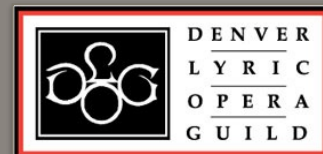


# The Lyric Letter



Volume 18, Issue 4 Winter 2017

13 March 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are in the middle of a very busy season for DLOG. We have already had a few important events and several more to come.

The Arias and Gemstones Fundraiser was very enjoyable and successful. Everyone who attended was thrilled with the venue, food, and entertainment. Becky Gantner will report on this.

The Master Class conducted by Jeremy Reger illustrated the power of excellent coaching in changing a singer's tone and delivery in singing. We were all very impressed with the quality of the singers.

This is our 33rd Competition Season. In the Preliminary Competition on Feb. 25, we heard 36 wonderful and talented singers. Barbara Walton will give more information on the competition.

Coming up, on March 25th, is the FINAL COMPETITION. These singers are among Colorado's best! Come and have an enjoyable afternoon listening to these exceptional singers and bring your friends too!

We will have a pot luck again this year preceding the final competition at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish to share and join in the conversations of fellow opera lovers. (This is optional.)

Following the Final Competition, we will have the Judges Reception at the Wellsire Events Center from 6-8 pm. This is an opportunity to get to know and ask the judges and the top three singers questions. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will also be served. Please send in your \$25 reservation and questions to Leigh Maclay ASAP if you plan on attending.

Our final competition event will be the April 4, Opera on Tuesday. The winners will sing at the luncheon and receive their awards. Please send in your \$45 to Linda Young to reserve your place early. Don't miss this popular event!

All the information on these events is on the DLOG website, [denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://denverlyricoperaguild.org) and on the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Facebook account.

We have two Opera Tours this summer: Central City Opera and Santa Fe Opera. Check the flyers on the website and if you are interested, please sign up.

There are so many DLOG members who have volunteered to help with the competition. THANK YOU!! We could not do this without you!

I'm sad to say that two of our long time members have passed. Lily Glennon was a long time member and past president. Lily was sweet, bubbly and loved to talk about her experiences as an opera singer. She has been in a nursing facility the last couple of years so we missed her. Thank you Lily for your sweet joy.

Shirley Smith passed suddenly in an auto accident a week ago. Many of us saw and talked to her at the Preliminaries. She loved opera, singing, and all the arts. Shirley was past president twice and was passionate about the DLOG competition. Shirley and Marlis were very generous in sponsoring awards to singers for many years. She will be dearly missed by all of us. We send our love and condolences to Marlis and the Smith Family.

We will dedicate our 2017 finals competition to Shirley Smith in honor of her years of membership, service, and her extraordinary contribution to the DLOG.

**Marleen Diamond, President**

# 2017 Preliminary Competition Results

On Saturday, February 25, 2017 we gathered at Bethany Lutheran Church, anticipating a wonderful day filled with a wide variety of operatic arias and were not disappointed. There were 36 singers, many of whom had participated in the Master Class on Saturday, February 4th. The 3 judges, Russell Givens who is currently teaching voice at the University of Louisiana, Monroe, Sara Gartland who has performed with Austin (TX) Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera and many others, and Jay Rozendaal, currently on the staff of Seattle Opera. Jay has worked on the staffs of Portland Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Central City Opera and many more. Our judges are from out of state to reduce the chance they might know anyone in the competition. Scott Finlay, Director of Development at Central City Opera has graciously agreed to find 6 qualified people to travel here to judge our competitions for the past 7 years. Dr. Jeremy Reger was the Accompanist. The following 15 singers were chosen for the Final Competition; listed here in preliminary performance order:

**Younwoo Seo**, Soprano; **Molly Jane Hill**, Mezzo; **Humberto Borboa Beltran**, Tenor; **Jovahnna Barboa**, Soprano; **Schyler Vargas**, Baritone; **Joshua DeVane**, Baritone; **Mary Kettlewell**, Soprano; **Nadya Hill**, Soprano; **Christian Mark Gibbs**, Tenor; **Rebecca Henriques**, Soprano; **Michael Aiello**, Baritone; **Clare McCahan**, Mezzo; **Griffen Hogan Tracy**, Bass; **Ekaterina Kotcheraguina**, Soprano; **Amy Maples**, Soprano.

We look forward to hearing them all sing in the Finals and wish every one the best on Saturday, March 25, 2017 beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Beth Nielsen will accompany the singers on the piano. The judges for the Final competition will be: Mark Calkins, Erie Mills and Emily Pulley.

**Judges and Finalists Reception** will be held at the Wellshire Events Center at 6:00 p.m.

Please Send \$25.00 Check payable to DLOG to:

Leigh & Bill Maclay 22244 E. Nova Place, Aurora, Colorado 80016

– **Barbara Walton**

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## History of the Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award

Ada Belle Spencer was born January 12, 1905 in Ft Scott, Kansas. Her mother championed her musical training and subsequent career. At age 13 she performed publicly for the first time, playing the piano for the church choir. The high light of her teen-aged years was her coronation as queen of Kansas City's Priest of Pallas parade where she carried the shield of Zeus and wore a helmet headdress sitting on white throne in the role of Pallas Athene, the city's patron goddess. After high school she studied at Lindenwood College outside St. Louis. then went on the Chicago Musical college. There she won the Claudia Muzio Award, which encouraged her commitment to a career in music. By the age of 23, the young contralto had sung in 120 concerts on tour, studied in Chicago, Cincinnati, New York and Paris. By age 34 she debuted with the San Carlo Opera Company in Kansas. Her career soared with performances in New York and Chicago. In the 1940's, Ada Belle toured coast to coast with the Philadelphia La Scala Opera Company. Among her roles were La Cieca, in "La Gioconda" and Madalene in "Rigoletto." She was praised for not only her musical ability but also her dramatic talent. Impressed, Edward Johnson, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, offered Ada Belle a position. She, however, declined and opted for marriage. "I've loved Galen since I was 12 years old." she often said. Galen and Ada Belle were married September 21, 1946. They moved to Denver in 1951. In 1982 she incorporated the Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation to foster efforts that support the couples' love for music and their community. She died August 5, 1986. –**Trish Panze**

# "Flash Mob"... and Gems!

## An Evening Feast for Eyes and Ears!

On January 27, guests at the Guild's "Arias and Gemstones" fundraiser enjoyed a wonderfully entertaining and truly successful event at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. Jeremy Reger and six singers from the University of Colorado Eklund Opera Program presented delightful, fun, accordion-accompanied "flash mob" arias (including the appropriate "Glitter and be Gay" and the "Anvil Chorus") to attendees as they strolled through the CSM Museum examining the international collection of sparkling gems. Those gems include the collection bequeathed by DLOG member Hilja Herfurth.

We extend an *immeasurable* "thank you" to all members and the many non-members who donated in support of our ongoing effort to fulfill the DLOG objective. –Becky Gantner





# Megan Marino

There are few singers who have participated in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competitions in recent years who are singing professionally as much as Megan Marino. She placed among the top 3 in the Finals both in 2008 and 2011 and is in demand all over the country. Megan has sung at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Ft. Worth, Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Virginia Opera, Opera Iowa and regularly at The Metropolitan Opera to name only a few. Right now she is cast as one of the 3 Wood Sprites and received very favorable mention in reviews of the Met's new and current production of *Rusalka*, by Antonin Dvorak. We heard her in the same role in Denver when Opera Colorado did *Rusalka* in it's 2010-2011 season. How can it have been that long ago? As I write this article on Saturday, February 11, 2017, I wish I could be on my way to Wilmington, Delaware to hear tomorrow's performance in Opera Delaware's Sunday Artist Spotlight. Megan will be singing *Una voce poco fa* from *The Barber of Seville* by Gioachino Rossini; *Sweeter than Roses* by Henry Purcell; *That's Him*, by Kurt Weill; 3 arias by Benjamin Britten and *A Hundred Thousand Stars* by Jake Hegge, composer, and Gene Sheer, librettist from their 2016 opera, *Out of Darkness*. It will be a wonderful recital with great musical variety by a mezzo soprano we love to hear. That "Ms. Marino appears courtesy of The Metropolitan Opera" is noted prominently on the publicity for this Sunday's performance.



Megan has been hailed by the Washington Times for her "considerable range and confidence, navigating lower notes with impressive clarity while managing considerable leaps into the higher range as well, exhibiting a warm, plummy tone throughout." We can see and hear Megan this summer singing the role of Despina in Central City Opera's production of Mozart's *Così fan tutti* this summer. And you will hear Michael Mayes, Megan's husband as Escamillo in *Carmen* if you also see that favorite of opera fans. I'm looking forward to both!

## Barbara Walton



# Second Annual Potluck Preceding the Finals

## Noon, Saturday, March 25th @ Bethany Lutheran

In an effort to get more attendees to the Finals, we tried a potluck lunch last year, and it was well attended, both by members of the Guild, and by members of the Lions Club and other groups. Bring something to share and join us for lunch at noon prior to the finals. Invite a neighbor, a friend from church, fellow Lions, Rotarians, etc., members of your book club.

This is great way to introduce someone to the Guild and our mission, and it's FREE! No need to sign-up. Just bring something and enjoy meeting some new people. If you have questions, call **Marie Belew Wheatley** at 303-986-7116.

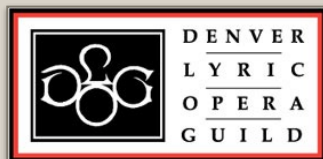
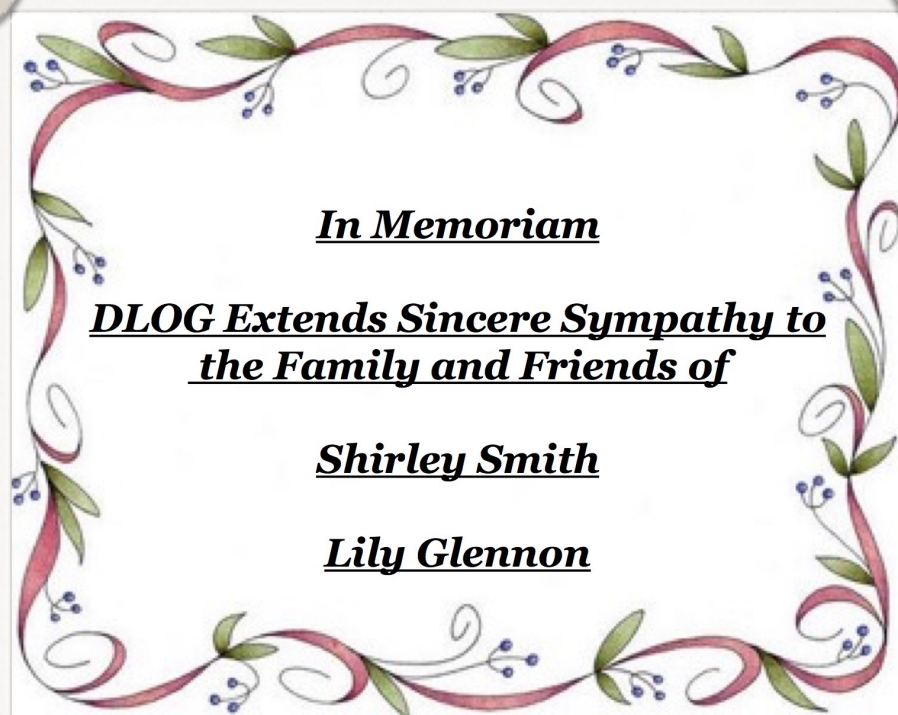


Above: A few of the 2017 finalists.

Below: The Judges for the 2017 Preliminary Competition.







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