

Greetings to all of you on this snowy afternoon:

Wow, it must be winter! I hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful white landscape as it has been on the ground for some extended time.

Our Competition Committee is hard at work making final preparations for the forthcoming master class and competition. Please mark your calendars for February 18 for the Louise Conter Master Class at the Calvary Baptist Church on 6500 E. Grand Street in Denver from 9:00 to 4:00. You are invited to come and stay as long as you wish. It will be an exciting time.

Several DLOG members went to the play Master Class on January 15 and all were extremely pleased by the performance. Some people got another insight into the making and mental state of the singer who is receiving instruction and the master class teacher's reactions to the student in the master class.

Organizations such as DLOG start the process of finding people to continue its work for the next fiscal year. So, the Nominating Committee is meeting to complete its slate of new officers and board members for this coming year.

It is an important part of membership to contribute to the workings of DLOG to fulfill its mission of providing assistance to singers and promoting the art of singing. It is not enough for members to only attend the Opera on Tuesday Luncheons as we need people to become worker bees for the organization to thrive and grow.

Please consider volunteering and assist with our mission. We have people who can teach and assist you.

I look forward to seeing you at the master class on February 18.

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 January 17th, 2023 Opera Colorado Artists in Residence



Opera Colorado Artists in Residence – David Soto Zambrana, Michael Leyte-Vidal, Dante Mireles, Francesca Mehrotra, Turner Stanton, Joanne Evans, Oleg Bellini (Coach Accompanist), Cherity Koepke (Director)

On Tuesday, January 17th the 2023 Opera Colorado Artists in Residence gave a splendid performance for the DLOG at Columbine Country Club. To see more images from this performance, make sure to check out the [Gallery section of the DLOG website](#).



Mary Ann Ross, Lynn Harrington, Jay Breen



Seated – Helen Santilli, Betty Natelson, Robert Natelson, Marcia Ragonetti
 Standing – Marie Belew Wheatley, Lisa Curtis, Dennis Jackson

LOUISE C. CONTER MASTER CLASS

Mark your calendar to join us for this year's Louise Conter Master Class on Saturday, February 18, 2023. The class runs from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Calvary Baptist Church Music Room. Audience members may come and go as they please throughout the day. The day is always fun and interesting, and this year will feature not only individual sessions but group sessions with the singers as well. Hope to see you there!



The Master Class will be taught by Matthew Plenck. Mr. Plenck is the Artistic Director of Lamont Opera Theatre at The University of Denver's Lamont School of music where he is also appointed as Associate Professor of Voice. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2007 while a member of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. He holds a Bachelors' degree from the Hartt School of Music, a Masters' degree from Yale University, and a Samling Scholar. Mr. Plenck has had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest artists in the world including Renatta Scott, Sir Thomas Allen, Kiri Te Kanawa, Thomas Hampson, Jose van Dam, Hakken Hagegård, Reri Grist, Benita Valente, Diana Soviero, Matthew Polenzani, and Piotr Beczala.

Since returning to the stage in November of 2022, Mr. Plenck has appeared with the Central City Opera as Nemorino, and Alfred, performed with the Colorado Symphony in the season finale as a soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Bruckner's Te deum. Matthew also presented a faculty recital at Lamont, performing the groundbreaking *Die schöne Müllerin* with Keith Ward at the piano. In the 20-21 season, Matthew was scheduled to return to the Cleveland Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic (Donizetti, Beethoven, Mozart), and debut with the Rogue Valley Symphony; unfortunately, all were canceled due to Covid. In October of 2022 he will premiere a new work with the Boulder Philharmonic, *Ozymandias – To Sell a Planet*, by Drew Hemenger.

Mr. Plenck has been seen on the operatic stages of the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Virginia Opera, Atlanta Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and Des Moines Metro Opera. He has also had the honor of sharing some of the world's greatest concert stages with the Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minnesota Orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, RAI Symphony Nazionale, Baltimore, Houston, Colorado and Hartford Symphonies, University Musical Society, Aspen Music, and La Jolla Summerfest festivals, and with the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi.



Karen Bruggenthies

Announcing Mark Van Arsdale as Guest Artist for the DLOG 2023 Summer Party!



As social beings, we love parties! Members of DLOG look forward to our annual Summer Party with fond anticipation as a joyous time to share a meal and performance together during the months when there is no Opera on Tuesday—typically July or August. This event is typically held on a weekend day or evening. That makes it popular with those who work during weekdays. The event generally presents lighter fare than presentations made by opera companies or university programs. The Summer Party may include familiar arias, Art Songs, Light Opera, Zarzuela, Opéra Comique, Singspiel, Musical Theater, and Broadway songs as well as pieces from the so-called Great American Songbook. Did you know it is not an actual songbook, but a term that covers well-known “standards” from the early part of the 20th century by composers such as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, and Jerome Kern?

The DLOG Summer Party Committee, consisting of Kathy and Peter Van Arsdale, Suzanne Bufton, Jeanie Becker Davis, Lynn Harrington, and Geri Sheldon are creating a memorable evening of summer fun! With a French theme, the meal will feature French cuisine including a cheese course, a well-known pastry dessert called L'Opéra, and special wines from regions

such as the Alsace and the Côte du Rhone available for purchase. Our wonderful chefs at the Columbine Country Club are delighted at this fascinating prospect!

Why the French emphasis? Our special performer most often works in France, and owns an apartment in Colmar, a charming town in the Alsace. He is currently rehearsing Mozart's unfinished opera, *Zaide*, in Rennes, Brittany in a three-month contract for performances with four French opera companies from Nantes on the west coast to Besançon near Switzerland. Fourth-generation Colorado Native Mark Van Arsdale will be our guest artist. He began his career as a soloist for the Colorado Children's Chorale, chosen by founder Duain Wolfe, recently retired as conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. With Children's Chorale, he sang on the stage of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House with Opera Colorado in *Carmen* and *Tosca*. He then began his life-long association with Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*) by performing the part of the Second Spirit (sometimes sung by three ladies) at Central City Opera. The 3 boys entered, singing, in the gondola of a hot air balloon—to their delight! He has now matured into performing Tamino, the Ideal Man. Now one of his signature roles, he has contracted for this part ten times! As a young artist, Mark was a winner in the DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers and won the Metropolitan Opera Rocky Mountain Regional Auditions.

Mark will be accompanied by a great piano collaborator known to DLOG members. The exact date, time, and accompanist are currently in negotiation, and will be revealed soon. Suffice it to say, we may look forward to a fabulous French-themed Summer Party starting NOW!

Kathy Van Arsdale

DLOG Competition Update: Meet the Judges Part 2



Leona Mitchell World Renowned Spinto Soprano

Presented in collaboration with Central City Opera

Leona Pearl Mitchell (born October 13, 1949, Enid, Oklahoma) is an American operatic Grammy Award-winning soprano who sang for 18 seasons as a leading spinto soprano at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In her home state of Oklahoma, she received many honors. These include the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. She received honorary doctorates from Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma. In 1983, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

Her home town of Enid has a street named after her called Leona Mitchell Boulevard, as well as the **Leona Mitchell Southern Heights Heritage Center and Museum**. Governor Brad Henry of Oklahoma made her Oklahoma's State Cultural Ambassador.

In 1973, she made her debut as Micaela in Georges Bizet's 1875 opera *Carmen* with the San Francisco Opera, subsequently she made her Metropolitan Opera debut in New York City on December 15, 1975 in the same role. She sang the role of Bess in the first complete recording of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* from which she received a Grammy for "Best Opera Recording".

Mitchell has contributed to several recordings, had many television appearances, and served as honorary chair for Black Heritage Month to the Oklahoma legislature.

In 1988, Mitchell performed the role of Liù from *Turandot*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli, at the Metropolitan Opera. She collaborated with many great conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, James Levine, and Seiji Ozawa.

She was a leading soprano with the Metropolitan Opera of New York for 18 seasons. She sang at most of the world's best-known opera houses in such roles as Turandot, Aida, Micaela, Manon, Leonora, Amalia Delilah, Mimi, and Musetta, as well as Pamina, Madama Butterfly, Lauretta, and Madame Lidoine.

She performed for five U.S. Presidents: Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George H. W. Bush, along with many dignitaries which include Prince Charles, Princess Anne, The Honourable Sandra Day O'Connor, and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

On July 5, 1986, she performed in the New York Philharmonic tribute to the 100th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, which was televised live from Central Park on ABC Television.[3] She sang both the aria "Un bel dì vedremo" from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and the American spiritual "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". She appeared in a production with each one of the Three Tenors: *Ernani* with Luciano Pavarotti, *Turandot* with Plácido Domingo, and *Carmen* with José Carreras.

She appeared on such televised broadcasts as *The Merv Griffin Show*, *The Dick Cavett Show*, and *The Jerry Lewis Telethon*.



Gayle Shay Associate Professor of Lyric Theatre Arts; Director of Vanderbilt Opera Theatre

Gayle Shay is associate professor of voice and director of Vanderbilt Opera Theatre at the Blair School. She has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and China in theatre, musical theater, opera and oratorio, including productions with the Washington (D.C.) Opera, the Maryland Handel Festival, the Des Moines Metro Opera Guild, OpenStage Theater (Fort Collins, Colo.), Colorado Lyric Theater, Nautilus New Music Theatre Company (Minneapolis), Waterfront Theatre (Vancouver, B.C.). Professional stage direction and production credits include those with Wolf Trap Opera, Maryland Opera Studio, Opera/Omaha, Des Moines Drama Workshop, Dorian Opera Theatre, Colorado Children's Opera Theatre, New England Light Opera, Icicle Creek Young Artist Program, Nashville Opera, Variations Musical Theatre (Des Moines, Iowa), Tun Wang People's Theatre (Guangzhou, China), and Prague Summer Nights Music Festival (Prague, Czech Republic).

Shay has appeared regularly on the Songfest Art Song Concert Series in Malibu, Calif., working with composers John Harbison and Jake Heggie, and pianists Martin Katz and Graham Johnson, and she has been a member of the International Voice Workshop at the Canadian Banff Centre for the Arts under the direction of Richard Armstrong. She has also been a featured performer at the Vancouver International Song Institute (VISI) and served as the co-director of VISI's innovative SONGFIRE Art Song Theatre Apprenticeship. Additionally, Dr. Shay has written, produced, and directed five original, fully-scripted and staged

Art Song Theatre works (*That Way Goes the Game*, *Seaworthy*, *Once*, *Babylon*, *Can You Hear Me?*) three of which were premiered at VISI and have had subsequent productions in Nashville, Tenn., and Indianapolis, Ind.

Shay joined the faculty of the Prague Summer Nights Young Artists Music Festival in 2018, teaching acting and serving as stage director. The Festival's Mozart operas are produced in the historic Estates Theatre in Prague, the only theater still standing in which Mozart worked.

A passionate advocate for arts for social change, Shay has also developed curriculum at Vanderbilt University to train young artists in community engagement. Her advanced community engagement class has collaborated with various Nashville partners, including the residents of the Mary Parrish Center for survivors of domestic abuse. The result of this collaboration was a music theater piece titled *Unapologetically ME*, with a script derived from interviews with the MPC residents.

Nancy Gustafson Dramatic Soprano, Artist in Residence at Northwestern University

As an opera singer, **Nancy Gustafson** '80 MMus has been acclaimed in most of the leading opera houses of the world including the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Teatro alla Scala, Milan, the Opéra National, Paris, Chicago Lyric Opera, the Bavarian State Opera, Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Hamburg State Opera, the Vienna State Opera and many others. She enjoyed an especially close relationship with the Vienna State Opera; in 2001 she was honored there with the title of Kammersängerin.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Gustafson received her bachelor's degree and an honorary doctorate from Mount Holyoke College and her master's degree from Northwestern University. She was soon appearing in leading opera houses in North America and made her debut at Chicago Lyric Opera as Marguerite in *Faust*, at the Metropolitan Opera as Musetta in *La bohème*, and at the San Francisco Opera in Wagner's *Ring*.

Gustafson made her European operatic debut at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris as Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* and this was



in-Residence at Northwestern University, where she has taught since 2006. She is founder and executive director of the Songs by Heart Foundation, which is dedicated to connecting people with memory loss to the language and joy of music. Songs by Heart is currently leading interactive sing along programs at over 50 different locations in Illinois, California, Arizona, Ohio, Texas, Florida, and Washington DC.

followed by her debuts at the Bavarian State Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in Wagner's *Ring*, at the Paris Opéra as Marguerite, at the Teatro alla Scala as Eva in *Die Meistersinger*, and at the Vienna State Opera as Violetta in *La traviata*. Gustafson also appeared as Tsarina Alexandra in the Los Angeles Opera's world premiere of Deborah Drattell's *Nicholas and Alexandra* opposite Plácido Domingo and under the baton of Maestro Rostropovich. She returned to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden for the world premiere of Lorin Maazel's opera, *1984*, and subsequently performed the work at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan and at the Palau de las Arts in Valencia, Spain as well, on all occasions under the musical leadership of the composer himself. Throughout her career Nancy Gustafson has had the privilege to collaborate with some of the most important conductors of our day such as Lorin Maazel, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Georg Solti, Sir Simon Rattle, Riccardo Muti, Sir Colin Davis, Christian Thielemann, Christoph von Dohnányi, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, Marcello Viotti, and many more.

Her recordings include *Das Rheingold* with Cleveland Orchestra (Decca), Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and *La bohème* (both for Teldec), Lehár's *Der Tsarevitch* and *The Land of Smiles* for Telarc, live recordings of *Herodiade* (opposite Plácido Domingo) and *Guillaume Tell* with the Vienna State Opera and Pavarotti and Friends 2 with Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, and Bryan Adams.

Ms. Gustafson was the general manager of the Castleton Festival with Maestro Lorin Maazel and is currently an Artist-

COLORADO SKY - A Shadow Puppet Opera

I had the privilege last night of attending the workshoping of a newly commissioned opera for children – Colorado Sky. The goal of this workshop was for participants to get to hear and learn about a new children's opera, Colorado Sky whose plot follows a newly reintroduced wolf cub named Sky as he tries to make friends and learns to be himself.

Commissioned by Sohap Ensemble, Art Song Colorado (founded by past Competition participant and judge Eapen Leubner), and Boulder Opera, Colorado Sky is written for three singers, string quartet, and shadow puppets. It has short a run time of approximately 30 minutes to help keep a young audience engaged. Colorado Sky was composed by Ben Morris with a libretto by Laura Fuentes and features DLOG Competition winner Claire McCahan as the wolf cub Sky, Sabina Balsimo, who will be participating in this year's Competition, as his mother, and CU Voice Professor Andrew Garland as the people Sky encounters on his journey. On his journey, young Sky attempts to befriend a tractor, a cow, and a hiker, with varying degrees of success. It is a fun and engaging story with interesting music, complete with wolf howls that are surprisingly authentic and musical at one and the same time. The story is told both through the music and the use of shadow puppets projected upon a screen. It was very much like watching a picture book come to life.

While I was unable to attend the afternoon Children's workshop, Claire tells me that it was a great success with the young audience. The kids were able to create their own shadow puppets and explore an imaginative world of music and visual art. And to top it off, there was a group howl at the end of the production where the kids enthusiastically joined in! The finished production will debut at the Dairy Center in Boulder this June. I highly recommend checking out this innovative and fun new opera when it debuts this summer!

Sohap Ensemble, Art Song Colorado, & Boulder Opera present

COLORADO SKY

JAN 13

A new opera by
Ben Morris & Laura Fuentes

Friday, January 13th, 2023

4 pm: Children's Workshop @ CU Atlas Institute

7 pm: Concert @ The Academy Boulder

Performers:
Katy Williams, puppeteer
Melanie Bindon, puppeteer
Sabina Balsamo, soprano
Claire McCahan, mezzo soprano
Andrew Garland, baritone
Lirios Quartet, string quartet
Nicholas Carthy, conductor



More information at sohapensemble.com/coloradosky



Karen Bruggenthies

Boulder Opera Presents *Manon* by Massenet
Discount Code for Tickets!

Join  **BOULDER OPERA** for their Grand Finale!

Manon

by Massenet



Saturday, February 18th at 7 pm
Sunday, February 19th at 3 pm

**Use code “MANON15” for 15%
off tickets through February 14th**



Scan for more information

www.BoulderOperaCompany.com
(303) 731-2036

Manon by Jules Massenet

A French Opera of Love, Greed, and Tragedy:

Boulder Opera presents one of French opera's masterpieces!

Manon Lescaut-a young beautiful woman- arrives in Paris preparing for a life of service at a convent. The young Des Grieux catches sight of her. They instantly fall in love, abandon their plans, and flee together.

Des Grieux dreams of a simple life together outside of Paris, but greed and love collide inside Manon's heart. She abandons

the young man. The devastated lover vows to serve God as a priest, but she returns to him and both flee again together. Her greed leads the couple to tragedy and there is no time left for them

Enjoy French Grand Opera under the baton of **Steven Aguiló-Arbues**, featuring an ensemble orchestra, **Gene Roberts** as Stage Director, with **Amy Maples** as Manon, and **Cody Laun** as Des Grieux. Sung in French with English subtitles.

Shows at the Dairy Arts Center - 2590 Walnut St, Boulder, CO 80302

Performances:

Saturday February 18th at 7pm

Sunday February 19th at 3pm

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)

Opera Around Colorado



Voices of Winter
Feb 12, 2 pm

A free concert (donations welcome) featuring OFC's Bel Canto Artists.

Christ United Methodist Church
301 E. Drake Road, Fort Collins, CO

[Click Here for Info](#)



Opera on Tap at Enigma Bazaar - KISS MARRY KILL
Feb 18, 7:30 pm

Middle school game meets operatic favs!
Audience participation is a MUST on this one, so get your pipes warmed up and ready to cheer.

[Click Here for Info](#)

COLORADO *Bach* ENSEMBLE

Bach's St. Matthew Passion by Colorado Bach Ensemble
feat. DLOG 2020 First Place Winner Claire McCahan
Feb. 24 and 26

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* is his longest and most elaborate work, representing the crowning achievement of his sacred vocal works, and arguably, the culmination of all Baroque sacred music. Composed in 1727, Bach's masterpiece is scored for solo voices, double choir, "ripieno" chorus, and double orchestra with libretto by Christian Friedrich Henrici (Picander). The *St. Matthew Passion* tells the story of the last days of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew. In this well-known story, Jesus is betrayed, tried, crucified, and then buried. It's a story filled with suffering, emotions, and ultimately love and faithfulness. Come along on the emotional journey with Colorado Bach Ensemble!

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)

**True Women of the West - Colorado history through song and storytelling**

March 11, 7 pm

St. Andrew UMC, 9203 S. University Blvd., Highlands, Ranch CO

Stories and Songs by Colorado composer, Cherise Leiter, will bring our state history to life!

Join curator and soprano, Madison Falkenstein, and ASC founder, Eapen Leubner, for a narrative classical music performance exploring Colorado's history.

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)

THE ROBERT AND JUDI
**NEWMAN
CENTER**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Newman Center Presents Michelle DeYoung

March 30, 7:30 pm

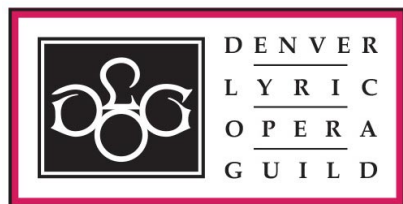
A multi-Grammy award winning artist, join Michelle DeYoung for a vocal recital with pianist Cody Guy Garrison featuring a wide-ranging repertoire including the work of Korngold. DeYoung has performed with the most prestigious orchestras and operas including the Metropolitan Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra.

NOTE! Central City is offering a discount for this performance. Use promo code CCOPERA and save \$5 per ticket!

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)**Opera Colorado 40th Anniversary Gala with Joyce DiDonato**

May 13

RSVP Today! Opera Colorado marks its 40th Anniversary Season on Saturday, May 13, 2023, with a spectacular gala celebration in two parts. This magnificent evening begins with a performance from the luminous, internationally-renowned mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and continues with a glittering dinner and after-party at the Seawell Ballroom, featuring the high-energy funk band, Funkiphino.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

**DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD**

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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