

Wow! Another snow storm followed by a beautiful day with sun and only in Colorado!

It is the time for the annual voice competition, which begins with the Louis Conter Master Class followed by the Preliminary competition on March 4 concluding with the Competition Finals on March 18, all at the Calvary Baptist Church.

I hope you had some time to visit the master class. These are always education events both for the singer as well as the teacher. As I was preparing these notes to you, I found some quotes that I had posted in my voice studio at the University of Colorado, Boulder and I wish to share parts of them with you.

These quotes are about performing and/or singing:

Agnes de Mille was an American dancer and choreographer whose credits included choreographing **Oklahoma**, **Carousel**, **Brigadoon**, **Paint your Wagon** as well as Copland's ballet, **Rodeo** stated:

"Great theatre figures of various categories differ widely, but they have this in common: They do not tire, they do not flinch, they never give up and they never become discouraged, or if they do, like Martha Graham, they never tell."

Glen Griffin, the music critic for the Denver Post in the 1970s - 80s had this to say about being a professional:

"Programming oneself to be a professional just doesn't have a textbook approach..... At every opening of the curtain the professional's reputation is at stake. Always. Every night. No exceptions, knowing this, the pro gives as much as he is capable; Amateurs make excuses."

These quotes give some ideas about the training and mental attitude the singer/performer must acquire in their training to become a professional.

**Denver Lyric Opera Guild** is promoting the growth and education of these young singers who are participating in the **Vocal Competition**, teaching them the habits and tools for making the leap into the professional world. Few will make it as full time professional singers/performers, but all will learn valuable lessons in the competition that will shape their lives and careers, no matter which career path they follow.

You as members of **DLOG** are supporting a wonderful, exciting education journey these young singers are about to experience. We wish all of them success, brilliant performances and as the old saying goes: May the best singer win and may everyone gain immeasurable experience to help them in their life's journey.

I hope to see you at the various events to support the singers as audience members!

Dennis Jackson  
President DLOG 2022-23

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## 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.

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## Next Competition Events: Prelims March 4, Final March 18



PRESENTED BY  
DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

**Saturday, March 4, 2023 9am – 5pm MT: In-Person only *Competition for Colorado Singers* Preliminary**

Location – Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver, CO 80224

The Competition first round is a full-day of performance. Judges for the Competition include DLOG 1991 first place finisher [James Bobick](#), [Gayle Shay](#) of the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music, and [Nancy Gustafson](#) of Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.

**Saturday, March 18, 2023 1pm – 5pm MT: In-Person and Live-Streamed *Competition for Colorado Singers* Finals!**

Location – Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver, CO 80224

The Competition starts at 1pm. Judges for the Competition include *renowned* soprano from the MET stage [Leona Mitchell](#), tenor [Cody Austin](#) from the Leopold School of Voice and Piano, and New York based American composer [Gregory Spears](#).

The 2023 Competition is in-person AND live-streamed and will be held from 1-5 p.m MT at Calvary Baptist and online. A recording will be available on the DLOG website. Come and see the amazing singers in-person or [click here to watch the live-stream](#).

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LOUISE C. CONTER MASTER CLASS



On Saturday, February 18, 2023 the Louise C. Conter Master Class was held at Calvary Baptist Church with the Artistic Director of DU Lamont Opera Theatre Matthew Plenck. The Master Class is the first event of the Colorado Competition for Colorado Singers and provides participants with instruction and performance guidance from a world-class opera professional. Thank you for a great Master Class, Mr. Plenck! Check out the photos below to see him in action.

You can also watch the entire Master Class now!

[Click Here for the 2023 DLOG Louise C Conter Master Class](#)



Elizabeth Arons works with Matthew Plenck maintaining balance and centering singing even while engaged in a tricky game of tug o war.





Melaina Mills works with Matthew Plenk during the Master Class.



Yet more tug o war, this time a square off with Miguel Ángel Ortega Bañales and Matthew Plenk.

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**Save the Date!**

*Ooooooh, La La!*

*Save the Date!*



*DLOG Summer Party*

*Saturday, August 12 at noon.*

*Featuring a performance by*

*Mark Van Arsdale*

*Vive La France!*

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**New Member and Donor Appreciation  
February 26th, 2023**

**Featuring Competition Multi-Finalist  
Amy Maples**



Amy Maples sings for the DLOG new members and donor appreciation party on February 26th, 2023

On Sunday, February 26th DLOG put on its annual event for new members and DLOG donors. Amy Maples provided gorgeous arias with selections from her recent performance with Boulder Opera in the titular role of *Manon* by Massenet as well as reprising a few of her arias from the DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers. Amy was a three-time finalist in the Competition for 2015, 2017, and 2019, placing 2nd in 2017. For more shots, head on over to the [Gallery Section of the DLOG Website](#).





Marleen Diamond welcomes new members and provides the introductions.



Amy Maples gets dramatic.

## The DLOG 2023 Summer Party is August 12, 2023

The Denver Lyric Opera Guild's annual Summer Party, "Vive La France", has revealed its date! August 12, 2023 at noon will see throngs arrive for the exciting French-themed event! Woven into a luncheon of French cuisine and special French wine opportunities will be a performance by Colorado tenor Mark Van Arsdale, accompanied by Dr. Jeremy Reger of the University of Colorado. Columbine Country Club will be our host.

Early in life, Mark Van Arsdale, began entertaining others by singing. He amazed and delighted his big sister's slumber party by performing a complete rendition of "It's My Party" by Leslie Gore at age 2½. Mark's mother, Kathy, volunteered for Opera Colorado by leading Student Backstage Tours. When childcare fell through, she brought Mark, age 4, along. The brief student performance featured a scene from Gounod's Faust. Spellbound as Faust—in a midnight-blue velvet cape with red eyes—slowly rose to the stage from beneath the floor, singing beautifully, he whispered to his mother: "That's what I want to do when I grow up!" He never wavered in his commitment to achieve that goal. When fellow Kindergarteners drew fire fighters or policemen to illustrate their adult jobs, Mark drew Pagliacci with a tall clown hat, singing through his tears.

Selected for starring roles in various school musical productions from Grade 3 on, he brought the Troll to life in "Three Billy Goats Gruff". This prompted his music teachers and several audience members to predict a professional future for young Mark. The number 1 Tenor I as a Junior and Senior during adjudication for Colorado All-State Choir, he also was chosen as one of 12 Colorado All State Choir participants both years. Starring in Cherry Creek High School musicals all 4 years, he had





to decline the honor his senior year in order to participate in the National HS Grammy Jazz Choir, one of 12 singers chosen nation-wide. There, he was picked as the soloist to serenade Grammy award nominees on the Red Carpet as they arrived for the award ceremony. Clearly fascinated by all kinds of music, we will hear Mark and Jeremy perform several genres on Saturday, August 12 at our Summer Party luncheon!

**Kathy Van Arsdale**

*You are cordially invited to join us for the 2023  
Competition for Colorado Singers Judges' Dinner*

Come meet and mingle with this year's amazing panel of judges!

*Leona Mitchell* Soprano



Ms. Mitchell has performed on the Met stage with each of the Three Tenors and for five U.S. Presidents.

*Cody Austin* Tenor



Recently seen as Pinkerton in Central City's Madama Butterfly.

*Gregory Spears* Composer



Composer of the critically acclaimed new operas "Fellow Travelers" and "Paul's Case".

**WHEN: Saturday, March 18, 2023**

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM (immediately following the Competition Finals awards announcement)

**WHERE: Glenmoor Country Club**

110 Glenmoor Drive  
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

**COST: \$90 per person**

Appetizers will be served while the judges finish their singer feedback sessions.

**Please indicate your choice of entrée:**

Redbird Airline Chicken Breast with a Creamy Mushroom Marsala

Dr. Pepper Braised Short Rib in Cherry Jus

Butternut Squash Risotto Roasted Butternut, Cranberries, Maple Pecans

Reservations can be made in the Judges' Dinner section of the DLOG website at <https://www.denverlyricoperaguild.org/2023-competition/>

OR checks made payable to DLOG along with entrée choice may be sent to:

Karen Bruggenthies  
4692 S. Field Street  
Denver, CO 80123

Reservations must be received by no later than Friday, March 3, 2023.

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## Louise Barish 1923-2023



Louise Barish passed away peacefully on January 27, 2023. She was 99 years old. She had an incredible life loving the arts -- opera, ballet, symphony, etc.

She was a surgical nurse for over 60 years and received the Florence Nightingale Award.

She was a member of DLOG for many many years. Because of health issues she dropped out for a couple of years but then came back and enjoyed going to the competition events and to luncheons.

Her greatest achievement was to convince her best friend Louise Conter to leave a great majority of her estate (about 1.2 million dollars) to DLOG instead of to a religious organization. It is because of Louise that DLOG has a very large endowment fund.

She requested that donations in her memory be made either to DLOG or to the Colorado Symphony.

[Her full obituary can be found on the Feldman Mortuary website.](#)

Deanna Leino

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## Opera Around Colorado



### Femmeexpressionist - A Contemplative Concert

March 8, 7 pm, Wash Park Center For Music and Arts

400 S. Williams St., Denver CO

Join Amy Maples, Soprano, Grace Christus, Piano, and Jenna Hunt, Harp for an all ages and kinds informal concert of arias, piano and harp. Bring a yoga mat, coloring book, journal, or otherwise to enjoy the music in whatever way you like. Movement through the space is encouraged. Bathroom breaks are welcome. Peppermints may be unwrapped and enjoyed without judgement.

**Free Event!**

**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!](#)



**Opera on Tap at Enigma Bazaar - GREEN**

March 18, 6:00 pm

Verdant and springy tunes, Celtic music, drinking songs that may have you feeling green around the gills... this opera show'll be fresh!

[Click Here for Info](#)



**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!](#)



**Susannah**

April 28 and 30 , Timberline Church, Fort Collins

Susannah is an opera in two acts by composer Carlisle Floyd and is based on the Apocryphal tale of Susannah and the Elders. Susannah is one of the most performed American operas, second to Porgy and Bess.

[Click Here for Info](#)



**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](#)

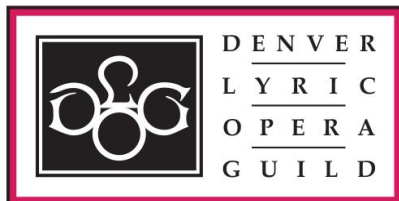
# COLORADO *Bach* ENSEMBLE

## Bach Competition for Young Artists

Saturday May 20, 7pm, St. Andrew Methodist Church, Highlands Ranch

For our final event of the year, we are excited to host a Bach Competition for aspiring vocal soloists from around the world interested in the music of J. S. Bach. Following a preliminary round of recorded solo submissions, eight highly qualified finalists will be selected to travel to Colorado and participate in our in-person final round, which will make up the final concert of the season. This concert will feature Bach's well-known cantata 147, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben (Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life), highlighting one of the most famous chorale melodies, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. The soloists will also perform several of Bach's beloved arias from his other cantatas and large works. One First Prize Winner and one Runner-Up will be selected at the conclusion of the concert. They will receive cash prizes, and each will have an opportunity to perform with CBE in future seasons at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA  
GUILD

P.O. Box 339  
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