DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

The Lyric Letter

Volume 25, Issue 7, November 2025

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

TO EACH AND ALL,

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

President's Note

Dear DLOG Members:

I regret missing the October **Luncheon on Tuesday**, but I am on a long-planned vacation until the end of the month. I know we look forward to the program presented each year by **Denver University's Lamont School of Music** under the direction of Matthew Plenk and I know it featured outstanding talent.

On November 4th we had the **University of Colorado Eklund Opera Program** with another wonderful program. Next up on December 2nd is the **Colorado State University Ralph Opera Program** which promises to get us into the holiday spirit. Please register by November 26th.

It's a time of transition for the Lamont School of Music as they welcome Brian Bertil as the new Director while Opera Colorado is presenting *La traviata* in November shortly after welcoming Barbara Jamison as the new CEO and Director and Dennis Robinson the new Director of Programs and Community Engagement. It's an exciting time of transition and collaboration within our local opera community and DLOG has for decades proudly supported aspiring singers as they embark on careers in this beautiful but demanding art form.

Plans are underway for our **February Master Class to be held February 28, 2026**. Be sure to stay 'tuned' for more details as it promises to be a unique opportunity for our participating singers.

When my grandson Jon was little, he just couldn't wait for Halloween, he said it was "the start of *everything*" meaning the approaching holiday season which will soon be upon us!

For now, I hope you've enjoyed the Trick or Treaters, Jack-o'-Lanterns, clever costumes, and dipping into the Halloween candy……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.

Register Now for the Next Opera on Tuesday with CSU's Ralph Opera Program!

Tuesday December 2nd, 2025

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 November 26

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 Recap
October 14th with DUs Lamont Opera Theatre

The October **Opera on Tuesday** featured the singers from the DU Lamont Opera Theatre. Everyone enjoyed the delightful performances. Check out the photos below and see who you may recognize!

All photos courtesy of DLOG Photographer Linda Young.

Lamont singers: Dr. Beth Nielsen (pianist), Mackenzie Laun, Kathy Kasch (director of the Lamont vocal department), Jane Wee, Regan Lewis, Natasha Condor, Puting Liu

Lisa Curtis, LynnHarrington, Marleen Diamond, Norelee Bush, John Turner

standing: Colleen Thumm, Jean Krusemark, Neal Engle
sitting: Christina Crine, Kathryn Thompson Panos, Valerie Wassill, Eileen Lukanic.jpg

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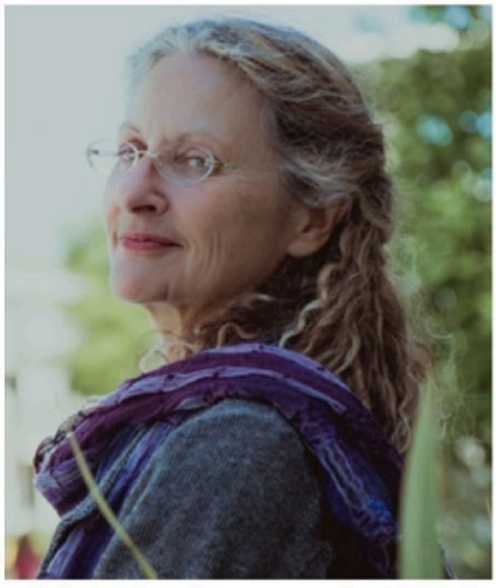
An Update on the 2026 DLOG Louise C. Conter Master Class



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).

Karen Bruggenthies

ABOUT THE PIANO!

Each month, Classic Pianos delivers a 5' Yamaha grand piano for our Opera on Tuesday luncheons. The piano is tuned just prior to delivery and is on rollers so each accompanist may position the piano as they prefer.

Watching such a large and fine instrument carefully rolled down the truck ramp by a team of 2 professionals with assorted straps and braces with the legs removed then reassembled in place is an impressive bit of artistry and athleticism. The professional delivery crews from Classic Pianos are friendly, fast and efficient. We are grateful for their partnership and if you ever visit their store on Broadway, they have a showroom of beautiful pianos you are welcome to view.

COMIC CURTAINS

Tenor Trouble: High Note Hijinks

Opera tenors are celebrated for their shimmering top notes, but not all high notes are created equal. Legendary tenor Enrico Caruso was singing the climatic aria in *Pagliacci* when, instead of the expected crystal-clear high C, he produced a sound more reminiscent of a startled rooster. The audience gasped; Caruso, with characteristic panache, winked at the conductor and sang, “You see, even clowns can have bad days.”

The crowd erupted in laughter, and Caruso’s legend only grew.

DLOG Website

As you know, technology moves rapidly bringing both challenges and opportunity requiring regular maintenance. It has been several years since parts of our DLOG website have been refreshed. Updates to our website and a greater social media presence are one of the important initiatives being undertaken this year.

Jessica Loving, owner of Inspiregraphics is DLOGs long-time web master and is currently working on a new look for our Homepage. A team consisting of Karen Bruggenthies, Norelee Bush, Ian Caiozzi and Randy Ho plus other members as this project progresses will be working closely with Jessica to bring about both a new look and easy navigation for Members, Competition participants and opera enthusiasts interested in what we do.

This project is underway, and you will get updates as it moves along. Please stay ‘tuned’!

Gayle Landis

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

La traviata

Nov 7,9, Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver

La traviata opens Opera Colorado's 2025-26 Season, inviting audiences to discover why it remains one of the most celebrated operas of all time. When Violetta, a beloved courtesan, experiences love for the first time, society's expectations and her own failing health threaten to destroy her chance at happiness. Set against the backdrop of glamorous 1850s Paris, La traviata is filled with unforgettable melodies, including the rousing "Drinking Song" and the sorrowful "Addio, del passato." Don't miss this poignant tale of love, sacrifice, and redemption, brought to life with Verdi's exquisite music.

Info and Tickets

La Bohème

Live in Cinemas November 8

The new season of Live in HD transmissions continues November 8 with Puccini's timeless love story La Bohème. A classic of the Met repertory for more than 40 years, Franco Zeffirelli's stunning production offers a picturesque vision of 19th-century Paris, with Keri-Lynn Wilson conducting rising stars soprano Juliana Grigoryan and tenor Freddie De Tommaso as the bohemians Mimì and Rodolfo..

Click for Info

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her, BWV 9

Nov 9, St. Timothy's, LIttleton

Featuring DLOG Competition finalist Mackenzie Laun!

Composed for the 6th Sunday after Trinity, BWVhttps://coloradobach.org/production/est-is-das-heil-uns-kommen-her-bwv-9/ 9 (It is our salvation come here to us) is based on a hymn by Martin Luther's Protestant co-founder Paul Speratus. It begins with a bright, light chorale fantasia featuring flute, oboe, strings, continuo, and chorus.

The cantata is then framed by three recitatives that comprise a miniature sermon on our fallen nature and the uplifting promise of redemption and renewal. Between these are two arias that serve as vignettes on the journey of our fall and rise. It concludes with a warm, resonant chorale in E major, offering reassurance and hope.

Tickets

The Elixir of Love

Nov 15-16, Dairy Arts Center

Join us for a delightful hour-long adaptation of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, perfect for young audiences and families! This heartwarming and hilarious tale follows the lovable Nemorino as he tries to win the heart of the clever and confident Adina—with the help of a mysterious "love potion." Filled with beautiful melodies, playful characters, and a touch of magic, this opera is a fun introduction to the world of classical music and storytelling..

Click for Tickets

L'ESPIT DE NOËL: Holiday Home Tour

Nov 21, 22, 6:30pm, Hilltop Neighborhood, Denver

As the Holiday Season approaches, we are thrilled to invite you to be part of one of Colorado's most beloved traditions - the 49th Central City Opera Annual L'Esprit de Noël Holiday Home Tour, taking place in the historic and charming Hilltop neighborhood.

Each year, this magical event brings together our community and friends to celebrate beauty, tradition, and the spirit of giving. Five architecturally diverse, elegant homes will be creatively decorated by top local florists and table designers, offering you a festive experience like no other.

Click for Tickets

With Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and Opera Theatre of the Rockies:
The Knock

Nov 23, Lewis Palmer High School, Colorado Springs

Named for the expression that military spouses use for notifications of death, the opera explores the resilience, vulnerability, and sacrifice of military families.

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

All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914

Dec 11, 12, 6:30pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Steamboat

The Western Front: Christmas 1914. Out of the violence of World War I, a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht (Silent Night)." Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, and peace. This production on December 11 & 12, 6:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church features 10 men playing 37 characters in an all-acapella performance perfect for the acoustic of the space. This will be a magical night of music-making.

Click to RSVP

A Night in Vienna Opera Ball

Dec 27, Berthoud

We could not have our Alps Meet the Rockies season end without a waltz. In true Viennese fashion we invite our guests to dress to the nines and join us for an opulent evening of opera, waltzes, food, and drink. While we're not at the Imperial Palace, we can let the music and merriment transport us there as we enjoy opera and operetta's most celebratory tunes interspersed with classic waltzes. The beautiful TPC clubhouse with the Rocky Mountains in the backdrop will be the perfect Colorado setting for this night you won't want to miss.

Admission includes a three course plated dinner with salad, entree, and dessert as well as non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available with appropriately themed cocktails.

Tickets and Info

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