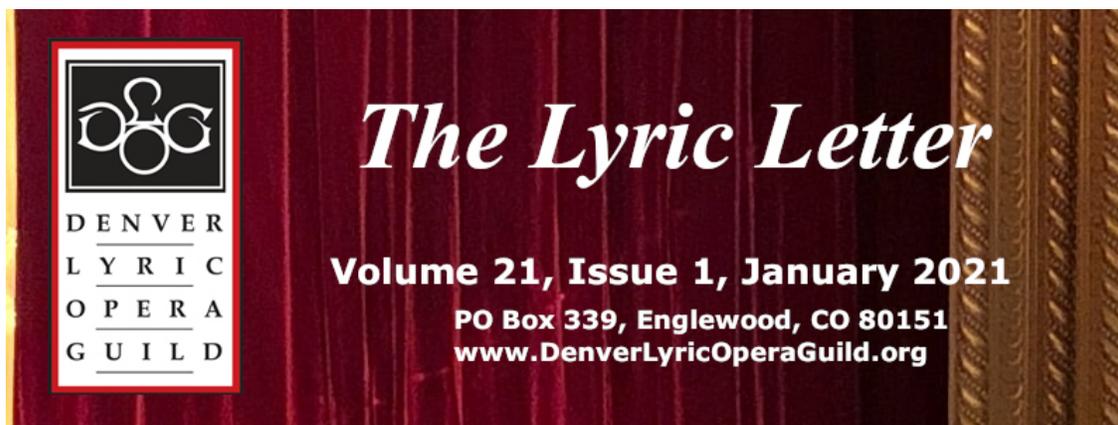


[View this email in your browser](#)



**Happy New Year 2021 to all of our members.** We continue to hope for a better and safer year. Some lucky members have already received their first COVID19 vaccine shot -- we are all looking forward to the time we can all once again attend Opera on Tuesdays and other gatherings to enjoy good food, beautiful music, and seeing and visiting with our friends. BUT in the meantime we have to rely on telephones and computers to communicate

There are excellent instructions in this newsletter (thanks to our Communications Chairperson, Ian Caoizzi) for you to enjoy the master class and the finals of our yearly competition. If you don't have a computer try to contact a friend who has one and then enjoy watching them together.

Any plans for the future are still up in the air and depend upon how things open up and what venues are available. We hope you will take time to answer the survey we will be emailing to you. It will give us insight on how to plan. The Board of Directors has been meeting virtually to keep the organization active and ongoing.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Nellie Mae Duman, Rosemary Priester, Anne Hamilton (all three were past presidents) and Mary Sharon Wells.

Since we are all pretty much staying home, I encourage each one of you to call two or three or more DLOG friends each month just to say hello. It makes us feel better to hear from a friend.

**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.

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## 2021 Competition for Colorado Singers Update



PRESENTED BY  
**DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD**

As this year's Competition for Colorado Singers is forced to be a virtual event, there have been many questions as to how these events will be accessed on the Web. Yes, DLOG now has its own YouTube channel. At the moment, of course, it's not very interesting. However, going forward, this channel will allow the Guild to live-stream its current Competition as well as archive all future Competitions. Additionally, if anyone has videos of past Competitions, we could also archive those to the YouTube channel. This should serve the legacy of DLOG well as I'm certain many of the performers, as well as Guild members, would appreciate instant access to their performances.

This year's Competition schedule will be as follows:

**Saturday, February 13, 2021: Live-Streamed Master Class, 9:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m.:** Featuring Dr. Robert Harrison formerly of University of Colorado and Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

**Saturday, March 6, 2021: Competition for Colorado Singers Preliminaries:** NOTE!

Preliminaries will be held for 30 competitors and judges only. No live-stream will be made available.

**Saturday, March 20, 2021: Live-Streamed Competition for Colorado Singers Finals! 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.:** The 2021 competition will include 15 finalists competing for top awards.

So in the interests of Keeping it Simple, here is the only link you need to access the Live-Streams. I suggest you try this to make sure you see the live-stream links and can click them:

[Click this Link to Go to the DLOG 2021 Competition Page](#)

As you scroll down on the Competition page, you will find red text that begins with "Click this Link...". There is a link for each event. If you click on the day of the Competition, you will open the live-stream. Note if you click now, you will go to a slightly lonely YouTube channel with no content. You will not need a login or password to access this content. Just click and watch. And if you lose the channel, simply return to the DLOG website 2021 Competition Page to get back to the links you need. Note, if you already have a Gmail account, please Subscribe to the DLOG YouTube channel (there's usually a big red Subscribe button on all channels). This helps the DLOG channel gain more prominence and serves as great marketing for the Competition.

If you are having any trouble accessing the link above or any of the subsequent links on the Competition Page, you can give me call at 303-521-4626. Please leave a voicemail as I tend not to answer unknown numbers. When I have a moment, I should be able to help you out.

Finally, if you miss the live-streams, do not worry. Recordings of the live-streams will remain available on the DLOG YouTube channel and continue to be linked to from the Competition Page links. Thanks and here's to an exciting, if different, 2021 Competition!

Ian T. Caiozzi  
DLOG Communications Chair

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## Competition Awards for 2021

**We are grateful for the generous support of our foundation and member donors who make the Competition possible. A total of \$35,000 will be awarded in 2021!**

**First Place \$6,000** Galen & 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** Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Award
- Fifth Place**    **\$3,500** Gary & Gayle Landis in Honor of Marlis Smith Award
- Sixth Place**    **\$3,000** Carole Johnson in Memory of Mary Wise Award
- Seventh Place**    **\$2,500** Sherry Shepherd Sargent Memorial Award
- Eighth Place**    **\$2,000** Dr. Frank Sargent Family Award

**2 Certificates of Merit \$1000 Each**

Lisa Curtis in Honor of Anne Kotch Award

Julie Johnston & Donors in Memory of Harry Williams Award

**5 Honorable Mention \$500 Each**

DLOG members & Dr. Frank Sargent

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## **Thank you for a Successful Competition Fundraiser!**

You did it! Thank you to the 44 DLOG members who stepped up and donated close to \$7,800 in response to our recent request to fund the Competition. These donations have ensured that all expenses for the 2021 Competition are covered. You are appreciated!

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## **A Message From Brandon Tyler Padgett, 2020 Competition Bernard Polak Memorial 6th Place Award Winner**



Covid's effect on the performing arts has been a trial of perseverance. I personally was met with a great many disappointments in March 2020. I was about to graduate from CU with a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance, I was about to perform in Eklund Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro* as Count Almaviva, and I was also preparing for my graduate recital. All of a sudden, the night of our final dress rehearsal, the graduation ceremony, the production of *Le nozze*, and my recital were all canceled. Soon after this, the Aspen Music Festival's Summer 2020 Session, which I was to attend was also canceled. I was devastated and afraid I wouldn't be able to graduate, however CU's faculty rallied and came up with a plan. My classes quickly developed online formats, allowing every student to complete their accreditations. My recital credits were met by making a series of recordings that the faculty reviewed. Finally, the graduation ceremony was switched to a virtual format. This was most important to me as I was able to record the National Anthem with my friend and the Denver Lyric Opera 2020 1st Prize Winner, Clara McCahan.

While it was great to be able to finish my degree, I still felt as if this big chapter of my life was never actually finished. During the summer I found solace in the wonderful ways artists were devising to stay in touch with humanity. [Stephanie Blythe's ukulele and vocal abilities](#) were particularly uplifting for me. Seeing other's perform made me want to keep singing. My voice became my best friend when no one else could be there. I started wondering what my next step should be. After consulting with my friends and my teacher, Prof. Andrew Garland, I decided to pursue an Artist Diploma at CU. The majority of my winnings from the Denver Lyric Opera Competition has gone into this pursuit, and it has already proven so enriching. With the state of the world today, CU's School of Music has developed unique ways to both provide beautiful music for their loyal patrons and to provide outreach inspiring new listeners. Most recently, Eklund Opera has produced a recorded version of Engelbert Humperdink's *Hänsel und Gretel* in which I

had the opportunity to sing Peter the father. The production was in both the full German and an abbreviated English version for local schools. My classes have switched their emphasis to the recorded medium as well. The use of recording technology is now standard practice in our studios and operatic performance classes. The use of SoundJack, a technology allowing for near simultaneous audio output over great distances, has allowed CU students to collaborate safely within the Boulder community, but has the future implication of becoming a staple of the international artistic world. Our classes have also tried to focus on the use of personal recording to expand how operatic repertoire may be used during this period. One of my classes developed a project to produce an Operatic Cabaret, the results of which were hilarious and greatly relieving.

I am so thankful for the willingness of patrons to keep the arts alive during Covid. Everyone has felt a financial strain during this time, but the arts have proven to be a vital part of enduring this hardship. I am so grateful to be honing my craft and using it in ways to uplift and inspire. I am also so fortunate to be in an environment focused on safety and innovation so that we all may still partake in the wonder that is music. Through all of this, art perseveres, and knowing this, brings me hope.

[Click Here to Watch Brandon Now! He performs "Onegin's Aria" from Act 1 of Eugen Onegin by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky on YouTube.](#)

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## **Anne Hamilton**

### **March 27, 1929 - December 6, 2020**

*Following is the biography of my dear friend, Anne Hamilton, who passed away peacefully at home in December. I am one of the many members of the Guild who shared her passion for opera, and together with her enjoyed decades of Opera on Tuesday performances, fundraising galas, opera trips to the great Opera houses, the exciting opening of our own Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and of course our Competition for Singers. I remember Anne working tirelessly to put together the "aria book" for the Competition judges for many years. I was amazed that she knew every aria that was to be sung. Anne had a beautiful, professionally trained, lyric soprano voice. I am an amateur classical pianist and never much liked opera, probably because I knew nothing about it. It was Anne who introduced me to this most glorious of musical genres, for which I will always be very grateful. It began about 20 years ago; Anne needed an accompanist to practice. We are neighbors, so I offered to try. I was not especially good at it, but we collaborated long enough for me to hear her gorgeous voice sing many of the great arias, and I was hooked! In Anne's last months she had me sort and catalogue all her many scores and music books, one of which had performance notations from her famous teacher, Madame DaCosta. She donated this*

*collection to the Voice Department at the Lamont School of Music where they will be used and treasured. I will miss Anne so much. - Barbara Berryman*

Anne was born in Paris, Texas and grew up in Amarillo. Her dad died when she was five years old, so she was raised by a very entrepreneurial single mother. When she was in high school, they moved to Denver in search of better business opportunities. Her mother owned and operated rooming houses in the Capitol Hill neighborhood where Anne met her husband. She graduated from East High School in 1948.

Anne showed vocal music and dance talent from a young age and studied voice from the time she was five years old. In Denver, she studied with Blanche DeCosta, a noted American and European opera star. Later, she attended the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver until her only child, a son Allen, was born in 1949. The family moved to San Diego for one year and later to Los Angeles due to the job transfers of her salesman husband. After divorcing, she returned to Denver in 1970 where her son was a college student at the University of Denver. In addition to working at various banking and administrative jobs during the day, Anne attended college at night for ten years, earning an A.A. degree in Music from Los Angeles City College in 1965 and a B.A. degree in English from the University of Colorado in 1972. That type of grit and determination was her ethos.

Anne always loved music, especially opera, and performed in as many opera and musical productions as her limited free time would allow. In San Diego, she performed in Meredith Wilson's "The California Story." In Los Angeles, she appeared in many opera and television productions, including a performance at the Hollywood Bowl. In her later years, she was an enthusiastic member of the Montview Presbyterian Church Choir.

Anne was a member of Mu Phi Epsilon music fraternity, University Library Association, Metropolitan Opera National Council, Lamont Society, Life Member of the Colorado Symphony Guild and a Past President of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, where she made many friends.

Anne lived through a lot in her ninety-one years including the Depression, the Dust Bowl, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and instances of political, social and financial turmoil. Through all of those experiences, she never lost her sense of optimism.

Anne was very proud of the accomplishments of her son and grandchildren, Lee and Lynn. She lived alone in the same house in the Park Hill neighborhood for fifty years, but always had a faithful dog as a companion. The last pleasurable act of her life was to buy a tricycle for her great-granddaughter Logan's second birthday.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her!

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## **Rosemary Priester**

### **7/1/1927 - 11/13/2020**

*To The Denver Lyric Opera Guild :*

*Thank you so much for your kind words about Rosemary. She was inspiring to so many she met.*

*One of the highlights of her year was to watch the auditions and competitions of the opera guild.*

*She will be greatly missed.*

*Mark Priester*

Rosemary (Dougherty) Priester was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., one of five siblings. She attended St. Joseph Cathedral grade and high school in Sioux Falls. Rosemary then studied music at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD., and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Colorado University, Boulder, CO.

In 1960 Rosemary married John D. Priester and they began their life of adventure in Grand Junction, CO. They then moved on to Boise, ID; New York City; Leawood, KS and in 1976 the Denver area.

In addition to being a tremendous tennis player and strong supporter of the arts (past President of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild), Rosemary was an avid traveler who, together with John, visited many far flung corners of the earth, including Tibet, Turkey, South Africa, India, Russia, Jordan, Peru and most of Europe.



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## **A Message from DLOG Member**

### **Mary Sharon Wells**

*Editor's note: Sadly, Mary Sharon Wells passed away January 1. Below is a thank you note she*

*had prepared for this newsletter.*

*Mary Sharon Wells, a longtime member of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild passed away peacefully on January 1, 2021, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born on September 11, 1935 in Colby, Kansas. Mary Sharon attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas studying music as well as earning her teaching degree. After college Mary Sharon moved to Denver to begin her teaching career. In 1960 she married Fred Wells and had two sons. In the early 1990's, Mary Sharon met her second husband, Dave Wattenberg, while working as a lobbyist at the Colorado State Capital and they were married in 2005. Mary Sharon's zest for life was evident in the various organizations she was active in. She was an avid supporter of University of Kansas basketball and a lifelong Jayhawks fan. Mary Sharon was also a Gamma Phi Beta and remained active with the alumni group as well as attending regular activities with her sorority sisters. Mary Sharon served on the Colorado Horse Racing Commission as well as supporting the National Western Scholarship Trust. She served on the board of the SCFD, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. In addition to being an active member of Denver Lyric Opera Guild, Mary Sharon was also a member of the Colorado Symphony Guild, Applewood Chapter, and an active member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. As a DLOG member, Mary Sharon worked on several committees, often with her dear friend of over 50 years, and sorority sister, Maradith Wilkins. For many years, Mary Sharon helped Maradith with the Opera On Tuesdays luncheons as well as helping to plan several summer parties. Mary Sharon helped plan several regional opera tours for the DLOG membership. She served on the nominating committee for the past few years and loved helping out with the Competition for Colorado singers. Mary Sharon was an enthusiastic champion of not only young singers, but young people in many different areas, be it the arts or agriculture. Mary Sharon's joyful smile and passion for opera will be greatly missed.*

*Maradith Wilkins and Wendy Wilkins Cogdal*

Dear Members of Denver Lyric Opera Guild,

Thank you to all the many members who have sent greetings and cards wishing me well. I have loved receiving them from all of you. I have loved our mutual enjoyment and support of opera. The competition is what it is really about – supporting up and coming young artists as they work toward a career in opera. AND all the luncheons where we have had the opportunity to hear the singers as they move toward their goals – WOW. How much fun can an audience of music lovers have!

I have to tell you that so far I feel pretty good. I'm making progress with my therapy. I can walk the halls here with my walker and can walk in my unit without the walker. (I do try to be close

enough to touch something if I need to.) My appetite is O.K. Soup, hamburgers, hot dogs, stews, fresh fruit, top my favorites. Hospitals don't dish up steak as far as I can determine.

My sister, Janet, has done yeoman's work getting my apartment emptied, moving my requests over here as I remember them piece by piece. I have a few of my paintings, Indian rugs and pictures of Dave to tide me thru my days.

My love to you,  
Mary Sharon



*Mary Sharon Wells and Maradith Wilkins, Glenmoor Country Club*



*Maradith Wilkins and Mary Sharon Wells, Fort Worth Opera Tour*

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## In Memoriam

**Donations in Memory of Nellie Mae, Anne, Rosemary or Mary Sharon:**  
May be made by sending your 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 is always posting new videos on YouTube, [check out a recent post](#) featuring Artist in Residence Catherine Swindle.**

[Denver's Own Chapter of Opera on Tap](#)

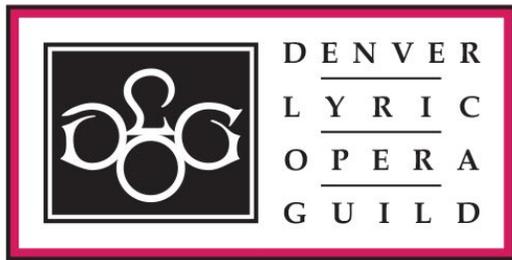
**This weekend and every weekend through COVID, Opera on Tap is hosting its own live stream performances and interactive chats. It's a great way to get opera and support local artists! Many of these artists are past DLOG competitors. [This weekend they host "Here's Hoping"](#).**



Saturday, January 16, 2021

7pm

facebook.com/ootco



DENVER LYRIC OPERA  
GUILD

P.O. Box 339  
Englewood, CO 80151



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