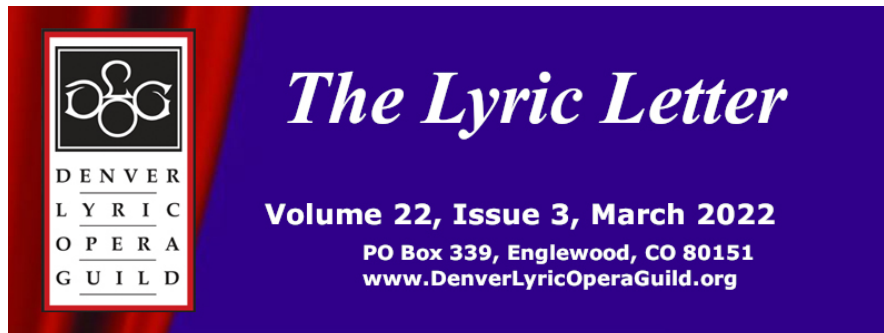


[View this email in your browser](#)

The Competition is over. Congratulations to the Winners and to the Competition Committee, chaired by Kathy Van Arsdale and all the Committee members who did super jobs.

All the singers were great and I, for one, would not have wanted to be a Judge. Next up is the April Opera on Tuesday, where the winners will perform and receive their checks. Plan on attending if you can.

Tom Conroy

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



What a marvelous group of young singers that participated in our annual DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers! The Preliminaries featured thirty singers adjudicated by Jonathan Hayes, Eapen Leubner, and Marcia Ragonetti. Each performer received personal feedback, an unusual feature of our event.

Our collaborative musician/accompanist throughout the Competition was the amazing Dr. Jeremy Reger of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and this summer at Central City Opera. Dr. Reger makes every singer show at their best!

The number of excellent singers made the selection of fifteen Finalists quite difficult. Choosing winners from among these was the job of our Finals Judges: Sam Mungo, Leenya Rideout, and Wei Wu. Many thanks to our marvelous donors for their gifts to the winners awards!

The hard-working Competition Committee made all this possible: thanks to Karen Bruggenthies for her work with our generous donors plus communicating with and organizing the candidates; Jackie Writz, Becky Gantner and their many volunteers kept the check-in, warm up areas, Green Room, entry and exits flowing; Marleen Diamond and husband Pat worked on safety/vaccination checks, lunches, and hospitality, as well as Marleen's communication with our wonderful facility and tech crew; Scott Finlay for corralling, massaging, and communicating with judges; Valerie Wassill for work on all manner of Public Relations, including press relations, professional photography, and the Competition program; Ian Caiozzi for work with newsletter, email blasts, and our website; and Linda Bjelland who prepares our national model judges' books. This truly is an outstanding group! You, too, deserve accolades for your donations, attendance and purchases at fund-raisers, and perpetual support of singers at Opera On Tuesday, at the Competition—whether in person or online.

Lately, disease and warfare has reminded us of the deep, enduring value of all things beautiful. Our DLOG mission is to elevate and support the power and beauty of the human voice. We are touched to our core by brilliant performances! How fortunate we are to have the freedom to be able to participate this event to cultivate young singers and to honor the many who cannot sing. At the start of the Prelims, I asked all Candidates to sing for those in Yemen, in China, and in Ukraine representing all whose voices are repressed. And they did. So many glorious songs!

The 2022 Finalists:

2022 FINALISTS



And Our 2022 Competition for Colorado Singers Winners and awards are:

2022 Competition Awards

First Place - \$10,000 Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award
Lauren Bumgarner 25, Soprano

Second Place - \$5,000 Kenneth King Foundation Award
Kelly Riordan 25, Mezzo

Third Place - \$4500 Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award
Tessa McQueen 24, Soprano

Fourth Place - \$4000 Shirley and Marlis Smith Award
Gabrielle Razafinjatovo 27, Mezzo

Fifth Place - \$3500 Gary & Gayle Landis Award

Danielle Lombardi 30, Mezzo

Sixth Place - \$3000 Carole Johnson in Memory of Mary Wise Award

Christina Hazen 27, Mezzo

Seventh Place - \$2500 Beverly Ann Landis Memorial Award

Paul Wolf 31, Tenor

First Place - \$10,000 Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award

Lauren Bumgarner 25, Soprano

Certificate of Merit - \$1000 Lisa Curtis in Honor of Anne Kotch Award

Catherine Swindle 30, Soprano

Certificate of Merit - \$1000 Julie Johnston and Donors in Memory of Harry Williams Award

Alice Del Simone 29, Soprano

Certificate of Merit - \$1000 Jackie Writz in Memory of Check-in Volunteers Extraordinaire Mary Sharon Wells, Rosemary Priester, Jane Gibson, and Jeanette Thrower Award

Courtney Caston 26, Soprano

Honorable Mention - \$500 Gene and Linda Young in Honor of Mason Cramer, Liverpool Card Group, and DLOG Donors

Melaina Mills 26, Soprano

Kyrie Laybourn 32, Soprano

Andrea Messina 27, Soprano

Nathan Snyder 31, Tenor

Dawna Rae Warren 26, Soprano

Come join us at Opera On Tuesday April 5 to hear many of them sing! What a treat!

For more 2022 Competition details, you can always check out the following resources:

[The 2022 Competition Home Page](#)

[The 2022 Competition Final Livestream Recording](#)

[The 2022 Competition Master Class Recording](#)

[The official 2022 Competition Program](#)

Kathy Van Arsdale

**Join Us for the Next Opera on Tuesday
April 5th, 2022**

Please join us!

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

*The Denver Lyric Opera Guild celebrates
our most significant luncheon of the year honoring the*

Winners of the 2022

Competition for Colorado Singers

Opera on Tuesday

10:30 social hour

11:00 program

12:30 p.m. lunch

\$55.00

*Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Littleton 80123*

Please! rsup by March 30

Register online: www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org

or

Mail reservation to: Becky Gantner
2082 Montane Dr. East
Golden, Co. 80401

questions: Wendy: 303-794-4538 /Becky: 303-526-1260

Donor Profile - Lisa Curtis

Today we will be wrapping up our series of Donor Profiles with an introduction to active Denver Lyric Opera Guild member Lisa Curtis. Lisa has been a sponsor of a Certificate of Merit Award for the past two years. The award has been given in honor of friend and longtime DLOG member Anne Kotch. She generously agreed to sponsor this award again in 2022.

As you are no doubt aware, Lisa has been front and center at many DLOG events. She did an outstanding job as Development VP, chaired the hugely successful Arias and Jewels fundraising event, and is now co-chairing the



upcoming Summer Party with Becky Gantner.

Lisa was born and raised in a small farming community in northwestern Ohio where she was the third of four children. Her father was a large and small animal veterinarian and her mother a nurse. She was active in 4-H Club. As a middle child, Lisa always danced to her own drummer. When it came time for college, Lisa left home to attend Ohio State University where she double majored in Theatre and English. It was there she developed a deep interest in the works and ideas of Thoreau and Emerson.

After graduation Lisa waited tables and starred in local theater productions including *Stop the World I Want To Get Off*. She grew restless so she and a friend decided to take a trip to Cape Cod. Lisa

loved the area and the people so instead of merely a vacation, her stay became a relocation to New England.

Following her love of the Transcendentalists, Lisa made her way to Concord. There she made her home and continued to star in theater productions including the roles of Laura in their critically acclaimed Glass Menagerie and Henry's mistress in *The Lion in Winter*.

While she loved the creative life, being a highly practical person, Lisa decided that going back to school would be helpful in paying the bills. While visiting her sister in Colorado Lisa decided to make Colorado her new home.

(The plentitude of nice-looking young men may or may not have played a small part in the decision!) Lisa packed her bags, moved to Ft. Collins, and earned her degree in Consumer Science. She worked at the Consumer Service Department at CSU and fielded many complaints from both the students and city residents.

This opened her eyes to a need in her community. She did her thesis on the need for a Better Business Bureau in Ft. Collins. Following up on this, Lisa spearheaded a drive to start a BBB branch in Ft. Collins. She was able to garner Community support and became the first director of the first Better Business Bureau in the area.

Through Lisa's enthusiasm and drive the branch became a huge success and soon branched out to include four cities in the area.

It was at CSU that Lisa met her first husband. After several years in Colorado, he was offered a business opportunity in Massachusetts, so Lisa once again found herself in New England. Lisa loved her time in the Northeast where she led a non-profit environmental land grant organization. The next move, also due to her husband's business, took them to San Diego where Lisa took over a struggling Better Business Bureau. She was able to get that turned around, but business soon brought them back to Colorado. Lisa and her husband parted ways and Lisa took on a job with the Denver District Attorney's Office under Bill Ritter, and later Mitch Morrissey.

There Lisa worked primarily with issues of elder fraud and employee embezzlement. While working for the District Attorney, she received a national grant to work on a program implementing elder fraud prevention within Denver's diverse faith communities.

At 48, Lisa underwent treatment for breast cancer. This took both a physical and emotional toll on her as you can well imagine. While going through this ordeal Lisa began to have conversations with her neighbor, David, who lived across the alley. As someone who had dealt with severe health issues his entire life, he became a big support to Lisa. She eventually received a clean bill of health with regards to her cancer, but the months of treatment later caused cardiac health issues and she decided to take early retirement.

Lisa and David were married in 2006 and spent many happy years together, traveling throughout the west, in Europe, and spending winters in San Diego. David was an avid collector of antiques, artwork, and other collectibles. This love became a business for both David and Lisa where they helped many people with estate sales. It is this expertise and experience that helped DLOG so much with the Aria and Jewels sales. Sadly, two years ago, David's numerous health problems escalated, and he passed away at age 67.

Lisa was introduced to the Denver Lyric Opera Guild through Marleen Diamond. Marleen brought Lisa to an Opera on Tuesday, then another, and another, and another. After about a year of attending OOT's as a guest, Lisa decided she should probably join. From there she was recruited into the position of Development VP which she did with her signature brand of enthusiasm, hard work and innovation. It is through her work in development that she had a chance to really interact with some of the young singers and began to see firsthand the importance of the work that the Guild does. Hence her generous sponsorship of a Competition award. The Guild is extremely lucky to have such a dedicated, fun and generous member. Thank you, Lisa, for all you do!

Karen Bruggenthies

Strike a Pose



Above: Ashley Amegin photographs Competition Finalist Andrea Messina at the 2022 Competition Finals

Thanks to resourceful efforts by Valerie Wassil and the DLOG Competition Committee, this year's Competition featured work by professional photographer Ashley Amegin of Beautiful Bones Photography. Ashley specializes in elopement photography and you can check out her candid style at her studio website: <https://www.beautifulbonesphoto.com/>.

Ashley has compiled the Competition photographs into a website. See all the photos using link below and keep scrolling to check out some highlights:

[Click Here to See All 2022 Competition Photos by Ashley Amegin](#)



Congratulations to 2022 Competition First Place Winner Lauren Bumgarner!

Left: Second Place Went to Kelly Riordan

Below: Alice Del Simone, Catherine Swindle, Courtney Caston



Left: Final Judges Sam Mungo, Leenya Rideout, Wei Wu
Below: Melaina Mills, Kyrie Laybourn, Andrea Messina



Left: Gabrielle Razafinjatovo (photo Rebecca Gantner)

Below: Dawna Rae Warren (photo Lisa Curtis)



Left: Danielle Lombardi, Christina Hazen, Paul Wolf

Below: The Competition Committee Huddles Up



Above: Final Results are Announced at Calgary Baptist (photo Ian Caiozzi)



An Invitation to DLOG Members from Opera America

Greetings, all you Lovers of Opera!

I know you want to help me gather a Colorado contingent for OPERA America's 6th Annual Backstage Brunch, Saturday, April 9, 12:30-1:30 ET. As the Denver Chair I'm excited to show Colorado support for this Highest Form of Art.

OPERA America is the national umbrella organization for the opera field. It serves opera companies, administrators, artists, educators, and trustees in moving opera forward as an art form and industry. I'm a proud supporter and beneficiary of their work.

The Backstage Brunch is a virtual salon and fundraiser that supports OPERA America's commitment to gender parity and women leaders. This fundraiser supports mentorship programs for women administrators, cultivating women into senior leadership positions at opera companies throughout the country.

Via Zoom, the 2022 Backstage Brunch will feature Nataki Garrett, artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Nataki will be making her Portland Opera debut with a new production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *The Central Park Five*. Other new works will also be shown (see below invitation).

The Backstage Brunch is a fundraiser whose success relies on National Participation. It's why I said 'YES' to serving as a Regional Chair. Colorado has lots to offer in the Opera Arena. Please consider supporting and attending this event with me. As someone who values opera and advocates for women, you know it is essential.

Learn more and purchase tickets at www.operaamerica.org/BackstageBrunch.

Karen Ritz

Central City Opera Board Member

Central City Opera Guild Member and Past President.

OPERA America invites you to the

**SIXTH ANNUAL
BACKSTAGE BRUNCH 2022**

Empowering Women in Opera

**A virtual salon and fundraiser in support of OPERA America's
Mentorship Program for Women Administrators**

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. EDT • Live on Zoom

FEATURED KEYNOTE

Nataki Garrett, Artistic Director
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

PERFORMANCES OF NEW WORK

Johanny Navarro & Tamar-kali
Composers & OA Grantees

GUEST INTERVIEWS

Networking Hangouts to Follow

Emceed by Past Participants of the Mentorship
Program for Women Administrators

Chaired by Generous Women in Communities
Across North America

Nancy Barton, New York City Chair
Sue Bienkowski, Long Beach Chair
Jessica Burton, Columbus Chair
Kristina Flanagan, Santa Fe Chair
Laura Kaminsky, New York City Chair
Gloria Portela, Houston Chair
Karen Ritz, Denver Chair
Jeri Sedlar, Sarasota Chair
Rhonda Sweeney, Houston Chair
Shoshana Tancer, Phoenix Chair
Elisabeth J. Waltz, Austin Chair

R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, April 5
operaamerica.org/BackstageBrunch

**OPERA
AMERICA**

Opera Around Town and Colorado

Così fan tutte, Featuring DLOG 2022 First Place Winner Lauren Bumgarner April 1st and 3rd

Location: [Griffin Concert Hall, Fort Collins, CO](#)

Enjoy Mozart's rollicking farce of naive young love tested by a jaded bachelor, a scheming servant, and lovers in disguise. This performance features 2022 DLOG Competition first place winner Lauren Bumgarner in the role of Fiordiligi.

[Click Here for Tickets](#)



Artists in Conversation, Wednesday April 20, 6pm



Location: [Opera Colorado Opera Center, 4121 S. Navajo St., Ste. 100, Englewood, CO 80110](#)

Join Opera Colorado at their Opera Colorado Opera Center for a lively discussion with [Carmen's cast and creative team](#), moderated by General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter. Hear the team's thoughts on Bizet's smoldering drama, learn about the artistic process, and more! Then stay for a reception where you can get to know these opera stars over light refreshments.

[Click to RSVP](#)



Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World, April 2, 3, 24

Location: [Various Front Range Locations and Times](#)

See the 2022 Central City Family Series production featuring DLOG Competition Finalists past and present. This is an inspiring new family opera featuring local Colorado singers. Mariana, a young girl living in the heart of Mexico City, whose home is full of beautiful artwork by Frida Kahlo. She is encouraged by her family to visit Kahlo and have her portrait painted by the renowned artist.

[Link to All Shows and Ticket Information](#)

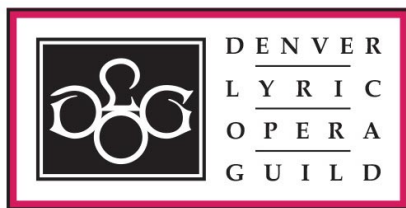


Lamont Opera: *l'opéra enchanté*, April 21, 22, 23, 24

Location: [Newman Center University of Denver](#)

Lamont Opera Theatre and Lamont Symphony Orchestra transport the Newman Center audience to the enchanted Côte d'Azur, performing two one-act French operas. Matthew Plenck directs *l'opéra enchanté*, pairing Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, conducted by Lawrence Golan, with Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, conducted by Sahar Nouri..

[Tickets on sale now at the Newman Center](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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