



# *The Lyric Letter*

**Volume 24, Issue 5, June 2024**

**PO Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151  
[www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org](http://www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org)**



First and foremost, I would like to thank the members of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild for trusting me with the stewardship of the Guild for the coming year. I am honored to serve as Guild president and will do my best to ensure that we continue to build on our mission to support young Colorado singers in their pursuit of a career in opera.

As part of my responsibilities as president, I am asked to write a piece for each of our newsletters. Unfortunately, I am not nearly as eloquent as our outgoing president, Kathy VanArsdale, who's pieces each month were so inspirational and so beautifully written. Instead of trying to duplicate Kathy's wonderful articles, today I will speak about my own DLOG journey.

I was first introduced to the Denver Lyric Opera Guild over 15 years ago. My mother had recently moved to Denver from Tennessee.

One of her new neighbors, Mary Bahde, asked my mother to accompany her to a DLOG Opera on Tuesday. Like many of our members, this was her entry into the Guild. After attending one of the Competitions, my mother asked me to join her at the Competition the following year as she knew of my love for music. I went and was

astonished by the depth of talent. I became a member soon after. The next year my mother was asked to serve

as Candidate Check-In Chair for the Competition, and she enlisted my help in the green room. As I was still working full time the Competition, which fell on a weekend, was one of the few opportunities I had to experience what DLOG had to offer.

Working backstage with the singers, getting to know them, and hearing about the many challenges faced by up and coming opera singers was a real revelation for me. So many things that now seem obvious were things I had never before considered. How do these singers learn and continue their growth in the craft? How do they learn the needed languages? How do they perfect their acting skills? How do they navigate the audition process? How do they afford the needed gowns, tuxes, suits, photos, etc.? I had never before given much thought to these things, but in talking to the singers I came to appreciate the mission of the Guild in a way that I never had in the past. Looking back at my own College days and the years immediately following, I could not imagine having to layer all of these additional expenses on top of just the cost of living. My appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice required of these singers has only grown over the years. The fact that DLOG has been instrumental in helping so many young singers overcome these hurdles and advance in their careers is a source of great pride to me and should be to you as well.

As a bonus, my work on the Denver Lyric Opera Board, Opera on Tuesdays and, more recently, the Liverpool card group, has gifted me with a wonderful group of friends.

What more could you possibly ask of an organization than the opportunity to help literally hundreds of young Colorado singers, expand your network of friends, and the chance to listen to such glorious music all at the same time? I am truly honored to be a part of such a remarkable organization.

**Karen Bruggenthies**  
**President DLOG 2024-25**

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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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## May 14th, 2024 Opera on Tuesday and Annual Meeting with Opera Theatre of the Rockies

The the last Opera on Tuesday of the 2023-2024 season took place May 14th, 2024 at Columbine Country Club. In addition to stunning performances by sopranos Amy Maples and Kacie Kenton from Opera Theatre of the Rockies, the DLOG annual meeting took place to usher in the proverbial changing of the guard. As we thank the previous board, we welcome new president Karen Bruggenthies to helm the DLOG for the next season!

All photos are courtesy of **Linda Young** and **Lynn Harrington**. To see more photos from this event, make sure to check out the [DLOG Gallery](#).



Thank you 2023-24 Board Members!!

Row one Linda Young, Marleen Diamond, Gayle Landis, Phyllis Wicklund, Helen Santilli Row two Tom Conroy, Dennis Jackson, Ian Ciazzi, Karen Bruggenthies, Deb Roth, BJ Ellison, Kathy Hammer, Kathy VanArsdale, Peter VanArsdale



The Highs Have It!! Opera Theatre of the Rockies.  
Kacie Kenton soprano, Mallory Bernstein accompanist,  
Martile Rowland OTR Director, Amy Maples soprano





Marcia Hoehler, Dee Raisl, Phyllis Wicklund, Valerie Wassill. Ian Hoyman, Karyn Thompson Panos



Jay Breen, Deb Roth, Dennis Jackson, Ian Caiozzi, Karen Bruggentheis, Carolyn Wold

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**Save the Date!**  
**DLOG Summer Party is July, 27, 2024!**

# *VIVE la FRANCE!*



## PART II

DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

### SUMMER PARTY

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

11:00 AM

COLUMBINE COUNTRY CLUB

Save the Date - Watch for more details!

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## Opera on Tuesday Notes



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### *OPERA ON TUESDAY NOTES....*

On behalf of all of us who had the privilege of hearing an array of amazing talent this year, I want to thank the **Directors from the University of Northern Colorado, Central City Opera, Denver University Lamont School of Music Opera Theater, University of Colorado Eklund Opera Theater, Opera Colorado Artists in Residence, and Opera Theater of the Rockies** for presenting wonderfully thoughtful programs throughout the year.

Looking ahead to next year, please mark your calendar with the

**2024-2025 Opera on Tuesday dates:**

**September 10, 2024**

**October 1, 2024**

**November 5, 2024**

**December 10, 2024**

**January 21, 2025**

**April 1, 2025**

**May 13, 2025**

All luncheons will be held at Columbine Country Club who continues to be a welcoming venue with staff who graciously works within our budget, reserves our advance dates and cheerfully responds to special requests. Staff also enjoys the music!

I personally want to thank all of you, our members, for your enthusiastic support of Opera on Tuesday as we've been able to resume full programming, and I also want to thank Becky Gantner, Jackie Writz, Trish Pansze and other willing volunteers for handling registration, and each are world class greeters. I've thoroughly enjoyed serving as VP of Education.

Rebecca McAlister is the new VP of Education and I, along with all of us who value Opera on Tuesday look forward to working with Rebecca and to the upcoming season.

**Gayle Landis**





## **Bouquet for Becky, with our thanks**

Becky Gantner has personally designed, purchased and arranged the table décor for Opera on Tuesday the entire year (and before and beyond). We do not have a budget for décor so her commitment to enhance our Opera on Tuesdays is enjoyed and appreciated by all.

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**Cynthia Lawrence to the Colorado Music Hall of Fame**



We are very excited to share with our members that along with Central City Opera, Keith Miller and John Moriarty, Denver Lyric Opera Guild's own Cynthia Lawrence will be inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame this June. Cynthia was the winner of our 1989 Competition for Colorado Singers and has been a proud supporter of the Guild and its work ever since. In fact, she recently enrolled as a DLOG member!

A principal artist at The Metropolitan Opera; Washington National Opera; Guangzhou Opera House; Royal Albert Hall, London; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Vancouver Opera; Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin; New Israeli Opera; Opera Pacific; Atlanta Opera; Portland Opera; Opera Colorado; Lithuanian National Opera; Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Paris Opera, Prague's National Theater; Palacio Das Artes, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Grand Theatre de Geneva; Vlaamse Opera, Belgium; Castleward Opera, Belfast, Ireland; Opera Columbus; Connecticut Opera; Dayton Opera; Opera Theatre St. Louis, Minnesota Opera; Opera Ontario; Athens Festival, Theater Megaron; New York City Opera; Lake George Opera Festival; Opera North Carolina; Florentine Opera; Opera Omaha; Central City Opera; Colorado Opera Festival; and Opera Memphis and Fort Collins Opera.

Roles include **Tosca**; **Madama Butterfly**; **Amelia** in *Un ballo in maschera*; **Roxanne** in *Cyrano de Bergerac*; **Dolly** in *Sly*; **Rosalinda** in *Die Fledermaus*; **Maddelene** in *Andrea Chenier*; **Lavina** in *Morning Becomes Electra*;



**Electra** in *Idomeneo*; **Vitellia** in *La clemenza di Tito*; **Mimi** and **Musetta** in *La bohème*; **Micaela** and **Carmen** in *Carmen*; **The First Lady** and **Pamina** in *Die Zauberflöte*; **Fiordiligi** in *Così fan tutte*; **Lady Macbeth** in Verdi's *Macbeth*; **Die Frau** in Schoenberg's *Von heute auf morgen*; **Countess** in *Le nozze di Figaro*; **Liù** in *Turandot*; **Marguerite** in *Faust*; **Countess Olga** in *Fedora*; **The Italian Singer** in Strauss's *Capriccio*; **Candace** in *A Wedding*; and **Santuzza** in *Cavalleria rusticana*.

Her students win competitions and sing at the Metropolitan Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Munich Staatsoper, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Vienna Staatsoper, Netherlands Opera and Opera Norway as well as companies throughout the U.S.

She performed over 70 times with Luciano Pavarotti. A DVD “**A Tribute to Pavarotti: One Amazing Weekend in Petra**” features her performances and tribute to Pavarotti. She appeared in concert in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Lima, Peru, and Martigny, Switzerland.

Cynthia has directed “*Il barbiere di Siviglia*” at UK; *Suor Angelica* for Opera Lucca, Italy, and UK as well as scenes and arias for Opera

Studio do Recife, Brazil; Chongqing Normal University, China and The American Opera Institute.

Cynthia has received teaching awards: “Kentucky Teachers who Make a Difference” and the National Society of Arts and Letters “Arts Teacher of the Year”. She maintains a private studio. is a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and conducts Master Classes for singers, performers, and colleges.

To hear Cynthia talk about the importance of DLOG to her and the impact the organization had on her career, [check out her video on our YouTube site](#) or watch it during the intermissions of our Competition events.

**CONGRATULATIONS CYNTHIA ON THIS WONDERFUL AND MUCH DESERVED AWARD!!!**





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**DLOG Summer Pary July, 27, 2024!**  
**Volunteers Needed for Vive la France Part II**





PLEASE JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER  
FOR

**VIVE la FRANCE**  
**PART II**

JULY 27, 2024  
Call or text Gayle Landis at 303-810-8712  
Merci beaucoup!

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**Membership Renewal**



**THIS IS A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR DLOG  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL,**

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP FORM TODAY OR**

**RENEW ONLINE AT**

**[denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://denverlyricoperaguild.org)**

**WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!**

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR  
HAVE LOST YOUR RENEWAL FORM,**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Debbie Roth**

**303-921-7424**

**[debr54@comcast.net](mailto:debr54@comcast.net)**

THANK YOU



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## DLOG Directory

To access Denver Lyric Opera Guild's current online directory, simply go the DLOG website at:  
[denverlyricoperaguild.org/directory](https://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](mailto:admin@denverlyricoperaguild.org) .

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## Opera Around Colorado

### **Announcing the 2024 Season!**

Summer 2024, Creede, CO

DLOG multiyear finalist Megan Marino and her Baritone partner Michael Mayes keep the Creede Musical Arts Collective rolling for a third straight year in Creede, Colorado.

They've just announced their summer lineup and it just keeps getting bigger and better.

[Get all the Details Here!](#)



### **Opera on Tap at Brewability - Opera on YAAAAS!**

Sat Jun 8, Brewability, Englewood

June is Pride Month and we are doing Opera in Drag!

What does this mean? Well, it means our singers—gay, straight, male- or female-identifying, and everyone in between—will dress as and interpret their repertoire through the eyes and voices of a gender identity apart from their own.

How would “Glitter and be Gay” from *Candide* be interpreted differently if sung by a straight man? Would a lesbian sing “La donna è Mobile” from *L’elisir d’amore* differently? Imagine the possibilities for a gender non binary individual singing “Madamina” from *Don Giovanni*!

Come experiment and learn with us as we examine gender roles through opera and have A LOT OF FUN.

[Click for More Info](#)

### ***La Vida Breve* and Other Spanish Gems**

June 14, 16, CSU Griffin Hall, Fort Collins

Opera Fort Collins proudly presents a groundbreaking performance: "La Vida Breve and Other Spanish Gems." For the first time in our 44-year history, we are thrilled to showcase an all-Spanish program.





The evening will be a vibrant exploration of Latin American music, starting with a diverse collection of Spanish songs. This immersive experience will be presented through a unique English-Spanish bilingual narrative.

The highlight of the evening will be the performance of Manuel de Falla's intense, tragic opera, "La Vida Breve" (The Brief Life). This opera encapsulates the essence of a telenovela, with its intricate web of passion, desire, betrayal, and tragedy, all infused with an unmistakable Spanish flair.

[More Details Here](#)



### **Levitt Pavilion Summer Concert Series**

June 16, Levitt Pavilion, Denver

Embark on a journey through the captivating realms of love, drama, and community with the world-renowned Central City Opera at the Levitt Pavilion's exhilarating free concert summer series! Immerse yourself in the timeless hilarity of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance," savor the grandeur of Puccini's beloved "The Girl of the Golden West" (La fanciulla del West), and embrace the heart and soul of Kurt Weill's iconic American opera, "Street Scene."

### **Drag Me To The Opera**

Jul 27, Little Kingdom Room at the Teller House

Join us immediately after the show for Drag Me To The Opera - A New Event for 2024! Fellas fetch your heels, and Gals grab those bowties (or just dress like a pirate) as we celebrate in style at our late bar and live Piano Karaoke Cabaret in Rouge at the Teller House, hosted by CCO's very special guest, The Queen of Camp and Gender Illusionist Extraordinaire, Mrs. Eda Bagel! This event is FREE with the purchase of a ticket to the 7:00 performance of The Pirates of Penzance. 200 person capacity.

[RSVP Here](#)



### Vocal Arts Festival Performances

Jun 30, Jul 6, Packard Hall Colorado College, Colorado Springs

Don't miss this year's Vocal Arts Festival participants in two riveting shows.

June 30 - Let's Make a Scene

Featuring scenes from *Norma*, *Don Giovanni*, *Don Pasquale*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Carousel*

July 6 - Scene Stealers

Featuring scenes from *Maria Stuarda*, *L'amico Fritz*, *Manon*, *The Fantastiks*, *Beatrice and Benedick*, *The Magic Flute*, and *La rondine*.

### Maire Therese Carmack, Special VAF Performance

Jul 2, Packard Hall Colorado College, Colorado Springs

Returning from the MET for a special one night only performance, Maire Therese Carmack presents Mid-Summer Love Songs!

Ticketed meet n' greet reception to follow at the home of Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer.

[Click for Tickets](#)



### Opera in the Park 2024

Dress Rehearsal Jul 31, Show Aug 3, Boulder Bandshell

Join us for an enchanting evening under the stars with Boulder Opera's annual "Opera in the Park" concert. This year, we invite you to delve into the opulent world of royalty through the captivating arias, scenes and choruses from some of the most famous operas. The concert will feature selections from Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, Verdi's *Nabucco* and *Macbeth*, and Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Prepare to be swept away by the powerful voices of our talented performers and the evocative themes of power,

intrigue, and romance that have captivated audiences for centuries. There will be a fenced beer garden and food trucks..

[Click for Details](#)

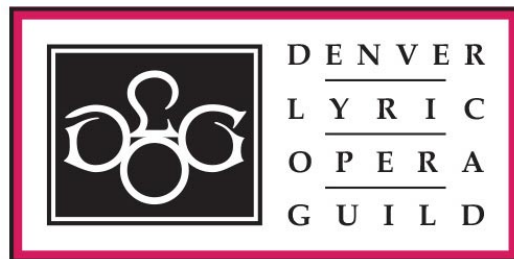


## Welcome to the Madness

Aug 22,23,24,25, Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp, Steamboat

*Welcome to the Madness* is a roaming vocal theater adventure about Charlotte Perry, Portia Mansfield, and the founding of the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp in Steamboat. This immersive production was commissioned by Opera Steamboat.

[Click for More Info](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA  
GUILD

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