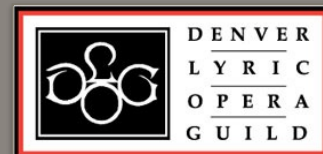


# The Lyric Letter



Volume 19, Issue 1 Fall 2017

17 August 2017



Summer Greetings Everyone!

And what a summer it has been! As I take on the role of President, I am ever more impressed by the dynamic, expanding leadership of the Guild. Members of the board have stepped up to bring a host of summer activities, as well as ambitious planning for this coming year.

First, our past president, Marleen Diamond coordinated the second annual fundraiser at The Melting Pot Fondue Restaurant. Forty of us had a fun summer evening, a delicious meal and helped raise a cool \$2,000 for the Guild. We hope to make this an annual event.

The Summer Party, chaired by Nicole Campbell, was a huge success on several levels. As always, Mount Vernon Country Club offers spectacular views and superb food. The party was well attended, including several guests who joined the Guild. The program was hands down one of the best ever! We owe Scott Finlay a debt of gratitude for arranging for Emily Pulley and Jeremy Reger to entertain us, and also, for the Central City Opera tickets that we gave as a door prize.

Speaking of Central City Opera, Phyllis Wicklund coordinated this year's tour to see *Carmen*. Twenty-three of us enjoyed an excellent production with Emily Pulley portraying the best *Carmen* I have ever seen. Most of our group traveled by bus, sipped Champagne, heard a presentation about the opera, and had lunch together.

Later in August, a group of 16 members and friends, led by Mary Sharon Wells and Maradith Wilkins, will travel to Santa Fe Opera to see *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *(R)evolution of Steve Jobs* and *Die Fledermaus*. We are excited in particular for the chance to hear Wei Wu, one of our past Competition winners, perform in the Steve Jobs opera.

Now for the rest of the coming year! I hope to see many of you at our Fall Kickoff the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Denver Country Club. Details are included in this newsletter as well as our website: [DenverLyricOperaGuild.org](http://DenverLyricOperaGuild.org).

Opera on Tuesday luncheons are all planned for October through May, so mark your calendars. The venues and entertainment are included in this newsletter, the new membership roster, and on our website.

Also, mark your calendars for our Competition for Colorado Singers in February and March. Barbara Walton has arranged for a fabulous new venue for the Competition, Calvary Baptist Church on Monaco at Hampden.

**BIG NEWS!** We have 28 new members! So whether you are a new member, or a long-time member, consider joining us in planning for the year and trying out some new things. We have some big jobs, but we also have many smaller jobs like greeting, serving as a table captain or volunteering to give someone a ride.

Last January, we tried a new event called Arias and Gemstones, which was a big success. It was fresh and fun, and we had young singers burst into song in the middle of the cocktail party! Not only was it fun, but the event raised more than \$5,000 for the Guild. We plan to have a similar event again this year to kick off our Competition for Colorado Singers.

The board is considering another new event, a Vintage Treasures Boutique. We have not decided on the timing or format, but would love to get your ideas. To that end, we will be surveying a number of our members to learn your preferences on time of day and format. Let me know if you would like to participate in the survey and/or in the planning.

Last, a big thank you to all who made contributions along with your membership renewal! We truly appreciate your generosity!

Marie Belew Wheatley, President

# NEW SEASON

## Kickoff Event @ Denver Country Club

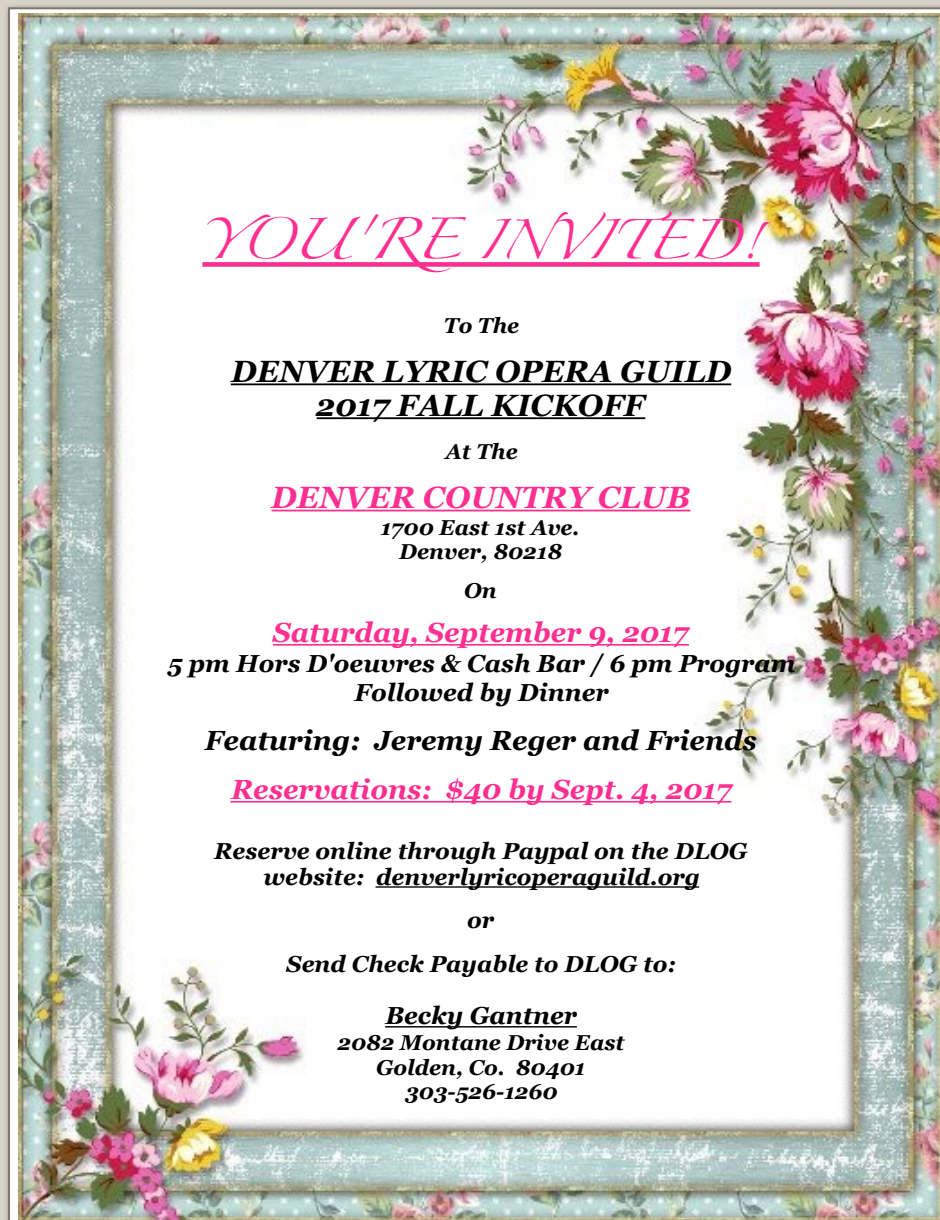
Jeremy Reger will bring a program from CU- Boulder. It will include a dialogue with Jeremy, singers, and possibly a new opera professor in the Boulder opera program. And of course there will be music!! At 6:00pm the program will begin and a wonderful sit down dinner will be served around 7:00pm.

**Where:** Denver Country Club: 1700 E. 1st Ave, Denver, CO 80218

**When:** Saturday, September 9 - Arrive at 5:00 pm and enjoy a social hour on the East Patio at Denver Country Club. There will be a cash bar there and some lovely hors d'oeuvres and nibbles. Visit friends and make some new ones. Better yet...bring a guest!

**Reservations:** \$40 by September 4th.

**Send check:** Becky Gantner: 2082 Montane Drive East Golden, CO 80401. Question? Call: 303 526-1260





## Wei Wu

Wei Wu, a native of Beijing, China, is a bass who first came to the United States as a young artist covering the titular role in the world premiere of *Poet Li Bai* at **Central City Opera** in 2007. He continued as the lead cover of Li Bai throughout the production's subsequent tour in Rome, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Denver and Los Angeles. While a student at University of Colorado, Wei Wu performed roles including: Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro* (**University of Colorado**), Colline in *La bohème* (**Colorado Springs Philharmonic**), Ferrando in *Il trovatore*, Tom in *Un ballo in maschera* (**China National Opera**), and Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutti* (**Opera Arkansas**).

Many members of The Denver Lyric Opera Guild are looking forward to and very excited about seeing and hearing him sing the role of Kobun Chino Otogawa, a Soto Zen priest who was a spiritual mentor to Steve Jobs this summer in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* at the **Santa Fe Opera**.

Bass Wei Wu made his company debut with the **Glyndebourne Festival Opera**, covering Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. The Glyndebourne Festival in England began in 1935 and generally runs from late May until the end of November, presenting 10 or more operas during that time. He has become a favorite there over the years. Mr. Wu began his 2015-2016 season singing the Old Hebrew in *Samson et Dalila* at the **NCPA Beijing**, made a company debut with **North Carolina Opera** as Bonze in *Madama Butterfly* and as the Ghost of Nino in **Washington Concert Opera's** production of *Semiramide*.

In his first season with **Washington National Opera**, Mr. Wu made his debut in the world premiere production of *The Lion, The Unicorn and Me* as the Inn Keeper, Lizard, Ox and The Shepherd, and he also appeared in *Breaking*, part of the **American Opera Initiative**. He has also appeared in *The Magic Flute* as the Second Armored Man at the **Kennedy Center** and he appeared as Colline in *La bohème*, The King in *The Little Prince*, Javelinot in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and cover of the Captain in *Florencia en el Amazonas*.

Mr. Wu made his **Alice Tully Hall** debut singing in concert with performers from China's **I Sing Festival**, and also debuted with **NCPA Beijing** as the Four Villains in *Les contes d'Hoffman* under director Francesca Zambello.

Mr. Wu received his B.M. in Vocal Performance from the People's University of China, Beijing, and received his Performance Certificate and M.M. in Voice Performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Wei Wu was a regional finalist and district special award winner (Rocky Mountain Region) for the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition** in 2010 and 2012. He was also a finalist in the **Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition** in 2009, 2011 and 2012, and placed third in the 5<sup>th</sup> **Taiwan Vocal Competition**.

It is several years since we have heard him perform in this part of the world and we are thrilled he is back. This past summer I attended the New Opera Workshop at the University of Colorado School of Music. This several week long workshop is held for composers rather than singers but Mr. Wu happened to be there at the close of the workshop and graciously agreed to sing an aria from the Steve Jobs opera for us. His voice has grown with his maturity and obviously he has been singing a great deal since we have heard him. Run, don't walk to Santa Fe if you possibly can to hear this superb singer who "we knew when....."

By Barbara Walton

# MEMBERSHIP

Hello all! As this year's Membership Chair I just wanted to take a quick moment to thank each and every one of you for renewing your membership to the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. It is through your membership, participation and generosity that the organization continues to be able to fulfill its critical mission of supporting young Colorado opera singers and providing our members with a venue to learn more about the art form they love.

Below you will find a list of members who are new to the Guild this year. Almost every new member joined DLOG after having been brought to one of our events by an existing member. The Board would like to thank all of our members who brought guests to our events last year and helped to grow our ranks! We would also like to encourage ALL of our members to consider bringing a guest to one of our upcoming events. Most people who think they don't like opera have never had an opportunity to really experience it. Bring a friend and broaden someone's horizons. Who knows . . . they may become our next new member!

A special thanks to those of you who included donations to either the general fund or Competition with your membership dues. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Rest assured they will be put to good use. The prize money awarded through our Competition as well as the grants we provide to Colorado universities and young artist programs make the world of difference to these talented young singers!

**Karen Bruggenthies, Vice President, Membership**

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## NEW MEMBERS

Denver Lyric Opera Guild is thrilled to welcome the following new members to our organization:

Jim & Thora Aarvig	Jessica Pena
Marianne Anderson	Geri Sheldon
Robin Braun	Christine Shore
Joan Byrne	Judy Simmons
Dominic Donato	Andrew & Toni Smolen
Susan Dodson	Wilhelmina Stemmer
Sue Ellison	Karen Stevens
Leah Hamilton	Sue Summers
Arlys Jacobs	Eleanor Viergever
Eileen Honnen McDonald	Erin Wenzel
Mary Mendenhall	Sharon Wolf
Pamela Mignoli	Carole Woodbury
Kevin O'Connor	Lisa Curtis

Should you see one of our new members at a DLOG event please make sure to say hello, make them feel welcome, and answer any questions they might have about the organization or our upcoming events. Many thanks to our newest members for joining DLOG. We sincerely hope you will enjoy our many wonderful events and the companionship of our members while at the same time feeling a sense of pride and purpose in your support of deserving young Colorado opera singers!



# PICTURES!



## DENVER LYRIC OPERA CALENDAR FOR 2017-2018

<u>SEPT. 9, 2017</u>	<u>2017 FALL KICKOFF - DENVER COUNTRY CLUB</u> 5 pm Hors d'Oeuvres & Cash Bar / 6 pm Program / 7 pm Dinner Featuring: Jeremy Reger & Friends \$40.00 by Sept. 4, 2017
<u>Oct. 3 2017</u>	<u>OPERA ON TUESDAY - HERITAGE EAGLE BEND GOLF CLUB</u> Featuring: Opera Colorado Apprentices @ 11 am \$40 by Sept. 28, 2017
<u>Nov. 7, 2017</u>	<u>OPERA ON TUESDAY - LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB@11:00 am</u> Featuring: UNC Opera Program \$40 by Oct. 26, 2017
<u>Dec. 5, 2017</u>	<u>OPERA ON TUESDAY - CHERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB@11 am</u> Featuring: Opera Theater of the Rockies \$40 by Nov. 30, 2017
<u>Jan. 9, 2018</u>	<u>OPERA ON TUESDAY - DENVER COUNTRY CLUB@11:00 am</u> Featuring: DU Lamont Singers with Ken Cox \$40.00 by Jan. 4, 2018
<u>April 3, 2018</u>	<u>OPERA ON TUESDAY - PINEHURST COUNTRY CLUB@10:30 am</u> Featuring: 2018 Competition Winners Program @ 11:00 am \$45.00 by March 29, 2018 Lunch @ 12:00 pm
<u>May 1, 2018</u>	<u>ANNUAL MEETING @ 10:30 / OPERA ON TUESDAY</u> LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB Social Time @ 11:30 pm Featuring: CU Eklund Singers Program @ 12:00 pm \$40 by April 26, 2018 Lunch @ 1:00 pm

### COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS

<u>Feb. 17, 2018</u>	<u>LOUISE C. CONTER MASTER CLASS</u> CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
<u>March 10, 2018</u>	<u>PRELIMINARY COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS</u> CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
<u>March 24, 2018</u>	<u>FINALS COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS</u> CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
<u>March 24, 2018</u>	<u>JUDGES RECEPTION @ WELLSHIRE EVENTS CENTER</u> \$25 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

RESERVE ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL ON THE DLOG WEBSITE: [denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://denverlyricoperaguild.org)  
or  
BY CHECK: BECKY GANTNER: 2082 Montane Dr. East, Golden, CO 80401 - 303-526-1260



## Volunteer Opportunities **BIG & small**

If you would like to get more involved and meet new friends, consider signing up for one of our committees or volunteer opportunities:

- Opera on Tuesday Greeter
- Opera on Tuesday Table Captain
- "Uber" Driver to give a Guild member a ride
- Special Events Committee(s)
- Opera Tour Coordinator

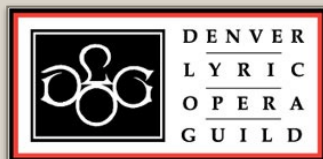
Let me know if you are interested!

Marie Belew Wheatley: 303-986-7116

## *In Memoriam*

*DLOG extends  
sincere sympathy to  
the family and  
friends of*

*Don Freedburg  
Michael Weiker*



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Marie Belew Wheatley, President  
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