

Greetings from your President:

As I write this note for the newsletter, the snow is here and we are to experience a strong cold front with some winter temperatures. So, **Button up your overcoat** as the song says.

I thank Kathy Van Arsdale for filling in for me during my knee replacement and for the good wishes from members. I have missed seeing your faces and the conversation as well as the programs at Opera on Tuesdays.

I plan to attend the December OOT and hope to see a full house as we celebrate the forthcoming holidays.

The board had a good meeting this week and it was a pleasure to be there in person. The competition is running like a well oiled machine with many people involved in the planning. I am excited by the judges list that Scott Finlay has gathered so far. The prize monies are such an important part of the professional growth for the singers. It enables them to continue their vocal studies or travel to those important auditions to further their careers.

It is the generosity of our members and patrons that make this event of such significance that it is being viewed on the web by hundreds of people. One estimate has over a thousand viewers watched the last competition on the web. Personal attendance dropped because of the Covid, but we expect to have good attendance this year with less Covid restrictions. Make plans now to attend the Masterclass and the Competition. You will not be disappointed!

The accomplishments of our winners is exciting and a tribute to the organization. The history of DLOG is full of great memories. Videos of many of the winners are being assembled and will be placed on the web for your enjoyment as a tribute to the labors of our members and the winners.

We look forward to the **December Opera on Tuesday** and the presentation by the University of Colorado, Boulder opera program.

See you on December 6 at 11:00 as we celebrate the holidays and the accomplishments of our competition winner. Make your reservation NOW for this exciting luncheon and program. Can we have 100 in attendance? Why not????

Happy Thanksgiving!

**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 November 1st, 2022 With DU Lamont Opera Theatre



DU's Lamont Opera Theatre L-R: Matthew Plenk (Artistic Director), Sahar Nouri (Piano and Music Director), Katie Cymermann, Rebecca Greenawalt, Claudia Diaz, Maria Fabara, Liam Dooley, Dr. Keith Ward (Director of the Lamont School of Music)

This past Tuesday, November 1st the DU Lamont Opera Theatre under the direction of Artistic Director Matthew Plenk presented our third Opera on Tuesday for the 2022-2023 DLOG performance season. Huge thanks to the performers and our fantastic Events Committee of Gayle Landis and Becky Gantner for organizing another great show! Additional images from this program are now available in the [Gallery section of the DLOG website](#).



Chris and Karen Mohr enjoying November Opera on Tuesday



UPDATE: DLOG 2023 Competition for Colorado Singers



Aspiring opera singers face extraordinary challenges in the pursuit of a career in opera. As in any profession, talent and hard work are top requirements for success. However, unlike many other professions, talent and hard work are not enough. Young opera singers face unprecedented financial challenges. To succeed they must continue vocal training, acting lessons, and language lessons. They must pay for student loans, audition fees, transportation to and from auditions and lodging while there, head shots, proper audition and competition apparel, and more. It is estimated that a young opera singer will pay well over \$10,000 annually in out-of-pocket career related expenses. As a result, many young singers do not achieve their goal of a career in opera not for a lack of talent but a lack of funds.

The Denver Lyric Opera Guild was formed to help relieve some of the financial burden talented young Colorado singers face, allowing them to focus on their artistic development and career goals. Each spring the Denver Lyric Opera Guild holds the Competition for Colorado Singers. This competition is for Colorado opera singers ages 23 to 32. In 2023 DLOG awarded \$38,000 in total prize money for the Competition including a \$10,000 first place award. Since its inception DLOG has awarded almost \$1,000,000 in Competition prize money. Due in part to the support of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, over the years many young Colorado singers have launched successful careers in opera. See information below on two of our past winners. Be sure to open the links below their bios see to videos of these talented and successful singers tell you about their experiences with DLOG.

The Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers is a wonderful opportunity for DLOG members as well as music lovers in our community to see and hear some of the finest young singers in Colorado either in person or online. All Competition related events are free and open to the public. We invite you to join us at the Competition where you will hear some truly exquisite voices while at the same time showing your support for these extraordinary young singers. They are the future of the artform that we love.

Karen Bruggenthies
Competition VP

2023 COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS

Master Class –	Saturday, February 18, 2023 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM <i>Matthew Plenk (facilitator) - Artistic Director of Lamont Opera Theatre at The University of Denver's Lamont School of Music where he is also appointed as Assistant Professor of Voice. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2007 while a member of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Hartt School of Music, Master's degree from Yale University and is a Samling Scholar.. Since returning to the stage in November of 2022, Mr. Plenk has appeared with the Central City Opera as Nemorino, and Alftred, performed with the Colorado Symphony in the season finale as a soloist in Bruckner's Te deum and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Matthew also presented a faculty recital at Lamont, performing the groundbreaking Schöne Müllerin with Keith Ward at the piano.</i>
Preliminaries -	Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Finals -	Saturday, March 18, 2023 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Awards Luncheon -	Tuesday, April 4, 2023 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Catching Up With Past DLOG Competition Winners



CYNTHIA LAWRENCE - 1989 DLOG Competition Winner

Cynthia Lawrence is acclaimed as one of America's most exciting "singing actresses" and sings at the leading opera companies around the world; the Metropolitan Opera (**Roxanne** in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, **Dolly** in *Sly*, **Tosca**, **Cio-Cio-San** in *Madama Butterfly*, and **Rosalinda** in *Die Fledermaus*); The Washington National Opera (**Elettra** in *Idomeneo*); Portland Opera (**Tosca**); Lyric Opera of Chicago (**Candace** in *A Wedding*, **Lavinia** in *Mourning Becomes Electra*, **Elettra** in *Idomeneo*, **Countess Olga** in *Fedora*, **The Italian Singer** in Strauss's *Capriccio*, **Musetta** in *La Boheme*, **Vitellia** in *La Clemenza di Tito*, **Micaela** in *Carmen*, **The First Lady**, in *Die Zauberflöte*, **Rosalinda**, **Fiordiligi** in *Così fan Tutte*, and **Lisa** in *Sonnambula*); Opera Carolina (**Tosca**, **Cio-Cio-San**); Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, New Israeli Opera, Opera Pacific, and Opera Colorado (**Lady Macbeth** in Verdi's *Macbeth*); Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin (**Die Frau** in Schoenberg's *Von Heute auf Morgen*); Lake George Opera Festival (**Cio-Cio-San**); Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (**Musetta**); Paris Opera, Prague's National Theater (**Vitellia** in *La Clemenza di Tito*); Grand Theatre de Geneva, Opera Columbus, Vlaamse Opera, Dayton Opera (**Rosalinda**); Minnesota Opera (**Countess** in *Le nozze di Figaro*); Opera Ontario (**Cio-Cio-San**); Athens Festival, Theater Megaron (**Elettra**); New York City Opera (**Rosalinda**, **Cio-Cio-San**, **Musetta**); Opera Omaha (**Micaela**, **Liu**); Central City Opera (**Marguerite**, **Micaela**, **Mimi**); Castleward Opera, Belfast, Ireland (**Fiordiligi**); and Colorado Opera Festival, Opera Memphis, Opera Enschede Holland, and Santander Festival (**Donna Anna** in *Don Giovanni*).

She has appeared over 70 times in concert with Luciano Pavarotti; touring cities and countries such as Doha, **Qatar**; **Italy**; **Chile**; **Venezuela**, **Argentina**; **Germany**; **Norway**; **Japan**; **China**; **Malaysia**; **England**; **Canada**; **South Africa** and throughout the **United States**. She has also appeared with him in two televised broadcasts on PBS: "Live from Lincoln Center" concert "Pavarotti Plus!", a live concert from Miami Beach, and on a PBS special "Pavarotti: My World." She is also a member of the original "Three Sopranos". Other concert appearances include Alban Berg's rarely performed *Der Wein* with the Grand Theatre Geneve; a Solo Recital with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; Strauss' Vier Letzte Lieder and a recital of Mozart concert arias for the Colorado Music Festival; a tour of Mozart Concert aria with Rudolf Buchbinder throughout Italy; performances of Verdi's *Requiem* in Utah; the Mozart *Requiem* at the Hollywood Bowl with Ivan Fisher; performances with the Columbus Symphony in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*; and Berg's *Sieben Frühe Lieder* in Colorado.

Her many awards include First Place in the Concorso Di Canto Di Mozart, Vienna, Venice, Paris, Rome; being a Metropolitan Opera National Winner, winning The Birgit Nilsson Prize, the Metropolitan Opera Rocky Mountain Region, the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, the Society of Arts and Letters, Allied Arts, the MacAllister Awards, the Stewart Awards and the Pavarotti International competitions.

[Click to hear Cynthia speak about her experience with DLOG](#)



QUINN PATRICK ANKRUM - 1999 DLOG Competition Award Winner

An active performer, Mezzo soprano Quinn Patrick Ankrum has sung a wide variety of repertoire spanning the centuries, in a multitude of venues throughout the United States and abroad. Favorite roles include Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Cenerentola (*La Cenerentola*), Zerlina (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Meg (Adamo's *Little Women*), and Maddalena (*Rigoletto*). She created the role of the Mother in Jefferson Todd Frazier's groundbreaking new opera *Breath of Life*. Equally at home on the concert stage, favorite works include Bach's Mass in b minor, Mozart's Mass in c minor, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Recent seasons have included *Messiah* with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra; Luciano Berio's *Folksongs*, William Walton's *Faade*, Steve Danyew's *Alcott Songs*, and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with ensembles at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music; recitals in Ohio, Oklahoma, and New York (Fredonia); solo appearances the Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, and programs of works from the Oratorio and American song repertoire in the Lorn Live Chamber Music Festival (Oban, Scotland), and in the inaugural Sing Northumbria Festival in Northern England.

Ankrum received her training at Trinity University (San Antonio), the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the Eastman School of Music, and was a Young Artist in the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Program and the Baltimore Opera Studio. She was a Finalist and Winner in numerous regional and national competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions (Rocky Mountain Region) and the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Awards (NATSAA) competition. She has served on the faculties of SUNY Fredonia (NY), Nazareth College (Rochester, NY), and Texas Tech University (Lubbock). She joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music in 2017 and currently serves as Associate Professor of Voice.

[Click this link to see Quinn speak about her experience with DLOG](#)

Don't Forget to Sign Up for the Next Opera on Tuesday!



Please note the due date to reserve for the

Denver Lyric Opera Guild's Festive Holiday

Opera on Tuesday

December 6, 2022

*It's the most wonderful time of the year to listen to the very talented singers from
University of Colorado, Boulder under the direction of
Anna McMahon (Montgomery) – 2021 Competition Winner!*

10:30 – Social
11:00 – Program
Noon – Luncheon

Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Littleton – 80123

\$55.00 per person

Reservations must be received by November 29th
(online/mail/phone call)

Online: DenverLyricOperaGuild.org

Mail check to:
Becky Gantner
2082 Montane Dr. East
Golden – 80401

Call: Gayle 303-810-8712 or Becky 303-526-1260

Update on Mardi Byers

Your gracious financial assistance to Mardi Byers, our 2022 Master Class facilitator, was greatly appreciated! As a Marshall Fire victim, who lost everything, she persevered, serving DLOG at our Competition for Colorado Singers Master Class a few weeks after the tragedy, and apologized for not owning appropriate apparel for the event! Mardi lived with an acquaintance while looking for a new job. The Chair of the 2022 Competition, Kathy Van Arsdale, wrote Mardi a letter of recommendation based on her excellent and attentive work with singers during the Master Class.



We are delighted to report that Mardi has landed a major position in Europe, following her huge career there—particularly in German-speaking countries. She will now begin teaching at the Kunst und Musik Universität in the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage city of Graz, Austria! Also, the famed American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz offers six weeks of study heading pianists, orchestral musicians, and singers towards a professional career in conjunction with Oper Graz.

Mardi sends her joyous greetings to generous DLOG members, and Competition Candidates. Congratulations to Mardi Byers as she enters this exciting new chapter in her professional musical life!

Kathy Van Arsdale
DLOG President Elect

DLOG Board Meeting Report Regarding Fund Raising

During the November monthly DLOG board meeting, the issue of fund raising by outside groups using the DLOG meeting, contact lists etc. was brought to the board.

A review of the present policies was discussed by the board. The published policy found in the guidelines of the organization was reaffirmed by the board by unanimous vote.

The present guidelines state that:

No outside organization may use our published directory or meetings, luncheons or any formal gathering for the purpose of promoting fund raising for an organization other than Denver Lyric Opera Guild.

Thus materials other than ‘**DLOG specific**’ placed on the tables at DLOG functions is **not** permitted. However, flyers describing an organization’s events may be placed on the “check-in table” of DLOG events.

The board kindly requests these guidelines be adhered to by its members.

The Board thanks you for your consideration and help in these matters

Dennis Jackson
President DLOG 2022-23

Opera Around Colorado

Religious Art Songs & Carols
Saturday Dec 3rd 7pm, 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](#)



**Boulder Bach Festival's *Christmas Across the Ages*
Dec. 16 7:30pm, Broomfield Auditorium, Broomfield**



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.

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



**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](#)



**Master Class
Jan. 12-15, Town Hall Arts Center, Littleton**

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](#).

**American Song
Jan 28, Elaine Wolf Theatre at the Mizel Arts & Culture Center**

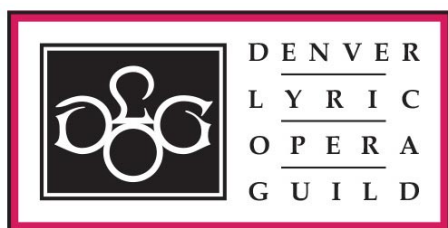


Each season, **we celebrate music written by American composers in our expertly-curated concert, *American Song***. Opera has a rich, international history, but it also has a future—one being written by talented composers in the United States.

Join us for a performance by the 2022-23 Opera Colorado Artists in Residence at the Elaine Wolf Theatre at the Mizel Arts & Culture Center. Experience **music by some of America's most popular composers** including opera, musical theater, art songs, and

more! Then **enjoy a complimentary reception following the performance** and an opportunity to connect with the artists.

[Click Here For Tickets](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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