

Greetings from your President:

As we enjoy the wonderful fall with the full glory of the colors and warm autumn weather, I am reminded of the many reasons we live and love this wonderful state of Colorado. We are so blessed and this organization is so blessed by the commitment and service of DLOG members.

Preparations are in full steam by the Competition Committee headed by Karen Bruggenthies for the annual singing competition beginning in February with the Master Class followed by the full competition in March. Letters have been sent by Jackie Wirtz to opera companies and programs for their renewal of grants provided by DLOG. Our Opera on Tuesday Luncheons with delightful and educational programs are in good hands with the guidance of Gayle Landis and the staff of the Country Club. Membership rosters are in constant review and updates, thanks to Marleen Diamond. Debbie Roth and Kevin O'Connor are on top of our financial health so we can continue supporting opera and the art of singing.

The board begins its annual search for new board members as we approach the end of November. Which brings me to the subject of volunteers as the source of the strength of our organization. Every organization needs people who are willing to serve in positions to sustain the work of the organization. We need volunteers to sustain the purpose DLOG.

**Presently we need people who can make a contribution of time to serve in the following areas:**

**Recording Secretary for the Board:** This person take minutes of our board meetings.

**Nominating Committee:** This committee gathers names and presents a slate of officers for the next year. Kathy Van Arsdale will serve as temporary chair of the committee until a chair is selected from the nominating committee

If you are willing to serve in any capacity, please contact me or any member of the board.

We need you to take time to volunteer and make your contribution to the future and meet our "reason for

existence.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Enjoy the rest of the fall and see you soon.

**Dennis Jackson**  
**President DLOG 2022-23**

---

## Our Mission

Denver Lyric Opera Guild's mission is to support and encourage young opera singers through grants to University Opera Programs and Young Artist Programs; to provide continuing education for members' appreciation and knowledge of opera; and by sponsoring an annual Competition for Colorado Opera Singers.

---

## Opera on Tuesday Highlights October 11, 2022 With Central City Opera



Central City Singers L-R: Miguel Angel Ortega Bañales, Jerome Sibulo, Pablo Romero, Adam J. Buer

This past Tuesday, October 11 the Central City Opera presented "A Celebration of Hispanic and Latinx Music" as the second event of the 2022-2023 DLOG performance season. Performances were given at Columbine Country Club alongside lunch and great company. Once again kudos to the Events Committee of Gayle Landis and Becky Gantner for organizing these wonderful events. Special thanks to Linda Young for the images below as well as many of the additional images now available in the [Gallery section of the DLOG website](#).





Karen Ritz and Deb Kelly



Scott Finlay and Karen Bruggenthies

## IN THE NEWS: Catching Up With Past DOG Competition Winners



Photo by Nine Photography. Rosina ...



### MEGAN MARINO - 2008 and 2011 DLOG Competition

Known to Guild members for her energy, enthusiasm and sense of fun as much as for her beautiful voice and command of the stage, Megan Marino has been a very busy lady!

This November Meg makes her stage directorial and company debut with Shreveport Opera, interpreting the timeless Rossini/Sterbini classic *Barber of Seville* that launched her operatic singing career.



Always in demand, Megan's upcoming roles include 2<sup>nd</sup> Lady in the Metropolitan Opera's holiday production of *The Magic Flute*, Flora in the Met production of *La Traviata*, and she will perform in San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago in Jake Heggie's as yet untitled new opera.

In addition to her work on the stage, Megan and her husband Michael recently started a not-for-profit organization in Creede Colorado, the Creede Musical Arts Collective. After an exciting Inaugural Season success, Meg continues her role as the Executive Director of the Creede Musical Arts Collective. Now in its second season, the organization will expand with a 3rd Summer Festival weekend, a larger Artist roster, and more creative cross-genre-disciplinary events for the whole family, while strengthening and cultivating relationships with the long-established organizations and Artists in town and the region at large.



### TAYLOR RAVEN - 2015 DLOG Competition

2015 DLOG Competition Winner Taylor Raven has been making waves in the opera world! Recognized as an up-and-coming artist, Taylor was recently featured in the Spotlight section of Opera News, America's premier opera publication.

Taylor Raven closed the 2020-21 season with a role and house debut with Des Moines Metro Opera as Polina in Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* and a house debut as Rosina in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Finger Lakes Opera. During the 2020-21 season, Taylor was also scheduled to debut at the Minnesota Opera as Angelina in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and make a role/house debut as the title role of Bizet's *Carmen* at Opera San Jose. In the 2021-2022 season, Taylor looks forward to many debuts on the opera and concert stage. She makes her house debut with Houston Grand Opera as Dritte Dame in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and will make a role/house debut with North Carolina Opera in Paul Moravec's *Sanctuary Road* as Clarissa Davis. Taylor will make a role/house debut as Mallika in Delibes' *Lakmé* with Washington Concert Opera. She will perform as the alto soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Dallas Symphony under conductor Fabio Luisi, Baltimore Symphony under conductor Marin Alsop and the Los Angeles Philharmonic under conductor Gustavo Dudamel.

In the 2019-20 season, Taylor was scheduled to debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Grimgerde in Wagner's *Die Walküre* and cover Flosshilde in Wagner's *Das Rheingold/Götterdämmerung*. She was seen as Rosina in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Concepción in Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* as a 2019 Filene Artist at Wolf Trap Opera. She made her Alice Tully Hall debut,

appearing with the American Symphony Orchestra for a concert of Bach arias. She is a recent alum of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at the Los Angeles Opera, where she was seen as Dritte Dame in the Kosky production of *Die Zauberflöte*, Annio in *La clemenza di Tito*, Tebaldo in Verdi's *Don Carlo*, and the Sandman in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.



### KIMBERLI RENDER – 2012 DLOG Competition

Big things have been happening recently for DLOG Competition winner Kimberli Render! Kimberli was featured in the cast of Lincoln Center Theater's production of the new opera *Intimate Apparel*. This production was broadcast on PBS's Great Performances in September of this year. In addition, you may have seen Kimberli in the Met's Live in HD production of *Porgy and Bess* where she had a solo! Other recent roles include Lucinda in *Into the Woods*, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, Liu in *Turandot*; Hannah Glawari in *The Merry Widow*; Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*; Governess in *Turn of the Screw*; Elisetta in *Il matrimonio segreto*.

Karen Bruggenthies

---

## "Interplay: Art and Opera"



Over the years Denver Lyric Opera Guild has been fortunate to have some extremely creative and dare I say visionary artists participate in the Competition for Colorado Singers. For example, you may recall Eapen Leubner and his upcoming newly commissioned puppet opera. I'm happy to say another creative thinker can now be added to the list.

I recently had the pleasure of reconnecting with past Competition winner Leah Podzimek who, like Eapen, is blazing new trails in the world of opera. Leah has put together "Interplay: Art and Opera," an interdisciplinary, collaborative project that brings visual artists and musicians together in meaningful expression.

Leah Podzimek, a Denver-based opera singer is forging unique partnerships with other artists to create one-of-a-kind aural interactions that blend, for example, sculpture with operatic storytelling, says "opera is for everyone." She is on a mission to make opera more accessible.

"I want to tear down those preconceptions about what a person believes opera is and what they have to be in order to enjoy it," says the soprano singer. "If you can relate to a story being told, then opera is for you."

Based out of Denver, Podzimek is an award-winning opera singer and producer who creates opera-adjacent and multi-disciplinary performance experiences. She started the "Interplay: Art and Opera" initiative in collaboration with the BRDG Project, an art gallery that had popped up in her community.

After holding multiple events at the Denver gallery last fall, Podzimek recently brought her Interplay concept to other artist communities around Colorado and, soon, beyond state borders.

Along with DLOG board member Kira Dills-DeSurra, she recently brought her Interplay project to Telluride for Original Thinkers. She sent recordings and context of her music to a handful of local artists who are creating paintings and sculptures inspired by her music, which reflects themes of love, lust, loss and grief. The works of art were on display in a gallery while Podzimek and her fellow musicians perform. "I've done multiple projects in the past where I would look at visual art and curate opera and art song programs inspired by the visual art around me," Podzimek said. "But we wanted to flip it around this time and have the art be inspired by the opera instead."

"There's nothing really like creating a collaborative project in something that's interdisciplinary between a visual art and a performing art," Podzimek said. "It just creates this really wonderful ambiance, emotion and vibration in the space."

"Being in venues that are not traditional opera houses — like TACAW and the Art Base, in a gallery space — it makes for a really intimate experience for both the artists and any audiences who are there," Podzimek said. "And it allows us, as singing actors, to tell a story and for people to see it on our faces a lot more and feel it in their bodies a lot more."

In an upcoming project, Leah is humbled and honored that her dear friend, Courtney Ozaki (Founder of the Japanese Arts Network) has asked her to collaborate for a second time. Together, along with Theatre Artibus, American Lore Theater, and Control Group Productions, they are creating **ZOTTO: An Immersive, Japanese**



**Folktale.**

In the realm of Yōkai spirits, ZOTTO takes audiences on a multi-sensory, interactive journey in Denver's Sakura Square, a historically significant cultural hub for the local Japanese American community.

Through mystical worlds that engage the five senses through **Japanese cultural artforms**, audiences will explore the **history of Japanese Americans** who were forcibly incarcerated during WWII and their resettlement in Denver, acknowledging **community** trauma, erasure, **healing and resilience**.

Kudos to Leah for thinking outside of the box and bringing opera to a new and varied audience!

Karen Bruggenthies

## Announcing *Christmas Across the Ages* with 2020 DLOG Competition Winner Claire McCahan



### Boulder Bach Festival's *Christmas Across the Ages* with Claire McCahan, Jeremy Reger, and CORE

Friday, December 16, 2022, 7:30pm

Broomfield Auditorium

3 Community Park Rd., Broomfield, CO 80020

Featuring:

Claire McCahan, mezzo-soprano

Jeremy Reger, piano, harpsichord, and organ

COmpass Resonance Ensemble

COmpass REsonance chamber choir presents the rich harmonies of holiday music from before the time of Bach all the way to some of our most cherished contemporary songs. Mezzo-soprano Claire McCahan hosts the event with stories about the music across time and cultures, joined by CORE vocal artists in

arias and popular songs, and in rich ensemble singing of our favorite Christmas carols—in collaboration with Jeremy Reger on harpsichord, chamber organ, and piano.

This program includes vocal solos, duets, and chamber choir works ranging from ancient music to more contemporary holiday favorites. Celebrate the holidays with us in a magical performance of the most beautiful Christmas music.

For more details and tickets, [Click Here](#).






---

## ***Master Class (A Play with Music)***



For the 40th season of the Town Hall Arts Center in Littleton, Colorado, a play of great interest to DLOG members is being put on January 12, 13, 14, and 15. This is your advance notice to go see *Master Class (A Play With Music)*.

Winner of the 1996 Tony Award for Best Play, this production dramatizes the great opera diva, Maria Callas, conducting a master class as she coaxes, prods, and inspires students – “victims” as she calls them – into giving the performance of their lives. Inspired by a series of master classes the great diva taught at Julliard toward the end of her career.

For more details and tickets, [Click Here](#).

---

## **Opera Around Colorado**



### **Verdi's *Rigoletto***

**Nov 5, 8, 11, 13, The Ellie Caulkins Opera House**

Verdi's Italian masterpiece opens Opera Colorado's 40th Anniversary Season, featuring unforgettable music, including the effervescent “La donna è mobile.” The jaded jester Rigoletto serves the reckless Duke of Mantua and his hedonistic court. Little does Rigoletto know the womanizing duke has seduced his naive daughter, Gilda. How far will Rigoletto go to protect his only family?

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

### **Opera BOPS!**

**Saturday Nov. 19, Enigma Bazaar, 4923 W 38th Ave., Denver**

Saturday, November 19 is our annual [fundraiser event](#). It's just like one of our usual, super-fun monthly shows PLUS a fab silent auction. The musical menu? Opera's greatest hits. The stuff that'll have you tapping toes and humming along. Yep, that's what we call a BOP!



All dollars raised support scholarships for local opera singers and enable us to produce monthly opera shows, pop-up events and other innovative operatic experiences in accessible spaces at accessible prices.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW!](#)

[Get Tickets Here](#)



## L'ESPRIT DE NOËL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

[Click for Details and Tickets](#)

### ***L'ESPRIT DE NOËL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR*** **November 18-19**

The L'Esprit de Noël Holiday Home Tour is back in-person for its 46th season! Taking place in the Glenmoor Country Club neighborhood November 18 & 19, L'Esprit showcases the talent of the area's top florists and table designers, just in time for holiday decorating! Tour five incredible Glenmoor homes and bring the inspiration and merriment of the season back to your own home.

As a special add-on this year, the Central City Opera Guild will be hosting a buffet lunch at the Glenmoor Country Club Clubhouse on November 19 at 11:30am or 1:30pm. Your meal includes two entree options, salads and sides, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. There will be a cash bar on site. Proceeds benefit Central City Opera



### **Religious Art Songs & Carols** **Saturday Dec 3rd, St. Andrew UMC, Highlands Ranch, CO**

Join **Eapen Leubner**, **Gabrielle Razafinjatovo**, **Margaret Ozaki Graves** and **Mallory Bernstein** as they perform religious songs from the Jewish and Christian faiths and culture along side a dose of Christmas carols. Featuring a full performance of Benjamin Britten's "Canticle ii- Abraham and Isaac" with staging and projections.

Don't miss out on this unique expression of religious songs that may be new to you alongside some favorites and surprises.

[Click for Details and Tickets](#)

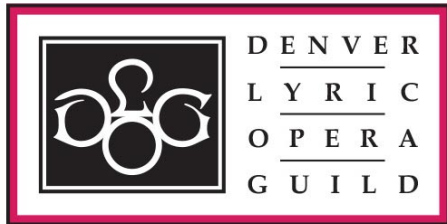


### **22nd Annual Winter Song Gala** **Dec 16, 6pm, Fort Collins Hilton**

OPERA FORT COLLINS INVITES YOU TO A SPARKLING HOLIDAY GALA! Help us celebrate the holiday season at the 22nd annual Winter Song gala. The evening will include a silent auction and our ever-popular mystery boxes along with live performances of opera arias, art songs, and festive seasonal music.

[Click for Details and Tickets](#)

---



DENVER LYRIC OPERA  
GUILD

P.O. Box 339  
Englewood, CO 80151



---

*Copyright © 2022 Denver Lyric Opera Guild, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

