

Measure for Measure

Borrowing from Shakespeare, my Presidential comments for organizational newsletters have been, and will be “Measure for Measure”. I look forward to sharing this next year at the Denver Lyric Opera Guild with you!

I am hoping you can partake of the many summer musical offerings available to us in Colorado, around the nation, and across the world! Supporting live music is an important offering we can bring to our community. Without support, the arts cannot thrive. Plan to share a musical afternoon or evening with friends or loved ones. Pack a picnic for the parking lot (think Santa Fe...) or garden (think Central City...) and enjoy the lovely weather—what could be better!

Thank you for renewing your membership! Thanks for attending our Annual Meeting where you met the new Board of Directors, and discovered our fiscal solvency!

Officers for 2023-2024 were elected by acclamation:

VP Competition Karen Bruggenthies

VP Development Aida Soviron

VP Education Gayle Landis

VP Finance Tom Conroy

VP Membership Marleen Diamond

VP Public Relations B.J. Ellison

Recording Secretary Kathy Hammer

Plans are already underway for a marvelous year of Opera on Tuesdays, fascinating days of Competition, grants and scholarships to developing young artists, and joyful fellowship as we share happy times together! Join me at our Summer Party, “Vive La France” at noon on August 12 at Columbine Country Club. Tickets go on sale June 25 on our website.

Ooh, La La!

Kathy Van Arsdale
President DLOG 2023-24

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.

Planning Ahead...Opera on Tuesday 2023-2024

We'll be sending reminders, but if you'd like to mark your calendar early, our 2023-24 Opera on Tuesday Luncheons will all be held at Columbine Country Club on the following dates:

September 12
October 10
November 7
December 5
January 16
April 2
May 14

We're looking forward to welcoming more amazing artists to the Columbine Stage.

Gayle Landis

May 2nd Opera on Tuesday and 2023 Annual Meeting Highlights



May 2nd, 2023 culminated in the final Opera on Tuesday of the 2022-2023 season. During the Annual Meeting held just prior to the beautiful program by CSU Opera, we elected our Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 season.

Most of our new board is pictured above:

Left to Right - Tom Conroy , Finance VP, B.J. Ellison, Public Relations VP, Karen Bruggentheis, Competition VP, Debbie Roth, Treasurer, Kathy Van Arsdale, President, Marleen Diamond, Membership VP, Gayle Landis, Education VP, Kathy Hammer, Recording Secretary, Not pictured, Aida Souviron - Development VP

For more May 2nd Opera on Tuesday highlights, [check out the DLOG website gallery](#). All photos by Linda Young.

Below: The CSU Opera participants Spring 2023.



The Changing of the Guard.

Below left, outgoing DLOG President Dennis Jackson addresses the membership.
Below right, incoming DLOG President Kathy Van Arsdale sets the new agenda.



Summer Party Update!

Summer Party!

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Delights await us at the annual DLOG Summer Party, August 12 at noon at Columbine Country Club! A French meal with your choice of chicken, Wagyu steak, or vegetable terrine! Two special French wines will be available by the glass for you to try: Alsatian white, and Côte du Rhône red. Our dessert will be L'Opéra Gateau! A number of French liqueurs will be available such as Cointreau, Pastis, Grand Marnier, Chartreuse, and Crème de Menthe. Have you planned your French outfit? Will it be blue, white, or red? Designer? You're allowed to have fun dressing up!

And what about our fun and mysterious Wine Pull Fundraiser? You may donate French (or any other) wine by delivering it to Lynn Harrington or Peter Van Arsdale's houses. At the party, plan to buy a mystery number for a \$20 bill. At dessert time, exchange your number for a bottle of wine to take home that night!

Summer Party tickets will be available on the DLOG website June 25. To build DLOG member relationships and welcome possible new members, our Summer Party seating will be mixed. Make new friends! Your \$75 ticket includes dinner and entertainment in three portions by Colorado tenor Mark Van Arsdale.

How does Mark get contracts in Europe? During a gap year between undergrad and grad school, Mark moved to Milan, Italy. There he studied voice through the renowned opera house La Scala with Signora Patrizia Canetti. He taught local businessmen English to earn money. He lived with two Italian roommates and gradually became bi-lingual, having also earned a minor in Italian at Northwestern University. Language skills are vital for European contracts. Following three months backpacking through India and Southeast Asia, he auditioned for the Opera Studio at Opéra National du Rhine in Strasbourg, France. This group is headquartered in Colmar, where

Mark bought an apartment to use while there. This program offers roles in Strasbourg operas, full productions of their own, ensemble and solo performances throughout the Alsace region. Germany, and others have opera houses offering "house tenor" opportunities, supplying apprentices for small roles, substitutions, and other

situations. Mark chose not to apply for these positions, hearing from friends that such contracts overwork singers, and do not emphasize training and networking. Over the course a of two year apprenticeship, administrators, agents, conductors, festival impresarios and others visit the Colmar studio to observe young talent. Several summer festival contracts and four agents emerged from these meetings. Apprentices typically are offered contracts from their studio opera company. This connection with Strasbourg was severed when a new administrative leader was hired, bringing in their own people. (We are familiar with the consequences of such a move, having observed Central City Opera recently.) Now bi-lingual in French also, agents in Berlin, London, and Paris have offered Mark contracts over the years. The two in Paris work the most diligently, so most of his appearances have been in France. Excellent reviews from the press, opera houses, peers, directors, and conductors help!

While earning contracts with symphony orchestras (Masses, Bach's *St. John Passion*, Britten's *War Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*), specialty events such as the Berlioz Festival, TV and film broadcast work, Van Arsdale performs primarily for opera companies in opera houses, chateaux, and specialized venues (Papal Palace in Avignon). Unafraid to learn new repertoire, Mark has been chosen to present several world premieres. In Chemnitz, Germany, he portrayed Adam, negotiating his way out of appearing naked (they accepted a flesh-colored thong and lots of plants on stage). Stage directors in Europe are famous (notorious) for unusual, original, and provocative staging: see the photo below of Mark in Mozart's *Zaide*, set on a tropical island.



Mark performs a huge variety of operatic works from Baroque through Contemporary. Working primarily in France, his French repertoire list is long:

Phaeton (Lully)
Hamlet (Thomas)
La Vie Parisienne (Offenbach)
Les Huguenots (Meyerbeer)

Acis et Galatée (Lully)
La Belle Hélène (Offenbach)
The Pearl Fishers (Bizet)
Les Chevaliers (Hervé)

His Italian repertoire includes:

Bastien et Bastienne (Mozart)
Abduction from the Seraglio (Mozart)
Don Giovanni (Mozart)
L'occasione fa il ladro (Rossini)
La Cenerentola (Rossini)

Così fan Tutte (Mozart)
Ali Baba (Cherubini)
Don Pasquale (Donizetti)
L'Amico Fritz (Mascagni)
Rigoletto (Verdi)

German titles include:

Die Zauberflöte (Mozart)
Salome (Strauss)

Paradise Reloaded (Edivos)

Mark looks forward to greeting
friends, old and new at the Summer
Party!

Kathy Van Arsdale

DLOG Competitor Teresa Castillo

Where Are They Now: TERESA CASTILLO



Denver Lyric Opera Guild 2014 Competition for Colorado Singers second place finisher Teresa Castillo has been building quite a career for herself! A native of Aurora, Colorado and DU graduate, Costa Rican-American Soprano Teresa Castillo has been hailed by the *San Francisco Gate* as a "standout, bringing [vocal] power and florid elegance," and by *Opera News* for exhibiting "a clean, concentrated sound, and a lovely, intelligent musicianship." Ms. Castillo's 2022/23 season included a house debut at the **Teatro Lirico di Cagliari** where she performed the role of Maria in Francesca Zambello's production of Bernstein's *West Side Story* and a return to the **Lyric Opera of Chicago** where she covered La Comtesse Adèle (*Le Comte Ory*). She also made a house and role debuts with **Chicago Opera Theater** as Miss Wordsworth (*Albert Herring*) and Sara Turing (*The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing*). She recently made her debut at **Opera Southwest** as La Comtesse Adèle (*Le Comte Ory*), where she was a jump in with 24 hrs notice. This summer, Ms. Castillo will be making her **Lincoln Center** debut as Annetta (*Crispino e la comare*) with **Teatro Nuovo**. Her 2021/22 season include several house debuts including the **Lyric Opera of Chicago** where she covered the role of Königin der Nacht, **Opera San Jose** in the roles of Frasquita (*Carmen*) and Maria (*West Side Story*), **White Snake Productions** as Circe/Siren/Greek Chorus in the premier of *A Survivor's Odyssey: The Journey of Penelope and Circe* and **Opera Lafayette** in their production of Gretry's *Silvain* in the role of Lucette. Summer 2022, she returned to **Teatro Nuovo** to sing the role of Amina (*La Sonnambula*), but the show was postponed due to Covid. Her 2019/20 Season included engagements at **Knoxville Opera** in the title role of Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, a return to **Carnegie Hall** concert under the baton of John Rutter, and a recital with **Pittsburgh Festival Opera** (both cancelled due to Covid-19).



An award-winning soprano, Ms. Castillo has placed in many competitions including the **Lois Alba Aria Competition**, **Opera Index**, **The Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition**, **Mildred Miller International Voice Competition**, **The Anita Cerquetti International Competition**, **Altamura/Caruso International Voice Competition**, **Classical Singer Magazine Competition**, and the **Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition**. She was a finalist in the **George London Foundation Competition**, **Cooper-Bing Competition** and was also a semi-finalist in the **McCammon Voice Competition** with Fort Worth Opera in 2020, which was cancelled due to Covid-19. She has received grants from **Career Bridges**, **The Allied Arts** in Denver, Colorado, **The Anna Sosenko Trust**, and the **Bel Canto Vocal Scholarship Foundation** based in Cranston, Rhode Island. In 2015, Ms. Castillo was featured in print and online in the *Classical Singer Magazine* article series, "Who Inspires You?"



Ms. Castillo has performed such roles as Chiang Ch'ing (Madame Mao) in Adams' *Nixon in China* at **The Princeton Festival** and Rosina in the *Barber of Seville* with **Opera Theatre St. Louis: Opera on the GO!**, *Königin der Nacht*, with the **Imperial**

Symphony Orchestra, Creusa in Mayr's *Medea in Corinto* under the direction of Will Crutchfield at **Teatro Nuovo**, #1 in Conrad Susa's *Transformations* at the **Merola Opera Program** among many more. She was a Herndon Emerging Artist covering the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Tytania in a *Midsummer's Night Dream*. Ms. Castillo also was a Young Artist at **Bel Canto at Caramoor**, prior to becoming **Teatro Nuovo**, covering Adele (*Il Pirata*) and sang Königin der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte*) at **Opera Theatre St. Louis: Opera on the GO!** She made her **Carnegie Hall** debut with the **New England Symphonic Ensemble** conducted by Gregory Gentry in a world premiere entitled "Reflections on a Mexican Garden," which was written for her by composer Kevin Padworski.

Ms. Castillo currently resides in New York City, and she enjoys rock climbing, playing her ukulele, knitting, reading, and playing video games.

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 Sohapp Ensemble website at <https://www.sohapensemble.com/concerts> or Art Song Colorado at <https://www.artsongcolorado.org>. You can also view a [short documentary on this piece](#) on our YouTube site.

Please note! The opera lasts 35 minutes and is recommended for ages 3 and up.

Following the performance we will hold a 30-minute puppet-making workshop.

[Sabina Balsamo](#)
[Sohapp Ensemble](#)

DLOG Membership Renewal

Hello DLOG members, At the May Opera on Tuesday, new Membership Renewal Forms were distributed. 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

Opera Around Colorado



Death by Aria

May 28, 2pm, Applewood Valley United Methodist Church, Golden

You're Invited! Death by Aria 2023

Join Us to welcome our 2023 Apprentice Artists at "Death by Aria!"

Listen and watch as these talented performers sing for each other for the first time at Applewood Valley Methodist Church in Golden, CO. Each young artist will present an aria of their choosing to display their strengths for their peers.

Performance Price: Free

Picnic Lunch: \$50

[Click to Register](#)



Artist in Residence Celebration

Sunday, Jun 4, 2pm, Studio Loft at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House

You've heard our wonderful Artists in Residence all year! We have loved having them with us, but it is time for their final performance. **Say goodbye in an intimate concert** featuring a retrospective of works they performed throughout the year and a few new surprises.

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Dido and Aeneas Re-Imagined

June 9 and 11, Front Range Community College, Fort Collins

Purcell's opera, *Dido and Aeneas*, is based on the long epic poem ***The Aeneid*** (29-19 BC), which was written by the influential Roman poet Virgil (70-19 BCE). *The Aeneid* chronicles the legendary life of the Trojan Aeneas. After fleeing the fall of Troy, Virgil explores how the Roman gods helped Aeneas establish the Roman empire.



An ancient tale, a baroque classic re-imagined with bluegrass instrumentation.

[Click Here for Tickets](#)



Colorado Brewery Tour - LUKI Brewery

June 10, 6pm, LUKI Brewery, Arvada

Colorado is known for its huge number of excellent craft breweries and we intend to sing at them all. Or we will at least try our very best to hit as many as we can as often as possible!

Our singers will choose the opera arias you absolutely HAVE to hear - whether you are an opera newbie or a serious aficionado - the coolest, most gorgeous, breathtaking, devastating operatic offerings.

[Click Here to Register for this Free Event!](#)



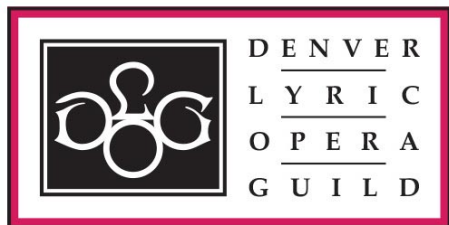
First Festival Weekend: CMAC All-Stars

June 16-18, Creede Colorado

Join us for the first weekend of our second summer season, featuring a group of returning CMAC all-star Artists!

Our summer kicks off with a concert of classics at the picturesque Sunnyside Chapel by sunset on Friday evening.

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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