Please renew your membership and stay involved with our Seattle Opera Guild!

Please join us on Facebook and like our page—we share all sorts of information about our events and opera activities! Please also visit our website (www.seattleoperaguild.org) and note our new look! You may also renew your membership on this website easily and securely.

We are excited about the new Seattle Opera at the Center building, which will host a variety of opera events and be a vital new meeting place for our board of directors. All SOG members are welcome to attend our meetings—just contact any officer or your preview group chair for details. We value your input and enthusiasm for SOG’s support of young singers and opera in the area.

Please let us hear from you, our valued SOG members!

Mission Statement

The Seattle Opera Guild is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes opera. The Guild provides financial support for Seattle Opera, funds vocal scholarships and promotes opera education for all age groups to ensure future opera audiences.

“Summertime!”

By Ann Milam

“...and the livin’ was easy!” Our Magnolia/Queen Anne preview group held a highly successful fundraiser at Skyline on June 23. Guests were treated to a southern-themed buffet, including pecan and sweet potato tartlets, “Dreamsicle punch” and shrimp kabobs, and a silent auction table filled with opera-related and other tempting treats. It was a gorgeous day and our attendees enjoyed the views of Mt. Rainier and downtown Seattle from the SkyClub, as well as visiting with SOG members and guests, including some Skyline residents.

The highlight of the afternoon was a unique musical preview of Porgy and Bess featuring soprano Ibidunni Ojikutu, mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod Lewis, baritone Dierre Lopez and pianist Li-Tan Hsu. They performed solos, duets and ensembles from this popular opera, which Seattle Opera presented in August. Highlights of our musical program included Ibidunni’s trademark “Strawberry Woman Song,” which earned her a compliment in the magazine Opera News after she performed it here in 2011. Other memorable songs included “I Got Plenty O’ Nuttin’” by Dierre, “Bess, You Is My Woman Now” by Cheryse and Dierre, and a rollicking “It Ain’t Necessarily So” by Dierre.

continued on page 2
“Summertime!”

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with backup singers Ibiduni and Cheryse. All three singers performed their grand finale, “Oh, Lawd, I’m On My Way,” and received a standing ovation by enthusiastic audience members. Our guests left humming and intent on purchasing their tickets for the Seattle Opera production, which featured our three singers in main stage roles.

Chair of the fundraiser was Ann Milam, assisted by Patricia Hitchens, Ellen Beardsley, Rubie Johnson, Van Johnson, Nick Elder, Frank Gregory and Casey Carlson-Iffert.

Ibiduni and Cheryse have benefitted from receiving SOG training grants that enabled them to study with vocal teachers and travel for auditions. This event was a fundraiser for our Singers’ Development Awards, which will enable still more young performers to polish their skills and advance in their promising careers!

Our singers, Dierre Lopez and Cheryse McLeod-Lewis were featured in Seattle Opera’s dramatic ads for Porgy and Bess!

DON’T FORGET

Renew your SOG membership!

seattleoperaguild.org/join-us/membership-application/

See membership form on page 5 or contact Sally Buckingham: sally.buckingham21@gmail.com

SOG Board of Directors’ Meeting Schedule: 2018-2019

Regular Board Meetings (1st Mondays unless noted):
Pacific NW Ballet, Jane Davis Boardroom
(301 Mercer Street, Seattle Center, 98109)
Contact: Nick Elder, 425-770-7750, nickelder@msn.com

Meeting Times:
Executive Committee: 10:30am—12:30pm
Preview Chairs’ Joint Meeting: 12:30pm-2:30pm
(Please bring your lunch: coffee & dessert provided)

September 10, 2018 (note: 2nd Monday)
October 12, 2018 (Friday)
November 5, 2018

December, 2018 (no board meeting)

Friday, December 7, 2018, SOG Holiday Luncheon
Seattle Tennis Club
January 7, 2019
February 4, 2019
March 8, 2019 (Friday)
April 3, 2019 (Wednesday)
May 6, 2019
Thursday, June (TBD), SOG Annual Meeting
Seattle Yacht Club

Photo credit: Philip Newton

Silent auction committee (L to R): Patricia Hitchens, Ellen Beardsley and Rubie Johnson.

Photo credit: Ann Milam
The Turn of the Screw

by Benjamin Britten

Preview Schedules

Saturday, September 15, 2018
Vivace
Home of Patrick and Emily Bennett
6116 NE 190th St.
Kenmore, WA 98028
*425.485.5036
Social: 2:30pm (appetizers and wine)
Meeting: 3:15pm
Preview: 4:00pm
Dessert: 5:00pm
Contact: Emily Bennett, 425.486.5036, epbennett@msn.com

Sunday, September 30, 2018
Bellini**
Home of Dot Fuller
6311 146th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98052
*425.883.0033
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Preview: 2:00pm
Dessert: 3:00pm
Cost: $25 for members and guests
Contact: ***Sally Buckingham, 425.394.510,
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com
Suzy Wakefield, 425.828.6186

SOG and Stars in the Making

By Christine Szabadi, VP of Education

Committing one’s life to singing as a career, especially in opera, is daunting indeed! Firstly, the voice is the most unreliable of all instruments. It cannot be traded in, it acts up with every invading virus or infection and it sometimes disappears altogether. The training is rigorous. No matter how beautiful the voice, it will thrive only with a fine technique, which includes vocal placement and correct breathing. Besides that, the singer has to learn music theory, languages, acting and stage direction, among other things. Then there is patience! You cannot rush the maturation of the voice. For instance, anyone aspiring to sing Wagner may have to wait until after the thirtieth birthday to handle the role.

The life of a singer is not easy. It is very competitive and may involve much travel chasing opera roles, young artist programs, etc. It relies on the need to be recognized (and therefore being hired) and is very expensive! This is where SOG comes in. Our Singers’ Development Award program is one of the most important aspects of our organization. We give these artists the opportunity to compete for financial support to continue their careers. We then give them performance opportunities, providing them with additional experience and resumé material. SOG is so proud of our singers’ successes—don’t miss their upcoming SOG performances and competitions and show them your support. We attended Seattle Opera’s Porgy and Bess last month and were thrilled to enjoy two of our past winners, Ibidunni Ojikutu and Cheryse McLeod Lewis, on the mainstage!
In Memoriam

Stephanie and Lyle Waterman
By Penny Wade

Amici lost our beloved member Stephanie Waterman on July 11, 2018. She passed away peacefully at age 69, surrounded by love and the comfort of her home. Stephanie and her late husband Lyle were valued Guild members who joined SOG in 2005. They were very active and served as Amici Co-Chairs from 2010 through 2012. They were always generous not only with their time but also opened their beautiful home on Lake Washington to host many enjoyable Previews and Fundraisers. Lyle and Stephanie were perfect hosts with Lyle serving up delicious prime rib wearing his chef’s hat and SOG apron.

Stephanie was a Guild Board Member from 2012 through 2015, serving as Secretary and Vice President of Administrative Services. As a board member, she was known for her enthusiasm and generosity. The family suggests memorials to SOG or the Humane Society.
# Seattle Opera Guild

## Membership Application

### 1st Member

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### Preview Group

- [ ] At Large or

### 2nd Preview Group

- [ ] At Large or

### Membership Level

- [ ] Couple - Patron @ $195
- [ ] Individual - Patron @ $145
- [ ] Sustaining @ $120
- [ ] Supporting @ $90
- [ ] Sustaining @ $85
- [ ] Supporting @ $60

### Additional Information

- [ ] $20 for couple
- [ ] $10 for individual

Please make checks payable to Seattle Opera Guild and send to:
Seattle Opera Guild, c/o Membership Secretary, PO Box 5745 Lynnwood, WA 98046

Double Your Gift! Does your employer and/or your spouse's employer match employee gifts? If so, please contact your employer to obtain the necessary company form and submit it to the Seattle Opera Guild.

Volunteers are always needed! Please indicate those areas where you could help the Guild or your Preview Group:

- [ ] Word Processing
- [ ] Marketing
- [ ] Raffle Committee
- [ ] Events
- [ ] Photography
- [ ] Excel and/or Access
- [ ] Membership
- [ ] Graphic Design
- [ ] Social Media
- [ ] Archives
- [ ] Publisher
- [ ] Newsletter
- [ ] Mailing
- [ ] Other Skills or Interest

Remarks

______________________________

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Visit Our New Website!
www.seattleoperaguild.org

Editorial Staff:
Editor: Ann H. Milam
Editorial Board: Gayle Charlesworth, Dennis Glauber, Judi Kalitzki, Christine Szabadi & Suzy Wakefield
Digital Communications: Van Johnson
Web Manager: Seamus Smith

Graphics/Printing: Spot-on Print & Design 425-558-7768
Submissions: Text and Photographs to Ann Milam: annmilam1@gmail.com. If email is not available, the Editor will accept a typed article. Mail to: 725 9th Ave, Apt. 1206, Seattle, WA 98104
Photographs should include subjects’ names & name of the photographer.

Editorial Policy: Editorial changes to submitted articles, other than correction of grammatical errors, will be made after consultation with the contributor.

Deadline for December, 2018 issue of L’Aria: November 1, 2018

SOG Officers
President .........................Gayle Charlesworth
VP Administration .....................Nick Elder
VP Membership ........................Joan Herald
VP Special Events .........................Penny Wade
VP Education ........................Christine Szabadi
VP Communications .................Ann Milam
Secretary ...............................Cheryl Lundgren
Treasurer ..............................Sally Buckingham
Trustee .................................Suzy Wakefield
Officer at Large .......................Judi Kalitzki

Let’s all go shopping on AmazonSmile!

And you can help SOG at the same time! Just log onto Smile.Amazon.com and enter Seattle Opera Guild as your preferred charity. Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of your purchase to our Guild—it’s a win, win!