

Greetings to all on this wonderful sunny day after our sudden attack by Old Man Winter, who is refusing to go away. But alas, it is April, a month noted for moisture and soon to be May.

We were thrilled by the singers at the last Opera on Tuesday which featured the competition winners. WOW was my reaction! Such talent in this state displays the teaching being done in the universities and the recruitment of quality singers by the professional opera education programs. Examples of both were in the winners list. Congratulations to the people who were responsible for the organization and implementation of the Competition as well as the singers who amazed us by their vocal and dramatic skills. I think several of these winners will have very successful singing careers. Certainly, the prize monies will provide some needed assistance in the advancement of their careers.

As the term of the present committees comes to a close and a new board assumes its duties, I express my gratitude to all who have worked so hard and diligently to make our Opera on Tuesdays a great success as well as the Competition a splendid event. Your dedication to the goals of supporting the art of singing are remarkable, appreciated and are truly making an impact on the love of singing and opera in Colorado.

The next step for DLOG is the **Annual Meeting** scheduled for May 2 at 10:00 am, preceding the Opera on Tuesday luncheon/program. We need to elect a new board and approve an amendment to the By-laws, which the Financial Committee has submitted and supported by the board. We need your attendance at this very important meeting.

The annual meeting will be short and will give all of us time to socialize before the program provided by Colorado State University Opera Program. I urge you to attend the Annual Meeting and cast your votes.

The Nominating Committee is proposing an excellent slate of officers.

**WE STILL NEED SOMEONE TO ASSUME THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT ELECT. IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE JOB. DO NOT WORRY! YOU HAVE GREAT PEOPLE WHO WILL GUIDE YOU AND SUPPORT YOU. IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN ALSO.**

**See you May 2 at 10 am at the Columbine Country Club for the Annual Meeting.**

Please make your reservations for the luncheon now and support Colorado State University Opera Program by your attendance.

**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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## DLOG Opera on Tuesday and Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 2nd - Registration Extended to May 1

Please join us for the final Opera on Tuesday of the 2022-23 season and DLOG Annual Meeting at Columbine Country Club on Tuesday May 2nd. In order to ensure a quorum for the meeting we have extended the registration deadline for this event to May 1st. The annual meeting will begin promptly at 10am followed by performances by the CSU Opera Program and a luncheon.

[Register now on the DLOG website!!](#)

**ALSO NOTE!** Don't forget to bring a bottle or more of wine to the May 2nd Opera on Tuesday to donate for the Summer Party wine pull fundraiser. See article below for details!

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## April 4th Opera on Tuesday Highlights 2023 Competition Winners Luncheon



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Jeremy Reger, 7<sup>th</sup> Place – Miguel Angel Ortega Banales, Certificate of Merit – David Silvano, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Dawna Rae Warren, 6<sup>th</sup> Place – Paul Wolf, 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Griffen Hogan Tracy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Gloria Palermo, Certificate of Merit – Courtney Caston, 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Gabrielle Razafinjatovo

The Awards Luncheon for this year's DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers took place at Columbine Country Club where members and guests were serenaded by eight of the top ten finishers. It was a lovely event with the talent level of our winners on full display.



For more April 4 Opera on Tuesday highlights, [check out the DLOG website gallery.](#)

Karen Bruggenthies

## Summer Party Update!

### Summer Party!



Vive la France! Vive la Fête! Our exciting French-themed Summer Party will be a lively luncheon at noon August 12! Be prepared to participate!

Plan ahead!

1. To participate in our Wine Pull Fundraiser, please purchase a bottle (or several) of wine (consider French, but any kind is OK). This is your donation to the DLOG Wine Pull Fundraiser. Bring your wine to our May 2 Opera on Tuesday and Annual Meeting. Give it to Lynn Harrington, who will prepare it for the Summer Party event by giving each bottle a number. At the party, you may purchase any number of bottles of wine that you wish at \$20 each, receiving a number. As you leave the party, the committee will match your number(s) to mystery bottle(s) of wine donated by your DLOG wine connoisseur friends. Take these home to enjoy and relive your fun Summer Party experience! If you forget to bring your donation to the May meeting, you'll have to drive it to Kathy Van Arsdale's (or Lynn's) house for the event. Avoid that, and BRING WINE to the meeting!

2. Tickets for the Summer Party will go on sale on our website in mid-June. Invite friends, and consider buying these early, since there is a possibility that the event will sell out. You may suggest 3 people that you'd like to be at your table—the committee will assign the rest, hoping that you and guests will get to know new people. They will want to join DLOG to get to know you better!

3. Plan to arrive promptly, NOT early, since the doors will be unlocked at noon, and all seating is assigned by table number. You may relax in the main public areas of the Country Club or chat outside until the doors open for the event.

4. Watch for attire in colors of the French flag: blue, white, red—to go on sale so you can wear it to the party! Ooh La La!!

Entertainment for the Summer Party will be provided by Colorado tenor Mark Van Arsdale, accompanied by Dr. Jeremy Reger of the University of Colorado. Mark trained in Colorado until leaving for college. The Colorado Children's Chorale provided seven years of rigorous learning and a variety of professional experiences. His teachers included Mary Louise Burke, Deborah DeSantis, and Maestro Duain Wolfe. A member of the children's chorus for Opera Colorado's *Tosca* and *La Bohème*, he gained valuable stage experience. He was chosen by Mr. Wolfe as soloist for Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and for Children's Chorale tour performances in Japan. An invaluable inspiration, coach, critic, and mentor of the highest standards, Mr. Wolfe, who recently retired as conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, chose Mark to sing with Central City Opera Company the part of "Second Lady" in the *Magic Flute*. Mozart wrote this music to be sung by children. Mark was later chosen to sing his first Tamino at the University of Indiana's *Magic Flute* and has sung that role more than any other as a professional. He continues to sing a lot of Mozart. President Elect Kathy Van Arsdale and Peter will visit France to see Mark sing Tamino in Reims (Champagne Region) in May. Throughout HS, Mark performed as a Supernumerary for Opera Colorado, learning more operas.

Fortunate enough to attend the only Grammy Award winning High School music program in the state at Cherry Creek HS, Mark



continued as a soloist, touring soloist, and the lead in musicals. He earned side money as a Dickens Caroler. He attended Yellowstone and Wisconsin Vocal Jazz Camps, earned a Tanglewood Music Festival Internship, and studied voice with Ken Cox of the University of Denver. He chose a full undergraduate experience rather than a conservatory, enjoying Northwestern University. He loved his acapella experience performing with, then directing Freshman Fifteen, a famed student group. He performed as soloist for the Monteverdi Vespers of 1612, Handel's *Solomon*, Verdi's *Falstaff*, and Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

At Indiana University, Mark studied with Robert Harrison, who recently facilitated our Competition for Colorado Singers Master Class. He starred as Trufaldino in Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges*, Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, and as Tamino in an elaborate production of *The Magic Flute* that was broadcast. Returning to Tanglewood, he was selected by James Levine to sing Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, performing the role three times under his baton. Mark was a winner in the DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers, and a Central City Opera Apprentice. Professional performances as soloist in Handel's *Messiah* followed, in Chicago and Cheyenne. Using DLOG prize money, he auditioned at L'Opéra National du Rhin in Strasbourg, France, where he won an apprenticeship. He won leads in Donizetti's *L'Exil d'Amore*, and Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*. With an agent in Germany and two in Paris, his professional career has been primarily in France. Mark has also sung in Ecuador, Morocco, Italy, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, and speaks 4 languages. He owns an apartment in charming Colmar, Alsace, on the Route du Vin in France, which he rents on Airbnb when he is not staying there. Alsatian whites will be among the featured French wines available by the glass at our Summer Party luncheon August 12.



Left: Mark Van Arsdale in Tux, Right: Mark in *Belle Helene*



Mark Van Arsdale in *Les Huguenots*

Kathy Van Arsdale

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**Christian Marke Gibbs  
An All-Around Success!**

# CHRISTIAN MARK GIBBS — An All-Around Success!



Remembered by DLOG members not just for his wonderful voice but also for his outsized personality and infectious smile, Guyanese-American tenor and New York City native, Christian Mark Gibbs, is quickly establishing himself as a versatile artist in various mediums of artistry including opera, musical theatre, TV/Film, and commercial work.

Christian is currently an ensemble member in the Lincoln Center revival of Lerner and Loewe's "Camelot". CMG's 2021-22 season included a series of debuts and world-premieres at leading houses and performance venues. A highlight of this season included CMG as guest artist at **The Kennedy Center**, as part of their 50th Anniversary season. As a guest artist, CMG makes his **Washington National Opera** house debut starring in two world premiere operas (*it all falls down* by Carlos Simon and *The Rift* by Huang Ruo) in the monument driven program, *Written in Stone*. In September 2021, CMG made his international solo debut starring as Tony in *West Side Story* in Finland at the **Savoy-teatteri**. Also in the 2021-2022 season, CMG made his **Lincoln Center Theater** debut in the cast of Ricky Ian Gordon and Lynn Nottage's new hit opera *Intimate Apparel*, directed by Bartlett Sher. CMG closed out the season by returning to **The Metropolitan Opera** in the US premiere of Brett Dean's *Hamlet*.





An avid champion of versatility as an artist, CMG was most recently seen in a national ad for **Tillamook**, as the official Cheddar MC for their Cheddarbration campaign for National Cheddar Day, which coincided with the SuperBowl. More ad clientele includes Good Morning America/ABC, Cohen's Fashion Optical, Sotheby's International Realty, AXON, and NICE. As a TV actor, CMG was also recently cast as Cuba Gooding Sr. on the hit show WUTANG: An American Saga on **HULU** and Dennis on My True Crime Story on **VH1**.

Concert engagements include CMG as a soloist at venues Feinstein's 54/below, Joe's Pub, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and tenor soloist in concert works at Queens College and Yale University.

Christian Mark Gibbs made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Robbins and Crab Man in the GRAMMY award winning production of *Porgy and Bess* in February 2020. In May of 2021, CMG made his **Opera Theatre of St. Louis** debut in the critically acclaimed production of *Highway 1 U.S.A.* alongside Nicole Cabell and Will Liverman. CMG received the 2021 Richard Gaddes Career Award for his portrayal of Nate.



In addition to his international debut in Finland, in December 2021 CMG released an EP of two songs ("Maria" & "Something's Coming") that were recorded live from the *West Side Story* production at the Savoy-teatteri with the Vantaan Viihdeorkesteri. This EP is titled *TONY: Two Songs from West Side Story (LIVE)* and is available on all major streaming platforms including iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify and more!

Christian's other notable credits include *Oklahoma* at **Denver Center**, *Falstaff* at **Opera Colorado**, *The Love I Meant to Say* at Lucille Lortel Theater, and Coalhouse Walker Jr. in the *Ragtime Fan Film: Wheels of A Dream* directed by Akil DuPont.

CMG has both a MM (Colorado State University) and BM (Aaron Copland School of Music - Queens College) in Vocal Performance.

Talk about being able to do it all! Christian has taken his talent, his enthusiasm and his extraordinary zest for life and built himself a truly amazing career! Can't wait to see what comes next!!!!

Karen Bruggenthies

## *The Little Prince*



The University of Denver Lamont School of Music recently presented the opera *The Little Prince* by Rachel Portman at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Gates Concert Hall. The Thursday evening production was a sweet and whimsical, featuring a standout performance by tenor Liam Dooley as the Pilot. DLOG members may remember Liam from our November Opera on Tuesday. Rachel Regalado beautifully captured the innocence and childlike exuberance of the Little Prince. The cast also included DLOG Competition participants Oliver Poveda-Zavala and Megan Pryor.

Based on the beloved 1943 book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince* is the story of a stranded pilot meeting a young prince who has fallen to Earth from a tiny asteroid. As the Little Prince explores the Earth, he meets a number of colorful, and often puzzling, characters.

The opera was first performed at the Houston Grand Opera in May 2003; these performances at Lamont will be the first in Colorado. It is also the first time that the Lamont School of Music has presented an opera by a living, female composer.

Matthew Plenk was the artistic director and stage director and Sahar Nouri was the music director and conductor. The scenery and costumes that so beautifully captured the spirit of the beloved children's book, were designed by Jacob A. Climer and produced and provided by the Utah Symphony and Utah Opera.

With a libretto by Nicholas Wright, *The Little Prince* defines and celebrates friendship, love, and truth.





Karen Bruggenthies

## Colorado Sky a World Premiere Children's Opera



I wanted to make sure you knew about discounts for our new opera, *Colorado Sky*! For the Broomfield performance, there is a good deal for groups of 10 or more. I believe those are only \$16! I thought the DLOG group could take advantage of this!

**A shadow puppet opera dictating the history of Colorado's gray wolves**

**by Ben Morris**

This piece addresses the history of gray wolves in Colorado and their relationship with people and domesticated animals. In 2020, Colorado voters passed a controversial proposition to reintroduce wolves to the

state, raising questions about its potential impact on regional ecology and livestock. Our story, oriented toward family audiences, follows two reintroduced wolves, Luna (the mother, soprano) and Sky (young male cub, mezzo-soprano). Sky struggles to adjust to living in Colorado but eventually learns to adapt to her new world. With a premiere scheduled for summer 2023 through Art Song Colorado, this workshop will allow us time to develop the piece before presenting a more polished version to larger audiences.

Featuring DLOG Competition winner **Claire McCahan** and participant **Sabina Balsamo**. June 3rd – Broomfield Auditorium, June 4th – Dairy Center. Tickets available through Sohap Ensemble website at <https://www.sohapensemble.com/concerts> or Art Song Colorado at <https://www.artsongcolorado.org>.

[Sabina Balsimo](#)  
[Sohap Ensemble](#)

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## DLOG Membership Renewal

Hello DLOG members, At the May Opera on Tuesday, we will distribute the new Membership Renewal Forms. If you are unable to attend Opera on Tuesday, we will be sending you the membership renewal forms. Please fill it out and mail it back to me as soon as possible or [renew on the DLOG web site](#). Membership rates will remain the same. We have added a checkbox to indicate if you would like to volunteer. We need volunteers for the competition, Opera on Tuesday, committees, etc. We will contact you to see what will work for you. We sincerely appreciate those who wish to contribute more to DLOG by becoming Encore and Patron members and those who donate to the Competition and the DLOG General Fund. We encourage all members to tell your friends and colleagues about the Guild as part of our ongoing new member campaign. One Member, One New Voice for Opera.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Marleen Diamond**  
Membership VP

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## DLOG Directory Changes

We are changing the DLOG Directory. In August, after the DLOG Membership Renewals are in, we will launch the DLOG Directory online with a passcode that will remain the same all year. The link will be on the website [denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://denverlyricoperaguild.org). It will be in the same format but will be updated to include new members every couple of months. For those without computers, we will send you the directory pages by mail. We will not be sending out the physical directory book like we have done in the past. Please call and let me know if you need the directory pages sent at the end of August.

We will continue to have the folded business cards and refrigerator magnets for Opera on Tuesday and Competition dates. This information will also be on the DLOG website.

This is a big change for everyone but the directory will be up to date and will save DLOG a lot of money in printing and mailing costs. We hope that there will be a smooth transition and this will be more convenient for everyone.

**Marleen Diamond**  
Membership VP

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## Louis J. Deegan, Jr. 1932-2023



Longtime DLOG member Louis J. Deegan, Jr. passed away Sunday morning February 19, 2023 in the Collier Hospice Center. He was a great storyteller of his many fantastic life experiences including his sailing days, his brushes with famous people like Duke Ellington, Ann Bancroft and Elvis, and his travels to Ireland, Italy, France, England, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Mexico. He was an avid photographer, bicyclist, skier, golfer and Baltimore Orioles fan. Louis enjoyed a great love of music that began as a young drummer in a jazz combo in Baltimore. He was an active appreciator of many music genres including classical. He often attended the Colorado Symphony, Opera Colorado and the Central City Opera.

[Click here](#) to read the complete obituary.

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## Opera Around Colorado

**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. Featuring 2023 Competition finalist [Nathan Snyder](#)!

[Click Here for Info](#)



### Atlas of Remote Islands - An Opera on Tap Original Opera!

May 5, 7:30pm, Holiday Theater, Denver

May 13, 6pm, Director's Cut at Collective Community Arts Center, Lafayette

Atlas of Remote Islands is a contemporary opera by composer Nathan Hall, based on the 2009 book by Judith Schalansky, produced and realized by Opera on Tap Colorado, with the libretto by Alan Olejniczak.

This mysterious book is an atlas of fifty real, remote islands, stuffed with maps and prose-poem stories, more for the imagination than for navigation and offering more questions than answers. The audience experiences the histories and facts, lore and fantasies of these islands through the eyes of this main character—who in exploring distant worlds through the pages of the atlas unlocks worlds within themselves.

[Click Here for Details and Tickets!](#)



### Spring Fling in Highlands Ranch

May 6th, 7 pm

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

Join Art Song Colorado in Highlands Ranch for a fantastic night of song announcing our '23-24 Season along with some of our favorite songs!

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)

# COLORADO *Bach* ENSEMBLE

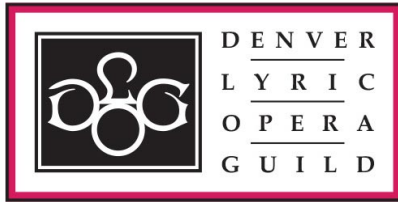
## Bach Competition for Young Artists

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

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