



The Lyric Letter

Volume 24, Issue 2, February 2024

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



Measure for Measure

According to the Farmers' Almanac, if the month of March "Roars in like a lion, it will walk out like a lamb." Volatile weather in Colorado may generally follow that pattern, but not certainly! Weather surprises are often possible here. Human behavior may be the same: usually predictable, but occasionally surprising—at least among adults!

Most people are even-tempered, and predictably good at heart, say optimists. Circumstances can combine to make the most mellow and friendly personality fray at the edges and exhibit some internal (or external) roaring and volatility from time to time. What to do, besides count to ten and count your blessings? How about employing your old friend music?

The opening line of the play "The Mourning Bride" by William Cosgrove (circa 1697) states: "Musick hath charms to soothe the savage breast; to soften Rocks; to bend a knotted Oak." We have marveled at the power of music in the past. Soothing our very souls is something we all need now and again. Psychotherapists prescribe listening to music to soothe those in need. Psychology Today points out that blood flow rises when listening to classical music, indicating a relaxing effect. The sympathetic nervous system is suppressed while the

parasympathetic nervous system is heightened, indicating relaxation. Body surface temperature rises while listening to classical music, indicating relaxation. For accompaniment while working, research shows that the steady Baroque Allegro tempo promotes achievement by high schoolers while studying and increases productivity in adults. Olympians and athletic trainers create audio work out accompaniments in variety to manage the pace of their exercise. It's fun to experiment with discovering music to accompany your daily tasks and to engender a relaxing mood—try it!

How about some in-person soothing—even if you're not feelin' savage? The Denver Lyric Opera Guild has offerings for you! Please join us in observing our Competition for Colorado Singers on Saturday March 2 for the Preliminary round from 9-5 at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E Girard, Denver 80224 (Hampden at Monaco). The prelims are notable for a variety of singers with a variety of abilities, and a variety of arias to show us. It's fascinating! Our fabulous Competition Committee works all year to make this happen. And it's free and open to the public! Which arias and outfits should have been left at home?? Come see! Our finals are shorter and even more intense. See those on Saturday March 23 from 1-5. Mark on your program your scores for your favorites and see how your judgement fares compared to our judges! Consider meeting and chatting with those judges during the Judges' Dinner following the announcement of the Competition results March 23. [Sign up at our website](#). Our wonderful Competition Winners are rewarded with significant amounts of prize money, thanks to our generous donors! Our prize money equals any such competition in the nation! DLOG is not insignificant! Many Competition Winners have developed marvelous musical careers. Come watch young singers as they seek to progress into their developing musical lives.

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart."

-Pablo Casals

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.

February 17th, 2024 Louise C. Conter Master Class

The 2024 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition for Colorado Singers kicked off with its annual Louise C. Conter Master Class, a chance for singers to hone their craft with a master technician of vocal instruction. This year's instructor was tenor and Professor of Voice John C. Lindsey.

If you missed out on the live class, not to worry, the entire video is available for streaming any time on the DLOG YouTube channel. Click the link below:

[Click Here to Stream the 2024 Louise C. Conter Master Class](#)



CU Countertenor Elijah English works with Master Class instructor John Lindsey at the 2024 DLOG Louise C. Conter Master Class

Denver Lyric Opera Guild's

40th Annual

Competition for Colorado Singers!

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 almost \$1,000,000 to Competition winners. Hundreds of young singers have successfully launched their operatic and musical careers since winning the Competition.

Please join us on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 1:30 PM as our fifteen finalists vie for almost \$40,000 in total prize money. These are some of the very finest young opera singers in Colorado!

The Competition Final takes place at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver, Colorado starting at 1:30 PM and ending approximately 5:00 PM. The event is free and open to the public, so please bring friends and family to see these talented singers perform for our expert panel of judges!

Past winners include past, present, and up and coming stars of the opera world!



Cynthia Lawrence



Taylor Raven



Christian Mark Gibbs



Sarah Gartland



Wei Wu



Megan Marino



Mark Van Arsdale



Teresa Castillo



Vale Rideout



Jennifer DeDominici



Sarah Cambridge

Karen Bruggenthies

**2024 Competition for Colorado Singers
Preliminary Round is this Saturday March 2nd!**



2024 PRELIMINARY ROUND

Saturday, March 2, 2024

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Avenue, Denver, CO

Come see and support your favorite singers from CU, DU, CSU, UNC, Opera Colorado, and others compete for almost \$40,000 in prize money!



Allen Adair



Elizabeth Arons



Kerby Baier



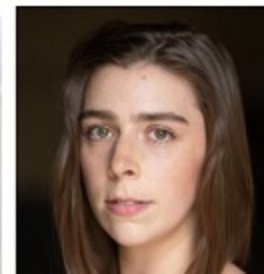
Sabina Balsamo

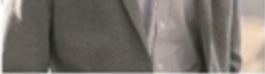


Miguel Angel Ortega Banales

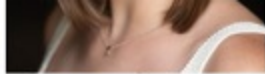


Frannie Barrows





Brian Boskoff



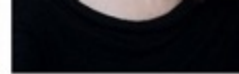
Kristina Butler



Sarah Cain



Shannon Christie



Jenna Clark



Kathryn Cymerman



Alice Del Simone



Claudia Diaz



Elijah English



Madison Falkenstine



Mykayla Fitzpatrick



Natacha Condor Guevara



Saane Halaholo



Randy Ho



Catherine Jaicks



Nathan Jensen



Kacie Kenton



Mackenzie Laun



Michael Leyte-Vidal



Rex Man (Pac Yue)



Eric McConnell



Tessa McQueen



Sibö Msibi



Elizabeth Mirandi



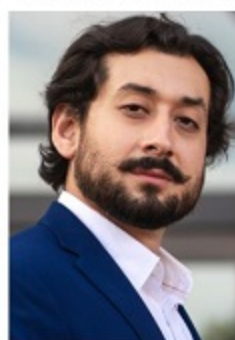
Gloria Palermo



Celia Pérez



Zane Pergram



Oliver Poveda

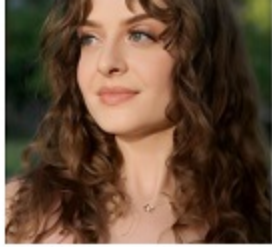


Megan Pryor



Camila Rabelo





Rebecca Seifert



Seth Tack



Jennifer Wagner



Simeon Wallace



Jane Wee



Adam Wells



Andrea Weidemann



Sam Wetzel

A Word About Louise C. Conter

In preparing press releases for the DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers, I became curious about Louise C. Conter and why her name features so prominently as in the title of the Competition Master Class. With a bit of research, I uncovered this article in the 2020 Competition Booklet. I have heard anecdotally how extraordinary was her bequest to DLOG. With more research, I hope to be able to add this to her inspirational story.

The Louise C. Conter Master Class

Louise Conter (1924-1998) had a lifelong love of opera and the desire to help aspiring young singers. Upon her death in 1998, the Denver Lyric Opera Guild became the recipient of an extraordinary bequest and her gift will ensure the support of young singers through the Guild's program for many years to come. DLOG is proud to

salute Louise Conter at the annual DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers by naming the Master Class in her honor.

Louise was the only child of William and Catherine Conter. Her early years were spent in Brighton, Colorado.

She graduated from Cathedral High School in Denver and later, embarked on a career in nursing. She trained and worked at Mercy Hospital in Denver before moving to the Colorado Springs Penrose Hospital. Louise returned to Denver in 1956 and worked as a surgical nurse at St. Anthony's Hospital for the next 25 years. She was a founding member of the Denver Association of Operating Nurses. She was a strong supporter of local musical organizations and a participating member of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild for many years. Upon retirement, Louise moved to the dairy farm in Commerce City owned by her grandparents where she lived until her death. The Denver Lyric Opera Guild is a beneficiary of Louise Conter's kindness and generosity and we are forever grateful for her living gift!

B.J. Ellison
Public Relations Vice President

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.

Teresa Castillo at Lyric Opera of Chicago



Teresa Castillo

February 10 at 3:32 PM · 🌐



2014 2nd place DLOG Competition finalist, Teresa Castillo debuted as Clorinda in Lyric Opera of Chicago 2024 production of Rossini's *Cinderella*.

Make sure to check out the performance video she recently shared with us.

[Click to See Teresa Castillo at Lyric](#)

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

Opera on Tap at Brewability - Colorful Colorado

Sat March 2, Brewability, Englewood

Come sample some tasty beer and hear some good opera! We can't wait to see you again!



[Tickets Here](#)



BOULDER OPERA

Dinner Opera: *Suor Angelica*

Mar 2, 3, Dickens Opera House, Longmont

After seven years of loneliness and shame in an Italian convent, a young nun receives heartbreaking news from her callous aunt. What follows is the tragedy of *Suor Angelica*, Giacomo Puccini's one-act opera that will be performed at the Longmont Dickens Opera House.

Boulder Opera will present a staged production featuring Savannah Scott as Suor Angelica with music direction by Mario Barbosa and staging by mezzo-soprano extraordinaire Helen Van Tine-Golden. Immerse yourself in an evening of exquisite music and culinary delight with our Dinner Opera event.

[RSVP Here](#)



Opera Teasers

Thur, Mar 14, Wellshire Event Center, Denver

Join the Central City Opera Guild for the annual Opera Teaser! This special evening features cocktails, dinner and a preview of the 2024 Festival Season, featuring selections from *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Girl of the Golden West* and *Street Scene*, performed by CCO Touring Artists.

[Reserve Tickets 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.

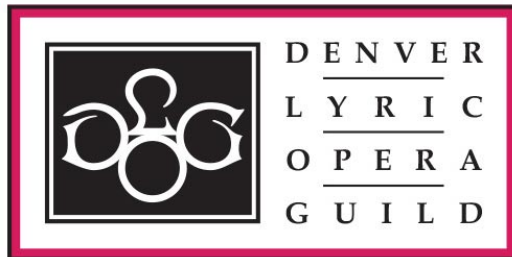


To get on base: A driver's license or Photo ID is required for those 18 or older to enter. Please leave extra time to get through base security. A pre-program by the USAFA Cadet Chorale will begin at 2:30 p.m.

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
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