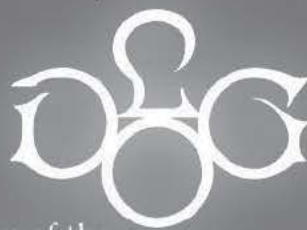


the Lyric Letter

Volume 15, Issue 3, Competition • January 2016
Mary E Bahde, Editor



News of the
Denver Lyric Opera Guild



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we began a new year plus it is a leap year, I want to wish everyone a most prosperous and joyful year.

Hark! I hear the sounds of aspiring singers as they prepare for our annual Competition events at Bethany Lutheran Church. Please

consider attending at least one of these events and feel free to bring a friend or family member with you, as I am sure they also will enjoy the competition. These Competition events are "free". What a deal! The schedule for the events can be found in the next column.

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to fill board positions for the next year. Accepting one of these positions is a great way to get involved and help strengthen our organization with your willingness to serve. We need your help. Please consider volunteering for one of the board positions. For additional information, please contact Jeanette Thrower, Nominating Chair at 303-421-0684. We thank you.

Also, if you wish to serve on any of our other committees, please call me at 303-989-2206 and I will be pleased to pass your name on to the committee of your choice.

Our Opera on Tuesdays continue to be a most enjoyable activity. Great entertainment and food to enjoy, in addition to the fine company of your fellow DLOG members. I hope to see you at our very special Tuesdays.

Now that the holiday season has come and gone, please be sure to mark your calendars for the up-coming events of our fine organization.

Hoping to see you at all our fun events. Enjoy opera and music, it makes the day a happy occasion.

Dick Bronowski
President

COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS EVENTS CALENDAR

THREE OCCASIONS TO HEAR WONDERFUL SINGERS....

it's free.

FEBRUARY 6, 2016

LOUISE C. CONTER MASTER CLASS
9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. in Choir Room
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4500 E. Hampden Ave. at S. Dahlia St.
Cherry Hills Village, Co. 80113
(see article on page 3)

FEBRUARY 13, 2016

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION
9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church

MARCH 5, 2016

FINAL COMPETITION
1:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church
(see articles on page 2)

MARCH 5, 2016

JUDGES' RECEPTION
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
WELLSHIRE INN
(see invitation on back page)

2016 COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS —

Greetings to my fellow DLOG Members! I hope your Holidays were happy and healthy and that 2016 brings each of you only the best of everything!

It is hard to believe that we are already into 2016. Time certainly flies. As DLOG members you are no doubt aware that the start of a new year signals the coming of our Competition for Colorado Singers. This year our Preliminaries will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2016 and the Finals from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016. Both events will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of our Competition to both the Guild and to aspiring young Colorado opera singers. It is the Guild's mission to support young Colorado singers in their pursuit of a career in opera and to enhance our members' knowledge and enjoyment of opera. Through our Competition, DLOG distributes over \$30,000.00 annually to exceptionally talented young artists from across the Front Range while at the same time allowing our members to hear performances of a wide range of arias from a wide range of composers. Participants in our Competition include students from the University of Colorado, University of Denver, Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado and others. They can include members of the young artist programs at Opera Colorado, Central City Opera, Emerald City Opera, Opera Theatre of the Rockies and others. They often include young Colorado based artists who have completed their schooling and are at the beginning of their careers. Many of the singers whose performances you have enjoyed at Opera on Tuesdays have been or will be participants in our Competition. If you enjoy our Opera on Tuesdays, you will love the Competition. Having a large and enthusiastic audience means a great deal to our singers so your presence is encouraged and appreciated.



WORLD CLASS JUDGES ENGAGED TO —

—help select our winners. This year's judges include Mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak, a regular on the Met stage who recently inspired us as the Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music* and brought us to tears as Mrs. DeRocher in *Dead Man Walking* with Central City Opera; Dr. Kay E. Holt, a native Oklahoman, who is the Executive Director of Canterbury Choral Society and who previously served as the Director of Education and Community Partnerships of The Dallas Opera, and Visiting Professor at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; and American conductor Adam Turner who is quickly gaining momentum as a conductor to watch on international opera stages. In addition to choosing our winners, our judges spend time with each of our participants critiquing their presentation and offering suggestions for their improvement. This feedback makes our Competition an invaluable experience for all candidates, even those who do not take home monetary awards. To meet

our judges, consider joining us at the Judges' Reception to be held immediately following the Finals at the Wellshire Inn. This is an excellent opportunity to get insight into what the judges look for in a singer, find out what's happening in their careers, get to know some of our young singers and spend quality time in a social setting with fellow DLOG members.

Please mark your calendars and join us at this year's DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers — it is the single most important event on our calendar.

Karen Bruggenthies
VP Competition

Three occasions to hear wonderful singers.... *it's free.*

YOUR ATTENDANCE *priceless.*

OPERA ON TUESDAY — DECEMBER AND JANUARY



Anne Kotch, Sheri Wolf, Diane Bakke



Dr. William van Schalkwyk (accompanist), Mira Mardorsky, Anthony Varner, Kelly Iler, Brady Muth, Brian Clay Luedloff Director of Opera Theatre



Vicky Baur, Phyllis Hayden



Diane Stitt, Phyllis Batty, Jenene Stookesberry



Lynn Harrington, Zoraide Scordo, Jeanette Thrower, Marleen Diamond



Beverly Mundil, Mary Bahde, Carolyn Doherty



Maradith Wilkins, Carole Cruson, Marlis and Shirley Smith, Bob Graham



Greg Carpenter, Emily Robinson, Danielle, Alaina De Bellevue (pianist)



Seated -Pat Stovell, Erin Smyth, Dan Stovell

Standing —Marleen Diamond, Jane Gibson



Jenene and Jim Stookesberry, Nicole and Natale Campbell



Diana and Bruce Budy, Mary Ann Ross



Dick and Debbie Robertson, Pat Sumter, Betty Ulricksen



FINANCIAL AWARDS & GRANTS

Continued low interest rates and depressed oil prices create difficulty in maintaining nominal growth on the investment account with which we fund grant requests and competition awards.

Competition awards for places one through five will remain unchanged.

First Place - \$6,000 (Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award)

Second Place - \$5,000 (Kenneth King Foundation Award)

Third Place - \$4,500 (Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award)

Fourth Place - \$4,000 (Stasia Davison Award)

Fifth Place - \$3,500 (Marlis and Shirley Smith Award)

Awards 6 – 10 , to be determined.

Grants to be awarded in 2016 will be the same as 2015

Colorado State University - \$4,000 Metropolitan State

University of Denver - \$2,000

University of Colorado, Boulder - \$3,000

University of Denver - \$3,000

University of Northern Colorado - \$4,000

Central City Opera - \$5,500

Opera Colorado - \$5,500

Opera Fort Collins - \$2,000

Opera Theatre of the Rockies - \$2,000

William Kowalski

VP Finance

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susanne Wheeler

1991 London Carriage Grove

Colorado Springs, Co. 80920-6220

719-531-0458

snwheeler@comcast.net

Janice Bradbury

720 Elm Circle

Golden, Co. 80401

720-328-8484

bob.janbradbury@comcast.net

Joyce Cook

5847 Granite Way

Castle Rock, CO 80108

A PLEA TO ALL DLOG MEMBERS!

Could you, would you do **ONE** of the following:

1. Attend at least one day of our Competition--Master Class, Preliminaries, or Finals and bring a friend. (See included flyer for dates.)

2. Post a copy of the included flyer at your church. **Your choir will love this!**

OR, perhaps you can do **BOTH!** Having a good audience is soooooo important to these young singers! Hope to see you there!

Marie Belew Wheatley

VP Public Relations

An opera Master Class – on the surface

“entertaining” is not the first word that would come to mind is it? “Informative” perhaps, but “entertaining”? Perhaps not. And yet both are exactly the words I would choose to describe my experience with opera Master Classes. At a Master Class the teacher listens to a singer perform an aria then chooses one or two aspects of the performance to address with the singer. I have seen teachers who emphasize vocal technique, others who stress performance issues. The common denominator has always been a discernable difference in the singer’s presentation following their work with the Master Class teacher. For a non-singer like myself it is always fascinating how much difference a small tweak here or there can make in the whole sound or feel of a phrase or an aria. What is also fascinating is how the teachers can take a valuable learning experience for the singer and make it informative – yes, but also fun and entertaining for both the singer and the audience. It’s amazing how quickly the time flies when you can learn, laugh and hear beautiful music at the same time!

This year’s DLOG Master Class looks to be a great example of “fun and informative”. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Like other Competition

related events it will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church. Heading our Master Class will be Dr. Robert Harrison. Dr. Harrison taught voice for 23 years at the University of Colorado at Boulder, serving as the chair of the Voice Department for ten years. Following his tenure at CU, he accepted a position as Professor of Voice at the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University from which he recently retired. He has held master classes around the world and has performed at the White House. His students have won many major awards including the Met National Council, Denver Lyric Opera Guild, and have performed at major opera houses across the United States and on PBS Great Performances. Dr. Harrison specializes in the Bel Canto style. I am told he is a wonderful teacher and “quite a character”. Truly the best of both worlds. Come join us for a day of learning and fun!

Karen Bruggenthies
VP Competition

Listen as a master class judge instructs a singer.... *it's free*

METROPOLITAN 2016 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AUDITIONS

Colorado-Wyoming District
Saturday, January 30, 9:30am

Rocky Mountain Regional Finals
Sunday, January 31, 1:30pm

Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts
University of Denver

OPERA ON TUESDAY EVENTS 2016

Nicole Campbell, Vice-president of Education

Reservations will be accepted by check payable to DLOG or PayPal only

Mail to: Mary Sharon Wells

3081 Kendrick Street, Golden, Co. 80401

PayPal-DLOG website: denverlyricoperaguild.org

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Reservation Deadline — March 31, 2016

10:30 a.m.-social time, 11:00 a.m.-program, 12:00 Noon-lunch

PINEHURST COUNTRY CLUB

6255 West Quincy Avenue

Denver, CO 80235

FEATURING: 2016 COMPETITION WINNERS

Cost: \$40.00

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 — ANNUAL MEETING

Reservation Deadline — April 28, 2016

10:30 a.m.-Annual meeting, 11:30 a.m.-Social time, 12:00 Noon-Program followed by lunch

LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

6800 West 10th Avenue

Lakewood, CO 80214

FEATURING: Lamont School of Music, University of Denver

Cost: \$35.00

INVITATION TO JUDGES' RECEPTION

In conjunction with the
32nd Annual Competition
for Colorado Singers
Denver Lyric Opera Guild
cordially invites you to the
Reception honoring the 2016
Judges and Finalists
Saturday, March 5, 2016
immediately following the
announcement of the
2016 winners
Complimentary wines and
hors d'oeuvres will be served
Cash bar will be available

Wellshire Inn
3333 South Colorado Boulevard
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

There will be ample opportunity for interaction between the finalists and the judges. Please include your questions with your check payable to DLOG!!

\$25.00 per person. Guests are most welcome!

(Reservation deadline February 29, 2016)

Mail reservations to:

Leigh and Bill Maclay
22244 East Nova Place
Aurora, Colorado 80016



Denver Lyric Opera Guild
Mary Bahde, Editor
2880A Riverwalk Circle
Littleton, CO 80123

