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Hello to all. I hope that many of you watched part or all of the Master Class. It was wonderful, so interesting and well done. The Preliminaries will not be livestreamed, but the Finals will be. If you do not have a computer, try to go to a friend's house to watch them.

The Board of Directors has been meeting virtually to

keep the organization going and we are keeping in contact both by e-blasts and by newsletter until all this virus stuff goes away. We all miss seeing one another, but it is what it is and we have to make the best of it. Stay safe and healthy, get your shots, wear your mask, distance yourself, and enjoy good music the best way you can.

Deanna Leino, President

Our Mission

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

2021 Competition for Colorado Singers Update



Rather than cancel Competition events for this season, as so many arts organizations have done, the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competitions Committee felt strongly that holding a series of events was vital this particular year. For performers, shifting from high income to zero income without warning was a shock. For aspirational singers, training events, local operas, university events and in-person lessons were cancelled. Offering our DLOG for Colorado Singers would add something requiring preparation, continued professional growth, and of unique educational benefit. At its core, the Master Class and Competitions offer hope to young singers in search of a meaningful continuation of their professional lives.

The Competition Committee proposed Livestream events and online archives of beautiful singing; learning while observing others working with an outside expert, Dr. Robert Harrison, and watching the Finals of the Competition online. This radical departure required technical advice and implementation, flexibility by members, volunteers, and participants. The DLOG Board was very supportive in our quest to create something new to benefit singers, our membership, and the world beyond.

The Competition Committee, technical staff, church staff, and others swung into action: hiring video and audio engineers, changing rental rooms, setting up a DLOG YouTube Livestream channel, refining easy access to the site, executing a trial run sound and camera check, opening the YouTube channel, redirecting participant traffic flow, instituting strict health protocols --oh, my! Many new ideas to implement! Terrific Committee work!

What a wonderful opening event! Our Master Class was extremely successful! Participants reported excitement at being able to participate and grow musically from the expertise of our facilitator, Dr. Robert Harrison. Members learned how

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to use our website to watch the Livestream, joining observers (literally) around the world. Bill Warren and our team from Calvary Baptist provided great audio and several camera angles for viewers, and an edited version for our archives! Superior work! Committee members kept things humming onsite. Participants left delighted by their experience. Total success!

Thank you for your willingness to try something entirely new in pursuit of our goals to support Colorado singers, educate all about opera, and keep the arts moving forward during the time of COVID! Now, get ready for the Competitions: the preliminaries are not Livestreamed, but the Finals, March 20, will be available to you on our website. Plan to watch!

Kathy Van Arsdale Chair, Competitions Committee

Competition Recordings and Livestream

Accessing Master Class Recordings

As of this writing, all four sessions of the 2021 Competition Master Class are available for viewing at any time on the <u>DLOG YouTube site</u>. Please watch, share, like, and subscribe.

Competition Final Livestream

The 2021 Competition Final will be livestreamed on March 20 from 1-5pm Mountain. Visit the <u>DLOG YouTube Livestream</u> site to watch live. In addition, please feel free to encourage friends and family to watch live. All links are also available from the <u>DLOG Website</u>.

In Memorium

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Antoine Hodge

It was with great sadness DLOG learned of the passing of bass-baritone Antoine Hodge after a two-month battle with COVID-19. Antoine was a DLOG Competition finalist from 2014. From DLOG Board Memember Karen Bruggenthies: Antoine "was just a wonderful young man and will be dearly missed by all who knew him."

From his OperaWire obituary: "Hodge was a rising star in the opera world who performed leading roles at the Atlanta Opera, On Site Opera, Central City Opera, Opera Colorado, Regina Opera Company, Ash Lawn Opera, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and Winter Opera St Louis, among many others."

His full obituary is available at the following link on <u>OperaWire</u>.

In addition, The Metropolitan Opera has announced they will be dedicating their opening night revival of *Porgy and Bess* to Antoine this fall. The Met announcement is available on <u>The Metropolitan Opera website</u>.

Finally, there has been an active fundraising campaign for Antoine during his illness which is still accepting donations on his behalf. Donations may be made at <u>GoFundMe</u>.





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