



**Hello to everyone.** We have an excellent Board of Directors that has been working hard despite the challenges that Covid has thrown our way.

We will keep you informed in advance of any planned virtual activities. Covid has limited our activities, and we are adhering to the Governor's request in order to keep everyone safe. Thanks to Wendy Cogdal, our VP of Education, and to Cherity Koepke of Opera Colorado, we enjoyed an excellent virtual Opera on Tuesday featuring the young apprentices from Opera Colorado.

Wendy is now planning another virtual Opera on Tuesday - more details will be sent out soon.

Welcome to our new Communications/Newsletter Chairperson - Ian Caiozzi - thanks to him for stepping up and producing this newsletter.

Kathy Van Arsdale and her competition committee are planning for a virtual competition this year. Very detailed precautions are being taken for safety of the committee members, competitors, accompanist, and judges. There will no audience present. But the finals will be livestreamed from the church so we can watch them from the comfort and safety of our homes. If you do not have a computer, try to connect with a friend or relative who can help you enjoy the virtual activities.

Try to enjoy your time staying safe at home listening to good music. Keep your

distance, wear a mask, wash your hands and keep that sneaky, nasty virus from getting to you. Try calling one or two people each day just to say "Hi" and to lift their spirits and cheer them up.

If you have any questions feel free to call me at 303-424-2641. If I don't have an answer, I will find out for you and call you back.

**Deanna Leino, 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.**

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## **2021 Competition for Colorado Singers Update**



Supporting emerging singers is vital during this season of COVID. Artists of all types are among those hardest hit professionally and economically by this pandemic. Offering Colorado singers hope for the future via a goal and a competition, even during tough times, is important.

The DLOG Board approved a smaller 2021 *Competition for Colorado Singers*

event, due to COVID, at their October meeting. Events will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, and organized on site by a few DLOG members. By limiting the number of DLOG participants, the competition becomes safer. Others may watch the events live streamed on a variety of devices. Thirty candidates will participate in the Preliminaries (no live stream), and 15 in the Finals (please watch!). Our Louise Conter Master Class will also be available via live stream to DLOG members, students, university faculty, and the general public. The illustrious Dr. Robert Harrison returns to facilitate this February's Master Class. Our marvelous collaborative pianist, Dr. Jeremy Reger of CU-Boulder, rejoins all the events.

Following the University of Colorado, Boulder's safety protocols, all events will feature extreme social distancing, fresh air, breaks to allow the air to settle, hourly bathroom cleaning, required masks for singers ("The Singers' Mask"), temperature checks at check in, changing performance positions on stage, and high level air filters to protect performers, sound and webcast crew, DLOG members working at the event, and our judges. Using these protocols nobody at CU's College of Music has acquired COVID! You need not worry! You'll be watching singers at the Master Class and Finals on our new YouTube channel in the safety of your home! Many around the world can also tune in. For the first time, friends and family, professors and roommates can see the action as it happens! The Finals performances by candidates will also be recorded for their future professional use.

Events Dates (Times TBD):

Master Class	Saturday, February 13
Competition Prelims	Saturday, March 6
Competition Finals	Saturday, March 20

By continuing to offer the *Competition for Colorado Singers* during extraordinary circumstances we do incur extra expenses for technicians to make the YouTube presentation possible. We appreciate your support of the competition and young Colorado singers! Enjoy their performances!

For any questions, please contact:

Kathy Van Arsdale  
Van Arsdale Studio  
kathy.vanarsdale@gmail.com  
(303) 770-1612

## DLOG Honors our Competition Award Donors

by Lisa Curtis, VP of Development

The members of DLOG are grateful to the foundations and Guild members who so generously fund our *Competition* awards. Without their philanthropy, there would be no *Competition*!

### **Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation 1st Place and 4th Place Awards**

Galen and Ada Belle were legendary in Colorado for their generosity. Galen died in 1970 and Ada Belle established their foundation in 1982. The foundation provides grants to opera companies, higher education vocal music programs, and entities that support young people's musical efforts and training. Ada Belle was a Contralto and by age 23 had sung on an exhaustive lyceum tour and studied in Chicago, Cincinnati, and Paris. She was an opera favorite in Chicago and Philadelphia in the 1930s and 40s and was offered a position with the Met Opera. Ada Belle opted for love and married Galen in 1946, moved to Colorado in 1951 and together they had a full life with Ada Belle pursuing her music interests and Galen his love of sports. Ada Belle and Galen participated in DLOG's annual "safari" to San Francisco Opera performances. The Guild appreciates the generous support of this foundation since for many years.

### **Kenneth King Foundation 2nd Place Award**

From childhood until his passing, Mr. King was heavily involved with Denver-area philanthropic groups. His passion for philanthropy carried through in his pioneering work in the loan industry, making home loans available for those who could not otherwise obtain them. Helping others, especially those less fortunate than himself, was important to Mr. King. Toward the end of his life, he wanted a way to continue to give back to those in need and the communities that gave him so much, so he founded the Kenneth King Foundation in 1990 to continue his life-long mission of philanthropy. He placed high value on individuals with a solid work ethic, and the drive and initiative to improve their lives. The foundation's current mission is *to create opportunity for Coloradoans to reach their fullest potential for self-sufficiency through access to entrepreneurship, meaningful employment, basic needs and an improved quality of life*. The foundation has generously supported the *Competition* since 2011, giving our young singers a springboard from which to launch successful opera performance and vocal teaching careers. DLOG is most grateful for the

continued partnership with the Kenneth King Foundation.

### **Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial 3rd Place Award**

This award was established in 1999 by Carol Hoffman to memorialize her beloved husband, who Carol says “was tone deaf and the award is the closest he ever got to music!” Carol has been a DLOG member since the early 1990s, serving as President in 2014-15, and “loves the Guild.” She is devoted to supporting the *Competition*, saying “First, because music is my big love, and secondly because it is very difficult for young singers to get a start, especially today.” Carol grew up on a grain farm in North Dakota and was a First Soprano at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church for many years. DLOG is most grateful for Carol’s enthusiastic generosity.

### **Shirley & Marlis Smith 5th Place Award**

Shirley was President of DLOG in 1984-85 and again in 2000-2001. She was instrumental in producing the very first *Competition for Colorado Singers* in 1985. In addition to her support of DLOG, Shirley was a three-term trustee of the Santa Fe Opera and a two-term president of the Denver Symphony Orchestra Conductor’s Circle. She also served as a Lamont Society Council member, Lamont School of Music, University of Denver, supporting young musicians, and as an Opera Colorado Board member with special interest in the Colorado Young Artist Program and the Opera Colorado Outreach Program. Marlis has always supported Shirley’s passion for the arts and established this award in 2017 to memorialize his beloved wife’s dedication to DLOG. We are honored that Marlis continues to be involved with the Guild and other opera and musical arts programs. His philanthropy is greatly appreciated.

### **Bernard Polak Memorial 6th Place Award**

Bernie and Mary Polak supported the DLOG *Competition* awards from 2002 – 2011 as a memorial to Mary’s sister Helen Nepp Socolofsky. After Bernie’s death in 2012, Mary changed the award in memory of Bernie. Mary had been an opera performer as a younger woman and was active in DLOG events. She and Bernie always participated in the Guild’s opera tours to San Francisco. Mary and her son Lloyd Sweet, through the Sweet/Polak Charitable Fund, are gratefully recognized for their long-time philanthropy to the *Competition*.

### **Sherry Shepherd Sargent Memorial 7th Place Award**

Dr. Frank Sargent established this award in 2016 in memory of his beloved wife. Sherry had been a member of DLOG for many years and had a great

appreciation for music. Frank continues to be a dedicated supporter of the Guild and says, "Sherry believed young singers had to have a chance to get the education and training they needed to be successful."

### **Dr. Frank Sargent Family 8th Place Award**

Frank recently established this award to honor his children and grandchildren, who had learned their own appreciation of music from Sherry. He has also added funds to the Honorable Mention awards, kindly stating that they deserved an increase. DLOG is honored to have Frank as a devoted friend and generous donor.

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## **A Message from Cherity Koepke Director of Education & Community Engagement, Opera Colorado**



We're now ten months into the Covid-19 pandemic that has reshaped our world. Many are struggling. The performing arts are too, which I know will not be news to anyone reading this article. Some arts organizations have closed their doors, some are stepping away until they can come back to their theaters and some are trying to re-envision how to connect with their communities during this time. Artists have been hit hard, losing contracts and wages that they rely on to support themselves and their families. Some have gone more than ten months (at the writing of this article) without performing for an audience. That's almost unimaginable.

At Opera Colorado, we're weathering the storm as best we can. I work with the most incredible group of people. We've moved ahead, being as positive and proactive as possible. It hasn't been easy, but we're figuring it out. Our way of

working and creating opera has fundamentally changed. How? Here's a snapshot. The Opera Colorado Artists in Residence began their contracts on October 1st. There were countless things that had to be put in place prior to their arrival. Health and safety protocols had to be met, PPE had to be secured, mandates had to be understood and the ability to follow them ensured. Because opera singers have such incredible power in their voices, the theory is that their expulsion of air is greater than that of the average person. The general, 6-feet apart rule, doesn't apply to us. We have other rules and guidelines to follow. As the Director, I must be 25-feet away from them. They must be 15-feet apart from each other and no more than two singers are permitted to sing in a room at any one time. That means no trios, no ensemble pieces. It's only solo pieces and duets right now. Masks always must be worn, unless you are the artist that's singing. Temperature checks, health screening checklists, airing out the room, what seems like constant cleaning – the list goes on. For an art form like opera that relies on collaboration, the challenge is immense. But it's a challenge that we're embracing because it means that we get to create. In a much different way, yes, but we get to create art that we can bring to you, our treasured audience. We know just how lucky we are when so many of our colleagues can't say the same.

To date, there has been little to no financial assistance available to artists and artistic organizations. Many artists have left the field out of necessity. Many are getting by and holding on. But, through all the sadness and the loss, bright spots have emerged. One of those bright spots is you, the members of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. Your support has kept us going and helped us take on the challenges that we're facing.

I've had the honor of conducting a Master Class in conjunction with the competition for the past two seasons, so I've been able to see first-hand the kind of support that this organization offers. I want you to know that through the continuation of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild's competition, you're sending a message to artists. A message that says you will be there supporting them, even when it gets difficult. A message that lets them know that their work is valued. This year, that message is needed more than ever. Thank you for all that you do. Know that it's noticed. Know that it matters. Know that you're appreciated.

Cherity Koepke

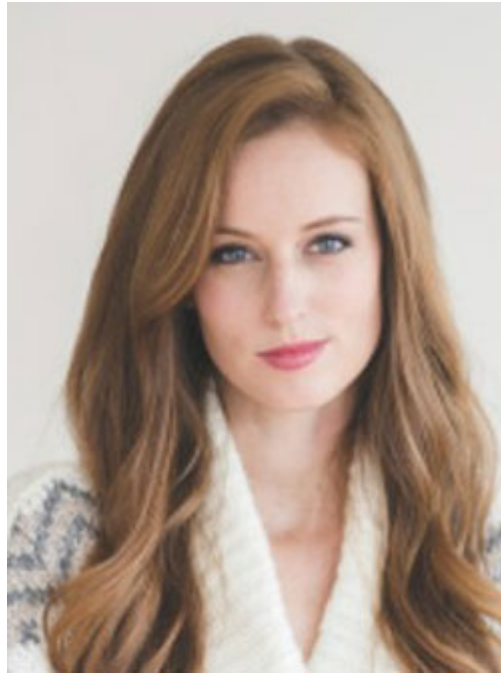
Director of Education & Community Engagement

Director of the Opera Colorado Artist in Residence Program



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## Caitlin Moore, the 2020 Competition Shirley & Marlis Smith 5th Place Award Winner



"Magnifique talent vocal et dramatique" (La Presse) and "aplomb and distinction" (Opera Canada) exemplify mezzo-soprano Caitlin Moore's elegant and confident stage presence in both concert and opera. Caitlin was the fifth-place winner for the 2020 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Vocal Competition, third-place winner for the University of the Northern Colorado 2020 Southard Music Competition, and a national semi-finalist for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) 2018 National Student Auditions.

As a vocal pedagogue, Caitlin has served on the voice faculty of Covenant College and Chattanooga State Community College. **As the 2020 Distinguished Graduate Voice Student Award Winner, Caitlin is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Arts in voice performance with a secondary in pedagogy at the University of Northern Colorado with Dr. Melissa Malde where she teaches diction courses and voice lessons.** Caitlin received a Master of Music in opera performance at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University, and a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education at Lee University. She was certified in all three levels at Shenandoah University's CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute in 2019 and attended New England Conservatory's Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy and Teaching Technology Workshop in 2020 as a



Lee University Young Alumni Grant Winner. She is a dynamic advocate for arts outreach having served with such organizations as The Glimmerglass Festival, L'Opéra de Montréal, Opera Tennessee, and the Tennessee Chamber Chorus. Caitlin is a current member of NATS.

Like all of our award winners, Caitlin had many 2020 engagements cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, including the role of Stephano in *Roméo et Juliette* with Opera Fort Collins and the role of Fiona McLaren in *Brigadoon* with Loveland Opera Theatre. Other operatic credits include Susan B. Anthony in *The Mother of Us All* (University of Northern Colorado), Frasquita in *Carmen* (Chattanooga Symphony & Opera), Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* (Chattanooga Symphony & Opera), Helena in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera McGill), both Lauretta and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* (Opera Tennessee and Lee University), the title role in Barab's *Little Red Riding Hood* (Lee University), Miss Pinkerton in Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief* (Lee University), and Fatima in Chadwick's *Tabasco* (Chattanooga Symphony & Opera).

You can view several performance videos on Caitlin's website, including *Les contes d'Hoffmann* by Offenbach, *Chiquitita la novia* by Obradors, and *People* from Jules Styne's *Funny Girl* at a socially-distanced outdoor concert for Loveland Opera Theatre. Click here to view/listen:

<https://www.caitlinhammonmoore.com/recordings>

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## Competition Past Winners Page Updated!

During this time when we cannot meet for Opera on Tuesday and listen to our young singers perform for us in person, we can entertain ourselves with music from many of our past winners! Lisa Curtis and Ian Caiozzi have researched and updated the website URLs and Facebook sites of *Competition* winners from the past 20 years. Updates for winners from 1985-2000 will come soon. The listings include the top 10 winners, and by clicking on those whose names are in red, you will be taken to their information sites. DLOG members should feel honored that so many of our winners have achieved opera stardom or high achievement as vocal teachers and pedagogues. Read about our winners' successful careers and view/listen to their performance recordings by clicking on this link:

<https://www.denverlyricoperaguild.org/previous-competitions-2019-2001/>

## 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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## **In Memoriam**

### **Rosemary Priester (Nov. 13, 2020)**

Rosemary served as President of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, 1986-1987. She was born July 1, 1927 and was a big supporter of the arts.

### **Harry Williams (Nov. 17, 2020)**

Beloved husband of Julie Johnston, longtime DLOG member, passed away Nov. 17, 2020.

### **Donations in Memory of Rosemary or Harry:**

May be made by sending check to DLOG, P.O. Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151.

Also, [donations may be made on the DLOG website](#). Ignore the membership part of the form and enter the amount in the "Donate in Memory" field.



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## **Musical Moments Online**

[Metropolitan Opera on Demand](#)

[Opera Colorado Website](#)

**Opera Colorado archives offer multiple wonderful snippets from past productions. On YouTube, [check out their latest post](#) featuring Soprano Cecilia Violetta Lopez in their Pagliacci production.**

[The Everything Will be Okay Podcast](#)

**Everything Will Be Okay. It's just a pandemic that has closed the entire performing arts industry. Cancelled gigs & online opera are apparently the new normal, and singers just can't help speaking moistly. Jenna Simeonov, creator of Schmopera and host of The Everything Will Be Okay Podcast, is checking in with out-of-work artists.**

[The Aria Code Podcast](#)

**The magic of opera revealed, one aria at a time. With your host, Rhiannon Giddens.**

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## **Events Around Town**

**Now through December 25! Our friends at the Central City Opera Guild are hosting a free Holiday Home Tour of the historic Fisher Mansion along with with performances by Central City Opera Touring Artists. Make sure to check it out by visiting:**

[lesprithometour.com](#)



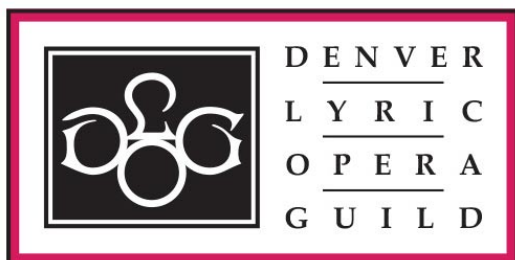
THE CENTRAL CITY OPERA GUILD  
**L'ESPRIT DE NOËL**  
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Watch a free video tour featuring the historic Fisher Mansion with performances by Central City Opera Touring Artists. Be inspired by Denver's top florists and table designers as they decorate this spectacular home with the current holiday trends.

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 20 THROUGH DECEMBER 25

Visit [lesprithometour.com](https://lesprithometour.com) for more information.

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