



# The *Lyric* Letter

Volume 20, Issue 3, October 2020

PO Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151  
[www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org](http://www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org)



This has been a crazy year. That mysterious COVID has caused us to temporarily cancel our Opera on Tuesday luncheons and other social events. Large gatherings aren't allowed, and the country clubs we have been using for our meetings are not available.

We were pleased that so many of you renewed your membership despite the lack of in-person activities. I know we all miss the camaraderie, the delicious luncheons, and the wonderful musical entertainment. But this too will pass, and sometime in the future, we can go back to our normal lives once again. I have tried to call every single member to make sure you are safe and sound and healthy. It was a joy talking to all of you.

This newsletter is being sent to you to keep you informed of any future plans. The Competition Committee, led by Kathy Van Arsdale, is hard at work planning a live-streamed Master Class and Competition Finals that can be viewed on your computers – as well as worldwide. As soon as things become definite, we will let you know right away.

Mark your calendars for an exciting virtual Opera on Tuesday event in November. If we cannot get together in-person, at least we can gather virtually and enjoy this event together. More details are below.

In the meantime, keep safe and sound, keep your distance from one another, stay home as much as you can, wash your hands often, and wear a mask. Feel free to call me at 303-424-2641 any time you have questions or just want to chat.

Deanna Leino, DLOG President

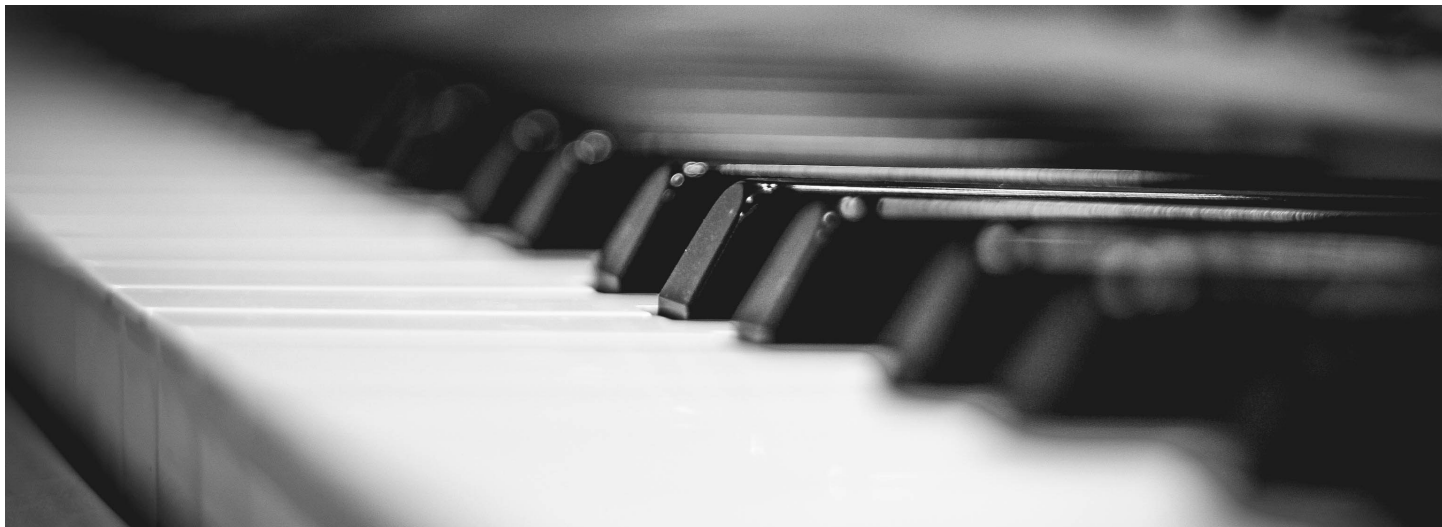
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## Our Mission

The encouragement and support of young singers, and the continuing educations of members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera.

## First Virtual *Opera on Tuesday* event in November

The Opera on Tuesday committee is thrilled to announce our first virtual OOT on November 10, 2020. The program will feature the 2020–2021 Opera Colorado Artists in Residence. Opera Colorado is still learning as they go and technology doesn't always work out the way we expect, so they ask us for flexibility and understanding. We are still finalizing the details so watch your email and the DLOG website for further information as the time draws near. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Cogdal, Vice President of Education, at [wendycogdal@mac.com](mailto:wendycogdal@mac.com) or 303-794-4538.



### Competition Winner Shares Gratitude

**“I think you do such amazing work, and I honestly wouldn't have been able to continue singing throughout this whole thing if it weren't for the DLOG competition and the amazing and generous prize money.”**

Kira Dills-DeSurra is a vibrant American mezzo-soprano whose magnetic stage presence has an effortless charm and truth. Last season she returned to Opera Colorado as an Artist in Residence to cover the role of Rosina (*The Barber of Seville*) and sing Sheppard Boy (*Tosca*). She performed as Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Carmen (*Carmen*) in Opera Colorado's touring productions. During her first season with Opera Colorado, she debuted as Flora (*La Traviata*), Gertrude Stein in Tom Cipullo's *Amer Life*, sang a performance of Cherubino in Mozart's timeless masterpiece *The Marriage of Figaro*, and she was also featured as Stéphano (*Romeo and Juliet*) and Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*) in Opera Colorado's touring productions. Kira has been an Apprentice Artist with Central City Opera singing Zweite Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Mercédès (*Carmen*), and was featured in their Al Fresco series this past summer. She hails from Petaluma, California and earned her Artist Diploma and Master of Music from Roosevelt University: Chicago College of Performing Arts and her Bachelor of Music from the University of Southern California.

Kira is sharing two YouTube performances for DLOG members, below. Enjoy!

**Non so più cosa son:** <https://youtu.be/dqpCpcwyxZI>

**Lovely Lies:** <https://youtu.be/2pWJGIB3fiE>

# Donating your IRA Distributions to Support the 2021 Competition

Please consider donating some of your Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to support the Guild's **2021 Competition for Colorado Singers**. IRA holders, age 70½ or older, can donate to DLOG from your Traditional or Roth IRA (including inherited) **tax-free**. Checks must be issued by **December 31st** in order to apply to the current calendar year. If a Money Market check is written, it will apply to the year in which it is cashed by the charity.

Contact your investment or financial advisor to request the funds be issued from your Traditional or Roth IRA as a QCD. You will need to discuss liquidating securities if the account does not have cash and/or money market funds available.

Checks should be made payable to **Denver Lyric Opera Guild** and mailed to **P.O. Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151**. Notify Lisa Curtis, Development VP, that a check will be issued, and asking for a mailed receipt to you upon DLOG receiving the funds.

Keep the receipt for your records.

**Any amount you wish to donate is greatly appreciated! Thank you!**

DLOG and its members do not provide tax or legal advice. Review this with your tax advisor or legal professional for information regarding the tax implications of the above information.



## In the Limelight: An update from Mary Jo Weiker

### A Family Legacy of Music Lovers Continues

Mary Jo Weiker is a Past President of DLOG. Her daughter, Leah Weiker-Hamilton, is a member of DLOG. She is a graduate of CSU in music and has the honor of being the Cantor Soloist for Temple Sinai.

During the High Holidays, Leah has had a singing career in the metro Denver area, having had many leads in shows at the Town Halls of Littleton, Lakewood and the Evergreen Choral. She was also a soloist for the Denver Municipal Band concerts.

Mary Jo's grandson, Grant Hamilton (Leah's son), is carrying on the family singing tradition. He sings duets with his mother for the services. Additionally, Grant sings a cappella with the 17th Avenue All-Stars as well as other Barber Shop quartets. To top it off he had his first lead in an opera at Metro, last year.

# Membership V.P. Report

by Gayle Landis

If my name is new to you it's because my husband Gary and I joined DLOG in 2019 and I agreed to join the Board as Membership VP for 2020-21. I was looking forward to getting to know more of you but oops!, the Pandemic altered all our plans. Instead, I've had the pleasure of virtual meetings with many of you through notes, calls and emails. I may not always know everyone by sight but I'm delighted to know all of you by name!

The membership renewal period has concluded with gratifying results. We have over 170 renewed members who have shown their continued commitment to the Guild — especially in this uncertain time. Thank you to all!

You may have noticed our annual Membership Directory has a new look. DLOG member and graphic artist Jessica Loving-Campos designed both the 2020 Competition Booklet and the Membership Directory and it's been a pleasure collaborating with her. In addition to Jessica, I'd like to extend my thanks to Marleen Diamond, Lisa Curtis, and Bill and Leigh Maclay for their help and participation throughout.

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## Meet DLOG Member Jessica Loving-Campos



Jessica grew up in the once sleepy mountain town of Conifer, Colorado. She spent much of her childhood being fortunate enough to experience extensive international travel with her family. Ultimately, this gift of wanderlust thoroughly enriched her being. Before the age of 20, she had already visited over 30 countries and seven continents. Jessica studied Fine Art at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, from which she graduated in 2005. After moving back to Denver in 2006, she immediately became active within the art scene. She is a co-founder of Sync Gallery. She helped run several Denver-based co-op galleries including NEXT Gallery, EDGE, Sync and Core New Art

Space. Currently, her work is represented by galleries in Texas. Her large-scale mixed media paintings are part of collections worldwide — private and corporate. Several of her works are showcased in high-end resorts, hotels, and spas around the US.

Jessica is the co-founder of the full-service marketing boutique, (in)spiregraphics. Her work with (in)spiregraphics enables her to collaborate with other entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations and businesses of all stripes in helping them finetune their voice and elevate their marketing reach. Jessica is also the co-founder of artboss, a communications and branding agency for artists and creatives.

When she is not busy in the studio, she can be found hiking, snowboarding, backpacking, kayaking, or embarking upon some sort of fantastic outdoor adventure with her husband and five-year-old daughter. Jessica and her family are excitedly expecting twin boys in March 2021!

**She has loved working with Denver Lyric Opera Guild and connects deeply with the joyous celebration of the arts that is central to this organization. It has been an absolute delight working on projects with DLOG and she misses the in-person events deeply!**

Learn more:

[www.jessicaloving.com](http://www.jessicaloving.com) | [www.inspire.graphics](http://www.inspire.graphics) | [www.artboss.co](http://www.artboss.co)

## Arias and Jewels to Occur Next Spring



We so appreciate all the member donations of jewelry, purses, opera fashions and accessories these past several months. It is an impressive collection. Most items have been appraised and priced and will be available to our members and guests at our Cabaret-themed Arias cocktail party featuring entertainment produced by Jeremy Reger and featuring some of our favorite singers. All of the jewelry and other items will be artfully displayed for sale. Later, all remaining items will be sold to the public. This is our major fundraiser of the year with proceeds benefitting the General Fund.

**We are still accepting donations! Lisa Curtis is happy to pick up your items throughout the year. Please contact her at 720-289-2719 or [LL-curt@comcast.net](mailto:LL-curt@comcast.net).**

Accepting:

- Fine Gold & Silver, Vintage, Native American, and Costume Jewelry
- Designer and Fancy Evening Purses
- Opera Fashions and Accessories

**Thank you and stay tuned for more details!**

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## Happy Birthday Wishes to DLOG Members



## **DLOG Member Celebrates 100th Birthday!**

### **Happy Birthday, Kathleen Estes!**

Kathleen Estes, a long-time member of DLOG, celebrated her 100th Birthday on September 23rd by hosting a drive by and a front lawn party for former students, friends and neighbors...with everyone wearing masks. Kathleen has been known to explore the many, many topics in which she is interested. This included knowing which quarterbacks were doing their best and when they ought to be traded...and she doesn't mind sharing this info with you. From an early age her faith has been an important of her life. She would often drive up I 70 in her silver Subaru to see the growth and new sites the mountains had to offer. Watching the building of the Anschutz Medical Center in Aurora was of special interest to her and she drove there often to see its progress.

Her music studies in both voice and piano were begun with her Mother who had studied at the Cincinnati College of Music. Her Mother's collegiate voice teacher was also a vocal coach at the Metropolitan Opera Company. Kathleen went to school at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX during the Great Depression. She sang at an event where the College President heard her and he offered her a full ride scholarship. She had the opportunity to sing in several operas and was the soprano soloist in Handel's "Messiah". On coming to Denver with her husband, Dabney, she finished her degree in elementary education at the University of Colorado Boulder. She then taught 5th grade in the Denver Public Schools for 20 years. During this time she raised Scotties which she entered in dog shows and one became eligible to enter the Westminster Dog Show. For 30+ years, Kathleen taught piano and was a member of the Foothills Music Teachers Association where her students often won awards.

In 2004 she took an arts trip to St. Petersburg and Moscow with another DLOG member, Jan Austin Peck, where there were operas and ballets to be seen. 2005 took her to Paris where there were many visits to museums and travels to the French countryside. Attending DLOG's Opera on Tuesday luncheons and hearing today's opera singers has been a highlight of these past years. She last attended an OOT event at the Lakewood Country Club when she was 98. Kathleen, we wish you a very healthy future in which you get to hear new operas and continue to enjoy the ones from years' past.

### **Happy Birthday, Anne Kotch!**

Anne Kotch celebrated her 98th birthday in June. Lisa Curtis had a lovely chat with her, and reports that she maintains a vivacity that belies her years — Anne's daughter helped her sign up for the televised Met performances, and she has watched 28 of them in a row! Opera must promote longevity! Anne's wonderful 'reverse' birthday gift was a generous donation to DLOG — thank you, Anne!

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## **In Memoriam**

### **Tracy McCarthy (Sept. 22, 2020)**

Article by Marie Wheatley

Some notes about Tracy McCarthy:

"Tracy and I met on the Opera Colorado Development Committee in the mid-2000's. She had a long, impressive career in finance and wealth management, and had recently retired and moved to Colorado. She recruited me to Impact100 Metro Denver where she was a founder and board member. I recruited her to DLOG in 2017 and helped convince her to join the board as Vice President of Finance the following year. She was instrumental in DLOG's decision to move our investments from a program of primarily conservative CD's to a financial fiduciary with much improved results in our investment returns."husband, Dabney, she finished her degree in elementary education at the University of Colorado Boulder. She then taught 5th grade in the Denver Public Schools for 20 years. During this time she raised Scotties which she entered in dog shows and one became eligible to enter the

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**Nellie Mae Duman (Nov. 2019)**

Longtime DLOG member, and President 1970-71.



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## Editor's Musical Note

“My husband and I attended Opera Colorado's Arias in the Alley Sept. 22nd at Noble Riot to experience an outstanding performance of opera and popular favorites by Michelle De Young and accompanist Jeremy Reger, despite the weather challenges! The afternoon was especially enjoyable in the company of Lynn Harrington and Steve Dilts, regional director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.”

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## Musical Moments Online

Metropolitan Opera on Demand: <https://www.metopera.org/season/on-demand/>

Opera Colorado Website: <https://www.operacolorado.org/>

Opera Colorado archives offer multiple wonderful snippets from past productions. On YouTube, “An Afternoon of American Song” by Opera Colorado Young Artists offers more than an hour of Favorite Standards.

Opera Philadelphia: <https://www.operaphila.org/>

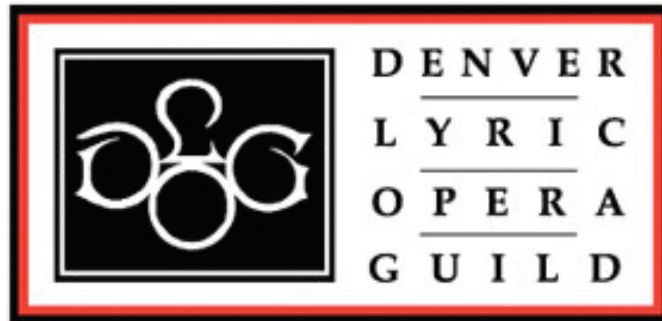
October 23 through May, 2021. Joins the Met with a paid streaming channel, showcasing past productions and opening night recital featuring tenor Lawrence Brownlee.

## COVID Corner

Let's share our triumphs and trials during this once-in-a-lifetime experience of 2020. Please feel free to submit your anecdotes and news!

- Valerie M. Wassill, Editor

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