Vernon Canyon Club.

We all enjoyed beautiful singing by Megan Marino, who is one of our own and also a Metropolitan Opera star. Her accompanist John Arida is a music coach in New York City.

During her performance, Megan moved around in the room, giving everyone a chance to see her closer up.

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch and time together with our DLOG friends.



from Marleen Diamond, Membership V.P.

COMING SOON: More Opera On Tuesday

Oct. 1, 2019

FEATURING: University of
Northern Colorado Opera
Lakewood Country Club

Nov. 5, 2019

FEATURING: Lamont School of
Music, DU
Lakewood Country Club

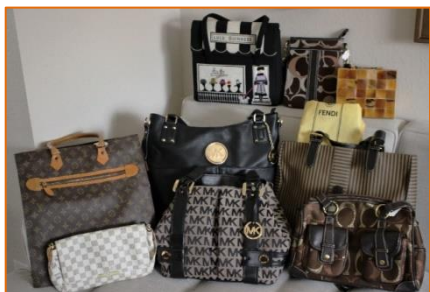
Dec. 3, 2019

FEATURING: Opera Theatre of
the Rockies
Cherry Hills Country Club

Arias and Jewels

The Guild's Development Committee has combined our traditional Arias event and our first ever Vintage Treasures Sale into one event and moved it to June, 2020. So now is the time to begin collecting treasures for the sale. Please go through your jewelry boxes and treasure chests for items to donate. You can bring them to the next Opera on Tuesday, or we are happy to pick them up.

from Marie Belew Wheatley



Treasures to Donate:

- Fine gold, silver and gemstone jewelry
- Native American jewelry
- Vintage Mexican silver jewelry
- Costume jewelry – vintage & new
- Sterling entertaining pieces (no silver plate)
- Designer purses – Coach, Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Fendi, YSL
- Vintage evening/opera purses
- Opera fashions & hats (Fascinators)



These photos show some treasures that were in last year's sale. which netted \$8,700! Thank you to everyone who donated treasures! Let's make the next sale even better to help support our young singers!

The 2020 Competition

Louise Conter Master Class

February 15, 2020
9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Preliminary Competition

March 7, 2020
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Finals Competition

March 21, 2020
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm



*Free to the
Public!*



Calvary Baptist Church • 6800 W. Girard • Denver, CO 80224

Reviewing *Ms. Butterfly*

On July 25, 2019. I attended the World Premier of *Ms. Butterfly*, the futuristic electro-acoustic music adaptation of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. My opinion was that I couldn't find enough adjectives to describe it: beautiful, fantastic, wonderful, amazing, colorful -- *Bravi* to the stupendous voices (some of whom were DLOG competition winners), musicians, and dancers, and kudos to Dennis Law for this new and exciting production. It was done in conjunction with the University of Denver's Joseph and Loretta Law Institute of Arts and Technology (established in memory of their parents by the Law brothers).

THE STORY: This takes place in the year 2419. Camille Bundy (Butterfly), a 27-year-old heiress, lives high on a hill in a luxurious estate near Norfolk, Virginia. Her father was a renowned Colorado entrepreneur. Butterfly inherited his wealth and loneliness. The Chinese Ambassador and the Vice President of Matchmaker.com together introduce Butterfly to Captain Pang Kedum, commander of a Chinese aircraft carrier and a philanderer with not-so-genuine feelings. It is love at first sight. A beautiful wedding with lots of guests takes place. Suddenly it is interrupted by Butterfly's father's ghost, who doesn't approve of the match, but it's chased away by the guests.

The couple spends a romantic honeymoon evening. To Butterfly's sorrow, the Captain then must return to his ship and he is gone for the next two years. During that time period a baby boy is born. The Ambassador returns and hesitatingly gives Butterfly a letter, which tells of the Captain's new Chinese wife. Then Susanna, Butterfly's housekeeper and confidant, announces that the TV News confirms the arrival of the Captain's aircraft carrier. Butterfly is elated, overjoyed, and dreams of her upcoming sweet reunion with her husband.

The next morning, the Captain and the Ambassador arrive and are greeted by Susanna, who learns that he is there NOT to reunite with Butterfly after all. Instead he wishes to claim their baby for his Chinese wife and himself. At first Susanna and Butterfly prepare the baby for his upcoming trip. Suddenly, though, when the Chinese wife starts taking away the baby, Susanna won't let go. An emotional and physical struggle ensues. Butterfly becomes enraged, pulls out a large knife and stabs the Chinese wife in the heart. The woman falls to the ground, dead. The Captain rushes over and tries to revive her, but to no avail. He stands up and moves toward Butterfly, and she plunges the knife into his heart, killing him. (I said to myself, "Yay!!! Good Ending!")

THE DANCERS: There were several beautiful dance scenes (both Chinese and modern) with dancers from Wonderbound, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Law Brothers Chinese Performing Arts International, Colorado Ballet, etc., in flowing gowns and interesting, colorful costumes of the 25th Century.

THE SCENERY: The scenery on stage was sparse but in good taste. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the backdrops. The wedding scene had an entire back hanging of 3D, metallic butterflies in aqua-blues, golds, pinks, and lavenders and a huge arch made of pink flowers. The honeymoon scene featured a dark sky with sparkling stars and a very large, bright 3D moon. Then, when Butterfly was waiting for the Captain and was dreaming, there were dancers with flowers and also baskets of flowers. The screen in back was full of birds and butterflies flying gracefully around—all in the same blues, pinks, golds, and lavenders. All of the scenes were accompanied by beautiful “new” music.

If you attended, good for you! If you didn't attend, poor you – you missed a unique and spectacular production. Thank you, Dennis Law, for having your World Premier of Ms. Butterfly here in Denver.

The ending scene featured what appeared to be a concrete gold-painted sculpture that spelled out LOVE. After the stabbings, the LOVE sign was shown on the backdrop on a curtain, and red blood started running down slowly covering the LOVE sign.

THE MUSIC: The music was amazing. We couldn't see the orchestra and chorus during the performance, but it sounded like at least a 70-piece orchestra and a 50-person chorus. The music was arranged and re-orchestrated by Zhou Jiaojiao from Beijing. He also composed the “new” music. Many of the singers were from Beijing. At the end of the last scene, all of the dancers and singers sang the “new” music composition.

It was beautiful.

And what a surprise when Dennis Law took his bow and then put the spotlight on the orchestra. There were 8 people and the big chorus was one person working the synthesizer. Besides the conductor there were two Electones, one electronic organ, one electronic keyboard, a large drum/percussion set, an electronic harp, and an electronic cello. And they made absolutely awesome music. (The only down side I can see is that this type of music will leave a whole bunch of musicians without jobs.)

After the performance, some of us were invited to an after-concert reception which gave us a chance to meet the artists and enjoy a very nice Chinese buffet and wine. I had a chance to talk with our former competition winners who were there.

from Deanna Leino, President-Elect



AROUND TOWN

September 14, 2019 Colorado Symphony Guild luncheon at Lakewood Country Club at 11 am.

Special program and talk featuring Jeremy Fey, Mayor of Central City; Scott Finlay, Central City Opera; and Mark Jensen, Central City Partners. They will be talking about the revitalization and reorganization of Central City.

COST: \$32.

RESERVE: online at

coloradosymphonyguild.org

or send reservation to Patty Goward

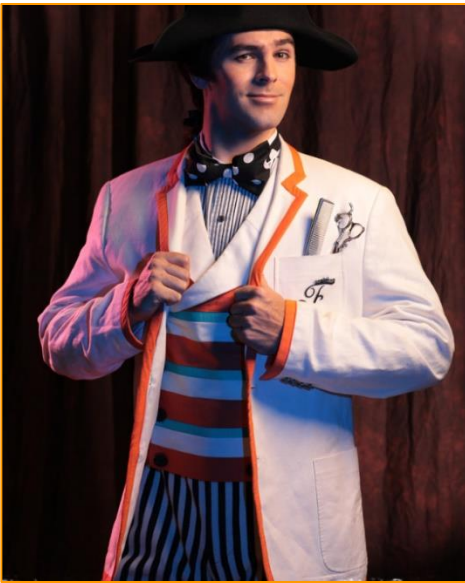
2426 Calais Drive

Longmont, CO 80504

September 15, 2019 The Allied Arts, Inc. is having a home recital at 900 Grant Street, Denver, CO. Recital features soprano, Megan Marino, and pianist Sarah Parkinson. Seating limited to 40 persons.

COST: \$75 (includes recital and a light supper)

RESERVE: Call Betsy Sweeney at 720-212-6150



from Deanna Leino
and Betty Natelson

October 12 and 16: Turandot, The Met Live in HD, in some local theatres. <https://www.fathomevents.com/series/the-met-live-in-hd>

November 2, 5, 8, 10: The Barber of Seville by Opera Colorado, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at Denver Performing Arts Complex. www.operacolorado.org/event/rossini-the-barber-of-seville/

For more Colorado opera events, see operapronto.info/events.html.



LIVERPOOL CARD GROUP

WHAT IS LIVERPOOL ALL ABOUT???? If you like to play cards, Liverpool is the game for you. It is a Rummy game which takes about five minutes or less to learn. There are very few rules – we play Liverpool for camaraderie and fun, but most importantly to raise money for one of the Competition awards. We always welcome new members.

Here are the details: We meet once a month on the **4th Tuesday at 11:30 am**, eating lunch at a restaurant, each paying for our own meal. We also each donate \$10.00 every time as a tax deductible donation going directly into the Liverpool Card Group Award. We also each chip in 50 cents each time into a “pot” to pay the game winner of the day.

Call Deanna Leino at 303 424 2641 (leave a message if she is not home) to let her know you are interested. We are a really friendly and welcoming group.

From Deanna Leino, President-Elect



Encouraging and supporting young singers and continuing to educate
members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera

DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

CALENDAR FOR 2019–2020

OPERA ON TUESDAY

10:30 social hour • 11:00 program • 12:00 lunch

unless otherwise noted

September 10, 2019	FEATURING: Central City Opera Singers Cherry Hills Country Club <i>Fall Kick-off!</i>	\$40
October 1, 2019	FEATURING: University of Northern Colorado Opera Lakewood Country Club	\$40
November 5, 2019	FEATURING Lamont School of Music, DU Lakewood Country Club	\$40
December 3, 2019	FEATURING: Opera Theatre of the Rockies Cherry Hills Country Club	\$40
January 7, 2020	FEATURING: Opera Colorado "Artists in Residence" Denver Country Club	\$40
April 7, 2020	FEATURING: Winners of the Competition Pinehurst Country Club. <i>Lunch time change! 12:30 lunch.</i>	\$45
May 5, 2020	FEATURING: Opera Fort Collins Lakewood Country Club <i>Different times! 10:00 meeting • 11:00 program • 12:30 lunch</i>	\$40

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Free to the public!

February 15, 2020	Louise Conter Master Class 9:00am–4:30pm	Competition events at: Calvary Baptist Church 6800 E. Girard, Denver CO 80224
March 7, 2020	Preliminary Competition 9:00am–5:00pm	
March 21, 2020	Finals Competition 1:00pm–5:00pm	

OTHER EVENTS

June, 2020	Arias and Jewels Annual Gala and Sale
Dates TBD	2020 Opera Tours
Dates TBD	2020 Summer Party

Make a reservation or learn more at DenverLyricOperaGuild.org

PRESIDENT: Mary Jo Weiker, mjandmpweiker@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP: Marleen Diamond, (303) 683-3609 • DEVELOPMENT: Lisa Curtis, (720) 289-2719



Kevin Hughes, husband of Barbara Hughes, was a longtime member of DLOG. In addition to serving on many committees, he and Barbara attended almost all activities and events.

Kevin requested that any memorial donations be given in his name to Denver Lyric Opera Guild.

Stan Saliman was the husband of Karen Saliman, who has been a faithful member of Denver Lyric Opera Guild for many years.

Stan joined Karen in attending many of our events.

from Deanna Leino

Designed and formatted by Deborah Natelson



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 339

Englewood, CO 80151