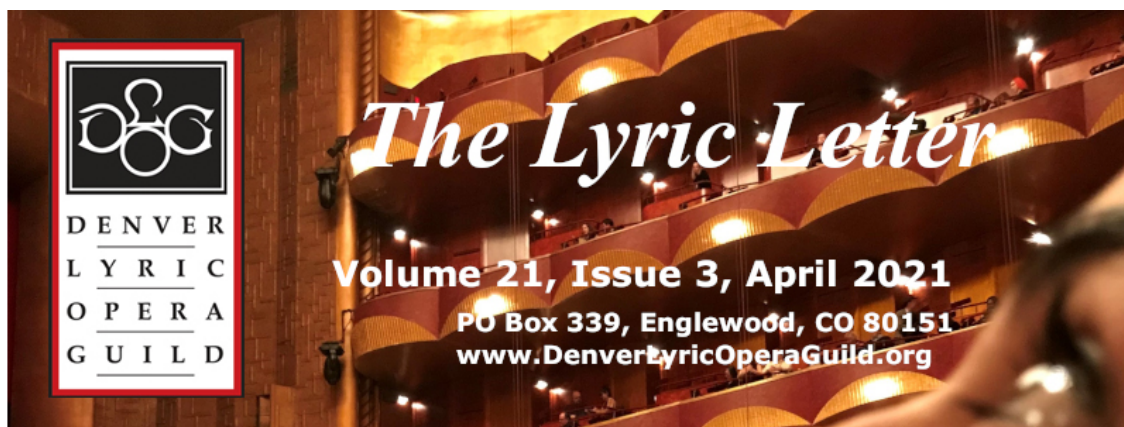


[View this email in your browser](#)



Happy Spring to everyone. Our Preliminaries, Master Class, and Finals Competition events were a huge success thanks to a hard-working Competition Committee headed by Kathy VanArsdale and a technology team headed by Ian Caiozzi. I hope you were able to watch these fantastic events on the computer. We had over 2,500 views from around the globe and were able to fulfill our mission by supporting very talented young singers with monetary grants. We are counting on hearing these winners "in person" sometime in the future when things open up once again.

Because of COVID restrictions we are unable to have an "in person" annual meeting, so you will be receiving a ballot by email (or mail if you do not have email) in May to elect your officers for the coming year.

We do have some activities planned and "in waiting" when we are able to meet once again. Meanwhile, stay safe and sound, get your shots, wear a mask, socially distance, wash your hands and 10 years from now we can say "Do you remember when . . . !"

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 Wrap-Up and Announcement of 2022 Dates



The Competition for Colorado Singers Preliminaries and Finals were held at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver. [Click here to see all the Competition winners and their bios on the DLOG website.](#) The Finals were livestreamed online to our members and the world.

Lisa Curtis, Valerie Wassill, and Ian Caiozzi continued to refine and publicize our online website, including information on candidates and judges, and the program for the Finals. Thanks to Jessica and Chris Loving Campos of inspireGraphics who worked our program design. Ian created a successful “one-click” entry to the livestream from the DLOG website. This was used by our members and guests to view our Competition for Colorado Singers Finals. Valerie Wassill prepared and sent Press Releases to many outlets. She called and met in person with organizations and individuals who will help get the word out about our Competition and the possibility of watching the Finals. She met Chair Kathy Van Arsdale and Scottie Iverson of *The Villager* at lunch to discuss two articles about our exciting competition. Award winners were featured in these articles as well.

Thirty candidates were heard and evaluated by our judges on paper, via ZoomRooms, and in an extra personal session offered by judge Mark Van Arsdale, attended by 26 singers online the next day. Singers were delighted to be able to sing for others in person, and to receive personal feedback! Fifteen were selected to move on to the finals.

The Finals were livestreamed to hundreds of observers in three sessions. Many thanks to our members, and gracious and generous award sponsors! The results were announced by our judges following deliberations. Certificates and award checks were mailed to recipients.

Participants, members, observers, and committee members noted that while the status of the Competition was in doubt in August and September, members of the committee stayed truly committed to their mission. They found a way, with Board approval, to hold the Competition for Colorado Singers under COVID circumstances, successfully and joyfully! Without Opera on Tuesday; without social fundraiser events, the Competition turned out to be the heartbeat of our organization, we must brazenly say! Hearty congratulations to the visionary and stalwart committee:

Candidate Chair, and Woman-In-The-Know Karen Bruggentheis
Candidate Check-In and Organizational Overseer Jackie Writz
Judges Selection and Liaison Scott Finlay
Public Relations and Publicity Valerie Wassill
Hospitality Inez Wilson
Development VP and Ex-Officio Lisa Curtis
Man-In-The-Know and Ex-Officio Dennis Jackson

Finally, we are pleased to announce the dates for the 2022 Competition:

2022 Competition for Colorado Singers

February 19 Master Class

March 5 Preliminaries

March 19 Finals

All events will be held at Calgary Baptist Church

Kathy Van Arsdale
Chair, Competitions Committee

Bravo, Mark Van Arsdale!

Denver Lyric Opera Guild would like to offer special thanks to our 2021 Competition for Colorado Singers Preliminary Round judge Mark Van Arsdale



who went above and beyond working with this year's singers. One of the reasons he specifically wanted to do the Preliminary round was to be able to give feedback to every participant brave enough to sing during this challenging time.

This is the message that Mark sent out to all thirty of this year's Competition participants the night of the Preliminary Round:

"Congratulations to each and every one of you for singing today! It was my honor to hear you- LIVE - what a special thing in this time of covid.

As you have heard, I am offering additional feedback to any and all singer who wishes to participate. This is more of an informal, "unpacking" session where we can delve more deeply into your experience yesterday, your background, and your future. If you heard something in the judges' feedback that surprised you, this is the time to discuss further! The hardest step in almost any singer's career is the transition from apprentice to professional, and I'd be happy to give more ideas on how to make that happen. I am a fresh set of ears!

Thank you again for your lovely singing today. It was truly my pleasure to listen to each and every one of you!"

In addition to an almost fourteen-hour day serving as a judge for the Prelims and participating in the Saturday judges feedback sessions, Mark donated almost eight hours of his personal time on Sunday speaking to around twenty singers about everything from their performance in the Preliminaries to their repertoire choices to future career paths. He was incredibly supportive and kind and offered a great deal of valuable insight to these young singers. Mark gave the following reason for offering this wonderful opportunity: "I was so energized, inspired and thrilled to be on the judging panel of this Competition. I want to be able to contribute as much as possible to this event, as I believe in it so strongly!"

Mark Van Arsdale is the son of our Competition Vice President Kathy Van Arsdale and has enjoyed a successful career as an opera singer in Europe for

over ten years. A short biography can be seen in this year's Competition program. He is also a past participant in the DLOG Competition. That Mark felt so strongly about the merits of our Competition that he was willing to expend so much time and energy giving back serves as a great reminder to Guild members that what we do as an organization truly matters to up and coming young Colorado opera singers. Thank you again to Mark for his extraordinary generosity!

An Open Letter to This Year's Competition Volunteers, Donors, and DLOG Members

I just wanted to take a moment to pass along my thanks for all the hard work and financial support put into making this year's DLOG Competition a success! None of it would have been possible without you!

As this year's Candidate Chair, I served as DLOG's conduit to the singers. As such, I wanted to share with you a small sampling of the many words of thanks for DLOG and the Competition that I received from so many of the participants.

"Thank you so much (and to all the amazing and lovely DLOG members who made this competition possible). This competition is so unique in that it keeps a regional component but still offers significant financial support - many regional competitions offer very small financial incentives to the point where singers will lose money on them! Or they are open to all singers across the country, which makes many young singers feel that they have no chance of any success in competing. This competition is an outlier in the best way. Thank you for all that you do!!"

*Best,
Helen Hass*

"I wanted to thank you and the rest of the competition volunteers and board members for making this wonderful opportunity possible. Please send them all my regards."

Isaiah Feken/Opera Colorado

"Firstly, thank you a million times over for all of your hard work making this competition possible this year. So very appreciated! Being able to perform live again is such a luxury!"

Anna Montgomery

"Thank you again for your part in putting this competition together even through this difficult time. I know every singer involved is grateful for the opportunity to sing!"

All the best,

Schyler Vargas

Again, this is just a fraction of the words of thanks that I and other Competition volunteers have received both verbally and in writing for DLOG's efforts in holding this year's Competition. I think it is important that you know that your generosity and hard work does not go unappreciated by these young singers! My thanks to all of you for all that you do!

Karen Bruggenthies

Candidate Chair – DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers

A Note on Membership Renewals

Members - Please Recruit and Do Renew!

Membership renewal cards will be mailed to all members in early May and you have the convenient options of paying by check or securely through the DLOG website. The Board made the unanimous decision to keep member dues the same through 2021-22 and we will continue to offer several levels of membership. Additional contributions to the General or Competition Fund can be included with your renewal. Please be sure to renew by July 15 for inclusion in the updated annual Membership Directory.

Your loyalty during this uncertain year has been vitally important and deeply appreciated. Without your support the 2021 Competition which was

conducted virtually would not have been possible. You can all be very proud that DLOG continued to provide the encouragement and support of young singers despite the many challenges. As we could not offer Opera on Tuesday and other popular events, we did lose some members in 2020 and we hope to win many of them back. Members recruiting new members is the best way to grow our organization and throughout 2021 we want to actively promote One Member, One New Voice for Opera and launch additional strategies to encourage interest in our dedication to the appreciation and knowledge of opera. We look forward to bringing back all the events we enjoy as soon as it's safe to do so. Thank you again for your enduring support.

Gayle Landis, Membership VP

Annual Meeting Nominations From the Floor

Unfortunately, because of COVID we will not be able to have an "in person" annual meeting; therefore, here is the slate of officers that will be voted on in May. We are now accepting any nominations "from the floor." If you have any, they may be mailed to Deanna Leino at 3712 Allison Street, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 to be RECEIVED no later than April 30, 2021.

Note: the President-elect from this year -- Tom Conroy -- will automatically become the President next year.

President-Elect -- Dennis Jackson
 Development Vice-President -- Karen Bruggentheis
 Competition Vice-President -- Kathy Van Arsdale
 Education Vice-President -- Wendy Cogdal
 Finance Vice-President -- Kevin O'Connor
 Membership Vice-President -- Gayle Landis
 Public Relations Vice-President -- Valerie Wassill
 Treasurer -- Gary Landis
 Recording Secretary -- Kathy Hammer

Vote to Approve New Board

Vote to Approve New Board with Emailed Survey at the End of April

As we are unable to hold an in-person Annual Meeting, you will have an opportunity to cast a vote to approve the 2021-2022 Board of Directors through Survey Monkey, as was done last year. **The link to vote will be emailed to**

you by April 29th. If you have any questions about the nominees, please contact Karen Bruggenthies, Nominating Committee Chair.

Competition Recordings Available

Accessing 2021 Competition Recordings

As a reminder, all sessions of the 2021 Competition Master Class and Competition Final are available for viewing on the [DLOG YouTube site](#). Please watch, share, like, and subscribe. You can watch at any time and as often as you like.

Opera on the Web



Opera Colorado's April in Paris

Opera Colorado presents April in Paris, celebrating all things French! Featuring soprano Catherine Cook and pianist Sahar Nouri, this new On-Demand offering is available for free from April 15-29. To view please click "Reserve Today" at this [Opera Colorado link](#).



Central City's Theatre of Dreams Gala

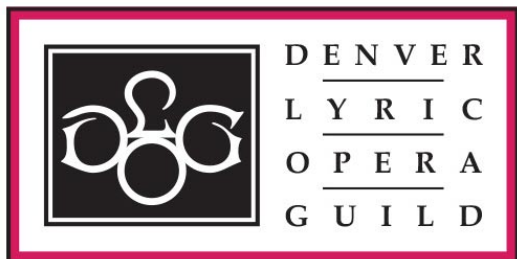
The Theatre of Dreams Gala goes virtual April 23, 7pm(MT) with a concert recorded by former Central City Opera Apprentice Artists! Help support Central City's ongoing efforts in the performing arts. To find out more and register for the Gala, please visit the [Central City Gala link](#).



Love in the Time of COVID-19 - Opera vs. TikTok

Opera on Tap presents their next livestream Saturday, April 24 at 7pm(MT). This month's theme is Post-COVID Dreams. Kids today are making music happen on TikTok. We will add some opera to the mix! Support your local Colorado-based Opera on Tap chapter as they navigate these interesting times. For info please visit the [Colorado Opera on Tap Home Page](#).

DENVER LYRIC OPERA



GUILD

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