

The *Lyric* Letter



VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1. MARCH, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: 2019 Competition for Colorado Singers

Tired of the winter blues? I suggest you take time now to get involved in Denver Lyric Opera Guild's annual and renowned Competition for Colorado Singers.

The Competition, as you know, includes the Louise Conter Master Class—which was held on February 16th, and, according to all reports, was a huge success due to the talents of Charity Koepke of Opera Colorado. Next on the calendar is the Preliminary Competition to be held on March 16th from 9:00 to 5:00, which draws nearly fifty talented singers from Colorado colleges, universities, and studios.

The “crown jewel” will be the Finals Competition on March 30th, when 15 contestants chosen by the judges from the Preliminary Competition vie for extremely generous prizes. Three different judges will offer their opinions in selecting the finalists. In many instances the winners of the Competition go on to opera careers in this country and even around the world.

Speaking for myself and all of the guild, we wish these young singers well in the Competition. I am very much looking forward to it. I can guarantee you will be amazed by our young talent.

This Guild continues to actively plan yearly events to support the Competition, events and prizes. Please watch for information regarding upcoming events.

Guests are welcome at all of our events and I encourage each of you to introduce a friend or associate to Denver Lyric Opera Guild. Please watch for information regarding upcoming events.



BILL MACLAY, PRESIDENT

Competition Schedule

PRELIMINARIES: Saturday, March 16, 2019
9:00 am – 5:00 pm (come and go as you please)

FINALS: Saturday, March 30, 2019
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm (come and go as you please)

LOCATION: Calvary Baptist Church
6500 E. Girard Avenue
Denver, CO 80224

There is no charge to attend these events!

SUPPORTING COLORADO SINGERS

The Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition is rapidly approaching. In March, DLOG will be hosting 47 young singers from across our state vying for cash prizes totaling over \$33,000.00.

The following is a short testimonial from Megan Marino that was sent to us several years ago. It shows what Denver Lyric Opera Guild's Competition has meant to her.



Greetings from sunny Florida!

Thanks for reaching out. I'm happy to write on behalf of the DLOG organization. I'm so happy to know that I've made the members proud to have given me their support.

Competitions have opened many exciting doors for me throughout my formative life as an emerging singer. One of the first competitions I participated in was the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. It was through the encouragement, feedback of the visiting adjudicators and financial support of the organization that I had the means to continue to pursue my "opera addiction" and devote more time and effort to my studies. As young artists, we encounter so many hardships, disappointments and setbacks. But because of the good folks at DLOG, when those blows came down, I still had the means and encouragement to push through.

With every role, concert, competition, etc. I learn and grow exponentially. I'm very proud and fortunate to say that it all started for me in Colorado.

Please send my love and best wishes to everybody :-)

Very best and many thanks,

Meg (Megan Marino)



Megan participated in several of our Competitions during her years at University of Colorado Boulder and was always a crowd favorite. Her recent appearances include the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA and Caramoor Music Festival. She has garnered awards from the George London Foundation, Gerda Lissner Foundation, Marcello Giordani Foundation, Kurt Weill Foundation and the Oratorio Society of New York. As testimony to the support she received from DLOG early in her career, both Megan and her husband, Michael Mayes are now members of the Guild.

One of the Guild's primary objectives is to assist young Colorado singers in their pursuit of a career in opera, and our annual Competition is one of the principal means of achieving this end. It is the single most important event on our calendar and you can see from Megan's note how important it is to our singers.

Please come out to support these very talented and deserving young artists. We hope to have a good turnout as it is much easier for our young singers to perform at their best in front of a large and enthusiastic audience rather than just a stoic panel of judges. We have a wonderful cross-section of singers this year so I can say without reservation that you will enjoy a fabulous day of free music at both the Competition Preliminaries and Finals!

Hope to see you all there!



by Karen Bruggenthies, Competition VP

PREVIOUS WINNER UPDATE: WEI WU



2017 - Wei Wu with DLOG members, after Santa Fe performance of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*

Speaking of our Competition for Colorado Singers, many of you will remember Wei Wu, a finalist in the DLOG Competition in 2009, 2011, and 2012. The summer of 2017, some of us went to see and hear him at the **Santa Fe Opera**, in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. Recently Mr. Wu won the **2019 Grammy Award** for best opera recording – a cast recording of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, in which Wei Wu was featured as Kobun.

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 Boulder, Wei Wu performed roles including: Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro* (**University of Colorado Boulder**), 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**). Mr. Wu received his B.M. in Vocal Performance from the People's University of China, Beijing, and earned his Performance Certificate and M.M. in Voice Performance at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Wei Wu made his company debut with the **Glyndebourne Festival Opera**, covering Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and he has become a favorite there over the years. He 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 performed as the Second Armored Man in *The Magic Flute* 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*.

In addition to being a three-time finalist in the **Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition**, Wei Wu was a regional finalist and district special award winner (Rocky Mountain Region) for the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition** (2010, 2012) and placed third in the **5th Taiwan Vocal Competition**. And now . . . a Grammy Award!

by Barbara Walton



2019 – Wei Wu after receiving the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording.

COMING SOON: PREMIERE DLOG EVENT!

Vintage Treasures Sale and Preview Party

The Vintage Treasures Sale, scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2019, 9am-6pm at Calvary Baptist Church (same day as the Competition Finals) is shaping up to be a fabulous NEW event for the Guild. Many of our members are well aware of this event, as they have collected and/or donated quite a number of wonderful treasures for the sale.



"See you at the Vintage Treasure Sale!"



- Limoges demitasse cups/saucers
- assorted tea cups
- vintage jewelry
- Brooches
- designer handbags
- fine linens
- vintage dolls and toys
- white kid Parisian gloves
- Waterford champagne flutes
- exquisite Japanese teapot with matching cups and saucers
- mid-century vases and tabletop accessories
- sets of silver flatware
- designer handbags

At each of our DLOG events, we always have a table to "show off" some of the items that will be for sale, and inevitably, someone sees something that they really, really want, and are ready to buy it on the spot. Not so fast! Even the committee members have to wait. BUT you don't have to wait until the sale is open to the public.

DLOG members and guests are invited to preview and get first shot at the treasures during the Preview Party on Friday, March 29, 5:00–8:00pm. at Calvary Baptist Church. Cost for the Preview Party is \$25 per person, and will include light refreshments and adult beverages. Come early, buy early, then be free to enjoy the Competition Finals on Saturday.

This wonderful Vintage Treasures Sale will be promoted on Estatesales.net, Craigslist.com and Academy for Lifelong Learning in addition to the email list for the Calvary Baptist Church community. This way we hope to expose new people to the Competition and to the Guild.



We're still seeking donated treasures, so please go through your jewelry box, china cabinet, and closets looking for items to donate. We are happy to help you pack up and transport what you donate...AND everything doesn't have to be vintage...just something that someone will treasure. If you have questions about whether an item is suitable for the sale, just call and ask us.

Joanne Fisher 303-781-4390

Marie Belew Wheatley 303-986-7116

Opera on Tuesday

JANUARY 8, 2019 AT DENVER COUNTRY CLUB



Sissy Baker, pianist; Matthew Plenk, Director of Opera; Randy Ho, senior, Bachelor of Music; Sarah Sherman, Master of Music candidate; Natalie Thompson, Master of Music Candidate; Daniela Guzman, Artist Diploma Candidate

The January Opera on Tuesday featured a delightful presentation by singers from the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver, in addition to delicious food and delightful company.

by Marleen Diamond





Arias & Love Songs

Our February 1 Fundraiser, "Arias and Love Songs" launched the upcoming **2019 Competition for Colorado Singers**. The very new *Opera Colorado Opera Center* was the venue, and all enjoyed an hors d'oeuvres buffet with a wine and beer service. The *Opera Colorado* Artists in Residence presented an entertaining program introduced by Cherity Koepke, who will conduct the Master Class for singers participating in the **Competition**.

Marie Belew Wheatley and Becky Gantner co-chaired the party and were enormously assisted by Karen Bruggenthies, Wendy Cogdal, Marleen Diamond, Leah Hamilton, Trish Pansze, Barb Sileo, and Mary Jo Weiker. This event was supported by a Host Committee consisting of Marianne and Stan Anderson, Dr. Lyn Barber, Thomas and Mary Conroy, Pam and Michael Mignoli, Kathleen Ness, Jeanette Thrower, Helen Santilli, Aida Souviron and Lee and Jim White.

by Marie Belew Wheatley



Jeanette Thrower, Phyllis Wicklund, Deanna Leino, Wilhelmina Stemmer



Bill Maclay, Karen Bruggenthies, Julie Johnston, Lynn Harrington



Kathleen Ness, Leah Hamilton, Bruce and Diana Budy

CORK PULL

The Cork Pull was part of our Arias and Love Songs festivities. It was a fun way to make extra money to support Denver Lyric Opera Guild and our singers. People donate one or more bottles of a favorite wine. Each wine bottle is worth \$10 or more. The wine bottles are decorated and a number is attached to each bottle. Then corresponding numbers are printed on corks, and the corks are put into a bowl. People pay \$20 to pick a cork from the bowl and see which wine they get. Several won bottles in the \$30 to \$40 range.



Mary Jo Weiker, daughter Leah Hamilton, Marie Belew Wheatley

Many, many thanks to Trish and Arthur Pansze for the corks and decorations for this, our first Cork Pull. Thank you to Leah Hamilton for decorating every bottle and labeling each one with a number. A big thank you to all who donated wine and to the buyers for taking a chance with the cork pull.

by Mary Jo Weiker

SAVE THE DATES!

July 9, 2019: Annual Mt. Vernon luncheon with talent from Central City.

July 24, 2019: Central City Opera plus bus ride and lunch – to see *Madame Butterfly*.

Look for more details in the May Newsletter!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Nijole Rasmussen

Marilyn Raymond

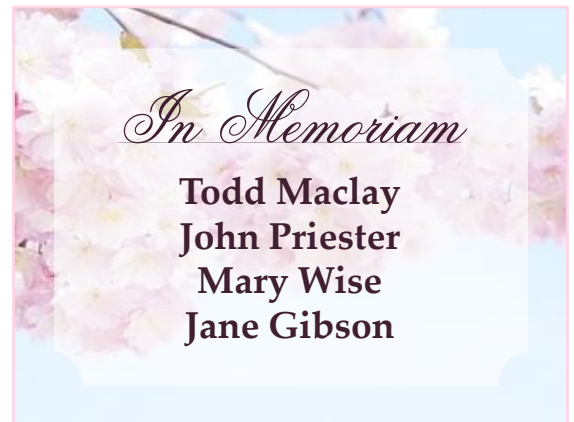
We are sad to report the passing of:

Todd Maclay. Todd was the son of DLOG president Bill and Leigh Maclay.

John Priester. Jon was the husband of past-president Rosemary Priester.

Mary Wise. Mary was an active member and volunteer of DLOG. She served on many committees, was president in 2001-2002, and was in charge of the annual meeting and luncheon in 2007.

Jane Gibson. Jane died February 8, 2019. She was unable to recover from a bad fall about a month earlier. She was very active in DLOG for many years, devoting thousands of hours volunteering for us. Many of those hours were spent serving on the Finance Committee and working with grants and as a liaison with the colleges. She was vice-president of Public Relations in 2012-2013 and vice-president of Education in 2013-2014 and also served on the Technology committee that year.



by Deanna Leino

Designed and formatted by Deborah Natelson



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 339

Englewood, CO 80151