



The Lyric Letter

Volume 24, Issue 1, January 2024

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



Measure for Measure

Preschools and early grades mark calendar changes for every holiday and season. They sing songs for every special occasion. Pre-readers need symbols to remember what's up. For February, it's hearts! Little ones learn to draw hearts and shape them with their fingers early on.

They know that hearts symbolize love. They know what love is. They feel it. They seek it. They give it. We do, too—in ever more sophisticated ways, we value love. We define it with more refined meanings for different varieties of love. Loving popcorn is different than loving a family member, or an idea. All are real feelings; all sincere. But feeling love in any form is vital to the human existence. We still seek it. We yearn for it. We still give it. Every day, in a multitude of ways.

At DLOG, we exist as a community to express love and support for our art. We come together to enjoy and experience one another. We know that friendships and community are vital to human existence. We love such experiences. We seek them. We provide them to each other. We share our love of classical singing and opera in a variety of performances. We feel the love together. We seek it. We value it. We educate our community and others about our art form so that it may continue to inspire and be loved by

others. We give our appreciation to others. Our shared experiences lend meaning and enrichment to our lives.

It warms our hearts to see a young developing artist express themselves through the music of Mozart or Bizet for the first time! Those young singers love this art form as much as we do! They love to seek more skills, more knowledge, more experience while singing. The excitement they feel is on their lips and in their hearts as they perform! They know the meaning of love and joy through music! They are well aware that the most frequent theme of music the world over—in every culture, every era--in opera, pop, Broadway, jazz and World Music is **LOVE!** We seek to express it—its profound meaning and endless variety through song—season after season year after year, century after century—it's love that propels us along through our lives!

So. In February we pledge to engender more love in our world, in our organization, our families, and our art. Greet each day with a song! Preschool thinking is calling to us: let us seek love and spread love. Let us value its expression. Let us develop and give it as we go through our daily existence, to make life more precious, and to leave the world a better, sweeter, kinder place than we found it—drawing and singing musical hearts all around!

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.

January 16th, 2024 Opera on Tuesday Opera Colorado Artists in Residence

The first Opera on Tuesday of the new year is always a treat to see the Opera Colorado Artists in Residence! Beautiful numbers were performed from *L'elisir d'amore*, *La Cenerentola*, and capped off with a rousing Libiamo from *La traviata*. Thank you to Director Cherity Koepke, collaborative pianist Oleg Bellini and all the great Artists in Residence!

All photos courtesy of **Becky Gantner** and **Marleen Diamond**. For more photos from this event, check out the [DLOG Gallery](#).



Opera Colorado Artists in Residence 2023-2024: Turner Staton, Randy Ho, Saane Halaholo, Kerby Baier, Melanie Dubil, Oleg Bellini, Alex Granito



Cherity Koepke-Opera Colorado Director of Education and Community Development, Turner Stanton-bass baritone, Gayle and Gary Landis-sponsor of Turner 2023 and 2024





Pam Mignoli (center) with guests Lynne Mack and Brenda Munzert

OPERA ON TUESDAY - LOOKING AHEAD



OPERA ON TUESDAY – LOOKING AHEAD

We've had the pleasure of meeting and hearing an array of talent perform for our first five Opera on Tuesday luncheons of the year. Many of the performers you've heard will be participating in the upcoming **Competition for Colorado Singers, DLOG's marquee event**. I hope you will attend all the competition events concluding with the Finals and the announcement of the 2024 winners.

Looking ahead, the Competition winners will be featured at the next **Opera on Tuesday to be held April 2, 2024**. This will be an especially popular luncheon, so please register early, you won't want to miss this exciting opportunity to hear our 2024 Competition winners.

I look forward to seeing you at the Competition and thank you for all your enthusiasm and support for Opera on Tuesday.

Gayle Landis
Education VP

**DLOG's Annual Competition for
Colorado Singers Begins February 17th!**

COMPETITION *for* COLORADO SINGERS

PRESENTED BY
DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD



2023 Competition Winners – Gloria Palermo (2nd), Griffen Hogan Tracy (1st), Dawna Rae Warren (3rd)



2023 Competition Finalists – Emilie Anderson, Gloria Palermo, Griffen Hogan Tracy, Gabrielle Razafinjatovo, David Silvano, Dawna Rae Warren, Miguel Angel Ortega Banales, Nathan Snyder, Jenna Clark, Paul Wolf, Tessa McQueen, Courtney Caston, David Soto Zambrana



David Soto Zambrana - 2023
4th Place Winner

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 17, 2024
LOUISE CONTER MASTER CLASS
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
CONDUCTED BY JOHN LINDSEY



This event will be live streamed. Visit our website for details

MARCH 2, 2024
PRELIMINARY COMPETITION
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

All Competition events will be hosted at
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
6500 E. GIRARD AVENUE
DENVER, CO 80224

Competition Events are FREE and open to the public.

In 1984, the Guild inaugurated its signature event, the Competition for Colorado Singers, to support singers ages 23-32 in pursuing their operatic careers. Since then, the Guild has awarded over \$900,000 to Competition winners. Hundreds of young singers have successfully launched their operatic and musical careers since winning the Competition. At the 2023 Competition, a total of \$38,500 was awarded to the top 15 finalists.

MARCH 23, 2024
COMPETITION FINALS

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This event will be live streamed. Visit our website for details.

During the Master Class singers will receive valuable critiques to the performance and style of presentation. At the Preliminaries, a panel of judges from the opera world select 15 finalists, while at the Finals, another set of judges selects the 10 winners.

Guests may come and go – or stay all day.

For more information visit our website at <https://denverlyricoperaguild.org>.

Learn About Our Mission

As we move into Competition Season, we thought we would take a moment to remind our members of who DLOG is and what we do.

Denver Lyric Opera Guild

Denver Lyric Opera Guild is a non-profit membership organization. DLOG was founded in 1965 to help support the Denver Lyric Opera Company. The opera company was forced to close in 1968, but the Guild pursued other programs in keeping with **its purpose to encourage and support young singers and provide continuing education to the members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera.**

Competition for Colorado Singers



DLOG 2023 Competition for Colorado Singers 5th Place finisher Gabrielle Razafinjatovo & accompanist Dr. Jeremy Reger

In 1984, the Guild inaugurated its signature event, the ***Competition for Colorado Singers***, to support singers ages 23-32 in pursuing their operatic careers. Since then, the Guild has awarded **over \$990,000 to Competition winners. Hundreds of young singers** have successfully launched their operatic and musical careers since winning the Competition. The Guild will be awarding a total of \$38,500 in prize money at our Competition in March.

Grants



Former Metro State DLOG Grant recipient Teresa Castillo (left) in Lyric Opera of Chicago's current production of "[La Cenerentola](#)"

The Guild provides **grants to Colorado's colleges and universities for vocal scholarships, and to apprentice opera programs.** Over the years, these **grants have totaled over \$920,000** from the earnings on our endowment. Grants are given to the voice performance programs at **Colorado State University, Metro State University of Denver, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado,** and young artist apprentice programs of **Central City Opera, Opera Colorado, Opera Fort Collins, and Opera Theatre of the Rockies.** In 2024, universities and opera apprentice programs will receive grants totaling **\$39,800.**

Headshot Day



In December of 2023, DLOG hosted its first ever Headshot Day, where the Guild provided 20 young Colorado singers with the opportunity to get high quality professional headshots at a substantially discounted price. A professional grade headshot can be cost prohibitive for a young singer, but is essential for singer audition or competition applications, programs, and websites. DLOG stepped in to help.

While our Opera on Tuesdays are indeed delightful, it is our mission to assist young Colorado opera singers that makes us truly unique. Through our Competition, our grants and other singer support programs, we as an organization have made and continue to make a real and tangible

difference in the lives and career development of hundreds of young Colorado singers. We thank you for supporting this vital mission!

Karen Bruggenthies

Competition for Colorado Singers Judges' Dinner

You are cordially invited to join us for the 2024
Competition for Colorado Singers Judges' Dinner

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

Sarah Cambridge *Soprano*



Canadian Soprano, Sarah Cambridge is garnering wide praise for her important house and role debuts both in the U.S. and abroad. Highlights of the 2023-2024 season include Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde* in Rouen, France, a return to the Opernhaus Zürich as Helmwig in *Die Walküre*, and covering the roles of the Kaiserin in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and Elsa in *Lohengrin*, both at San Francisco Opera.

Christian Pursell *Bass-Baritone*



Christian Pursell is a critically acclaimed American bass-baritone. In his '23/'24 season, multiple house debuts are capped by an April 2024 Carnegie Hall debut as Noah in *THE GRAPES OF WRATH* with MasterVoices, and a leading role debut at Cincinnati Opera as Leporello in *DON GIOVANNI* in June.

Jason Ferrante *Tenor, Voice Teacher*



With two decades of experience on the operatic stage in over 80 different roles and on the concert stage as a tenor soloist, Ferrante also maintains a career as a sought-after voice teacher. Ferrante has served on the voice faculty at Wolf Trap, and at training programs at Portland Opera, Minnesota Opera, Pensacola Opera, Brevard, Banff Centre for the Arts and Nashville Opera. He has also served in that capacity for Arizona Opera, Florida Grand Opera and Virginia Opera.

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 2024

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

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center

7800 East Tufts Avenue
Denver, CO 80237

COST: \$115 per person

[Click Here to Register Now on the DLOG Website](#)

Reservations can be made on our website at www.denverlyricoperaguild.org 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 no later than Monday, March 11, 2024.

**Join us for the next
LIVERPOOL CARD GROUP**



(For more information or to be added to our contact list
email Marleen Diamond at marleendiamond@gmail.com.)

Join us for the next
LIVERPOOL CARD GROUP

(A version of Rummy)

WHERE: Panera Bread Co.
3702 River Point Parkway, Unit A
Englewood, CO 80110
(Hampden & Santa Fe)
WHEN: Tuesday, February 27, 2024
11:00 AM

*Easy to learn and fun to play. Come for
lunch, a game of cards, and good company!
ADDED BONUS – You will be supporting the
DLOG Competition is the process!*

In Memoriam - Gene Young



We are sorry to say that longtime Denver Lyric Opera Guild Member Gene Young passed away on January 16, 2024. He was the husband of Linda Young (Past President). He was always gracious, cheerful and attended many DLOG functions. He will be missed.

[Link to Gene's Obituary](#)

Marleen Diamond

Larry Zimmer: Voice of the Broncos and CU Buffs

"Colorado Sports Hall of Famer and longtime Denver Broncos broadcaster Larry Zimmer died Saturday at the age of 88."

But my friends: He was a lover of opera also, attending many CU opera productions and served on the board of Opera Colorado.

I remember listening to his broadcast of a CU basketball game and he was asked what he was doing after the game. He stated, he was attending the CU opera that evening. I actually heard this remark. He told me when the football schedules came out he would check the opera schedules in the cities where he would be broadcasting the games.

He was a real Renaissance man!

A great loss.

Dennis Jackson

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 phylwick@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



Painting with a Twist: Dutchman Edition

Mon 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 nationwide 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](#)

Shakespeare in Love

Wed, Feb 14, Lone Tree Arts Center

Arts in the Afternoon Join Central City Opera's Senior Director of Education & Community Engagement and soprano **Margaret Ozaki Graves** on February 14 at 1:30 PM at the Lone Tree Arts Center for a

CENTRAL CITY OPERA

musical performance of *Shakespeare in Love*, an afternoon of Shakespearean drama and romance with special guest Central City Opera artist mezzo-soprano **Kira Dills-DeSurra** and pianist **Dr. Teresa Crane**.



[Reserve Tickets Here!](#)



Artists in Conversation: *The Flying Dutchman*

Thurs Feb 15, Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Join us in the Chambers Grant Salon at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House on Thursday, February 15 for Artists in Conversation, an engaging and insightful discussion featuring the cast and creative team of *The Flying Dutchman*, including baritone Olafur Sigurdarson, soprano Marcy Stonikas, Director Kathleen Smith Belcher, Set Designer Alan E. Muraoka, and Maestro Ari Pelto.

Enjoy light refreshments and beverages while listening to the lively conversation, moderated by the Ellie Caulkins General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter. **At this free event, hear our team's thoughts on Wagner's musical masterpiece and gain insights into the artistic process of bringing this brand-new production to life.** Enjoy an exclusive, behind-the-scenes peek into Opera Colorado's eagerly-awaited production.

[RSVP Here](#)

Glory Denied

Sun Apr 21, Arnold Hall (Air Force Academy), Colorado Springs

In Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied*, we delve into the powerful and true story of America's longest-held prisoner of war, Colonel Jim Thompson. Enduring a nine-year ordeal in the jungles of Southeast Asia



during the Vietnam War, Thompson finds the strength to survive within the cherished memories of his family. However, upon Jim's liberation, he returns to find his world completely changed.



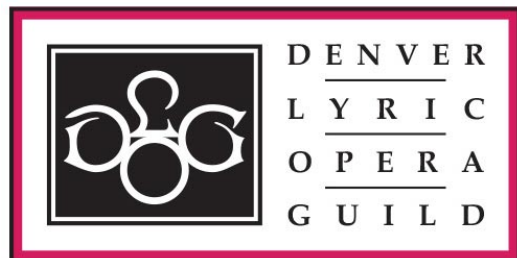
To get on base: A driver's license or Photo ID is required for those 18 or older to enter.

Please leave extra time to get through base security. A pre-program by the USAFA Cadet Chorale will begin at 2:30 p.m.

This production is co-produced by the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Art Song Colorado, and the Air Force Academy.

We look forward to your presence at this impactful event. Your attendance will add to the collective appreciation of the powerful and true prisoner of war story portrayed in *Glory Denied*. Thank you for joining us in recognizing the enduring spirit and resilience depicted in this remarkable production.

[Reserve Tickets Here](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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