



The Lyric Letter

Volume 23, Issue 11, December 2023

PO Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151
www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org



Measure for Measure

Our calendar reveals that we count this, 2024, as a New Year. Proud of my Scottish roots, we recently learned that the oldest calendar system is about 10,000 years old. It was found in 2000 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland! The next oldest were found in Egypt, followed by Assyrian and Elamite calendars. Ancient calendars used both lunar and/or solar lines of demarcation, adding days or months to make it all work. In ancient India and China, calendars were very important. Greeks and Romans continued refining our concept of calendar, with Julius Caesar calling for a calendar of 365 days, beginning in January. Augustus Caesar added Leap Year. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. The Mayan calendar also had 365 days. The Gregorian Calendar, decreed in 1562 by Pope Gregory, is now used throughout the world as a secular calendar. Other calendars remain important in religious use, such as the Hebrew Calendar, as well as Islamic, Julian, and Hindu Calendars. Pondering the meaning of time as we turn pages on our calendars is a useful philosophical exercise, particularly as we age.

Hooray! Turn the page for a new start! It's a New Year—full of opportunities and joy, yet unseen! This

NEW-ness feels fresh and undiscovered; special and unexplored; shiny and precious—just like the feeling we had in childhood when we wore NEW shoes!—spiffy! Stylish! Everyone looking at YOU and your new shoes! My piano and voice students still straighten up tall and proud when I comment on their NEW shoes, often providing additional information: “Yes, these ARE new. I chose them myself!” “These are a gift from my grandmother!” or “I really like them too—I feel like I could run or dance!” We can dance into the New Year, too, full of hope and expectation!

Is there a song in your head for the New Year? Zipadee-Do-Dah? Glitter And Be Gay? You Make Me Feel Brand-New? I Believe? Music can describe any feeling. Listen for one that describes your own New Year wonder.

The New Year brings exciting new events to DLOG: Are you registered for OOT on January 16th? Is the Louise Conter Master Class on your calendar (February 17)? Our famous and fabulous Competition for Colorado Singers begins March 2nd with the Preliminary Round at Calvary Baptist Church. The amazing Finals will be presented on March 23. Competition events are free, and open to the public. The entire Competition is a gracious gift to the young Classical singers of Colorado from members of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild, our many volunteers, and our faithful supporters.

We are given a NEW day, every single day! Each has an opportunity for goals, resolutions, NEW thinking and choices, NEW friends and experiences. Greet all things NEW with joy and anticipation! We all love the feeling of “NEW”!

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.

December 5th, 2023 Opera on Tuesday CU Boulder Eklund Opera Program

Be sure to check out our DLOG members making rather merry at the holiday inspired December, 2023 Opera on Tuesday with the CU Eklund Opera Program featuring the always great Jeremy Reger and a wonderful group of CU singers!

All photos courtesy of DLOG Photographer **Linda Young**. For more photos from this event, check out the [DLOG Gallery](#).



CU Boulder Eklund Opera: Jeremy Reger (Director and Pianist), Alice Del Simone, Jenna Clark, Simeon Wallace, Camila Rabelo



Carole Johnson, Marilyn Ogden, Carolyn Cho, Anne Kotch, Karen Stephens




Linda Young, Betty Natelson, Sarah Romano, Robert, Natelson



Jeanie Davis, Carol Hoffman, Diane Graham, Marleen Diamond

Join Us to Celebrate!
DLOG Donor/New Member Party



Join Us to Celebrate!

Patrons, Encores, Donors
and New Members for 2023

at

Gayle & Gary Landis Residence
1 Wilder Lane
Littleton, CO 80123

on

January 28, 2024
2 - 4 pm

Wine and Nibbles
Informal Gathering

Entertainment

Christy Conover
Former DLOG First Place Winner

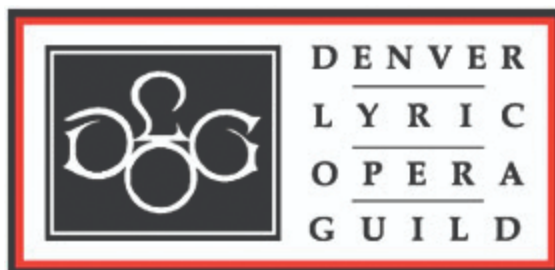
Please RSVP ASAP
Limited space

to

Marleen Diamond
marleendiamond@gmail.com



Registration Now Open!



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR

JANUARY OPERA ON TUESDAY

January 16th, 2023



Featuring the Opera Colorado "Artists in Residence"

10:30 – Social
11:00 – Program

12:00 – Festive Holiday Luncheon

**Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Littleton – 80123**

**\$55.00 per person
Reservations must be received by January 10
(online/mail/phone call)**

Online:

[Click Here to Register Now](#)

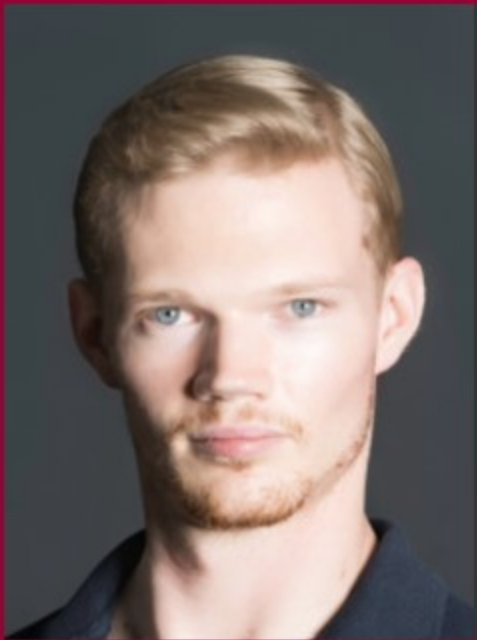
OR

**Mail check to:
Becky Gantner
2082 Montane Dr. East
Golden, CO 80401**

Call: Gayle – 303-810-8712 or Becky – 303-526-1260

Gayle Landis

**Feb. 17, 2024 - Louise C. Conter Master Class
Facilitated by John Lindsey**



Saturday, February 17, 2024
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (Come and go as you please.)
Calvary Baptist Church
6500 E. Girard Avenue
Denver, CO

Competition for Colorado Singers Preliminary
Saturday, March 2, 2024
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Competition for Colorado Singers Final
Saturday, March 23, 2024
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Mark your calendar for a very special Master Class featuring 2011 DLOG Competition Winner tenor John Lindsey as facilitator.

Now Assistant Professor of Music at Colorado State University, American tenor John Lindsey, who has been noted for his "clarion tone" and "blazing tenor" by *Opera News*, has gained a reputation as a budding dramatic tenor with a connection to German, English and new works repertoire.

In the 2019-2020 season, Mr. Lindsey will return to Pacific Opera Victoria to make his role debut as Bill in *Flight* by Jonathan Dove. He will also make house debuts at Opéra de Montréal as Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte* and at Opera on the Avalon as Edward in *Ours* by John Estacio.

In the 2018-2019 season, Mr. Lindsey appeared in Madison Opera's annual Opera in the Parks concert, in anticipation of a role and company debut as the Prince in *Rusalka*, and returned to Austin Opera for a reprisal of Jonathan Dale in *Silent Night*, a role he originated for the world premiere at Minnesota Opera. In the 2017/2018 season, John Lindsey made his Canadian debut with Pacific Opera Victoria as Steva in *Jenufa*, followed by a role debut as Froh in *Das Rheingold* with Arizona Opera. Other notable roles include Narraboth in *Salome*, Nick/cover for Dick Johnson in *La Fanciulla del West*, and Don Jose in *Carmen*.

Mr. Lindsey was an apprentice artist with Des Moines Metro Opera in 2015, a resident artist with Minnesota Opera from 2011-2014, and a studio artist with Central City Opera in 2011. He received his Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and his Bachelor of Music in Voice

Performance from Colorado State University in his hometown of Fort Collins. In 2015, he was invited to participate in the International Competition for Wagnerian Voices at Bayreuth.

This is a wonderful opportunity for DLOG members to learn more about what it takes to develop an operatic voice from both a technical and artistic standpoint. If you haven't yet attended one of our Master Classes, we highly recommend you give it a try. They are very informative and lots of fun!

Karen Bruggenthies

DLOG Headshot Day Recap



As an organization, Denver Lyric Opera Guild holds as one of its primary missions the financial support for young Colorado opera singers. Traditionally our support has come through grants to area colleges and universities and opera company young artist programs, and through prize monies awarded through our annual Competition for Colorado Singers. This year we expanded our reach by providing a day for aspiring young Colorado opera singers to have access to a professionally done headshot at a greatly reduced price. As an organization, we understand that pursuing a career in opera comes with many financial challenges. While a professionally done headshot is a must for applications and websites, with a price tag for an individual photoshoot of almost \$400.00 it can be a strain on a young artist's budget. This is where Denver Lyric Opera Guild came in.

On December 3rd, DLOG hosted our first ever Headshot Day where we offered young area opera singers the opportunity to receive a headshot taken by Jamie Kraus for a registration fee of just \$20.00. Ms. Kraus is one of Colorado's leading headshot and arts photographers. Each singer got one 15-minute studio session, with one outfit. Sessions came with one fully retouched photo included, with the option for the singer to purchase more at the session for just \$50.00 each.



We had twenty singers participate in the event. The age range of participating singers was 19 to 35. Some of our participants were getting their first headshots ever. Others were updating old ones. For some singers this was their first exposure to DLOG while others were old friends.

For all involved it was a magical day. Gayle and Gary Landis generously donated the use of their home for the event, and it couldn't have worked out better. With the welcoming environment and top-notch



volunteers, the singer's all had a wonderful time. Jamie Kraus, our fabulous photographer, did a fantastic job of making each singer feel comfortable

and engaged. The only minor hitch was that Jamie took so many wonderful photos of each singer that making choices took a bit longer than anticipated. Singers helped each other select their best looks making it much more fun than a traditional photo shoot. People who usually hated their pictures ended up with multiple photos that they absolutely loved.

Best of all, the singers were incredibly appreciative of the Guild for this opportunity. Here is a small sampling of the feedback we received from our participants:

"Headshot Day was a brilliant idea and executed beautifully. We are all so fortunate that DLOG continues to be there for us. I am so thankful for everything the organization does for us!" - Brandon Tyler Padgett

“New headshots are on the way by the fabulous Jamie Kraus! Thank you to the Denver Lyric Opera Guild for the opportunity to get affordable new photos.” – Leah Podzimek (posted on blog)

“I think this is a wonderful benefit that DLOG has offered to Colorado singers! High quality headshots, like those of Jamie Kraus, can place a great financial burden on singers who are already burdened by the rising cost of succeeding in this industry (lessons, coaching, travel, etc.). Not only offering a discounted headshot session but also organizing the logistics allows singers to spend more of their time, money and energy on other areas that help them improve as performers and musicians.” - Nathan Snyder



Jamie Kraus Photography
DENVER BRANDING AND HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHER
COLORADO PERFORMING ARTS PHOTOGRAPHER



I strive to bring out my client's true
essence, character, and humanity.



Whether you are an individual looking for a relaxed, stress-free photo session or a performing arts organization who wants to excite your audience, I can help tell your story. From choreographers to small business owners to theater companies, I love to work with creatives who want to get their message out to the world in a powerful way.

I got my start earning a photography degree and interning at some amazing performing arts festivals in the Northeast. After moving to Denver, I embarked on my own business and began to photograph dance, opera, and theater. I soon expanded to photographing passionate people who want quality headshots or personal branding sessions that tell their story in a meaningful way.

Karen Bruggenthies

WANTED!

Do you enjoy Opera on Tuesday? Are you excited to find out who won DLOG's Competition? Then you are wanted.....to help make sure these events continue to happen. DLOG is looking for volunteers to work

on these events as well as others. It takes many hands to make sure all the wonderful programs DLOG presents to continue. If one of the members of the nominating committee calls you, please say yes. Or, you can reach out to me, Phyllis Wicklund, Nominating Committee Chair, at 303-755-0931 or phyllwick@comcast.net. DLOG does want you!

Phyllis Wicklund

DLOG Directory

To access Denver Lyric Opera Guild's current online directory, simply go the DLOG website at: denverlyricoperaguild.org/directory.

Please note this is a password protected area of the site so as to only be accessed by DLOG members. Please do not share the password or use the directory for any business or marketing purposes. The password is "Opera!". That's capital O, "Opera" followed by an exclamation point.

To inform us of corrections to the directory, please email admin@denverlyricoperaguild.org.

Opera Around Colorado



Winter Song

Jan 14, Fort Collins

Opera Fort Collins presents "Winter Song", a sparkling gala of song and celebration to launch our 44th annual opera season.

The event will feature an evening of fine foods, a cash bar, fanciful auction items, mystery boxes, and a spectacular live performance of opera arias and art songs by guest artist, dramatic baritone Dr.

John Seesholtz.

[Click to RSVP](#)



***Elixir of Love* Final Dress Rehearsal**

Jan 24, Opera Colorado Opera Center

This abridged, hour-long performance set in old-West Colorado is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its mix of romance and comedy.

Nemorino loves the town's brainy beauty, Adina. But the dashing sergeant Belcore arrives and sets his sights upon Adina, too. Desperate, Nemorino asks a traveling salesman, Dr. Dulcamara, to sell him a powerful elixir of love that will convince Adina that he is the only one for her.

[Tickets Here](#)



Xochitl and the Flower

Jan 28, 3pm, Canyon Theater, Boulder Public Library

Boulder Opera will present the children's opera Xochitl and the Flowers for a **free public performance on January 28th at The Canyon Theater at Boulder Public Library**. Beginning at 3PM, our Boulder Opera Education Director will explain what an opera is, the plot of Xochitl and the Flowers, and engage the audience in an art activity where they create tissue paper flowers and cut outs that will serve as props for the opera performance. After this craft, the audience will watch the beautiful performance of Xochitl and the Flowers. This opera has a run-time of 45 minutes, and is the perfect introduction to opera for anyone of any age. We recommend guests 3 years and older!

Xochitl and the Flowers (pronounced "soh-chee") is a bilingual opera sung in both English and Spanish by Santa Cruz based composer Chris Pratorium Gómez. Based on real-life events in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood, this quintessentially American immigration story tells the moving tale of a family's determination to put down roots in a new country, while still preserving the heritage of their homeland. The opera is based on Jorge Argueta's children's book Xochitl and the Flowers. The music is influenced by Latin American styles and will include traditional percussion instruments and rhythms.

[Reserve Tickets Here!](#)



Painting with a Twist: Dutchman Edition

Jan 29, Painting With a Twist - Lakewood

Create art inspired by the sets and costumes for *The Flying Dutchman* created by EMMY-nominated designer Alan E. Muraoka.

With a drink in hand, you will be guided by an artist to paint your own nautical masterpiece!

[Tickets Here](#)



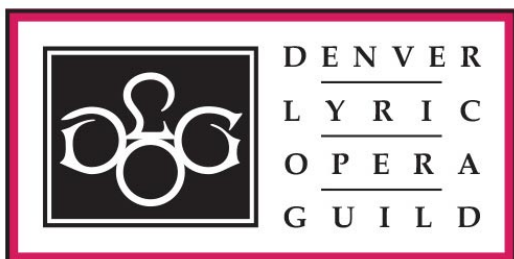
Laffont Met Opera Competition - Rocky Mountain Region

Feb 3 - Regionals, Feb 10 - Finals, Calvary Baptist Church

Early every year the Laffont Met Opera Competition holds its Colorado-Wyoming District competition and Rocky Mountain Regional Final here in Denver. DLOG's own

Karen Bruggenthies serves as the Regional Chair of this ongoing showcase of incredible nation-wide singing talent that culminates at the Metropolitan Opera Grand Finals on March 17 at the Met Opera House in New York. For 2023, Rocky Mountain Regional Winner Christian Simmons (Bass-Baritone) took top honors at the Grand National Finals.

[Click Here for More Info](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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