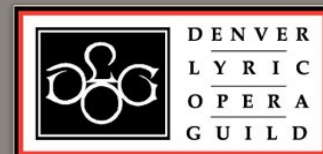


The Lyric Letter



Volume 16, Issue 2 Fall 2016

October 22, 2016

President's Message:



Greetings Everyone! We have started our season with two wonderful events: The September 10th Kickoff and the October 4th Opera on Tuesday at Denver Country Club. The programs were amazing and some of the best we have had. Carole Cruson, Educations VP, has written more on these events in an article you'll find in this newsletter. We are so blessed to be able to be witness to such incredible emerging talent.

In this newsletter we have a featured article by Jeremy Reger on the Eklund Opera Program singers. We also have an article by Barbara Walton, Competition VP, on our 2011 competition winner, John Lindsey, who is thriving in opera productions throughout the country. Carole Cruson, Education VP, will give you a preview of our upcoming Opera on Tuesday programs. And lastly, Becky Gantner, Membership VP, will talk about membership and give some corrections to the roster.

We look forward to sharing with you the Opera on Tuesday events and especially our Annual DLOG Competition in February and March. All the information is on the website and our Facebook account. It is such fun to experience and enjoy opera with friends. Thank you all for your dedication to this organization. Remember to bring your friends, relatives or neighbors. We would love to have many new members and continue the legacy of DLOG!

Marleen Diamond, President

A Message from Jeremy Reger:

The Eklund Opera Program at CU Boulder happily presented a program on Tuesday October 4th for the DLOG. These students make up a group called the Opera Theater Singers, composed of sopranos Neila Getz, Katia Kotcherquina, Nadya Hill, and Alicia Baker; mezzo sopranos Claire Mccahan and Katherine Baker; tenors Michael Hoffman and Jacob Baker; and baritones Joshua DeVane and Jesse Enderle. Pianist Jeremy Reger led the program which consisted of several beloved operatic ensembles and a mashup of a variety of repertoire. In today's ever-changing music landscape it is important for singers to learn how to connect with an audience in an intimate setting and in a variety of musical styles. This type of programming allows young professional university students the tools to learn how to connect with a variety of audiences, both young and young at heart. The Opera Theater Singers encounters audiences of all different types by performing around the state of Colorado for both established civic groups, university donors, and at schools, reaching hundreds of students every semester. Thanks to a generous grant, the Eklund Opera Program is also able to offer schools free tickets for their whole family, including to our recent production of *Die Fledermaus* on October 21, 22, & 23 in Macky Auditorium.



...With his flexible yet full instrument rising to the role's high dramatic tasks, Lindsey is a young tenor to watch."

--*Silent Night by Puts/Campbell, Opera Today*

In the year 2010, **John Robert Lindsey** placed 3rd in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Final Competition...while he placed well, that was Christie Hageman Conover's year to win. Undaunted, the next year John Robert sang his way in to 1st place in our competition, sang that summer in the Central City Opera Studio Artist program, and that fall went on to Minnesota Opera as a Resident Artist where he continued for 4 seasons (2011-2015), performing the roles of Malcolm in *Macbeth*, Graf Elemer in *Arabella*, Ismaele in *Nabucco*, and more, lots more! Having earned his undergraduate degree in Music at CU Boulder and his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at CSU in his home town of Ft. Collins, he was well prepared to begin a career as an opera singer. He's off and running!



In the 2016-2017 season, John Robert will debut at Austin Opera as Ben Marco in Pulitzer-Prize winner Kevin Puts and librettist Mark Campbell's *The Manchurian Candidate*, a project he was involved with from its inception while at Minnesota Opera. That's pretty exciting. He'll also reprise the role as Jonathan Dale in *Silent Night* (Nov. 12-20, 2016) by the same Puts/Campbell team in productions of that new opera at both Michigan Opera Theatre and Opera San Jose. In 2015 John Robert was invited to participate in the International Competition for Wagnerian Voices. So it is clear that he is able to both sing and act a wide variety of operatic roles, early in his singing career.

John Robert and his wife, mezzo soprano Nicole Asel who was also a finalist in our competitions in 2010 and 2011 live in Conroe, TX. She performs frequently and teaches in the music department at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX.

Barbara Walton, **Competition VP**

Roster corrections/changes:

Wicklund, Phyllis - email correction: phylwick@comcast.net

Pansze, Trish - email change: trishpnz40@gmail.com

Mousel, Cynthia - email change: camousel@gmail.com

Correction for reservation information through PayPal to read: denverlyricoperaguild.org

New Members to add to the roster list:

Cook, Joyce
5847 Granite Way
Castle Rock, 80108
303-231-9625

D'Atri, Barbara
2775 S. Brook Dr. #402
Denver, 80222
720-328-4554
nonnabrosa@gmail.com

Address Change:
Daniel, Joan
8030 E. Girard Ave. #501
Denver, CO 80231

DOG BITE ASIDE... THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Opera on Tuesday has been a long tradition for Guild members. This year was kicked off on September 10 at Pinehurst Country Club with a stellar performance by Christie Conover, with Beth Nelson at the keyboard. Their program included arias from a variety of periods and composers. Christie, showing serious stamina and professionalism, defied her doctor's orders by standing on stage on her own two legs for the better part of an hour... this following a dog bite incident several days earlier. Fortunately, she was bitten by her own dog and she did not press charges so all ended well!

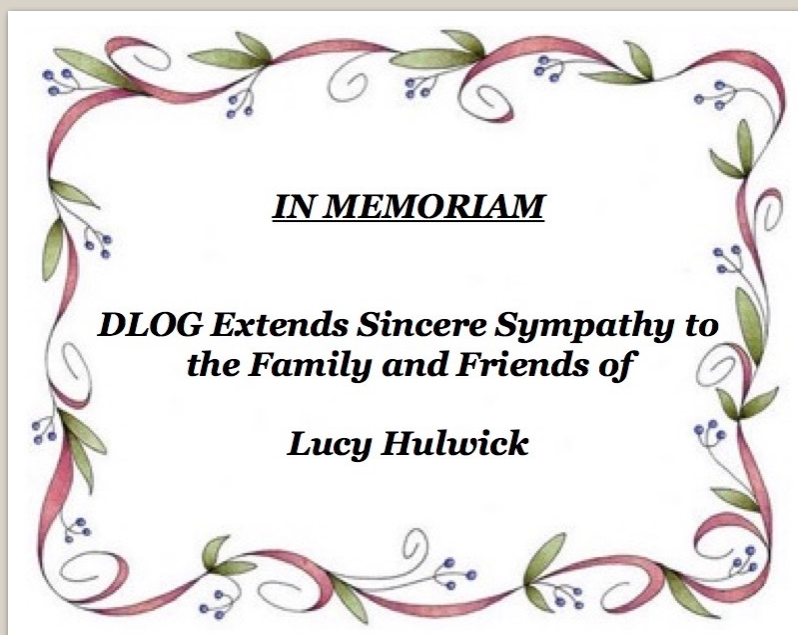
On October 4th the Eklund Singers from the University of Colorado (Boulder) presented a full hour program, also with variety, humor and grand opera. I feared they would be asked to pipe down, but that didn't happen. Apparently the Eklund Singers are trying to set a record for the most high C's sung before noon (so said Jeremy Reger who not only was the MC but also the accompanist). Evidently this performance was enjoyed by every person in the Denver Country Club as there were no complaints registered that morning at the Club. Thanks to Christopher Martin and Jeremy Reger for putting on such a fun program with 10 very talented students.

So the fun has begun and please try not to miss any of the upcoming programs as we close out 2016. On November 1 we will meet again at Pinehurst Country Club and hear more great voices from University of Denver, Lamont School of Music students.

December 6 will be lovely as we meet at Cherry Hills Country Club and are entertained by more wonderful music from Opera Theater of the Rockies.

It is very helpful when your reservation arrives early; please note the dates they are due in your roster.

Carole Cruson



FINANCE COMMITTEE CHATS:

DLOG Scholarship Recipient

Neila Getz

Miss Getz was a scholarship winner from the money DLOG gave to the University of Colorado last March. Some of you heard her at the October Opera on Tuesday sing with the group from CU. She thanked DLOG when introduced. Neila said she would not have been able to be a part of this group if not for our scholarship. It financed her participation in the Opera Theater Singers Summer Workshop last summer.

COMPETITION FINANCING

We are pleased to have received a check from Dr. Frank Sargent and his family for the Sherry Shepherd Sargent Memorial Award to be given at the 2017 Competition for Colorado Singers.

Grant requests from Foundations have been filed and several individual memorial award donors have responded already that they will be supporting an award again at our 2017 Competition.

HOW COMPETITION AWARDS ARE SUPPORTED

In a typical year 64% of awards come from grants from foundations and money from individual donors. The remaining 36% comes from our Endowment account at UBS. Last year that amounted to \$22,000 (64%) and \$12,000 (36%) for a total of \$33,000.

HOW COMPETITION EXPENSES ARE SUPPORTED:

Donations to the competition that are not specified for awards.

Other unspecified donations.

Special Events held to raise money for competition expenses.

A portion of a Foundation's grant that is not designated for an award.

Earnings from the UBS Endowment.

SAY, "CHEESE!"



How do we do this without you?

We would love to have some more new members to share our love of opera. Please help us grow our membership if you can.

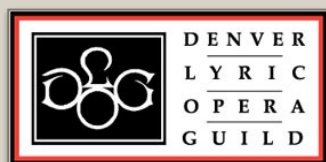
YOU CAN: Be a cheerleader for DLOG to those in your circle... at your school, your church, your clubs, and with your neighbors.

YOU CAN: Tell them the Guild encourages and supports young singers through grants to universities and gives awards to singers who place in our annual competition.

YOU CAN: Handout the membership form included in the roster.

YOU CAN: Encourage someone to attend any event with you or just tell them about - our unique DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers - Opera on Tuesday - Summer Party - Opera Tours... and, very importantly, the generosity in supporting Colorado Singers through the Guild.

Let's make adding to the membership in DLOG an important goal!



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD
Marleen Diamond, President
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