

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's been a busy and productive year!

Our membership participation has been wonderful; the friendships and collaborations are what makes our organization unique!

Attendance at *Opera on Tuesday* has been very strong and we've seen so much talent brought to our stage and into our hearts.

This year has seen us undertake a bit of 'remodeling'. Our website has a new look, and the contents have been edited to minimize outdated information. Our

Home Page (the face of the organization) now has color and motion and a descriptive tag line *Because every great Aria begins with a first note.* Our print advertisement features Hallie Schmidt one of our Competition competitors, now well on her way professionally and one of those pesky QR codes but for anyone who uses it, they will be linked to the DLOG website to learn more about us. It will appear in both the Opera Colorado and Central City programs.

We have a new Logo, chosen by a committee of members and you'll see the happy notes on all sorts of things (more about that very soon).

Our marquis events, the *Louise Conter Master Class* and *Competition for Colorado Singers* were very well done, big thanks to the many volunteers who made it all happen and, as always, our very best wishes to all the participants and congratulations to our winners!

Going forward...

Membership – Renewal notices will be sent, please renew your membership promptly and keep in mind you can renew at several levels. Patron and Encore Memberships are always available. Nearly all new members joined DLOG after attending one of our events. **Do bring guests!** It's far and away the best way to add new members and active participants.

Volunteers – Don't be shy! We encourage all members to actively volunteer in various ways. With apologies to Uncle Sam – **DLOG WANTS YOU!!!** Call or message any of the Board members with your area of interest and we'll welcome your help.

New Initiative – Two years ago we offered "Head Shot Day" to young singers for a very minimal cost. Head Shots are expensive and a tool of their trade. The offering was very well received but another important tool is a professional video. Many young singers make their own websites to apply for opportunities, which can be expensive. Under the direction of Karen Bruggenthies, DLOG will pilot this offering in the coming months to 12 selected participants. You will learn more over the next few Lyric Letters.

Summer Party – Word is out! July 19th be ready to celebrate **AMERICANA**, a varied and exciting program sure to enliven a Summer Sunday afternoon!

Finally – As my term as President ends, I thank all Board members for their talent and dedication. Our committee members' dedication ensures our success. To our loyal and supportive members, my heartfelt thanks.

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.

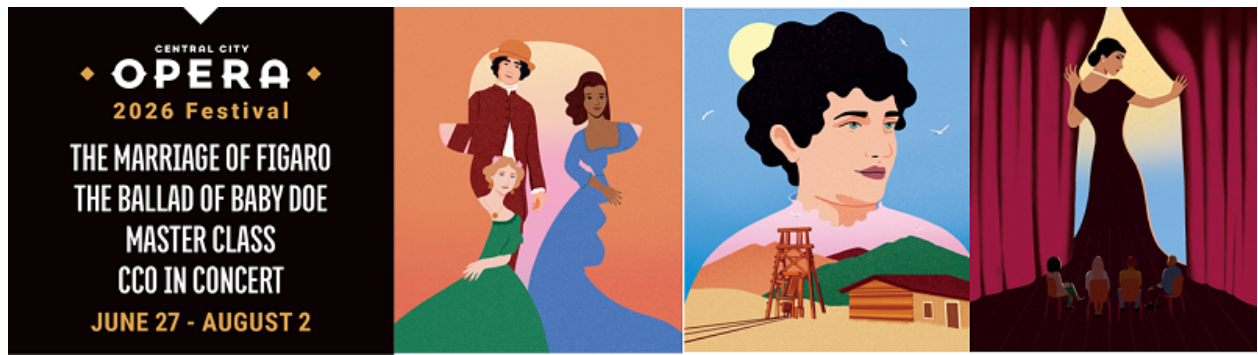
Last Change to Register for this Season's Last Opera on Tuesday with Central City Opera

It's time for the DLOG ANNUAL MEETING and Final Opera on Tuesday for the 2025-2026 Season.

[Register for the upcoming Opera on Tuesday Event](#)

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

This Opera on Tuesday features the Central City Opera Touring Artists.



Reservations are due by April 30, 2026.

Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Columbine Valley, CO 80123

10:00 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING
11 a.m. Program
Noon Lunch

All luncheons are \$55 per person.

April 7, 2026, Opera on Tuesday with the Competition for Colorado Singers Finalists!

The Photos...

The April 7 Opera on Tuesday was held at Columbine Country Club with our outstanding cast of Competition finalists! Below find the finalists receiving their prizes with the respective donor who funded the prize. Note, not pictured is 6th place finalist Hallie Schmidt who was rehearsing for an opera.

All photos courtesy of Rebecca Gantner and Linda Young.



1st place winner- Jordan McCready with incoming DLOG president Noralee Bush



2nd place winner- Nisha Caiozzi with donors Kathy Van Arsdale and Lisa Curtis



Diane Graham, Ian Hoyman Gayle Landis, Dee Raisl, Norelee Bush



3rd place winner- Sidney Grimm with donor Geri Sheldon



3 time DLOG Competition Winner and international opera star Wei Wu, Karen Bruggenthies - Competition Chair and V.P., Erika Chui - Bassoonist, Business Development-Univ. of Colorado, married to Wei



4th place winner- Natacha Condor with donor Gayle Landis



Winner of the Marcia Ragonetti Exceptional Mezzo Award - Natacha Condor



5th place winner- Daniel Miller with donors Mary and Tom Conroy



7th place winner- Regan Lewis with donor Marcia Ragonetti



The 2026 Finalists at Opera on Tuesday



back- Lorraine Sides, Erika Chiu, Becky Gantner, Wei Wu, Jackie Writz, Coke Governski front- Jutta Golas, Lisa Curtis, Tim Cox



Certificate of Merit- Bella Mallow with donor Julie Johnston



Certificate of Merit- Katiann Nelson with donor Jackie Writz



Certificate of Merit- Kevin Spooner with Wendy Wenkstern for donor Karen Ritz



Certificate of Merit- Samantha Leeper with donor Linda Young



Competition winner - Kevin Spooner, Becky Gantner, Wei Wu, Barb Sileo



Jackie Writz and Wei Wu



Natasha Condor, Nancy Guevara, Laurie Barnes, Roger Celius, Sue Brown



Rob Naelson, Betty Natelson, Kathy Van Arsdale, Peter Van Arsdale, Jenene Stookesberry, Jim Stookesberry

Save the Date...
AMERICANA SUMMER PARTY!

Sunday July 19, 2026

Presented by

DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

AMERICANA
MUSIC

SAVE THE DATE!

★ **COLUMBINE COUNTRY CLUB** ★

JULY 19, 2026

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon! Join us for “Americana”—the Denver Lyric Opera Guild’s lively Summer Party, celebrating the special anniversaries of both our State and our Nation. Enjoy a laid-back, festive atmosphere with performances by three of our most popular singers—Michael Hoffman, Christie Conover, and Kira Dills-DeSurra—accompanied by the talented Jeremy Reger. Mark your calendar—this is one summer celebration you won’t want to miss!

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



Golden Girls of Opera Theatre

May, 1, Broadmoor Community Church, Colorado Springs

"Lordy, Lordy... look who's 40 and still fabulous!" Six powerhouse opera divas return to the stage for one unforgettable night celebrating experience, artistry, and the joy of performing after forty..

[Details Here](#)



Madama Butterfly

May, 2,5,7,8,10, Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Madama Butterfly makes its highly anticipated return to Opera Colorado, bringing Puccini's emotionally charged masterpiece to the stage. This iconic opera follows Cio-Cio-San, a young Japanese geisha whose strength and unwavering hope carry her through betrayal, loss, and the struggle to survive in the face of devastating choices.

[Details Here](#)



Tea With a Diva

May 9, Christ United Methodist, Fort Collins

Join us for an afternoon of wonderful music at the "Tea With a Diva," featuring soprano, Maria Fabara, accompanied by Victor Walters..

[Click for Info](#)



Pirates of Penzance and Arias and Ensembles

May 21, Art Depot, Steamboat Springs

Join Opera Steamboat for a special evening of live opera on May 21, 2026 at the Art Depot. This family-friendly event features two performances from Opera Colorado's Opera on Tour program:

5:30 PM: *The Pirates of Penzance* – A lively, abridged production full of swashbuckling adventure, romance, and hilarious antics from W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's beloved operetta.

7:00 PM: Arias & Ensembles – A captivating showcase of standout operatic moments.

[Click for Tickets and Info](#)

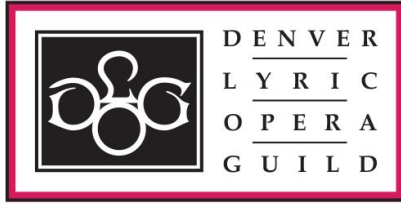


Drag Me to the Opera

June 7, Levitt Pavilion, Denver

Drag Me to the Opera is back again this year! Join festival artists from our mainstage and CCO community in celebration of Pride Month. Unleash your inner diva with a preview of the Central City Opera festival season, selections from opera, musical theatre, an aria lip sync contest, and more. Dress up or come as you are.

[Information and Tickets](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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