

L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEATTLE
Opera Guild

December 2019 • Volume 68 • Issue 3

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 holidays are upon us! This time of the year we take stock and renew our energies for the year ahead. Seattle Opera Guild will celebrate its 63rd anniversary and enjoy a fabulous year of opera previews and special events. Opera America will celebrate its 50th year and hold its annual meeting here in Seattle next May. SOG members will enjoy the opportunity to network with members of Opera Volunteers International and will host OVI's Grantor's Reception and Awards Brunch.

Take a deep breath, enjoy the holiday season and prepare for many good things in 2020! Our Holiday Luncheon is a great occasion to wind up the year—see you there!

Gayle Charlesworth

Our Cinderella Previews

By Judi Kalitzki

Who knew there were so many versions of the Cinderella story? We're all familiar with the Disney version, of course, and some may know the much grimmer (excuse the pun!) version by the Brothers Grimm. But at our SOG preview of *Cinderella*, we learned there are many more versions. One of the main differences between Rossini's *Cinderella* and the others is that there is no evil stepmother and no fairy godmother. There is no glass slipper, but a pair of matching bracelets. And delightfully, given that the subtitle of the opera is "Goodness Triumphant," no punishment is meted out to the wicked stepsisters or stepmother. Everyone is forgiven at Cinderella's request to her Prince as the opera ends.

Our Cinderella and Prince (Don Ramiro) were most ably sung and acted by Lucy Weber (mezzo-soprano) and Korland Simmons (tenor). We were treated to a moving aria and cabaletta from the love-struck Don Ramiro, "Principe Più Non Sei...Si, Ritrovarla," and a gorgeous and stirring aria and cabaletta from *Cinderella*, "Nacqui All'Affanno... Non Più Mesta," celebrating her journey from the ashes and forgiving her mean-spirited stepsisters.

Of course, one can't have a *Cinderella* preview without a love duet! Lucy and Korland beautifully and persuasively sang "Tutto É Deserto... Un Soave Non So Che," in which the Prince, disguised as his own valet, and Cinderella, appearing as the household's servant, tentatively but rapturously express their attraction to one another.



L to R: Li-Cheng Hung, Korland Simmons and Lucy Weber. Photo credit: Ann Milam.

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Cinderella

Our singers were superbly accompanied by pianist Li-Cheng Hung, a newly minted Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Washington. It never ceases to amaze that one accomplished pianist can take the place of a whole orchestra so convincingly!

As Seattle Opera regular attendees, we've become quite familiar with Australian director Lindsey Hume's imaginative productions, and *Cinderella* was yet another of hers. Interestingly, Rossini's *Cinderella* was the very first opera performed in Australia, in 1844. Given that this was the Victorian period in Australia's mother country, England, Hume decided to set the opera in the London of 1830, giving Dickensian overtones to the *Cinderella* story in both its pathos and its happily-ever-after ending.

MONC NW District Competition October 26, 2018

SOG has been a long-time supporter of the Metropolitan Opera National Council NW. Congratulations to the four winners of the Washington District Audition! They will advance to the NW Regional Finals on January 12 at Benaroya Hall.

Opera at Timber Ridge

The Guild recently sponsored a recital by some of our favorite performers at the Timber Ridge Retirement Community in Issaquah. The program was introduced by Glenda Williams and performed by Dora Barnes (soprano, SOG Singer Development Awardee), Charles Robert Stevens (baritone) and Katie Stevenson (mezzo soprano), accompanied by Glenda on the piano. Highlights included Katie's performance of the "Habanera" from *Carmen*, Dora's beautiful "Song to the Moon" from *Rusalka*, and Charles as a dashing Escamillo in the "Toreador Song" from *Carmen*. The program concluded with the lovely "Flower Duet" from *Lakme* by Dora and Katie. Many thanks to Christine Szabadi, our VP of Education, for helping to arrange this popular performance!



Winners progressing to the Regionals are (L to R): Aria Minasian, Lauren McQuistin, Lindsay Webber and Lauren Kulesa. Each winning singer received \$1500 as a prize.



L to R: Dora Barnes, Charles Robert Stephens, Glenda Williams, and Katie Stevenson. Photo credit: Christine Szabadi.



Encouragement awards of \$500 each went to (L to R): Anjali Briggs, Laura Sanders, Lauren Zinke and Marissa Moultrie.

Photo credits: Glenda Williams.

From Our VP of Education: *BLUE: A New Opera*

By Christine Szabadi



It was a lovely summer day in Cooperstown, NY. The landscape was lush and green after the nighttime rain. The sky was clearing and the lake glistening. It was the perfect day for opera. Fifteen years had passed since I was last here at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival. The reason for my return was a forum I attended at Seattle Opera entitled “Breaking Glass; Hyperlinking Opera and Issues.” The particular focus of this forum was diversity and inclusion. And it was there that I first heard about the opera entitled *Blue*, presented by its director and librettist Tazewell Thompson. I just knew then I had to attend, plus it fit in with my planned visit to my daughter in upstate NY.

Blue was commissioned by Glimmerglass Opera. Set in Harlem, this tragedy, with music by Jeanine Tesori, is a masterful depiction of contemporary life in our country’s black community. It centers around a young black family in which the father is a police officer. The couple is delighted when their son is born, despite the apprehensions of the mother’s friends, who tell her a black boy will have a hard life in this country. When the son reaches sixteen, he becomes involved in political protests and gets in trouble with the law, causing a rift with his father. When he is shot and killed by a policeman, his parents are devastated. They experience the loving support of their community and their church. An epilogue creates a happier outcome, with a dreamlike reconciliation between father and son.



Kenneth Kellogg, Briana Hunter, and Aaron Crouch.
Photo credit: Karli Cadel, Playbill.

I found the opera very moving, to the point of tears. The music was lovely and the voices magnificent, especially bass Kenneth Kellogg, who played the father. I want to make a real case here for new operas. As in earlier centuries,

today’s opera must maintain its position of relevance, reflecting current issues, thoughts, social behavior, etc. I hope you were able to experience *The Rising and the Falling* in November. It is my dearest wish for *Blue* to come to Seattle!



Photo credit: Christine Szabadi.

UPCOMING SOG EVENTS

Holiday Luncheon

December 13, 2019, 11-2:30pm
Seattle Tennis Club

922 McGilvra Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98112

Singers’ Development Awards Competition

March 29, 2020, 3:30pm

Queen Anne Christian Church
1316 3rd Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119

Bellini/Vivace Fundraiser

April 19, 2020

Inglewood Country Club
6505 Inglewood Road NE, Kenmore, WA 98028

SOG Annual Meeting

June 11, 2020

Seattle Yacht Club
1807 East Hamlin Street, Seattle, WA 98112

Annual Holiday Luncheon

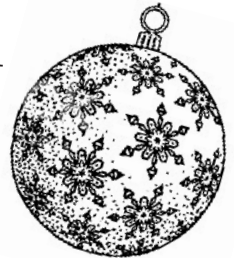
Friday, December 13th

For information contact:

Maria Van Horn

phone: 206-354-9132

email: mcvh04@yahoo.com



Find SOG Online!

We’re on the web: seattleoperaguild.org

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TheSeattleOperaGuild/

Eugene Onegin

by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Preview Schedules

Friday, January 3, 2020

Vivace

Home of Patrick & Emily Bennett
6116 NE 190th St.
Kenmore, WA 98028
*425.486.5036
Social: 11:00am (brunch)
Program: Noon
Contact: Emily Bennett, 425.486.5036
epbennett@msn.com

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Allegro

Home of Christine Szabadi
5620 S. 233rd St.
Kent, WA 98032
*253.277.3064
Social: 4:30pm
Program: 5:30pm
Contact: Gayle Charlesworth
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Magnolia/Queen Anne

Queen Anne Retirement Center
(formerly Brookdale)
805 4th Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: Florence Rose Thompson
206.915.7829 m, 206.285.6510 h,
ffrose@comcast.net

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Bellini

Home of Ernesto Alorda & Jonathan Gerson
2215 E. Lake Washington Blvd.
Seattle, WA 98122
*206.328.2262
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Program: 1:30pm
Dessert: 2:30pm
Contact: Sally Buckingham, 425.293.4510
Marlene Holbrook, 425.218.6230

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Mercer Island

Home of Agi Day
1330 Bellefield Park Lane
Bellevue, WA 98004
*206.550.4219
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:30pm
Contact: Marilyn Leck 206.909.1985
vgleck@juno.com

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Amici

Skyline (SkyClub Room)
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)
Seattle, WA 98104
*206.407.1700
Arrival: 11:00am
Program: 11:30am
Lunch: Following Program
Contact: Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132
Penny Wade, 206.938.5949
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Parties & Previews

No January Preview

Members are welcome to attend other previews.

*Host phone numbers are provided for last minute driving directions.

Please call listed contacts for all other enquiries.

Reservations please for all Preview Groups.

Charlie Parker's Yardbird

Preview Schedules

by Daniel Schnyder

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Allegro

Home of Maxine & Paul Levy
30245 25th Ave SW
Federal Way, WA 98023
*253.874.6525
Social: 4:30pm
Program: 5:30pm
Contact: Gayle Charlesworth
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Magnolia/Queen Anne

Queen Anne Retirement Center
(formerly Brookdale)
805 4th Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: Florence Rose Thompson
206.915.7829 m, 206.285.6510 h
ffrose@comcast.net

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Amici

Skyline (Sky Club Room)
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)
Seattle, WA 98104
*206.407.1700
Arrival: 11:00am
Program: 11:30am
Lunch: Following Program
Contact: Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132
or Penny Wade, 206.938.5949
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Parties & Previews

Home of Pam and Ned Johnson
941 11th Ave E. #6
Seattle, WA 98102
*206.818.9273
Arrival: 6:00pm (appetizers & no host bar)
Dinner: 7:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: Paris Sakas, 206.818.9273

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Mercer Island

Home of Nancy & Milton English
7015 W. Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040
*206.409.9361
Arrival: 12 Noon
Program: 1:00pm
Contact: Nancy English, 206.409.9361
nenglish232@comcast.net

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Bellini

Trilogy of Redmond Ridge,
Crystal Ballroom
23225 NE Greens Crossing Rd.
Redmond, WA 98053
*425.293.4510
Arrival: 2:45pm
Program: 3:00pm
Wine & Appetizers: 4:00pm
Contact: Sally Buckingham,
425.293.4510
Suzy Wakefield, 425.828.6186

Vivace

No February Preview

Members are welcome to attend other previews.

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

December 13, 2019

SOG Holiday Luncheon
Seattle Tennis Club
922 McGilvra Blvd E, Seattle, WA
98112
(206) 324-3200

January 11-25, 2020

Eugene Onegin
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall
(206) 389-7676
www.seattleopera.org/tickets

January 12, 2020

Metropolitan Opera National Council
NW Regional finals
Nordstrom Recital Hall
at Benaroya Hall
200 University St, Seattle, WA 98101
Master Class: 10-11:30am
Competition: 1-4pm
metoperanw.com/monc-news

February 22-March 7, 2020

Charlie Parker's Yardbird
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall
(206) 389-7676
www.seattleopera.org/tickets

April 16-19, 2020

Iolanthe
by Tacoma Opera
Rialto Theater
www.tacomaopera.com
253-591-5893

May 1-10, 2020

Don Pasquale
Pacific Northwest Opera
at McIntyre Hall
2501 East College Way
Mount Vernon, WA
360.416.7727 Ex. 2
www.mcintyrehall.org

May 2-19, 2020

La Bohème
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall
(206) 389-7676
www.seattleopera.org/tickets

May 17, 2020

For a Look or a Touch
Music of Remembrance
Nordstrom Recital Hall
at Benaroya Hall
200 University Street
Seattle, WA 9810
(206) 365-7770
www.musicofremembrance.org

May 22 & 24, 2020

*Pastoral Rhapsodies
& Cavalleria Rusticana*
Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
www.vashonopera.org
(206) 388-2926



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

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Judi Kalitzki, Christine Szabadi, Penny Wade & 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 April, 2020 issue of *L'Aria*: March 1, 2020

SOG Officers

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Trustee	Suzy Wakefield