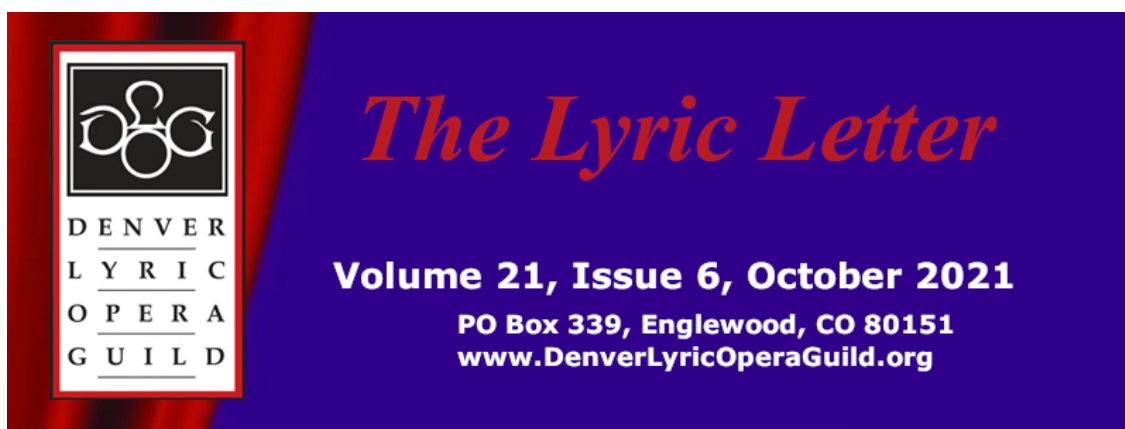


[View this email in your browser](#)



We had a very successful Arias and Jewels event, thanks to Lisa Curtis and her very active committee. Entertainment was great, thanks to Jeremy Reger, who put a super show together. We also had a fine opening Opera on Tuesday, thanks to Wendy Cogdal and the singers from UNC. If you haven't yet, please join us at an upcoming Opera on Tuesday. We are now booked through next spring.

Tom Conroy



Anna Montgomery performs a vivacious "Sempre libera" from *La traviata* at the September 26 Arias and Jewels.

Our Mission

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

Opera on Tuesday October 5th!

**A performance by Colorado State University
under the direction of Dr. Tiffany Blake - Associate Professor of Music**



**Tuesday, October 5th, 2021 at 10:30am
Wellshire Event Center,
3333 S. Colorado Blvd.
\$55.00 per person**

**10:30am Social Time
11:00am Program
12:00 Lunch**

Reservations can be made on our website at the following link: [Select the "Opera on Tuesday" tickets and submit payment here](#)

You may also mail a check for reservation to:

Becky Gantner
2082 Montane Drive East
Golden, CO 80401

Questions please call 303-526-1260

Denver Lyric Opera Guild Summer Party

The 2021 Summer Party was held on August 3 at the Wellshire Event Center with lunch and fantastic entertainment. Because of the pandemic, it was the first in-person gathering of the Guild in well over a year.

DLOG president, Tom Conroy welcomed the group. Wendy Cogdal made all the arrangements for the event. A thank you to Jackie Writz for helping with check-in and to Gayle Landis for contributing the beautiful fresh flower centerpieces.

The music program featured mezzo-soprano, Kira Dills-Desurra and bass-baritone, Eric McConnell. They were accompanied by pianist Jordan Ortman. Their songs ranged from Mozart to Gershwin to Bizet to Sondheim to Puccini and beyond. It was full of energy and was fabulous!

Two tickets were awarded for the upcoming "Arias and Jewels". Madison Landis, granddaughter of members Gary and Gayle Landis, assisted Lisa Curtis in drawing the winning numbers.

To those who attended...Thank You! You've helped boost our Re-Start!



Above: Singers Jordan Ortman, Kira Dills-Desurra, and Eric McConnell



LEFT: Barbara Berryman, Mary Ann Ross, Julie Johnston and Jay Breen enjoy the Summer Party

RIGHT: Tom Conroy and Lisa Curtis help Madison Landis announce the drawing winner.

September 14 Opera on Tuesday with University of Northern Colorado

The first DLOG Opera on Tuesday was held on September 14. Great vocal performances were provided by the Opera Theatre students of the University of Northern Colorado under the direction of Dr. Brian Luedloff.



The University of Northern Colorado Opera Theater performs a lovely Libiamo from Verdi's *La traviata*.



Left to right: John Turner, Janet Raasch, Kevin O'Connor, Gary Landis enjoy the Sept 14 2021 Opera on Tuesday

Donor Advised Funds

Now, here is a fun and easy way to donate to your favorite charities AND gain tax advantages AND get organized! Time to get a Donor Advised Fund! Not being a financial wizard(ess), I suggest you contact your financial advisor, stockbroker or other person in the know about this. Here is what I DO know:

A donor-advised fund is like a charitable investment account, for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund at a public charity, like Fidelity Charitable (the one we use) you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Your advisor may suggest putting two years' worth of contributions in at once every other year for tax reasons. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth, and you can recommend grants to

virtually any IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) public charity. Your DAF invested funds continue to earn \$ until you disperse them! Ours have grown so much lately that we have hardly needed to replenish them while contributing more than usual to our favorite charities! Magic!

Here's the organizing part: at the end of the year, all of your contributions are listed in one place, so you know if you've forgotten your annual contribution to your alma mater's arts department, or if you have made your goal of giving away 20% (or whatever). Super!

Regarding Denver Lyric Opera Guild: please be certain your DAF payment is for *charitable* giving such as Arias and Jewels or a donation to support the Competition for Colorado Singers. Opera on Tuesdays doesn't count. When in doubt, ask the event organizer, our Treasurer or President. Using your DAF takes a few days to reach DLOG, so remember that when you signal a payment to be made via your computer.

So, get with it! MODERN times are HERE! Create a Donor Advised Fund, donate to it tax-free, earn money on those funds until you donate them, give your money away easily with a few clicks on the computer, create a complete financial record of annual charitable giving - go for it! Hooray for DAF!

Kathy Van Arsdale

Community Outreach Committee

We are now in the process of putting together DLOG's first Community Outreach Committee. If you have ideas on how we can grow our membership and extend DLOG's outreach into the community this is the committee for you. The committee will be co-chaired by Gayle Landis (Membership VP), Valerie Wassill (Public Relations VP) and Karen Bruggenthies (Development VP). Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Community Outreach Committee please contact Karen Bruggenthies at bruggenthies@comcast.net or 303/550-1863. Your participation would be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to join the committee but have ideas you would like to share please send them our way. We will include them in our discussions. We value your input! Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Bruggenthies

Serve on the DLOG Board

DLOG is still searching for a Treasurer. We are also on the lookout for anyone

interested in becoming the Regional Tour Chair as well volunteers for the nominating committee. Anyone interested please contact:

Thomas F. Conroy
DLOG President
Tom-conroy@strategicre.com
Phone: (303) 884-5035

Tom Conroy

Competition Donor Profile:

Gayle and Gary Landis



Over the next few months, our newsletters will be featuring profiles of the major award sponsors of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers. Our last newsletter talked about the Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation, a longtime sponsor of the Competition. Today's article will introduce you to Gayle and Gary Landis. Like many of our members, Gayle and Gary were introduced to DLOG through one of our existing members.

Gayle met Lisa Curtis some time ago when they were both volunteering at the Kirkland Museum. They crossed paths again in 2019 at an Opera Colorado Artists in Residence event. Lisa suggested that Gayle and Gary attend the DLOG Summer Party. They came to the Summer Party and shortly thereafter

became members. Gayle jumped into DLOG with both feet, stepping in as Membership VP for the last two years. She has also been active in putting together publicity for Arias and Jewels. Gary was recruited as this year's Treasurer but had to step down due to unforeseen health issues.

Gary and Gayle met at the University of Minnesota. Gayle worked part time at the Geology Department office while working on her degree. Gary was finishing his doctorate in Geology. He asked Gayle if she would help type his doctoral thesis and the rest, as they say, is history. Gayle went on to have a successful career as a human resources executive while Gary did some teaching then went on to a long and varied career as a geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. Both are currently thoroughly enjoying retirement.

When asked about how they discovered opera, Gary laughed and said he had a friend who loved *La Bohème*. That friend insisted that they go out and buy the record. The record was purchased, and much to his surprise, Gary discovered "there was some pretty good music in there". Gayle, on the other hand, was exposed to opera at an early age. When Gayle was a child, she lived upstairs from her grandmother. Her grandmother had an old Victrola that Gayle loved to play, and her favorite record was one of Enrico Caruso.

The Landises have five children and seven grand children (ranging in age from 2 to 24), all of whom live in Colorado. Gayle and Gary enjoy spending time with family and particularly enjoy spoiling their grandchildren. As Gayle says, "Having grandchildren is like falling in love all over again."

Gayle is not new to volunteer work. Over the years she has volunteered with a number of organizations including the Kirkland Museum and the Denver Art Museum. She and Gary are also sponsors of an Opera Colorado Artist in Residence. One of the artists they had the privilege to sponsor was DLOG favorite Kira Dills-DeSurra.

When a sponsor of an award had to withdraw their donation last year, Gary and Gayle stepped in to fill the void. They will be sponsoring a prize again this year. We are very grateful for their support! Working closely with Opera Colorado's young artists, they have come to appreciate the serious financial burden on young opera singers. They are delighted to be able to help emerging singers through DLOG. Gary and Gayle believe strongly in the benefits and beauty that The Arts bring to an increasingly contentious world. Unfortunately, we continue to see diminishing support for The Arts in today's society. This is a void they want to help fill.

With the pandemic hitting shortly after they joined DLOG you may not have had a chance to meet Gary and Gayle Landis. Take a minute to say hello. They are amazing people and well worth getting to know. We are extremely lucky to have them associated with our organization.

Gayle and Gary – Thank you so very much for your generous support!

Karen Bruggenthies

Regional Tours

At a recent Board meeting, there was discussion regarding some tours within the region, meaning within Colorado. There are several university opera programs offering productions such as DU, CU, Boulder, UNC to name some.

Presently, CU Boulder opera production of *Guys and Dolls* based on a book by Damon Runyon and music by Frank Loesser scheduled for March 13, is the only published performance on the web sites. Other performances may be published as the academic year progresses and more is known about the Covid situation.

Opera Colorado is producing *Tosca*, *The Shinning* and *Carmen* this year. Putting together a mini tour to any of these shows requires some time, energy and patience.

CU Boulder will also be holding a production of Verdi's *La traviata* on Sunday, Oct. 24 starring none other than our 2021 Competition for Colorado Singers winner Anna Montgomery as Violetta. For those of you in attendance at the Arias and Jewels fundraiser you got a sneak preview of the production with Anna receiving a well-deserved standing ovation for her stunning rendition of "Sempre libera".

The University of Denver Lamont Opera Theatre & Lamont Symphony Orchestra will be presenting Acts 2 and 4 of Puccini's *La bohème* on Nov. 5.

The DLOG board is interested to hear if there is any interest in arranging a mini tour to any of these venues.

We are asking the membership, because of the nature of the times with Covid concerns. Obviously, we will abide with all Covid restrictions, masking etc required in making a trip.

If you are interested in participating in any of these proposed mini tours, please contact me and we will put together a mini tour program for your possible participation.

I know this is vague and loose in nature, but we want to judge the interest.

Also, please indicate your possible interest in a trip to Santa Fe Opera next summer.

Send your note of interest to:

Dennis Jackson
djackson_3@msn.com

Thomas Lynwood Barber

Lyn (Thomas Lynwood) Barber died recently from complications related to Covid and other issues. He was 87, had been a Guild member for a number of years. Lyn had never seen an opera until he and Helen Santilli met in 1975 when an early "date" was a performance of *AIDA*. Lyn subsequently was Competition Chair, Finance Chair and President in 2010--11. Donations to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, 1946 County Rd. 53, Keenesburg, CO 80643 in Lyn's name would be much appreciated. His career was as a research veterinarian.

Helen Santilli

Opera Around to Town



Tosca is back on! Nov. 6-14

[Click here for all Opera Colorado details.](#)



Elixir of Love in Concert with Denver Philharmonic Nov. 4 and 6

[Click here for details!](#)

Also, check out Central City's Opera Podcast Opera Central for commentary on the Opera world and Music in Colorado. [Click for Opera Central](#)



Founded in 2015 as "Denver Art Song Project", **Art Song Colorado** introduces new audiences to the joy of classical song. Many of our DLOG competitors perform with Art Song Colorado.

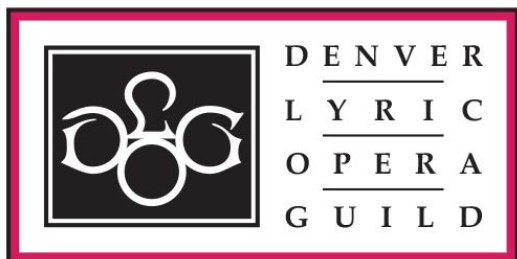
[Click here for all the latest Art Song Colorado Events](#)

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.



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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