

L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEATTLE
Opera Guild

April 2019 • Volume 67 • Issue 4

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.

President's Chat



The snow has gone and we have discovered crocus and pussy willow in our gardens. Spring brings life reborn, and so it is with our Guild. We have the beautiful new Opera Center for our Board meetings and special events, and new members in our preview groups, including Parties & Previews, Magnolia Queen Anne and Amici. This is so important to us as an organization—welcome to all of you! Our Opera Previews have been outstanding for *Il Trovatore* and *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. How exciting it was to see the Grammy award-winning composer Mason Bates and librettist Mark Campbell here at Seattle Opera, and to learn about the continued evolution of their fantastic new work. We are very fortunate in Seattle to have more operatic events than we can possibly attend—we are truly spoiled with choices! Have a fabulous Spring and plan to attend and support our upcoming SOG events!

Gayle Charlesworth

It's What We Do!

By Christine Szabadi

I often learned from Guild raffle sellers at the Opera that people were really interested in and impressed with our dedication to up-and-coming professional singers. As you know, we offer generous grants to artists pursuing opera careers through competitions and also give them performance opportunities. We enjoy them at our Holiday Luncheon, Annual Meeting and at special events organized by the Preview Groups. The singers have told us these experiences are invaluable. Over the years we have relished their musical and vocal progress that sometimes propels them to the very top of their profession. For this reason, we urge you to attend the final auditions on April 6 at Queen Anne Christian Church in Seattle. You are in for a treat! You may consider it a sneak peek at tomorrow's stars. As for the singers themselves, there is a great advantage to performing for an audience. We encourage you to come and hear some of the wonderful talent that surrounds us. It's what we do!



Last year's winners (L to R): Kwangsuk Ku, Elizabeth Galafa, Kelly Ferguson, Brett Sprague and Merideth Marano.

Photo credit: Ann Milam.

Review of The [R]evolution of Steve Jobs

By Judi Kalitzki

The *[R]evolution of Steve Jobs* is a love story, a story about the spectacular success of Steve Jobs and Apple, the personal and societal challenges such success brings, and ultimately a story about what it means to be a fallible and mortal human being.

SOG was fortunate to have two highly talented young performers to sing the roles of Steve Jobs and his wife Laurene Powell. Since the opera is brand new (co-commissioned by Santa Fe, Seattle, and San Francisco Operas), the music is not at all familiar. But Jonathan Suek and Priscilla Pizzichemi brought the music fully alive both vocally and dramatically. They expertly conveyed the varied moods of the opera: from the amusing high tech bravado when Jobs introduces the first iPhone, to the flirtatious early meetings of Steve and Laurene; from the anguished duet of an ailing Jobs and his concerned wife, to the final scene after Jobs' death when Laurene breaks the fourth wall and sings an aria to the audience about putting aside one's phone and seeing, feeling and listening to the world around them.

I found myself in tears by the end of the performance, so moving was the music and so accomplished were the performers. Our pianist, Li-Tan Hsu, did a phenomenal job even though there is not yet a real score for piano accompaniment. The Guild was lucky to be introduced to an impressive new opera by two exciting young singers and such a highly accomplished pianist.



Photo credit: Ann Milan.

Left to right: Priscilla Pizzichemi, Li-Tan Hsu and Jonathan Suek.

Allegro/SOG Spring Fundraiser

Singing & Springing!

Songs About Spring

by Nerys Jones and Tim Barrick



April 10th

Seattle Opera at the Center



penny.wade@comcast.net
gaylewings@gmail.com



Carmen

Preview Schedules

by Georges Bizet

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Amici**

Skyline (SkyClub Room)
725 9th Ave (Valet parking)
Seattle, WA 98104
*206.407.1700
Arrival: 4:45pm
Program: 5:00pm
Dinner & Auction: 6:00pm
Contacts: Penny Wade, 206.938.5949,
penny.wade@comcast.net
Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132,
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Parties & Previews**

Home of Dr. Jeanne Bertino
12736 Riviera Place NE
Seattle, WA 98125
*206.417.6699 (home)
Social: 5:00pm
Dinner: 6:00pm
Program: 7:00pm
Contacts: Mary Ellen Mullen, 206.498.5785,
(mobile/text), maryellenmullen@live.com
Emily Mattson, 206.920.0588 (mobile/text),
emilymattson@hotmail.com

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Magnolia/Queen Anne**

Brookdale Queen Anne
805 4th Ave North
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Dinner: 6:30pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: Florence Rose Thompson,
206.915.7829 (mobile), 206.285.6510,
ffrose@comcast.net

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Allegro and Mercer Island**

Barrels Wine Bar
7605 SE 27th Street, #107
Mercer Island, WA 98040
*206.268.0588
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:00pm
**Reservations: Nancy English,
206.409.9361, nenglish232@comcast.net
Contact for Allegro: Gayle Charlesworth,
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com
Contact for Mercer Island: Agi Day,
206.550.4219, agiday@comcast.net

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Bellini & Vivace**

Inglewood Golf Club
6505 Inglewood Road NE
Kenmore, WA 98028
*425.488.8800
Arrival: 3:45pm (No host bar and
appetizers)
Introductions: 4:45pm
Program: 5:00pm
Grand Buffet: 6:00pm
Bellini Contacts:
**Sally Buckingham, 425.293.4510,
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com,
Marlene Holbrook, 425.218.6230
Vivace Contact: Emily Bennett,
425.486.5036, epbennett@msn.com

*Host phone numbers are provided
for last minute driving directions.
Please call listed contacts for all
other enquiries.

** RESERVATIONS PLEASE.

Try It, You'll Like It!

By Christine Szabadi

Vice President of Education



Photo credit: Ann Milan

No, I'm not talking about cereal! As in any of the arts, many people have approached new and/or unusual works with much apprehension or even strong aversion. It is nothing new; it's human nature to divert from the comfort zone of the familiar. What we don't know is that what we hate today may become the preferred favorite years from now. Opera provides perfect examples. Among the most unpopular operas in history are *Così fan tutti*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. It is inconceivable to us today that a critic should write of *La Bohème* "...it will be well if the composer returns to the straight road of art, persuading himself that this has been a brief deviation." Granted some of the protests of new operas concerned content, which was deemed immoral, politically incorrect or just inconsequential. But, a "brief deviation?"

Today, many operas are being written by hugely talented composers. They do not fill opera houses. However, companies such as Seattle Opera continue to include them. I say, "Go see them. You may be pleasantly surprised!" Many deal with present day events, people, social issues and recent history. I feel we should all find out for ourselves what moved the composers to express these subjects in song. It was our SOG Preview of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (an unlikely opera subject) that inspired me to write these lines even before I saw the opera! I was then reminded of *Amelia*, *An American Dream* and *As One*, and coming next season, *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*. They prove that opera is alive and kicking. No new opera deserves to be silent. When we go to hear its voice, who knows? We might even like it!

Ways to Support Seattle Opera Guild!

By Sally Buckingham

Benevity:

(In partnership with Microsoft
and other corporations)
www.causes.benevity.org

Boeing Gift Match Program:

www.doublethedonation.com/forms/boeing-guidelines

AmazonSmile:

www.smile.amazon.com



UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

April 6, 2019

Auditions for SOG Singers' Development Awards
Queen Anne Christian Church
1316 3rd Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119
caszabadi@gmail.com

April 10, 2019

"Singing and Springing"
Seattle Opera at the Center
(206) 938.5949
penny.wade@comcast.net
(253) 639.1423
gaylewing@gmail.com

April 13, 2019

All Ages Laser Opera
Pacific Science Center Laser Dome
(206) 389.7676
seattle.opera@seattleopera.org.

May 3-4, 2019

Handel's *Samson*
Pacific MusicWorks
Lynnwood and Seattle
www.pacificmusicworks.org
(206) 708-6003

May 3-12, 2019

The Ring of the Nibelung
Pacific Northwest Opera
McIntyre Hall, Mt. Vernon, WA
www.mcintyrehall.org
(360) 416.7727 Ex. 2

May 4-18 2019

Carmen
Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/tickets
(206) 389-7676

May 10, 2019

Seattle Opera's "Big Opera Party"
The Opera Center and McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/bigoperaparty

May 10, 2019

Voices of Mental Health
Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

May 17-19, 2019

A Streetcar Named Desire
Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
www.vashonopera.org
(206) 388-2926

May 19, 2019

Spring Concert: *The Parting*
Music of Remembrance
Ilsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770



Cowbells for the Troubadour!

Our *Il Trovatore* preview audiences enjoyed accompanying the Anvil Chorus by tapping on cowbells!



L to R: Performers Erin Murphy, Li-Tan Hsu and Corinna Quilliam.
Photo credit: Ann Milam.

Upcoming SOG Events:

April 6: 7pm

Auditions for SOG Singers' Development Awards
Queen Anne Christian Church

April 10: 1pm

Allegro/SOG Fundraiser:
"Singing and Springing"
Songs about Spring
by Nerys Jones and Tim Barrick
Tea and tour of Seattle Opera at the Center

April 28: 3-6pm

Bellini/Vivace Preview Groups' Fundraiser
Inglewood Country Club

May 10

Seattle Opera's "Big Opera Party"

June 20

SOG Annual Meeting
Seattle Yacht Club

MONC-NW Region Finals Winners



L to R: Nicole Brooks (tied for third), Camille Sherman (first), Mariah Wilcox (2nd) and Jasmin White (tied for third). In the center is Morgan Smith (baritone), who performed while the judges deliberated. Photo credit: Glenda Williams.

SOG has helped to support the Metropolitan Opera National Council Northwest auditions for many years. The Northwest Regional Competition was held February 10 at Benaroya Hall. Of ten contestants, Camille Sherman (mezzo soprano) won first place and represented our region at the MONC semi-finals at the Metropolitan Opera on March 24.



Visit SOG Online!

We're on the web: seattleoperaguild.org

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/TheSeattleOperaGuild/

SOG Board Meeting Schedule

April 1st & May 6th, 2019
10:30am
Seattle Opera at the Center

Editorial Staff:

Editor: Ann H. Milam

Editorial Board: Gayle Charlesworth, Dennis Glauber, Judi Kalitzki, Christine Szabadi & Suzy Wakefield

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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 July, 2019 issue of *L'Aria*: June 1, 2019

SOG Officers

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