

Tom Conroy

Mary and I hope that all of you had a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Now that it is over, we return to our normal schedules. That meant a January Opera On Tuesday and a great performance by the Opera Colorado Artists in Residence. Upcoming is the Master Class and our Competition. Great Thanks to the Committee for a superb job. See you at both!

Our Mission

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

2022 Competition for Colorado Singers Update



PRESENTED BY
DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

check out the [2022 Competition Page](#) and please remind others of our live stream feature: many around the world can also tune in--friends and family, professors and roommates can see the action as it happens! The Finals performances by candidates will also be recorded for their future professional use.

How delightful that we may experience the beauty of the human voice in person this year! Our Competition for Colorado Singers will be held at Calvary Baptist Church at Hampden and Monaco. You may come to see it in-person if you provide proof of vaccination, or an outside COVID test within 72 hours of the event. You may also choose to watch the Louise Conter Master Class and Finals on our website live streamed. For details please

This year's competition will feature 33 candidates participating in the Preliminary round. Our judges for the event are:

PRELIMINARIES

Dennis Jackson
Marcia Ragonetti
Eapen Leubner

FINALS

Sam Mungo
Wei Wu
Leenya Rideout

One unusual aspect of our competition is the feedback provided to young singers during the event. At most other competitions, candidates walk away never knowing the full and frank opinion of the judges, the reasons for their evaluation, areas of possible improvement, better repertoire for their particular voice, etc. Believing in education, we at DLOG provide a Master Class, and in-person private feedback for every singer—an invaluable resource in their vocal growth. Developing singers appreciate the judges' wisdom and input. We appreciate their professionalism in evaluating, communicating, and assisting in the growth of young singers entering the world of classical singing.

Get ready to observe our wonderful Master Class February 19. Candidates will have the opportunity to work with internationally famous Mardi Byers for twenty minutes of personal training, assisted by the marvelous collaborative pianist Dr. Jeremy Reger of the University of Colorado, Boulder. You will have the opportunity to learn about the voice, the literature, and so much more by watching the Master Class process! The Competition Committee is very sad to report that Mardi is one of those who recently lost everything in the Marshall fire. We will soon report a way you can donate to her personally, should you choose. What a tragic loss!

Lunches are available for DLOG members who are able to attend the Master Class and Preliminaries. Seating will be available in Fellowship Hall where you may share a meal with your friends. [The Panera order form is available on our website.](#)

2022 Competition for Colorado Singers Schedule

February 19, 9am - 4:30pm Master Class
March 5, 9am - 5pm Preliminaries
March 19, 1pm - 5pm Finals

All Events At Calvary Baptist Church
6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver, CO 80224

Kathy Van Arsdale

Opera on Tuesday Recap January 18th, 2022



On January 18th, the Opera Colorado Artists in Residence performed for the first Opera on Tuesday of 2022. Gorgeous singing was heard at Columbine Country Club. Highlights below!



Presenting the wonderful Opera Colorado Artists in Residence!
Back: Philip Lopez, Thomas Lynch, Spencer Boyd, Joseph Goodale
Front: Catherine Swindle, Kendra Broom, Cherity Koepke (Director), Oleg Bellini



Thomas Lynch and Chorus

And you may recognize a few DLOG members:



Helen Santilli, Peter and Kathy Van Arsdale, Kathy Hammer



President Tom Conroy with grandson Tommy Doyle and friends
Oliver Chiriac, Mark Chiriac, Tom, Tommy, Mayur Rajesh

SPOTLIGHT on New Members

As promised, we are continuing to shine the SPOTLIGHT on our new members to learn more about how they were introduced to the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, a little about themselves, and see if they'll tell us their favorite opera.

Debbie Roth

Debbie is well acquainted with DLOG. She has several member friends who've encouraged her to join and she's now happily a member.

Debbie has been a member of the Colorado Chorale for 30 years and has a great love of all kinds of music. Debbie and her husband have 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren.

Her son is a skydiver, one daughter is a sign language interpreter, and another has a business making chef aprons for the great chefs and restaurateurs in Denver and across

the U.S. Debbie is a self-employed bookkeeper who also prepares tax returns.

Debbie especially loves tenor arias regardless of the opera. She finds there is something about the range of the tenor voice that makes her cry even if she doesn't understand every word sung. Although the Ellie is wonderful, her favorite place to see an opera is in Santa Fe and finds there is nothing better on a summer evening. Asked about her favorite opera, Debbie's is *Turandot*.

Angela Schulthess

Aida Souviron introduced Angela to DLOG and attended Opera on Tuesday with another friend, Liz Nielsen who also recently joined.

Born In a small town in Switzerland but with a great Opera House, Liz attended operas from a very young age. She came to the US in the 1960's as a ski instructor at A Basin, later to Aspen where she met her husband, also from Switzerland. They married in Bangkok, Thailand where her husband was then Chef at the Erawan Hotel. Four years and 2 kids later, they returned to the US, first to Columbus, Nebraska, then on to Vail. After living in Vail for 15 years, she now resides in Lakewood.

Angela's favorite opera is *Carmen*, sung in French!

Rick and Sandy Gottschalk

Rick and Sandy are relatively new to the Denver area having moved from Houston, TX to Littleton in 2019. Rick and Sandy were introduced to DLOG by Rick's sister, Karen Bruggentheis who we know is very active in DLOG and the Denver arts community.

Rick is a recently retired geologist and Sandy has worked as a geologic technician as well as a chef before leaving work to raise daughter Allison who also lives in the Denver area. They have modestly said they could add more details but didn't want to bore our readers. For details, look them up at our next Opera on Tuesday luncheon and introduce yourself.

Although they consider themselves "opera novices" they have enjoyed several performances since arriving three years ago.

Watch for the next edition of SPOTLIGHT, we'll turn the lights on the very youngest of our new members...stay tuned.

Gayle Landis

Donor Profile - Carole Johnson

In this segment of our Competition Donor Profiles, we will be featuring long-time DLOG member Carole Johnson.

For the last several years Carole has generously funded one of our awards in honor of her good friend, Mary Wise. In fact, it was Mary who got Carole involved in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. Mary and Carole both loved to golf and got to know each other through the sport. At the time Carole was very actively involved in the Assistance League of Denver.

The Assistance League of Denver is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform the lives of children and adults through its innovative philanthropic programs: Assistance League Schools, Operation School Bell®, Hospital Equipment



Lending Program, Scholarship, Hospitality House, Assault Survivor Kits®, Arts for Kids, ALDO Bears, and Serve Our Seniors. Over the years she has served on the Board of the Assistance League in a number of different positions and is a past-president of the League. Mary Wise was very active in DLOG. As ardent supporters of their respective non-profits, the two ladies made a deal with each other. If Mary would join the Assistance League, then Carole would join the Denver Lyric Opera Guild. As it happened, that was the year that Mary Wise was elected as president of the Guild and recruited Carole not only as a member but as a board member. She took on the task of Public Relations. Talk about jumping in with both feet! At the time PR was considered an easy job. She was told she "wouldn't have to do much". Not satisfied with that, Carole worked at building up the position and extending the Guild's outreach.

Carole grew up in Toluca Lake, CA then went on to attend the University of Washington. After college she got a job and was transferred to San Francisco. It is there that Carole met her husband. Her husband was an engineer working in the aerospace industry, but his life-long passion was music. He played the trombone and bass and was able to transcribe music from one instrument to another. For a time, he even taught music at a private school. It is through him that Carole also developed a love of music, and through DLOG that she extended that love of music to a love of opera. After her marriage they moved to Palos Verdes, CA where she raised her family. Carole was a stay-at-home mom, taking care of her three children, a daughter and two sons. She is now a very proud grandmother and enjoys spending time with the grandkids. Both of her sons graduated from the University of Colorado and her daughter attended the Art Institute.

When her two oldest children were in high school her husband was transferred to Denver where his company had close ties with Buckley AFB. After moving to Denver, Carole became actively involved in a number of philanthropic organizations. She is a firm believer in giving back to the community in which she lives. It is through this spirit of giving that she has chosen to once again sponsor one of our Competition Awards (4th Place). Carole sings in her church choir. Through her choir she has personally gotten to know several young opera singers from the Lamont School of Music and recognizes the financial burdens these young people face in pursuing a career in opera. We are very grateful to Carole and her on-going financial commitment to the Competition for Colorado Singers. Through the generous support of Carole and donors like her we are able to provide much needed financial support for these talented young singers.

Karen Bruggenthies

Big News from 2020 Competition Winner Claire McCahan!

Mezzo-soprano Claire McCahan wins first prize at 47th NATS Artist Awards

McCahan was one of thirteen vocalists to compete on Friday, January 7.

A field of top young vocalists from across North America offered thrilling performances as they competed in the 47th National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Artist

Awards competition on Friday, January 7, 2022.



National Association of Teachers of Singing

The event culminated with mezzo-soprano Claire McCahan from Boulder, CO, winning first place, earning more than \$13,000 in cash and prizes. McCahan is a student of Abigail Nims and represents the NATS West Central Region.

"It feels surreal to have been awarded first place!" McCahan said. "There has been so much heaviness over the past two years, and with uncertainty still lingering, it felt wonderful and freeing to share the musical stories in those songs. Barbie and I both put a lot of time and effort into preparing for this, and it

was thrilling to feel proud of our performance as well as receive acknowledgment. I am extremely grateful for this honor, and would like to thank my teachers, my family, and my community for their endless support."



2022 NATSAA first prize winner Claire McCahan with pianist Barbara Noyes.

Karen Bruggenthies

2022 CO-WY Met Opera Laffont Competition Results and Link to Recording

On Saturday, January 22, the Metropolitan Opera Laffont CO-WY District Competition was held at Calgary Baptist. This prestigious competition was formerly known as the Met Opera National Council (MONC) Auditions. Singers, Judges, friends and family were the only allowed attendees, however, the Youtube live stream was very clear and sounded great in any decent set of speakers. The ENTIRE Competition is still available as of this



writing. You can watch the whole thing by [clicking this link](#).

On February 12th the finalists listed below will move on to compete in the Rocky Mountain Region Competition which includes finalists from other

mountain states such as Utah and Arizona. The finalists from the regional competition move on to compete in the Met Opera Grand Finals in New York. Toi toi toi to these incredible Colorado singers!

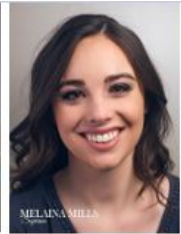
The singing was lights-out fantastic and singers with DLOG and Colorado ties did incredibly well. Out of 21 competitors the following finalists and encouragement award winners were announced:



Schyler Vargas



Kayla Nanto



Melaina Mills

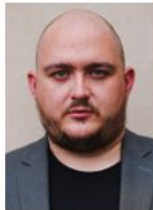


Phillip Lopez

Finalists:
Schyler Vargas
Kayla Nanto
Melaina Mills
Phillip Lopez



Thomas Lynch



Elijah English

Encouragement Awards:
Thomas Lynch
Elijah English



DLOG's own Karen Bruggenthies interviews singers while awaiting the results of the 2022 CO-WY District Laffont Competition

A "Blast" With Opera on Tap

In what a certain DLOG member described as "a blast", the Colorado Chapter of Opera on Tap performed to a lively crowd at the very fun Denver bar and arts venue Enigma Bazaar. Patrons were generally masked, vaccinations were checked, and the show went on! It was a special evening to send off Colorado Opera on Tap founder Eve Orenstein on her new New York adventure. No worries, though, as the future of Opera on Tap looks to be in great hands with Julie Silver Campbell, Jerome Sibulo, and Margaret Siegrist.

Below: the Opera on Tap crew sings a completely un-rehearsed *Va, pensiero* from Verdi's *Nabucco* at Denver's Enigma Bazaar.



Upgrade?

As we move closer to the **2022 Competition for Colorado Singers**, please keep in mind our ongoing **One Member, One New Voice for Opera** campaign which offers Patron and Encore levels of membership. You can upgrade your level of membership at any time throughout the year. You can also make a donation to the Competition or General funds at any time. To upgrade membership or make a special donation, please contact:

Gayle Landis, Membership VP
Email: giple@comcast.net
Cell: 303-810-8712

Thank you for your support.

Gayle Landis

Opera Around Town and Colorado



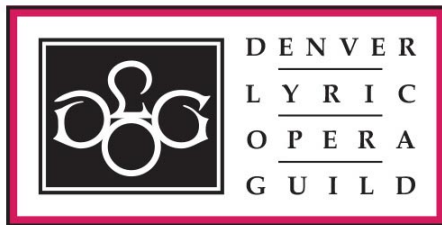
REDRUM AND ROOM 217... It's Opera Colorado's ***The Shining***, February 26 and March 1, 3, 4 and 6. Get your tickets now to Opera Colorado's largest ever performance at the Ellie.

[Click for Tickets!](#)



It's Central City's 90th anniversary season and the 2022 Festival has been announced. Productions include *The Light in the Piazza*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Two Remain*.

[Get your season tickets at this link!](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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