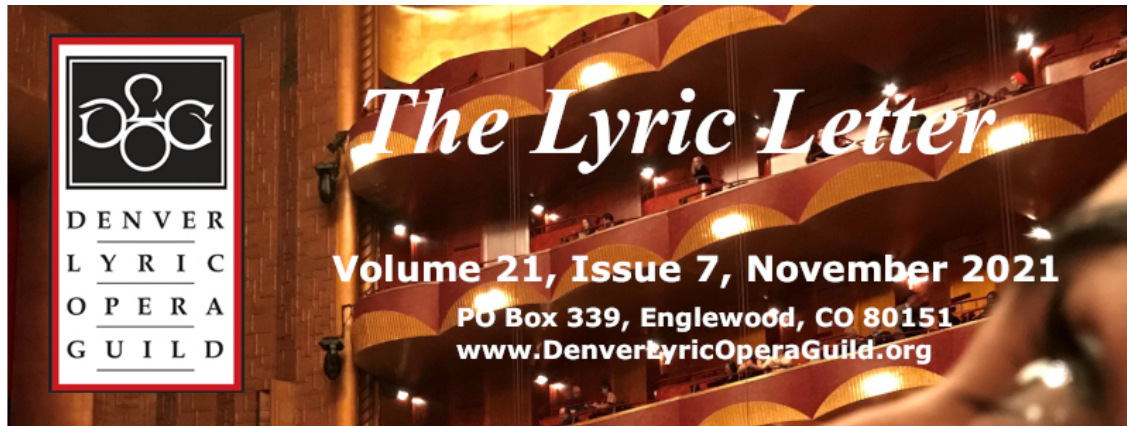


[View this email in your browser](#)



I wish all of our members and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks again to Wendy Cogdal for a great Opera on Tuesday event at the new Columbine Country Club club house. It is a great venue, easy to reach and park, large and comfortable with great acoustics. Events for the rest of the season will be there.

Mary and I travelled to the CU campus to see our first place winner from the last competition, Anna Montgomery, sing the role of Violetta in *La Traviata*. She was superb as was the rest of the production in the Macky Auditorium, a great facility for opera. Hope some of you were able to see it.

**Tom Conroy**

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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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## Arias and Jewels - A Fun Fundraiser!

Close to 90 members and their guests had smiling faces throughout the September 26th Arias and Jewels Cabaret Caper and Competition fundraiser. CU's Jeremy Reger created a brilliantly entertaining and delightfully performed production starring our former *Competition* winners Jennifer DeDominici, Michael Hoffman, Claire

McCahan, Anna Montgomery and Schyler Vargas, with Nadya Hill on violin.

The production was designed as a theft caper of the DLOG jewelry with each performer cast in specific roles. The three 20-minute musical sets featured “Money, Money” from *Cabaret*, “Colorado, My Home” from the *Unsinkable Molly Brown*, “Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend” from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, “You Can’t Get a Man with a Gun” from *Annie Get Your Gun*, “Hey Big Spender” from *Sweet Charity*, “If I were a Rich Man” from *Fiddler on the Roof* and many others.

Jennifer and Claire showcased their brilliant singing and acting talents, while Michael’s tenor voice provided great enjoyment. Anna gave a stunning performance of “Sempre libera” from *La Traviata*, and Schyler offered a powerful rendition of Count Almaviva’s aria from Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*. Nadya’s superb violin music was the perfect interlude between sets as well as some interplay with the performers. The crowd gratefully gave a standing ovation. Brava! Bravo!

The sale of member-donated jewelry attracted great interest with over **\$8,000** collected to date to support the **2022 Colorado Competition for Colorado Singers**. Remaining jewelry and other donated items will continue to be offered at 50% off at the December *Opera on Tuesday* and through Lisa’s contacts. **Thank you to all who donated items – and to those who bought them!**

The heavy hors d’oeuvres were scrumptious and the wine and beer flowing! One member said, “The food! Wow! Those people outdid themselves!”

I would like to thank Arias and Jewels committee members **Karen Bruggenthies, Becky Gantner Gayle Landis, Marie Belew-Wheatley, and Dennis Jackson** for their time, creative ideas and devoted support! And much gratitude to the below volunteers who dedicated time and energy to tag, price, and display jewelry, set up and clean up after the event, and prep and serve food. Special thanks to Karen Bruggenthies for her scrumptious desserts and table centerpieces.

Volunteers: Chris Barrington, Marleen & Pat Diamond, Arline Echandia, Jessica Fish, Gary Gantner, Laura Gottschalk, Lynn Harrington, Lisa Johnson, Gary Landis, Jon Landis, Maria Shanley, Valerie Wassill, Rick West & Lata Ketkar-West, Jim White. And Morgan Sonsthagen Jewelers for complimentary jewelry valuation.

**Lisa Curtis**

Special Events Chair

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## Opera on Tuesday December 7th!

Join us for our next Opera on Tuesday,  
**A performance by the  
Central City Artist Apprentices**



**CENTRAL CITY  
OPERA**



**Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 at 10:30am  
Columbine Country Club,  
17 Fairway Lane,  
Littleton, CO 80123  
\$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

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**The Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for  
Colorado Singers announces its February 19  
Master Class**

This season our facilitator is the internationally renowned Mardi Byers, a native of Boulder.



### **Biography**

American soprano, Mardi Byers is one of the most exciting and talented artists to have emerged from the United States of America in recent years. Hailed by the press as “The Grace Kelly of opera” (Die Welt), she is making her mark on international opera and concert stages including the Hamburg State Opera, the Bregenz Festival, Moscow’s Bolshoi Theater, New York City Opera, and the BBC Proms

Her triumphant opera debut as Floria Tosca at Theater Lübeck in 2003 earned her both critical and public acclaim, prompting invitations from leading opera houses to sing the major roles of her repertoire including Amelia Simon Boccanegra at the Hamburg State Opera, Aida at Finnish National Opera, Opera Toulon, as well as in Graham Vick’s production for the Bregenz Festival, Donna Anna Don Giovanni for Opera Frankfurt and New York City Opera, Georgette and Suor Angelica Il Trittico for New Orleans Opera, Elisabetta Don Carlo for Theater Basel directed by Calixto Beito, Marietta Die Tote Stadt, the title role of Tosca, Elizabeth Tannhäuser as well as Emilia Marty in Janáček’s opera Vec Makropulos (a Robert Carson production) at the Nürnberg State Theater.

In 2011, she was nominated for Russia’s most prestigious theater award, “The Golden Mask” for her portrayal of Marie in the Dmitri Tcherniakov’s celebrated production of Wozzeck conducted by Teodor Currentzis with the Bolshoi Theater.

She also returned there as a guest in 2013, performing *Der fliegende Holländer*. She has performed 2 Richard Strauss roles (*Chrysothemis Elektra* and the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos*) in Nürnberg and most recently covered the role of Salome at the Santa Fe Opera Festival.

Mardi Byers' further European credits include *Aida* under the baton of Daniele Gatti, *Elisabetta* in *Don Carlos* in both the French and Italian versions, *Amelia* in *I Masnadieri*, *Marguerite* in *Faust*, the title role in *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *La Contessa* in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and *Margarete* in *Honegger's Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher*.

Equally at home on the concert stage, Mardi Byers has performed Mahler's 8th Symphony at the First Night of the 2010 BBC Proms, Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* in Hamburg, the *Verdi Requiem* in Finland's esteemed Turku Concert Hall, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Stuttgart Symphony, and excerpts from Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra. Recitals have taken her to San Francisco, Zurich, Munich, Rome, and Salzburg.

In the 2017/2018 season, Mardi Byers performed with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra in Offenbach's *La vie parisienne* as *Baronne Gondremarck*. She also appeared in 2018 at the Scottish Opera and at the Holland Park Opera in London as *Ariadne* in Richard Strauss *Ariadne on Naxos*.

Mardi Byers is currently singing concerts and recitals internationally. In March she will sing a program of Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn in Rome, then with Luisa Prayer on piano. The tour continues with Clara and Robert Schumann.

At the same time she is in the process of learning *Isolda*, *Leanora* (Verdi's *Forza del Destino*), and Strauss' *Elektra*. Up and coming dates are to be announced.

Mardi Byers is a native of Boulder, Colorado and currently makes her home in Zurich, Switzerland.

**Kathy Van Arsdale**

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## Donor Profile - Carol Hoffman



Carol Hoffman is a longtime member of DLOG. She served as president of the organization in 2014-2015 and over the years has been a very active volunteer for the Competition for Colorado Singers. Working "backstage" with the young singers

at the Competition gave her an appreciation of the hard work and dedication these young people put into their pursuit of a career in opera.

Many of you already know Carol Hoffman, but you may not realize what a brave and adventurous soul she is. Carol grew up in a small town in Minnesota close to the Iowa border. When Carol was ten years old her "rich uncle" obtained a farm in eastern North Dakota in a land swap. The uncle offered her father a job running the farm. As this was during the Great Depression and steady work was hard to come by, Carol's father accepted the position and moved his family to North Dakota.

There they grew wheat, barley and rye. They did not have all the modern farming equipment available today so most of the work, including the threshing, was done by hand. This was hard, back-breaking work. As money was in short supply, much of the work was done by Carol and her three siblings.

Carol knew that farm work was not for her. As soon as she was old enough to leave home she moved to Fargo, or as she so eloquently puts it – "the New York City of North Dakota". There she got her first job as a secretary, a career she would pursue all her working life. One summer she and a friend took a bus tour of the Western United States. It was the first time she had been out of the Midwest and the trip really opened her eyes to "what else was out there". As a result, Carol developed a severe case of wanderlust. She and her friend decided that North Dakota was no longer for them. They asked around about nice places to live. Someone suggested Denver. Without ever having seen the city or knowing anyone there, she and her friend packed their bags and hitched a ride with a couple heading west on vacation.

The couple dropped them off in Cheyenne then the two intrepid young women took the bus to Denver.

First stop was the Denver employment office where both women were found jobs as secretaries. Carol was placed at Chevron Oil. There she had a long and successful secretarial career. After several years in Denver Carol met Myrle Hoffman. He also worked in the oil and gas industry although not with Chevron. Myrle was smitten and asked Carol to be his wife. After a few years of marriage Myrle and Carol started their own company doing land work for the oil and gas industry. Myrle and Carol spent close to twenty happy years together prior to his passing. Myrle had two children from a previous marriage. One of Carol's stepchildren has passed, but her stepdaughter and her family currently live in Florida.

Carol is a soprano who has always loved to sing. She had no formal training as a child, so when she moved to Denver, Carol decided to take as many voice lessons as she could afford. As money was tight on her secretarial salary that didn't turn out to be nearly as many as she would have liked, but the experience gave her a real appreciation of how expensive vocal training can be. Carol sang for many years with a local choir and loved every minute of it.

Carol was introduced to both opera and the Denver Lyric Opera Guild by her friend and DLOG member Margaret Chase. For someone with a love of singing it was a revelation! In North Dakota she had never even heard of opera. She instantly fell in love with the art form and with DLOG. Between her work with the Competition and her experience with voice lessons, Carol understands how important the money that DLOG provides is to these young singers. For some it can be the difference between being able to continue in pursuit of their dream of a career in opera or

having to drop out for lack of funds. This is the inspiration behind Carol's sponsorship of the 3rd Place Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award. We'd like to thank Carol for her friendship, her longtime support of the Guild and for her very generous award sponsorship. It is very much appreciated by DLOG and most particularly by the many young singers whose lives you have impacted!

**Karen Bruggenthies**

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## **A Message From David Silvano, DLOG Scholarship Recipient**



My name is David Silvano and I am a recipient of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Scholarship.

I am a non-traditional student from Grand Junction, Colorado. I come from a mixed racial background, being Peruvian and Caucasian, and I take a lot of pride in my heritage. I graduated high school in 2010 and subsequently served for five years in the United States Marine Corps as a military journalist. During this time, I had my two beautiful children and I honestly thought that going back to school would be something that was next to impossible for me. Thankfully, due to the benefits I received in the military, generous donors such as yourselves, and family and friends who supported me, I've been able to graduate with a Bachelor of Music Magna Cum Laude and am now pursuing a Master of Music here at Colorado State University. Other than music, obviously, I really love to spend my time outdoors hiking, camping, and target shooting, and I'm a lover of poetry and an amateur poet myself.

First and foremost, I love performing. I think that the impact music has on the world cannot be overstated, and I have seen and felt first-hand how powerful a musical experience can be. Music brings people together; it's the language that all of humanity speaks and it can be a vessel for change, love, empathy, and so much more. I hope to continue refining my skills as a musical artist so that I am better able to serve this purpose and make the world a better place in any small way that I can. I also have a keen interest in teaching music and voice to future generations of musicians. I have done some teaching already, and I absolutely love sharing my knowledge with others. I think that teaching will be a part of my career for a long time. Music and those who have taught me have given me so much, and I really want to give back. I truly feel that I cannot thank you enough for this incredibly generous scholarship which I know will make a huge difference in my ability to achieve my goals and earn a Master of Music in Vocal Performance. There are quite a few costs associated with higher education that make earning money outside of education extremely difficult. Incredible people such as yourselves truly make a difference for a lot of people like me who couldn't bring their goals into realization

otherwise. For me particularly, being a part-time single father puts an extra strain on things both in terms of my time and my finances. This gift truly means the world to me, and I feel so incredibly fortunate to be selected to receive this award. It will help me be able to spend more time with my children without having to compromise the academic and career goals that I know that I can achieve with your help. Thank you so much.

Your generosity is so appreciated, and I want you to know that I truly couldn't do this without your support. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

**David Silvano**

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## **UNKNOWN** **A New Work Featuring Three DLOG Favorites!**

### **UNKNOWN**

Commissioned by [UrbanArias](#) with the [Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts](#), [Opera Colorado](#), and [Opera Birmingham](#).

**Limited Release** November 11-18, 2021

**Live Performances** Fall 2021

*UNKNOWN* is a dramatic song cycle honoring the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery, which occurs on November 11, 2021. In an effort to capture the national significance of the Tomb, UrbanArias has partnered with opera companies from around the country for the project, which will include a live performance and a film.

A dramatic song cycle honoring the **100th Anniversary of the founding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** at Arlington Cemetery, which occurs on November 11, 2021, **UNKNOWN explores the ideas of war, honor, and memory** through the eyes of soldiers, family members, and Tomb Guards who are connected to each other and the Tomb through their mutual service and sacrifice.

Learn more and buy tickets now at the [UNKNOWN Website](#).



“Soldiers never die until they are forgotten.  
Tomb Guards never forget.”



DLOG Competition singers and judges performing in this work include:

**Schyler Vargas, baritone** –

DLOG 2021 Competition for Colorado Singers 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Taylor Raven, mezzo-soprano** –

DLOG 2015 Competition for Colorado Singers 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Michael Mayes, baritone** –

Husband of DLOG Competition Winner Megan Marino & DLOG Competition Judge

This is an exciting opportunity for these talented young singers to work directly with the composer to bring to life an important new work honoring our nations' veterans. It is a testament to the talent in Colorado that all three singers chosen for this national event have ties to DLOG.

**Karen Bruggenthies**

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## A Message From Deanna Leino



From Deanna Leino, Immediate past DLOG president.

Thank you to the board and all the members for the beautiful engraved medallion presented to me in August. I will proudly wear it at all future DLOG events.

**Deanna Leino**

## Opera Around to Town



Tosca is back on! Nov. 6-14

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



Announcing the 2022 Central City Opera Festival

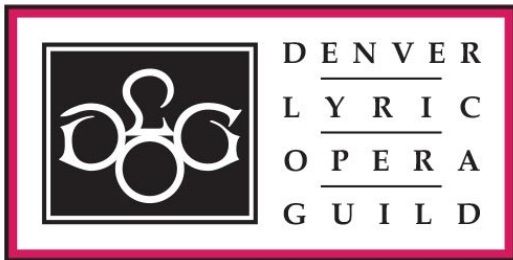
[Click here for details!](#)

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

## 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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Englewood, CO 80151



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