



President's Note - WELCOME 2026!!

New Year's Clockwork

The clock strikes twelve, the ball descends,
Another year begins, my friends!
But wasn't it just yesterday
We cheered in last year's grand display?
Time's a trickster, quick and sly,
A calendar thief who zooms right by,
One moment here, the next is gone,
Where did the months move on?
Yet let's not mourn the time we lose,
Instead we'll laugh and share our news.
For while the years may sprint and dart
Humor keeps the young in heart.

(Catherine Pulsifer)

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year, one filled with friends, family and plenty of wonderful music performed by the talent we have the privilege to hear at our luncheons and before long at our annual **Competition for Colorado Singers**.

We will welcome the **Artists in Residence at our first Opera on Tuesday of 2026 on January 20th** under the direction of the new Director of Programs and Community Engagement, **Dennis Robinson**.

Our annual **Louise Conter Master Class** will be held on **February 28, 2026**, at Wellshire Presbyterian Church from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The class will be facilitated by **Vera Calabria**, a noted stage director and coach who

has extensive national experience and will bring her noted expertise for the benefit of our participating singers. The Master Class is free to participating singers and members are invited to attend. This unique offering has been organized by **Karen Bruggenthies** and many thanks to her for arranging this wonderful opportunity for the benefit of our competing singers.

The **Competition for Colorado Singers will be held in March**, you will be seeing more about this important event very soon, but I am very pleased to report that all individual awards to the top competitors have been generously funded by DLOG members. Many thanks to **Lisa Curtis, Peter and Kathy Arsdale** for securing all member awards as well as the Galen and Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award.

Jackie Writz deserves a thousand thanks for managing the DLOG academic Grant Applications and annual Grant Awards. This is a complex task; she receives many deserving applications and presents each to the Finance Committee for consideration. Each year our academic grants are funded by our investment returns and are very carefully reviewed to be as impactful as possible. The list of Grant Awards will be included in an upcoming Newsletter.

The **Website!** After much editing and deliberation, you will soon see a refreshed and updated DLOG website. It has been a lengthy task with many collaborators, but we are getting close and we are excited to launch, hopefully before the end of January. We have put a toe in the water of social media and to date we have 100 followers! Not as many as Taylor Swift but it is a start to broaden community awareness of what DLOG is all about and its value to Colorado singers and music programs.

With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026. - Gayle

Gayle Landis

DLOG President 2025-2026

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.

**Registration is Now Open for the
First Opera on Tuesday of 2026!**



Featuring the Opera Colorado Artists in Residence!

Tuesday January 20th, 2026

10:30 Social

11:00 Program

12:00 Luncheon

Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Littleton 80123
\$55.00 per person

Reservations must be received by January 15th

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

OR By Mail:

Checks payable to DLOG can be mailed to:

Linda Rosales

PO Box 36152

Denver CO 80236

Questions? Call Rebecca 303-489-5774 or Linda 720-454-2075

**Opera on Tuesdays Revisted - a Twofer
November 4th with CU Boulder Eklund Opera
AND
December 2nd Featuring CSU Ralph Opera**

The final two **Opera on Tuesdays** for 2025 featured the opera programs from two of Colorado's major universities. On November 4th DLOG hosted the CU Boulder Eklund Opera singers along with longtime DLOG collaborative pianist Jeromy Reger. December 2nd saw DLOG capping off the year with great performances from the CSU Ralph Opera Program. See photos below for luncheon highlights!

All photos courtesy of our esteemed DLOG Photographer Linda Young. Thank you, Linda!! To see even more photos from these two events make certain to check out the [Gallery section of the DLOG Website](#).



November 4th: CU Performers Reagan Hinze, Alice Del Simone, Hannah Benson, Davian Raggio, Tyler Middleton, and DLOG regular Jeremy Reger (pianist)



November 4th: Marcia Ragonetti with Jeremy Reger



November 4th: Lynn Harrington, Deb Roth, Lisa Curtis, Reagan Hinze, Norelee Bush, Becky Gantner



December 2nd: CSU Performers Tiffany Blake, Caleb Green, Tim Burns, Abbi Brundreff, Sophia Welker



December 2nd: Row 1 - Sandra Colavita, Marilyn Ogden, Miranda Nelson, Jeanie Davis Row 2 - Jeannette Newville, Gerry Sheldon, Diane Graham

Reminder! This Year's Louise C. Conter Master Class is February 28th



LOUISE C. CONTER MASTER CLASS

Ever wonder how an aria goes from 'great' to 'goosebumps'? Come see the magic happen at the Louise C. Conter Master Class – free, fabulous, and full of high notes! Join us on Saturday, February 28, 2026 for this entertaining and informative event!

To help us make this event extra special for our singers and audience alike, Denver Lyric Opera Guild is thrilled to announce that the 2026 Louise C. Conter Master Class will be taught by world-renowned stage director, dramatic coach, and arts administrator Vera Calabria.

VERA LÚCIA CALÁBRIA has over 40 years of experience in opera and classical music. Born in Brazil, she began at the Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, followed by San Francisco Opera as assistant to Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. Productions directed for San Francisco Opera include *Carmen*, *Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci*, *La forza del destino*, *Der fliegende Holländer*, and *Falstaff*. Other credits include *Madama Butterfly* in Strasbourg and Cologne; *Manon* in Vienna, Munich, and at the Metropolitan Opera; *Parsifal* in Barcelona; *Falstaff* in Chicago; *Tosca* in Montpellier; *Tannhäuser* in Honolulu; *Carmen* in Zurich, Cologne, Chicago, and Tel Aviv; *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Idomeneo*, and *Aida* at Los Angeles Opera; *The Queen of Spades* at the Teatro Real, Madrid; *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera Indianapolis; *Der Rosenkavalier* at Israeli Opera; and *Roméo et Juliette* at Utah Opera.

She now divides her time between stage productions and work with young singers as director and dramatic coach. Productions include *La Finta Giardinera* and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges/L'Heure Espagnole* at UCLA; *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at San Francisco Opera Center; *La Canterina*, *Gigantes y Cabezudos*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Magic Flute*, and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* at CSULA; *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni* at CSUF; *Bluebeard's Castle / L'Heure Espagnole*, *The Bear / La Navarraise*, and *The Rape of Lucretia* at Yale University; *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, and all three of Mozart's da Ponte Operas at Rice University.

In addition to her work as stage director, she has conducted master classes and workshops on Commedia dell'Arte in opera at CSULA, UC Santa Barbara, and UCLA among others. She was also a member of the CSU Fullerton faculty for 5 years, teaching Performance Technique and directing. Her work as dramatic coach on role interpretation took her to Israeli Opera and the Staatsoper Berlin's Young Artist Program, to Pepperdine University's Songfest, the Wagner Theatre Program in New York, to LA Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, and the Metropolitan Opera's Lindeman Young Artist Development Program. In 2014 she started working with a private studio focused on High School age singers, and these students have begun to excel in competitions.

Vera Lúcia Calábria has collaborated on several video productions with Brian Large (*Il Trittico*, *Andrea Chenier* and *Nabucco* from Milan's La Scala; *Der fliegende Holländer* from Bayreuth, *Lear* from Munich), and Derek Bailey (*Aida* and *Madama Butterfly* from La Scala).

Opera Colorado's 2026 Grand Gala 20 Years of the Ellie Featuring GRAMMY Award-winning baritone Will Liverman



2026 Marks a very special milestone for opera in Denver and Opera Colorado. [Don't forget to register for an unforgettable evening of glamour, music, and celebration at Opera Colorado's Grand Gala](#), honoring **two decades** of the iconic Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

The festivities begin in the elegant Seawell Ballroom, where sparkling cocktails and lively conversation set the tone for a night to remember. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, serenaded by breathtaking arias performed by our 2025-26 Artists in Residence. A

moving video tribute will honor "The Ellie's" legacy, followed by an exhilarating live auction featuring one-of-a-kind experiences available only at the gala.



Then, the celebration continues as we make our way to the Ellie Caulkins Opera House for a dazzling concert by GRAMMY Award-winning baritone Will Liverman, whose artistry promises to bring the house down. Concert-only tickets and concert + gala after-party tickets are also available to purchase.

As we toast the past 20 years of our beloved home, your participation helps ensure the next 20. The Grand Gala raises vital funds that sustain Opera Colorado's productions, education programs, and commitment to making opera accessible to all. Together, we'll celebrate not just where we've been, but the vibrant future we're creating for opera in Colorado.

DLOG is on Instagram! Be Sure to Follow Us... Update on Randy Ho

Thanks to one of DLOG's favorite tenors, **Randy Ho**, we are up and running on Instagram. If you are an Instagram user, make sure to look up and follow [**@denverlyricoperaguild**](#). Here you will be able to catch



Competition announcements as well the goings on from many of our past competitors as almost everyone who is in opera is on Instagram. We already have 114 followers and growing rapidly. Download the app on your phone and see what all the fuss is about!.

In other news, huge congratulations to Randy for winning, yes, winning, the Florida District of the The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. He'll go on to compete in the Southeast Regional finals on Sunday, February 8, 2026 in Atlanta, GA. **Toi toi toi, Randy!!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Denver Lyric Opera Guild relies on volunteers to run the organization. A Nominating Committee is formed in the Fall to identify candidates for Board and Committee positions for the following year. Volunteers are needed to fill Board positions, to assist with the Competition for Colorado Singers, the Summer Party and Special Events such as Head Shot Day and the recent Cynthia Lawrence Concert. Volunteering provides the opportunity to forge new friendships, become familiar with the governance of the organization and most importantly to learn and appreciate the value of our mission to support aspiring professional singers through our collegiate grants, the annual Louise Conter Masterclass, and the Competition for Colorado Singers.

If you have a particular area of interest, please email Gayle Landis, giple@comcast.net
The Nominating Committee members will soon begin making calls, please consider volunteering!

Gayle Landis

Opera Around Colorado



Songs for Lulu - Rufus Wainwright

Jan 4, Colorado Springs Conservatory, Colorado Springs

When a rock musician goes classical. Known for his soulful voice and genre-bending artistry, American-Canadian singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright brings his unique musical voice to the classical world in Songs for Lulu. Written during a time of both heartbreak and renewal, this hauntingly beautiful song cycle blends pop sensibility with the drama of opera and art song. Drawing on Shakespearean and contemporary texts, Wainwright creates a moving, deeply human work that bridges classical and popular

music with emotional power and flair.

Conceived and performed by Nicole Asel, mezzo and Timothy Burns, pianist.

The latest production from Opera 2030 – a three-company partnership between the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**, **Opera Theatre of the Rockies**, and **Art Song Colorado**.

[Click for Tickets and Info](#)

Faculty Recital Series: Heidi Melton, soprano & Sahar Nouri, piano

Feb 13, Newman Center, Hamilton Hall



On the eve of Valentine's Day, join soprano Heidi Melton and pianist Sahar Nouri for "Love Stories," a recital of passion, longing, and devotion. The program features Wagner's radiant *Wesendonck Lieder* alongside other works that explore the many shades of love. An unforgettable evening of music, this concert is the perfect way to celebrate the season of romance.

[Info and Tickets](#)

COLORADO *Bach* ENSEMBLE

St. John Passion, BWV 245

Feb 27, 28, March 1, St. Timothy's, Various Venues

Composed in 1724, the *St. John Passion* is a grand and turbulent work produced at the height of Bach's creative and expressive powers. The foreboding restlessness and tension in the opening chorus propel us into the inner world of John the Evangelist and his dramatic witness of betrayal, torment, and transfiguration in the gospel narrative.

Unlike the *St. Matthew Passion*'s broad themes, *St. John* explores our personal experience of suffering, anguish, fear, loss, and the enduring sustenance of hope. Amid it all, Bach's glorious orchestration, counterpoint, and harmonic language sharpen each exquisite moment, from the severe to the sublime. .

[Info and Tickets](#)



2026 Theatre of Dreams Gala

April 10, Denver Art Museum

Join Central City Opera for an unforgettable evening honoring the pioneering spirit that built Colorado. Set against the Denver Art Museum's architectural splendor, we'll gather to enjoy cocktails, dinner, and live performances while raising essential support for Central

City Opera's mission.

[Click for Tickets](#)



BOULDER OPERA

Der Rosenkavalier by Strauss

April 16, 18, 19, Dairy Arts Center

Love, laughter, and a little bit of chaos... Viennese style.

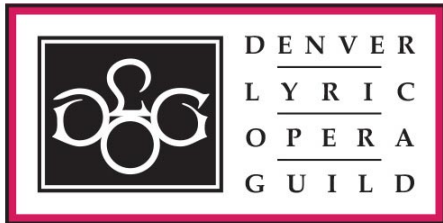
Join Boulder Opera for a fresh, intimate take on *Der Rosenkavalier*, a romantic comedy by Richard Strauss that blends heart, humor, and stunning music.

Set in the glittering world of 18th-century Vienna, the story follows a complicated love triangle: a noblewoman, her younger lover, and a sweet young bride-to-be. There's a cheeky disguise, a silver rose, and plenty of laughs along the way all with gorgeous melodies and rich emotions.

The opera is sung in German with piano accompaniment, and we'll guide you through the story with English narration, so you'll never miss a beat. Music Director Brandon Matthews leads an incredible cast in this elegant

yet accessible production.

[Click for Tickets](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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