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**Mary Jo Weiker**

2019-2020

DLOG President

**As my year as President of DLOG comes to an end, the most important message I can give to you is to be safe and stay well.** We had a terrific year from June to February with great music, good food and seeing our friends. I am optimistic that we will again meet and influence young singers. DLOG has a great reputation even beyond Colorado. We have sent money to Colorado colleges, opera companies and individual singers. Starting in June we will have a terrific Board to lead our organization.

Thank you to this year's Board and helpers who made my presidency great. Without the volunteers, DLOG would not be as successful as we are. I will be on the new Board as Past President and on the Finance Committee. Thank you for coming to our events, supporting and being active in DLOG. We are a great organization and provide positive, worthwhile encouragement for young singers. I look forward to seeing you in September.

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## **New DLOG Board of Directors**

Following an unprecedented, but successful online voting for DLOG officers, we are pleased to announce the June 2020 – May 2021 Board of Directors. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of the new Board as they strive how to best to serve our members and partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Deanna Leino**, President  
**Tom Conroy**, President-Elect  
**Kathy Van Arsdale**, Competition Vice President  
**Lisa Curtis**, Development Vice President  
**Wendy Cogdal**, Education Vice President  
**Linda Young**, Finance Vice President  
**Gayle Landis**, Membership Vice President  
**Valerie Wassill**, Public Relations Vice President  
**Mary Conroy**, Treasurer  
**Kathy Hammer**, Recording Secretary

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## Incoming President Deanna Leino



I was born in Leadville, and my love of music started at age 4. I decided I wanted to be a concert pianist after seeing Rachmaninoff in concert at the Tabor Opera House seeing and telling my mother, "I want to play just like that guy with the giant hands." Mother bought a piano and I started music lessons, practicing 5 to 8 hours a day. In 1952, we moved to Denver because I needed to seek better and more advanced training. Unfortunately, when I was a junior in high school, a needed wrist surgery damaged my nerves and tendons, and my ability to play was lost. My love of music has stayed with me - but in listening rather than performing.

I chose a career in business receiving Bachelors' and Masters' Degrees in Business Administration from DU, and taught business and computer classes at Jefferson High School in Jeffco for 34 years full time, and almost 50 years part-time nights at Jeffco Adult Ed, Community College of Denver, Red Rocks Community College, Front Range Community College, and University of Colorado. I was blessed to receive honorable mention and two years later, runner-up for Colorado Teacher of the Year as well as Jeffco Schools

I joined DLOG in 2009 and have served as Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, President-Elect and many other committees. I am an active member in the Colorado Symphony Guild and Association, Opera Colorado, The Allied Arts, and National Education Association, among others.

**I look forward to serving as your President in 2020-2021 and encourage you to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns: 303-907-7329, [deannaleino@comcast.net](mailto:deannaleino@comcast.net).**

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## Competition Winners Share Gratitude and New Musical Videos



**First Place Competition Winner Mezzo Claire McCahan** shares, "I have immense gratitude to the members of DLOG. You all have been wonderful and supportive during my time here in Colorado, and it is always such a pleasure to sing for you and see familiar faces.

Many of my summer and fall plans have been canceled or postponed including the Fall Island Vocal Seminar for New American art song and the Aspen Summer Music Festival. However, I have been invited to participate in the Fall Island

meantime, my DLOG prize money will help me to cover necessary living expenses while I search for new employment, but I intend to save the majority of it to assist in application fees and travel expenses for future operatic performance opportunities.

Your support and faith in me are incredibly valued, and I am continually grateful. I want you to know that I intend to remain dedicated to my art, and to support my fellow singers by looking for ways to adapt, encourage one another, and look to the future."

**Click on these two videos shared by Claire:**



**"Sta nel'ircana" from Handel's Alcina**



**“Agnus Dei” from Bach’s Bminor Mass with the Boulder Bach Festival**



**Third Place Winner Baritone-Bass Eric McConnell** wrote, “My plan to use my award money has shifted a bit as I have lost my summer position with Central City Opera. I plan to put a portion of that money towards necessities so I can focus exclusively this summer on furthering my own vocal development. The rest will be used for audition travel, voice lessons, and purchasing scores.



next year! Thank you to all the members who make DLOG such a great organization and for all the support you give to artists. And now it is especially meaningful!"

**Watch this video shared by Eric:**



**Eric has created a clever opera video, Don Giovanni, Quarantine Edition.**

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## **Summer Party and Opera on Tuesday Update**

**We are sorry to inform our membership that our annual Summer Party has been cancelled and planning for the 2020–2021 Opera On Tuesday calendar has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Moving forward, we will rely on the guidelines put forth by local and state governments as well as each venue's guidelines and restrictions. With a large percentage of the DLOG membership falling into the high-risk population for the Coronavirus, it is entirely possible that Opera on Tuesday will be different in the future to ensure proper social distancing. We look forward to enjoying our Operas on Tuesday again, but know we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety and well-being of our members and performers. We will continue to send regular email updates to our members from our 2020 Competition winners with their words of gratitude and recent performance videos.

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## **It's Spring and Membership Renewal Time!**



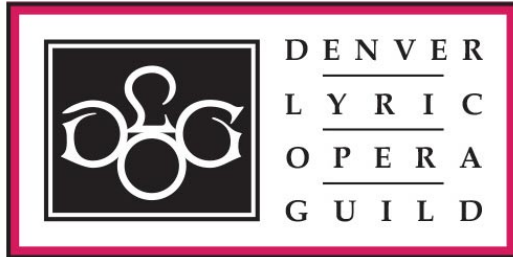
**Membership renewal forms are in the mail!** You may return your dues to new Membership VP, Gayle Landis in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. Or for the first time, you may pay your dues on DLOG's website! As was successfully introduced this past year, you may also choose from levels of membership to increase your giving to the Guild. And as always, there is an opportunity on the form to contribute to the General Fund and Competition.

Thanks to you, our membership grew to 209 this past year with 44 new members! The continued support of our members ensures that we can remain strong in this challenging time to uphold the Guild's unique objective "to encourage and support young singers and educate members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera." Know that most of your financial support goes directly to young singers who are pursuing operatic careers. We care for and appreciate all our members who have given so much time, talent and financial support over the years. Thank you!

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Watch for an email notice later this week for our new DLOG website – same web address, easier to use and updated features!

**Stay tuned!**



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GUILD

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