

Holiday greetings to all of you:

Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah which ever applies to you and your religious faith!

It is a season of family gatherings and celebration. Our December Opera on Tuesday program was a time of holiday celebration and a program featuring one of our DLOG Competition winners. What an exciting event to see and hear a former winner present such a wonderful program. I heard someone say: "You can hear a needle drop" while she was performing.

And that folks, is what we are about and doing: Supporting the "art of singing" through our annual competition which is coming up this spring. Applications are already appearing in the mail. Singers are preparing their repertoire for the competition. The committee members under the guidance of Karen Bruggentheis are busy preparing judges books, selecting the rest of the roster of judges, preparing the dinner in honor of the judges, etc., etc., etc. So, you see lots of work is being done now for this exciting competition.

You as members, can show your support for these singers by attending the masterclass given by Matthew A Plenk, Professor of Voice at Lamont School of Music, at Calvary Baptist Church 6500 E. Girard Avenue on February 18, 2023. This is an exciting day to see the singers react to the master teacher and get some inside information on how the singers accept new ideas or concepts in their performances. You can learn a lot about singing and why it is an art form in this masterclass.

Speaking of Master Class, please see the article included in the newsletter regarding the play about a master class taught by the famous singer Maria Calais presented by the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center on Sunday January 15 at 2:00 preceded by a lunch at Columbine Country Club at noon.

This event will give you some insight about master classes and prepare you for the DLOG Master Class.

I hope you will join me in attending the play and master class.

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 December 6, 2022 With CU Boulder Eklund Opera Program



CU Boulder Eklund Opera Program: Collaborative pianist Dr. Barbara Noyes and Anna McMahon, 2021 DLOG Competition winner

On Tuesday, December 6 the CU Boulder Eklund Opera Program performed for DLOG at Columbine Country Club. Additional images from this program are now available in the [Gallery section of the DLOG website](#).



Kristen Stewart and Susan Pyne at OOT December 2022



Linda Young and Kathy Van Arsdale getting into the holiday spirit at OOT



Join Us for the January Opera on Tuesday Registration is Open Now!

Mark your calendar!

You won't want to miss the
January, 2023
Opera on Tuesday

Featuring Opera Colorado's Artists in Residence.

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

[Register Online Now!](#)

Registrations due by January 12

Master Class at Littleton Town Hall Arts Center Revised Schedule

Well, the best laid plans have been altered by the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center:

The Saturday matinee has been cancelled by the theatre.

BUT, DLOG will have the same plan as previously announced on Sunday, January 15. So, the lunch at the



Columbine Country Club is now scheduled for Sunday January 15 at noon with the same price and schedule. The discount for the play is set now for January 15 matinee and you can call or use the web for the purchase of tickets.

So, if you wish to attend the Sunday lunch, follow the same instructions as before by calling or emailing me as noted below!

Again, this decision was made by the theatre and not by DLOG. We are sorry for the inconvenience and hope to see you on January 15.

- Dennis

Master Class Presented by Littleton Town Hall Arts Center and Pre performance Brunch

The play *Master Class* written in 1995 by American playwright Terrence McNally, is being presented by the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center. *Master Class* presents a fictional master class by opera singer Maria Callas near the end of her life, in the 1970s. The play features incidental vocal music by Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and Vincenzo Bellini.

Twenty Denver Lyric Opera Guild members are eligible to receive a special discount for the January 15, 2:00 matinee performance. Members who wish to join the group can call the box office at 303 794 2787 extension #5 and ask for the DLOG discount for the January 15 matinee performance. Or you can go on line to order ticket and ask for the DLOG discount. This event is limited to 20 people. Make sure you make your reservation early!

A pre performance lunch at Columbine Country Club is offered at 11:45 You can order from the menu. The price for the lunch is \$30 per person and is a contribution to the DLOG competition master class. This event is limited to 20 people as well. Checks payable to DLOG or cash for the lunch is payable on the day of the event.

If you wish to join members for the pre performance lunch at the Columbine Country Club, please call me at 720 808 4120 or email me at djackson_3@msn.com to make a reservation for the lunch. Hope to see you there on January 15 for the lunch and play. You can prepare yourself for the master class part of the competition and contribute to it as well.

Dennis Jackson
President DLOG 2022-23

A Message from DLOG Competitor David Silvano

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

I am from Grand Junction, Colorado, and come from a family of five children. After I graduated from high school, I spent two years working before joining the Marine Corps, where I spent five years on active duty. I worked in public affairs in the Marines, and during this time my two children, Christien and Caylin were born. Being a father has been such an honor, and it is the thing of which I am most proud in my life. After transitioning back into civilian life, I decided I wanted to pursue my passion for music. I was able to finish my bachelor's degree in 3.5 years, and am proud to have graduated Magna Cum Laude. I immediately knew I wanted to continue my education and was fortunate enough to have made good connections with my current teacher, John Lindsey, which lead me here to CSU. I'm very excited to go into my second year here, as I feel CSU has exceeded my expectations. In my spare time, I like to spend time with my kids, go hiking and camping, and go target shooting.

Ultimately, I want to be able to pass down what I have learned to the next generation of musicians. I have a passion for teaching voice, and I'm currently working part-time at a music school in Loveland where I teach private lessons. It is so fulfilling to share the gift of music with students and help them find their voice and express themselves artistically. To this end, I plan to continue my education by pursuing a doctorate and ultimately attain a faculty position at the University level. Performing is certainly another huge love of mine, and I



would like to continue to do that as well. Performing fills my soul, and if I can continue to feed this part of my life I would be thrilled. I feel that I have something unique to say as an artist, and I want to share my voice and my performances with as many people as I can.

Your generosity's impact on my life cannot be overstated. As a father trying to help to support my children, while working and going to school full time, it can be hard to make ends meet. It is because of you that I'm able to pursue my passion and grow artistically. Without the support of this scholarship, I do not see an avenue by which I would be able to achieve my goals while supporting my family in a way that would not rack up significant debt. Not only does this contribution help me to pay for school, but it also affords me more time to spend with my family, and more time to have available for practice, performing and teaching, all of which will help me achieve what I have set out to do. It is therefore not just a donation of money that you have given me, but also a donation of time, and to me, that is even more valuable. I am forever grateful.

Your gift truly means the world to me, and it is because of you that I will be able to achieve my goals. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,
David

DLOG Competition Update: Meet the Judges



James Bobick

We are pleased to announce that James Bobick, the 1991 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers first place finisher, will be returning to Colorado and to the Guild to serve as a judge for the upcoming 2023 Competition. James has enjoyed a versatile career, from leading operatic roles in the works of Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet, and Mozart to those in the contemporary operas of composers including Jake Heggie, Mark Adamo, John Eaton, and David T. Little. Mr. Bobick was seen in over twenty roles at New York City Opera including a Primetime Emmy-winning broadcast of *La Bohème*. Mr. Bobick has also appeared with companies including Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Portland Opera, Opera Colorado, Connecticut Opera, Opera Omaha, Opera Pacific, Opera Delaware, Virginia Opera, Baltimore Opera, Wichita Grand Opera, Dayton Opera, Central City Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and the Bard Festival.

James Bobick is regularly praised for the quality of both his singing and his acting. As Figaro in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the Washington Post singled him out for particular praise; "Among the many good things about Virginia Opera's production of Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, the best was baritone James Bobick as Figaro. Bobick was a standout in a strongly cast production. He has a fine voice and his first-act aria 'Largo al factotum,' was given a bravura performance. With his good looks, excellent comic timing and strong stage presence, he exuded confidence and *joie de vivre*. It is a Figaro to remember." Opera News has noted that in *La Bohème*, "Bobick was an ideal Marcello, singing with comic point, emotionally volatile and vocally splendid in the Act IV duet," and in a performance with LA Opera that "James Bobick, who sang the role of the Father with manic intensity, presented a disturbing study of the easily-crossed borderline between patriarchalism and vituperative madness." In The New York Times, Mr. Bobick's *Elmer Gantry* garnered the mention, "Many of the vocal performances were impressive, including that of James Bobick as Elmer." The New York Times has also praised James for his "burnished sound and incisive diction" as the Gambler in Jack Beeson's *Hello Out There*, and for his portrayal of Howard in David T. Little's *Dog Days*, printing, "The vocal cast is uniformly fine, with particularly moving work from James Bobick as Howard."

In addition to his work in the standard operatic repertoire, Mr. Bobick has extensive experience performing the new works of contemporary composers. He has bowed as Bendrix in Jake Heggie's *End of the Affair*, as Kinesias in Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata*, as Dr. Bloom in John Eaton's micro-tonal operas *Pumped Fiction*, as Donald Giovanni in P.D.Q. Bach's *The Abduction of Figaro*, as Rob Petrie in Paul Salerni's *The Life and Love of Joe Coogan* and as Howard in David T. Little's critically acclaimed *Dog Days*. He has also performed contemporary works while in concert, on recording, or as a frequent guest of New York City Opera's VOX festival. These works include leading roles in Robert Manno's *Dylan and Caitlin*, Robert Aldrich's *Elmer Gantry*, John Eaton's *The Rev. Jim Jones* and *Re-routed*, Herschel Garfein's *Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Timothy Geller's *Where Silence Reigns*, Stephen Colanti's *The Selfish Giant*, Matt Marks' *Bluetooth Islands*, Sergio Cervetti's *Elegy for a Prince* and *Yum!*, Michael Dellaira's *The Death of Webern*, David T. Little's *Soldier Songs*, and Ted Hearne's *Katrina Ballads*.

James Bobick has also been heard frequently as a concert soloist. At Carnegie Hall, he has been heard in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn's *Die Erste Walpurgisnacht*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. He has performed at Avery Fisher Hall in *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Haydn's *Creation* and *Paukenmesse*, Bach's *Mass in B minor*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Internationally, he has performed *Messiah* in Prague with the Prague Symphony; *Carmina Burana* and *Messiah* in San José, Costa Rica with the San José Symphony; Fauré's *Requiem* in Paris, Reims, and Chartres, with the Orchestre Padeloup; and, Fauré's *Tu es Petrus* in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. Around the country, Mr. Bobick's performances have included Orff's *Carmina Burana*; Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*; Mozart's *Requiem*; Bach's *Magnificat* and *Mass in B minor*; Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, *Messiah*, and the title role in *Saul*; Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* and *Lord Nelson Mass*; Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, *Five Mystical Songs*, and *Songs of Travel*; and, Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio*.



Review: Risk-Taking New Opera Tells a Tragic 1950s Gay Love Story - The New York Times

Gregory Spears

Denver Lyric Opera Guild is pleased to welcome opera composer Gregory Spears as a judge for the 2023 Competition. Mr. Spears is a New York-based composer whose music has been called "astonishingly beautiful" (The New York Times), "coolly entrancing" (The New Yorker), and "some of the most beautifully unsettling music to appear in recent memory" (The Boston Globe). He has been commissioned by The New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Seraphic Fire, The Crossing, Volti, BMI/Concert Artists Guild, Vocal Arts DC, New York Polyphony, The New York International Piano Competition, the JACK Quartet, and The New York Youth Symphony among others. His latest opera "Castor and Patience", written in collaboration with former U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, was commissioned by Cincinnati Opera for their 100th Anniversary and premiered in 2022. In the 2021-2022 season the New York Philharmonic premiered a new work by Spears also written in collaboration with Smith for countertenor and orchestra. They are currently writing a new opera for Santa Fe Opera ("The Righteous") for premiere in summer 2024. Spears' 21-movement solo piano cycle "Seven Days" was released in the form of a custom designed app produced by the 92Y in fall 2021.

Spears' opera, "Fellow Travelers", written in collaboration with Greg Pierce, premiered at Cincinnati Opera in 2016 and was subsequently produced at the Prototype Festival (NYC), The Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Minnesota Opera, Madison Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Arizona Opera, Columbus Opera, the Des Moines Metro Opera, the Seagle Festival, and Florida Grand Opera. It will be produced next season at Virginia Opera. It was hailed as "one of the most accomplished new operas I have seen in recent years" (Chicago Tribune) and an opera that "seems assured of lasting appeal" (The New York Times). The premiere was featured in The New York Times' Best in Classical Music for 2016, and Cincinnati Opera released a commercial CD recording in 2017.

Spears' first opera, "Paul's Case", written in collaboration with Kathryn Walat, was described as a "masterpiece" and a "gem" (New York Observer) with "ravishing music" (The New York Times). It was developed by American Opera Projects and premiered by Urban Arias in 2013. The opera was restaged at the Prototype Festival in New York, and presented in a new production by Pittsburgh Opera in 2014. "Paul's Case" was released on National Sawdust's record label featuring the original cast in 2019. Spears' children's opera "Jason and the Argonauts", also written with Kathryn Walat, premiered in 2016 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and was subsequently performed for over 20,000 school children. An opera about space exploration, "O Columbia", written with Royce Vavrek, premiered in 2015 at Houston Grand Opera.

Recent commissions include a new vocal work, "The Bitter Good", commissioned by New York Polyphony — made possible by a 2016 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program grant, as well as "The Tower and the Garden" for a consortium of choirs including The Crossing underwritten

by the Ann Stookey Fund for New Music. Spears also recently completed a "Double Trumpet Concerto" for Concert Artists Guild and the soundtrack for the British feature film "Macbeth" (Kit Monkman, director) featuring 18th-century instruments. His "Requiem" was released by New Amsterdam records in 2011.

Other commissions have come from Bang on a Can, Five Boroughs Music Festival, OPERA America, poet Tracy K. Smith, Christopher Williams Dances, the Dalton School Orchestra, pianist Marika Bournaki, the Present Music Ensemble, New Vintage Baroque, the Damask Ensemble, and the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra. He has been an artist-in-residence at Yaddo, MacDowell, the Aaron Copland House, the Rauschenberg Residency at Captiva Island, and was a participant and later a composer mentor for The American Opera Project's Composers and the Voice program. He holds degrees in composition from Eastman School of Music (BM), Yale School of Music (MM), and Princeton (PhD). He also studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen with Hans Abrahamsen. He currently teaches composition and orchestration at Purchase College Conservatory (SUNY). His music is published by Schott Music and Schott PSNY.

Denver Lyric Opera Guild – Master Class 2023

On February 18, 2023, the Louise Conter Master Class will be held at Calvary Baptist Church and conducted by Matthew Plenk, well known tenor, Associate Professor at the DU Lamont School of Music and Artistic Director of the Lamont Opera Theatre.

For DLOG members like myself who are not professional singers or musicians but who just love music, what does a masterclass offer?

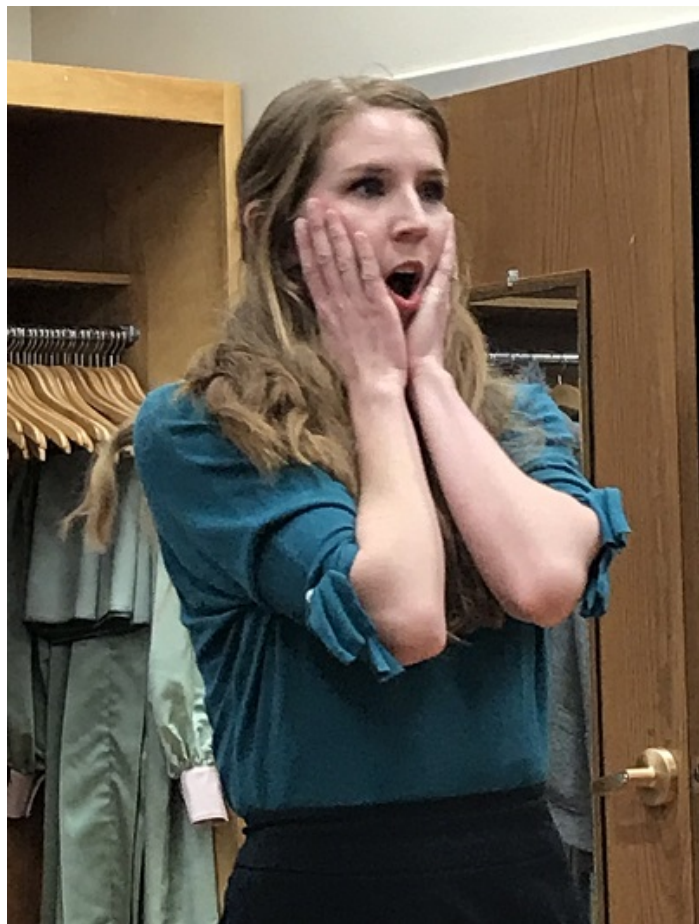
A masterclass is essentially a class given to advanced students by an expert in their discipline while fellow students and/or an audience observes. It's a cross between giving and taking a lesson and performing.

In a singing masterclass, the student will typically perform an aria or song, then the master will share advice on how to sing the aria or song.



When a masterclass such as DLOGs is open to a general audience, the master can give more 'general public friendly' advice to the singer. The goal is to entertain the audience made up of fans of the master and singing aficionados as well as to give the singer nuggets of helpful information they can take with them.

DLOG has a long tradition of offering the Louise Conter Master Class to qualified applicants. As members, we

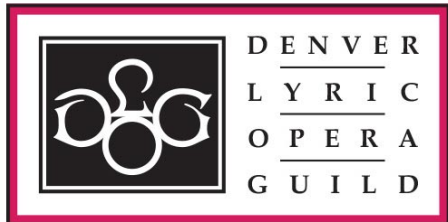


have the chance to be part of this important training by attending and providing an audience for the young singers we encourage and support.

Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Master Class.

Gayle Landis





DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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