

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome an unusually early Spring with blossoming trees and tulips, we also introduce a fresh new Logo for DLOG. It was time for updating and the new Logo design was chosen by a committee comprised of **Norelee Bush**, **Karen Bruggenthies**, **Rebecca McAllister**, **Phyllis Wicklund** and **Becky Gantner** after carefully looking at several concepts by professional graphic designer Craig Rouse. You'll also see a new DLOG ad in the upcoming spring Opera Colorado program with a QR code that directs interested viewers to our website.

I hope you've had a chance to [look at the updated website](#), and we now have 169 followers on [Instagram](#)! Move over Taylor Swift.

With that, I'll conclude and turn this issue over to our most important headline news!!

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE 2026 COMPETITION FOR COLORADO SINGERS!

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.

Congratulations to All the Finalists of the 2026 DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers!

And the Winners Are...

First Place: \$10,000 GALEN & ADA BELLE SPENCER FOUNDATION AWARD



Jordan McCready

Jordan McCready is an Alaskan Mezzo Soprano praised for her expression and vibrancy through all registers of her voice. She has performed such roles as Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Central City Opera and Drake University. During her time as a Resident Artist at Opera Colorado '25-'26 she performed as Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Flora in *La Traviata*, Stephano in *Romeo et Juliette*, and Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*. During her time at San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Drake University she performed in roles such as Mauyra in *Riders to the Sea* by Ralph Vaughn Williams, Hesione in *Triumph of Love*, Dorabella in *Così fan Tutte*, Serse from *Serse*, Zanetto from Mascagni's *Zanetto*, and Hansel in *Hansel und Gretel*. She has also done cover and chorus work for companies such as Opera Parallel in *Harvey Milk Reimagined*, Pocket Operas *The Cunning little Vixen*, Des Moines Metro Operas *Die Zauberflöte* as Drei Dame, and Anchorage Opera.

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Second Place: \$5000 LISA CURTIS & KATHY AND PETER VAN ARSDALE AWARD



Nisha Caiozzi

Nisha Caiozzi is a soprano, improviser, teacher, and multimedia artist. She is interested in exploring the sonic and community-building possibilities of the voice; including discovering new sounds within her own instrument. This love of vocal exploration has been vital to her desire to sing music by living composers and to expand the definition of art music. As an improviser, she has worked to create musical prompts that people of different musical backgrounds and different levels of experience can engage with. Nisha believes that musical spaces focused on openness, possibility, and listening can be used to deepen communal relationships. Most recently, Nisha was a 2025 Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Studio Artist at Central City Opera. She sang the Nightingale in the company's production of *Once Upon a Mattress* and performed in scenes as Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*), Laurie (*The Tender Land*), and Servilia (*La Clemenza di Tito*); as well as singing in the all-woman ensemble of *The Knock*. Catch her this summer as Barbarina in Central City's 2026 Production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

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Third Place: \$4500 GERI SHELDON AWARD



Sidney Grimm is a 24-year-old lyric soprano from Olympia, WA, currently based in Denver, CO, performing mainly in opera, operetta, and musical theatre. She graduated magna cum laude with her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Central Washington University in 2023, studying in the studio of Dr. Gayla Blaisdell. In 2025, she earned her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Colorado Boulder, studying with Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson and Julie Simson, with vocal coaches Dr. Jeremy Reger and Dr. Mutsumi Moteki.

Sidney Grimm

Fourth Place: \$4000 GAYLE LANDIS AWARD and Marcia Ragonetti Exceptional Mezzo Award \$500



Natacha Córdor Ecuadorian mezzo-soprano Natacha Córdor! @natachabeba Natacha has performed for the Greeley Philharmonic as a soloist for Canciones para ti: Songs for You. An accomplished artist and 2025-2026 Central City Touring Artist, Natacha has vast experience in Latin American popular music, a growing presence in the operatic world, and is a graduate of the University of Denver Lamont School of Music.

Natacha Condor

Fifth Place: \$3500 TOM AND MARY CONROY AWARD



Daniel Miller Tenor Daniel Miller holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University. This season, he will perform in *La traviata* (Gastone) on the Ellie Caulkins mainstage, as well as in Opera Colorado's touring productions of *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic). In 2025, he was an Apprentice Artist with Central City Opera's Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists, where he covered the role of Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*. He has previously appeared in a wide range of opera and musical theater productions, including *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean), *The Magic Flute* (Tamino), *Albert Herring* (The Mayor), and *Little Women* (Laurie)..

Daniel Miller

Sixth Place: \$3000 CAROLE JOHNSON AWARD

Hallie Schmidt American soprano Hallie Schmidt began her 2025-2026 season with a return to Pacific Northwest Opera as Armida in Handel's *Rinaldo*. In spring 2026, Hallie will perform Jake Heggie's one woman opera *At the Statue of Venus* for Opera Colorado's Grand Gala, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. She will then reprise her favorite role of Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Pacific Northwest Opera. During the summer of 2025, Hallie was an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines



Metro Opera, where she performed in *The Flying Dutchman*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and *The Rake's Progress*. Hallie will join Central City Opera as an Apprentice Artist for their 2026 season, singing Mary/Friend 2 in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.

Hallie Schmidt

Seventh Place: \$2500 MARCIA RAGONETTI AWARD



[Regan Lewis](#) Regan is a Soprano from the Bay Area. She is a graduate of the University of Denver Lamont School of Music. She began performing first as a dancer, but quickly grew to love singing even more! She has taught voice and beginner piano for the past 5 years and started performing long before that. She also has an extensive choral singing background.

Regan Lewis

Certificate of Merit: \$1000.00 LISA CURTIS IN HONOR OF BECKY GANTNER, LINDA YOUNG IN MEMORY OF EUGENE YOUNG, JULIE JOHNSTON IN MEMORY OF HARRY WILLIAMS AWARD, KAREN & ANDREW RITZ IN HONOR OF KAREN BRUGGENTHIES, JACKIE WRITZ IN HONOR OF CHECK-IN VOLUNTEERS



Kirby Baier



Samantha Leeper



Bella Mallow

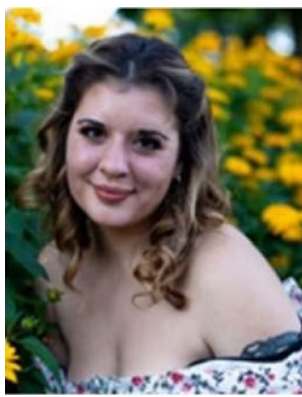


Kevin Spooner

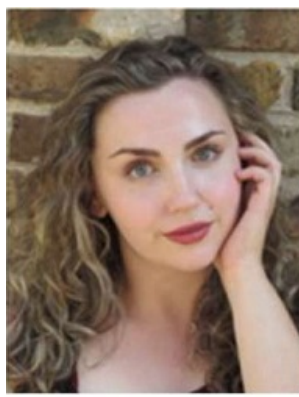


Katiann Nelson

Honorable Mentions \$500: SPONSORED BY SUZANNE BUFTON IN MEMORY OF RICHARD BUFTON, SPONSORED BY JOHN & GERDA TURNER, SPONSORED BY KAREN SALIMAN AND LINDA BJELLAND



Mykayla Fitzpatrick



Bridget Ravenscraft



Madison Falkenstine

**See Our Top Finishers Sing at Opera on
Tuesday
Last Day to Register is March 30th!**

If you want to make sure to catch this year's top finishers in action make sure to register now for Opera on Tuesday.

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

This Opera on Tuesday features the finalists of the 2026 DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers.



PRESENTED BY
DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD
Reservations are due by March 30, 2026.

**Columbine Country Club
17 Fairway Lane
Columbine Valley, CO 80123**

10:30 a.m. Social Hour
11 a.m. Program

Save the Date... SUMMER PARTY!



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

SUMMER PARTY

SUNDAY JULY 19, 2026

COLUMBINE COUNTRY CLUB
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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,
gjple@comcast.net

The Nominating Committee members will soon begin making calls, please consider volunteering!

Gayle Landis

Opera Around Colorado

Beyond the Blossom: Rethinking *Madama Butterfly*

April 8, Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Chambers Grant Salon

Join Opera Colorado for a dynamic conversation on *Madama Butterfly*,



exploring the opera's enduring emotional power and complexity; its themes of sacrifice, betrayal, and cultural collision; and why it remains important to perform today. You'll gain fresh insight into its questions of representation and East-West dynamics, and a deeper, more meaningful experience when you see the work on stage this spring.

Barbara Lynne Jamison, Ellie Caulkins General Director & CEO, Opera Colorado

Nina Yoshida Nelsen, Artistic Director, Boston Lyric Opera & Co-founder, Asian Opera Alliance

Margaret Ozaki Graves, Senior Director of Artistic Planning & Partnerships, Central City Opera.

[Details Here](#)



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.

[Information and Tickets](#)



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

The Cunning Little Vixen

April 16,17,18,19, Imig Music Theatre, Boulder

Follow the adventures of Vixen Sharp Ears, a spirited young fox, as she draws you into her forest world; and meet a cast of woodland creatures and the humans they cross paths with in a series of quick, dreamlike scenes. Leoš Janáček's music, full of vibrant folk melodies and lush sounds, paints a picture of life in the woods—the joy and the sorrow, the turning of the seasons. It's a story that feels like a fairy tale, but dig a little deeper and you'll find themes of life, loss and the wild beauty of it all.

by Leoš Janáček
Sung in English.

[Click for Vixen Tickets and Info](#)



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

[Click for Tickets](#)

COLORADO *Bach* ENSEMBLE

Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen BWV 56

April 19, Wellshire Presbyterian Church, Denver

BWV 56 is a solo cantata for a bass—an unusual approach for Bach in this genre. The low, weighty male voice represents both Jesus and humanity as they navigate their earthly trials. Despite the suffering, the singer confirms that “[We] will gladly carry the cross-staff”—both a reference to the crucifixion and a maritime navigation instrument.

The second movement features rolling arpeggios in the cello as the singer describes churning waves threatening to sweep our ships from their spiritual moorings. The final chorus affirms the blessings of staying the course and the promise of safe harbor to come..

[Info and Tickets](#)



***Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II**

April 23-26 Newman Center, Gates Concert Hall

Lamont Opera Theatre and the Lamont Symphony Orchestra present the sparkling wit and glamour of Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*. Conducted by Lawrence Golan and directed by Matthew Plenk, this beloved operetta is filled with sweeping melodies, mistaken identities, and champagne-fueled mischief. Sung in German with spoken dialogue in English, *Die Fledermaus* promises an evening of charm, laughter, and unforgettable music. Don't miss this dazzling highlight of Lamont's spring season.

[Event Info](#)



Gardens of Song - Colorado Springs

April 26, First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs

An art song trip to the garden where hearts will be stolen and hearts will be broken. Experience a new art song experience curated by Bella Mallow and Eapen Leubner.

[Click for Tickets and Info](#)



***Pirates of Penzance* and Arias and Ensembles**

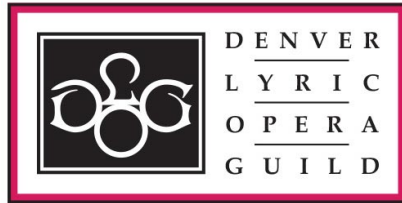
May 21, Art Depot, Steamboat Springs

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](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

P.O. Box 339
Englewood, CO 80151



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