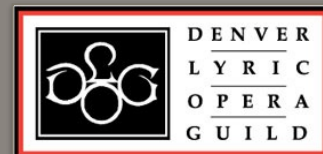


# The Lyric Letter



Volume 18, Issue 5 Spring 2017

19 May 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We have come to the close of my year serving as President of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. It has been a very busy year and I have been blessed with an excellent, hard-working board.

There have been so many wonderful experiences this year: the Opera on Tuesdays were very enjoyable with great entertainment and good food; the two fundraisers, Melting Pot and Arias and Gemstones, were very successful thanks to many dedicated board members who did a lot of work. All those who attended the opera tours had very memorable experiences. The best part of the year was the competition; there were so many talented singers! This really punctuates our purpose in supporting young singers and helping them with their careers.

We have several events this summer and they are highlighted in this newsletter. **Coming up:** Melting Pot 2017, The Summer Party, Central City Opera Tour, and the Santa Fe Opera Tour. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

It is impossible for this organization to function without a supportive and dedicated board, along with our many wonderful volunteers. Thank you! I am so proud to be a part of this organization because of our purpose, our dedication to young Colorado singers, and our generous grants given to many universities and opera programs. You, our guild members, are very special opera music lovers. Thank you for making this a truly rewarding experience.

I have already handed over the gavel to Marie Belew Wheatley, who will be an excellent President for 2017-2018! I'm looking forward to another great year under her leadership.

**Marleen Diamond, Immediate Past President**

## NEW PRESIDENT'S

### MESSAGE:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! For DLOG, that's June 1st. Marleen passed the gavel to me at the close of the May board meeting so that I can properly "ring in"

the new year at the June board meeting. The Guild's Board of Directors for 2017-2018 are listed on the last page of this newsletter. In each newsletter this next year, we will give a thumbnail sketch of one or more of our board members and their backgrounds, starting with me:

I moved to Denver in 1978, so not quite a native. I have one daughter who lives in Chicago with her husband and my 3 & 1/2-year-old grandson. My beau, Peter Johnson, also a Guild member, grew up in Chicago which makes family visits convenient.

I retired approximately three years ago from a 25-year career in nonprofit executive management. I had volunteered, primarily for arts organizations, for 10 years before taking a position at the American Red Cross. I was their first Development Director and when I left I was interim CEO. I like to say that I grew up at the Red Cross. Next, I was President and CEO for six years at American Humane Association, then was recruited to head up Colorado Ballet for three years. I was a member of the Guild years ago, but dropped out when my job prevented me from attending any meetings and events. When I retired, I jumped right back in. I am truly excited to lead us to yet another year of supporting young singers through our Competition for Colorado Singers and our grants to university and opera programs in the region.

Please help me kick off our new year at the Flag Day Party at the Melting Pot on June 14! See you there!

**Marie Belew Wheatley, President**



# SUMMER EVENTS

## Flag Day 2017 @ The Melting Pot



We had a great experience last year and everyone called for a repeat! Wear your **red**, **white**, and **blue** and enjoy a four-course fondue meal. There will be much singing and joy with friends and family.

**Where:** The Melting Pot: 2707 W. Main St., Littleton, CO 80120

**When:** Wednesday, June 14th from 5:30pm-8:30pm

**Reservations:** \$60 by June 9.

**Send check to:** Marleen Diamond, 1827 Ross Lane, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 - (303).683.3609

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## Summer Party!

Celebrate summer!

Please join us on July 11th for the DLOG Summer Party at Mount Vernon Country Club. You and your guests are invited to come and enjoy the incredible views and wonderful food Mount Vernon offers. We'll have the pleasure of listening to the **Central City Opera** singers who put on a fantastic performance for us every year!

**Where:** Mt. Vernon Country Club: 24933 Clubhouse Circle, Golden, CO 80401

**When:** Tuesday, July 11th

10:30 - Social Time

11:00 - Musical Program

12:00 - Lunch - Choice of:

- Roasted Pork Loin with Creamy Italian Polenta
- Chicken Marsala with Herb Roasted Tomatoes
- Roasted Vegetable Risotto

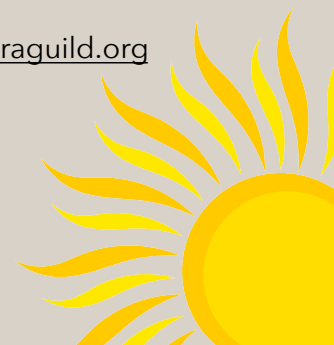
**Cost:** \$40 **by July 4th**

**Send check to:** Nicole Campbell, 891 Beech Street, Golden, CO 80401, 303.648.1603

(note meal choice on check)

OR

Reserve online through PayPal on the DLOG website: [denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://denverlyricoperaguild.org)



# SUMMER EVENTS (con't)

## Central City Opera Tour



DLOG has sold out the first set of bus tickets and all but one of the opera tickets. Luckily, we were able to reserve more spaces for both the bus and the opera!

The cost for the bus ride covers to-and-from Central City, lunch on the bus, a glass of champagne, and a behind-the-scenes experience! You may purchase the bus ride or the opera ticket separately or together, prices are below. Don't miss out on this fun summer event! Deb at Central City says the production is close to being sold out!

**Where:** Central City Opera

**When:** Wednesday, July 26th

**Cost:** Bus ride (travel, lunch, champagne, behind-the-scenes): \$35

Opera ticket: \$53.50

Ticket & Bus: \$88.50

**Send check to:** Phyllis Wicklund: 8101 E. Dartmouth, #57, Denver, CO 80231

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## Santa Fe Opera Tour

Join us for a wonderful trip to hear great music, including *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, and *Die Fledermaus*! As one of UNESCO's World Creative Cities, Santa Fe has earned its reputation as a major arts destination, with more than a dozen museums offering a rich blend of cultural, artistic, and historical heritage. Tucked near the Plaza along Santa Fe River Walk, The Inn is the closest hotel to the Canyon Road arts district, where guests can browse the work of Santa Fe's best artisans. A short walk leads to downtown museums and service to Museum Hill, home of the renowned International Museum of Folk Art, available right outside The Inn's front door.

**Where:** Santa Fe, NM - The Inn & Santa Fe Opera

**When:** August 23-27, 2017

**Cost:** Reservations: \$200

Double-occupancy: \$800

Single-occupancy: \$1200

**Questions:** [marysharonwells@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonwells@gmail.com) OR 303.279.3252



## James Baumgardner

James has a beautiful tenor voice, as those of us who have been coming to Denver Lyric Opera Guild competitions in the past 10 years or more know. He was a finalist both in 2009 and 2011 and also sang in the Metropolitan Opera Rocky Mountain Regional Finals during that time.

He is a lyric tenor who sings the roles of Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Almaviva in Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and many more. I love Ned Rorem's opera *Our Town*, which was premiered by Indiana University Opera Theater with student singers and orchestra in 2006. James has sung the role of George Gibbs in that opera. So you see, he is a tenor with great versatility!

We all tend to think of the role of Tonia in Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment* as the "tenor test" and James sings the famous "Ah mes amis" from that opera beautifully and seemingly with ease. How can those nine high Cs ever be easy, regardless of who is singing them? James' interpretation is, of course, unique to him and it has been met with great acclaim.

Originally from Colorado and now living in Denver, in 2011 James moved to New York City. While living there he had his European debut in Vienna, Austria with Opera Moderne's production of *The Kaiser from Atlantis*. The production was highly acclaimed by both American and Austrian papers, including the prestigious magazine, *Opera News*, and the *Vienna Daily Standard*. *The Kaiser from Atlantis* was written by Viktor Ullmann in Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp, around 1943 and was first performed in Amsterdam by Netherlands Opera in 1975.

As a young artist, James trained with two of North America's premier apprentice programs. During the summer of 2009 at Central City Opera he received the award for "Studio Artist of the Year". In 2010 he was given the privilege of joining the Apprentice Program at Santa Fe Opera, where he sang lead roles in *Little Women* and *Street Scene* and covered the role of Nathaniel in that summer's main stage production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

Outside of opera, James performs in concerts and recitals around the Western and Northeastern United States, as well as internationally as a member of the men's quarter, "Legacy". He is an avid runner and snowboarder and he and his wife, Lindsey, are proud parents of a new baby girl.

By Barbara Walton





# PICTURES!



## BOARD of DIRECTORS

2017-2018

Not all board members present at time of photo



Back Row: Becky Gantner, Sara Linden, Karen Bruggenthies, Trish Pansze, Betty Natelson

Front Row: Carole Cruson, Deanna Leino, Marie Belew-Wheatley, Barbara Walton, Marleen Diamond

**President:** Marie Belew Wheatley

**President-elect:** Bill Maclay

**Vice-President, Competition:** Barbara Walton

**Vice-President, Education:** Carole Cruson

**Vice-Presidents, Finance:** Trish Pansze, Jackie Writz

**Vice-President, Membership:** Karen Bruggenthies

**Vice-President, Public Relations:** Becky Gantner

**Recording Secretary:** Sara Linden

**Treasurer:** Marion Colliander

**Immediate Past President:** Marleen Diamond

**Corresponding Secretary:** Deanna Leino

**Historian:** Linda Young

**Parliamentarian:** Kathy Hammer

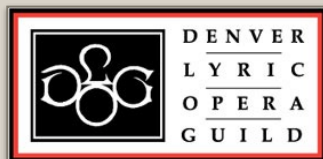
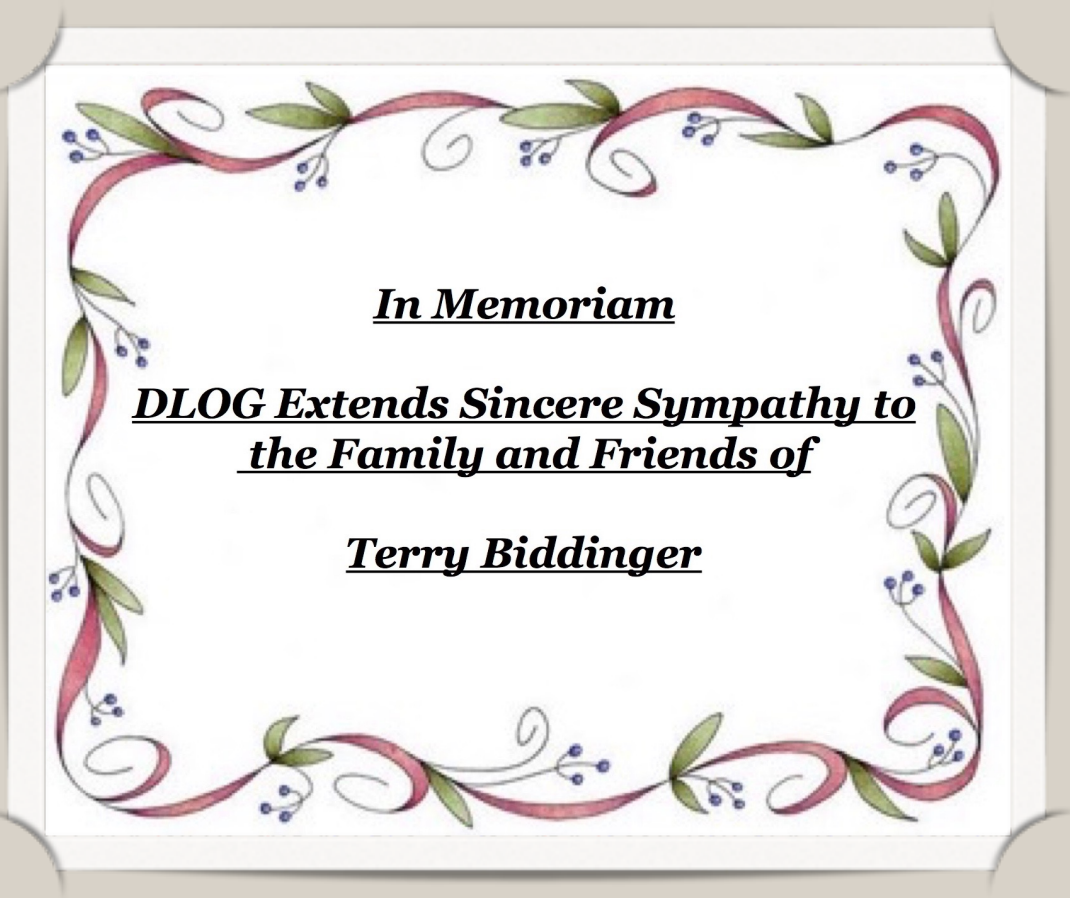
**Newsletter, Technology/Comms:** Betty Natelsen

**Tours:** TBD (Let me know if you are interested)

**Special Events:** TBD (Let me know if interested)

**Regional Opera Tours:** Phyllis Wicklund

**Summer Party:** Nicole Campbell



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD  
Marie Belew Wheatley, President  
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Lakewood, CO 80228