

# L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SEATTLE  
*Opera Guild*

December 2018 • 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



Seattle Opera's season is now underway after two outstanding new productions. We all enjoyed August's *Porgy and Bess*, which featured two winners of our Singers' Development Awards, Ibidunni Ojikutu and Cheryse McLeod Williams. Most excitingly, Ibi, who was cast in her signature role, "Strawberry Woman," also covered "Serena," which was sung by another SOG favorite, Mary Elizabeth Williams. Unfortunately, Mary Elizabeth became ill and Ibi got to perform that major role several times, including live on KING FM—as they say, "A Star Was Born!" Cheryse performed the role of "Annie," also to acclaim. The next production, Britten's creepy *Turn of the Screw*, presented just before Halloween, featured another of SOG's favorite singers, Marci Stonikas, who performed at a SOG fundraiser to benefit young singers. Other SOG awardees are pursuing successful careers. Among them, Ryan Bede and Ksenia Popova recently sang in local productions and Brett Sprague is performing in Germany. We all enjoyed Anthony Kalil's *Rodolfo* in *Boheme* with Vashon Island Opera. We are so proud of the role SOG has played for many years in enabling young opera singers to pursue their training and early careers—bravissimi, all!

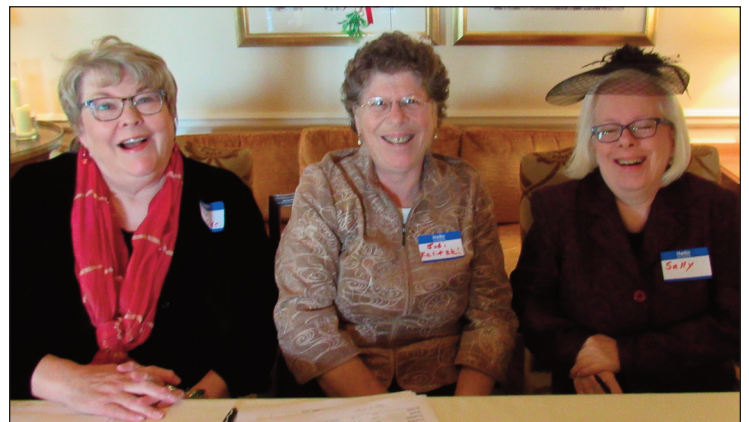
*Gayle Charlesworth*

## Our Annual Holiday Luncheon

by Ann Milam

We celebrated the holiday season at our annual luncheon on December 7 at the Seattle Tennis Club. Penny Wade, our VP of Special Events, chaired the event. Guests were greeted by Penny, Judi Kalitzki and Sally Buckingham. Paul Brott distributed nametags and Sylvia Young and Laura Van Horn sold raffle tickets for two colorful holiday baskets. Other committee members were Zoe Erickson, Ann Milam, Joan Parker, Christine Szabadi and Maria Van Horn. Our attendees included 73 members, 15 guests and three performers. Penny and President Gayle Charlesworth welcomed our guests and thanked all who had contributed to the luncheon. Our guests from Seattle Opera were Aidan Lang, Allison Rabbitt, Alejandra Boyer and Alex Minami. Aidan thanked the Guild for our long-time support of the Opera and described the new, long awaited Seattle Opera at the Center building, a cause for great celebration! Aidan acknowledged SOG's generous underwriting of a meeting room in the new building.

Education VP Christine Szabadi introduced our performers: Merideth Marano (soprano), Elizabeth Galafa (mezzo-soprano) and pianist Lisa Bergman. Their program began with the lovely duet "Belle Nuit" from *Tales of Hoffman*. Elizabeth impressed us with her lively "Habanera" from *Carmen*, and Merideth sang an outstanding "Sempre Libera" from *La Traviata*. Among the audience favorites were the "Flower Duet" from *Lakme* and



Greeters (L to R): Penny Wade, Judi Kalitzki and Sally Buckingham.

Photo credits: Ann Milam.

Lisa's delightful "Classical Christmas" rendition of traditional carols performed in the styles of well-known composers, including Chopin and Liszt. The memorable program concluded with the duets "Silver Bells" and "Dona Nobis Pacem."

Our performers are this year's recipients of SOG Singers' Development Awards. We are very proud of our long tradition of SOG support for young singers and opera education. This wonderful performance reminded us of the importance of our fundraising activities to support all aspects of opera study and performance.

Lisa Bergman, Chair of Northwest Opera In Schools, Etcetera (NOISE) thanked SOG for our longtime support of its unique program. Now in its 35th year, NOISE has brought over 3000 live opera programs to Washington state schools, grades K through 6, plus three retirement communities. This year SOG donated \$1K to NOISE, for a total of \$52K in donations since 1985! In addition to educating children and seniors about opera, NOISE provides valuable singing experiences for young singers, many of whom are still in training. More information about this unique program is available at: <http://noiseforkids.org>

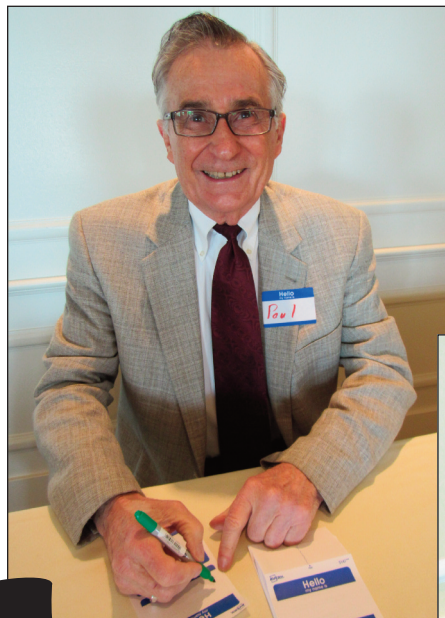
Next on the agenda was a raffle drawing for a special prize, a two-night stay at Sunny Thompson's Wellness Deluxe Lodge and Spa in Ashford, near Mt. Rainier. Aidan Lang drew the winning tickets and Penny announced the winners. The lucky recipient of the spa prize was Sylvia Young. Congratulations also to Gale Kessler and Sharon Cooper, who won the raffle baskets.

Many thanks to the organizers and donors for this highly successful and memorable Holiday Luncheon!



Photo credits: Ann Milan.

Our marvelous performers (L to R): Merideth Marano, Lisa Bergman and Elizabeth Galafa.



Nametags by Paul Brott.



Raffle sellers (L to R): Sylvia Young and Laura Van Horn.



# *Il Trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi

## *Preview Schedules*

**Friday, January 4, 2019**

**Vivace**

Home of Patrick and Emily Bennett  
6116 NE 190th St.  
Kenmore, WA 98028  
\*425.486.5036  
Social: 12:30pm (brunch)  
Meeting: 1:30pm  
Program: 2:00pm  
Contact: Emily Bennett 425.486.5036  
epbennett@msn.com

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**

**Allegro**

Home of Michael and Gayle Charlesworth  
23914 124th Ave SE  
Kent, WA 98031  
\*253.639.1423  
Social: 4:30pm  
Program: 5:30pm  
Contact: Gayle Charlesworth  
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**

**Magnolia/Queen Anne\*\***

Brookdale Queen Anne  
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  
ffrose@comcast.net

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**Mercer Island**

Home of Martha and Mike Galvin  
6701 W. Mercer Way  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
\*206.232.6339  
Arrival: 2:00pm  
Program: 3:30pm  
Contact: Agi Day 425.550.4219  
agiday@comcast.net

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**Bellini\*\***

Home of Ernesto Alorda & Jonathan Gerson  
2215 E. Lake Washington Blvd.  
Seattle, WA 98112  
\*206.328.2262  
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)  
Program: 1:30pm  
Dessert: 2:30pm  
Cost: \$25 for members and guests  
Contacts: \*\*Sally Buckingham,  
425.293.4510  
Marlene Holbrook 425.218.6230 or  
Suzy Wakefield 425.828.6186

**Thursday, January 10, 2019**

**Amici\*\***

Skyline (SkyClub Room)  
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)  
Seattle, WA 98104  
\*(206) 407-1700  
Arrival: 10:15am  
Business Meeting: 10:30am  
Program: 11:00am  
Lunch: noon  
Contact: Penny Wade, 206.938.5949  
or Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132  
mcvh4@yahoo.com

**Friday, January 11, 2019**

**Parties & Previews\*\***

Skyline (Home of Virginia Senear)  
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)  
Seattle, WA 98104  
\*(206) 407-1700  
Social: 6:30pm  
Dinner: 7:30pm  
Program: 8:30pm  
Contact: Sandra Boyd, 425.450.0671  
Sfboyd10@gmail.com

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

\*\* RESERVATIONS PLEASE.

# *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* by Mason Bates

**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

**Bellini\*\***

Trilogy at Redmond  
23225 NE Greens Rd, Redmond Ridge,  
Cascade Club  
Redmond, WA 98053  
\*425.293.4510  
Arrival: 2:00pm (appetizers and beverages)  
Program: 3:00pm  
Dessert: 4:00pm  
Contact: \*\*Sally Buckingham,  
425.293.4510,  
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com  
or Marlene Holbrook 425.218.6230,  
marlenedarmar@aol.com

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**Amici\*\***

Skyline (SkyClub Room)  
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Arrival: 10:15am  
Business Meeting: 10:30am  
Program: 11:00am  
Lunch: noon  
Contact: Penny Wade, 206.938.5949  
or Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132  
mcvh4@yahoo.com

**Friday, February 15, 2019**

**Parties & Previews\*\***

Home of Lesa Sroufe and Matt Barnes  
923 22nd Ave E  
Seattle, WA 98112  
\*206.220.7121  
Social: 6:30pm  
Dinner: 7:30pm  
Program: 8:30pm  
Contacts: Sandra Boyd, 425.450.0671  
Sfboyd10@gmail.com

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

**Allegro**

Home of Maxine and 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 16, 2019**

**Magnolia/Queen Anne\*\***

Brookdale on Queen Anne  
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  
ffrose@comcast.net

**Sunday, February 17, 2019**

**Mercer Island**

TBA  
Contact: Agi Day 425.590.9211  
agiday@comcast.net

**Vivace – No Scheduled Preview**

Members are welcome to attend other  
preview groups.

# UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

**January 12-26 2019**

*Il Trovatore*

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

**February 1, 2019**

*Black Voices* by Seattle Art Song Society  
at Ballard First Lutheran Church  
www.seattleartsongsociety.org  
(206) 488-8048

**February 3-10, 2019**

*The Rape of Lucretia*

by Tacoma Opera in Tacoma  
and Federal Way  
www.tacomaopera.com  
(253) 591-5893

**February 8-9, 2019**

*Leading Ladies* by Pacific MusicWorks  
in Lynnwood and Seattle  
www.pacificmusicworks.org  
(206) 708-6003

**February 10, 2019**

MONC NW Region Finals  
in Nordstrom Hall  
metoperanw.org  
253-874-6525

**February 23- March 9, 2019**

*The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*

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

**March 8, 2019**

*Womxn's Voices*

by Seattle Art Song Society  
Ballard First Lutheran Church  
www.seattleartsongsociety.org  
(206) 488-8048

**May 3-4, 2019**

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

**May 3-12, 2019**

*The Ring of the Nibelung*

Pacific Northwest Opera  
at McIntyre Hall, Mt. Vernon, WA  
www.mcintyrehall.org  
(360) 416.7727 Ex. 2

**May 4-18 2019**

*Carmen* by 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*  
by Seattle Art Song Society  
Ballard First Lutheran Church  
www.seattleartsongsociety.org  
(206) 488-8048

**May 17-19, 2019**

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

**May 19, 2019**

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

## Our Previews of *Turn of the Screw*

By Judi Kalitzki

Just in time for Halloween, Seattle Opera presented a production of Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, last seen on our stage twenty-five years ago. Our SOG previews of this unusual opera featured Corinna Quilliam (soprano), Tim Janecke (tenor) and Li-Tan Hsu (accompanist). They led us through the complicated plot, a story taken from Henry James' novella of the same name, and performed arias by several of the characters. The music is difficult but our singers' performances were very powerful, even moving (and suitably creepy!), so we were well prepared to enjoy this unique opera.



Li-Tan Hsu, Tim Janecke and Corinna Quilliam.

Photo credit: Ann Milam

## Save The Dates!

### Singers' Development Awards Competition

April 6, 2019

7:30pm

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

### Bellini/Vivace Fundraiser

April 28, 2019

Inglewood Country Club  
6505 Inglewood Road NE  
Kenmore, WA 98028

### SOG Annual Meeting

June 20, 2019

Seattle Yacht Club  
1807 East Hamlin Street  
Seattle, WA 98112

# MONC NW District Competition

## October 27, 2018

SOG has been a long-time supporter of the Metropolitan Opera National Council NW. Congratulations to the winners of the Washington District Audition! They will advance to the NW Regional Finals on February 10:

Soprano Stephanie Pfundt, Age 23, Petersburg, Alaska  
Mezzo Soprano Kathryn Kibota, Age 22, Vancouver, WA  
Each singer received \$1500 as a prize

Encouragement awards of \$500 each went to:  
Soprano Maria Kerlee Bozich, Age 25, Seattle, WA  
Soprano Lauren Kulesa, Age 24, Bothell, WA  
Soprano Marissa Moultrie, Age 21, Tacoma, WA  
Soprano Laura Sanders, Age 24, San Francisco, CA



Photo credit: Glenda Williams

L to R: Kathryn Kibota and Stephanie Pfundt.

## Choices, Choices!

By Christine Szabadi  
Vice President of Education

Yesterday was a bit of an opera marathon for me. The whole day was spent at the MONC NW District Auditions, the first round in a long process to find “the one” memorable singer. I then attended *Turn of the Screw* at Seattle Opera. I heard many, many singers that day. It set me to thinking about personal choices. Most of the singers who auditioned were sopranos and I wondered how the judges were going to choose winners. The voices ranged from light and high, to powerful and rich, from dramatic to lyrical, from operetta to Wagner. An impossible task! Nevertheless, I brought out my pen and made my

own critiques on the program. Imagine my surprise when I learned the winners. “Oh Judges,” I thought, “you got it wrong! So and so should have won” When I recovered from this initial shock, I took a step back and began to analyze the situation. I realized that I didn’t know what the judges were looking for. I didn’t know what kind of voice they loved, or what was important to them. Was it just the voice; was it the stage presence, the acting, the personality? I could see their opinions were different from mine. In a competition such as this, singers and audience members can accept the judges’ decisions without compromising their own aesthetic. We can all embrace that. “*Vive la Différence!*”

## Free Ca\$h For Seattle Opera Guild!

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3. Start shopping!

**Sign up in time for your Holiday Shopping!**

Photo credit: Ann Milan



# Learning From A Master

By Christine Szabadi

On Saturday September 29, Seattle Opera Guild was fortunate to engage renowned baritone Marco Nistico to give a masterclass for several of our favorite local singers, taking advantage of his brief visit to our area. Mr. Nistico's career has spanned many years at the Met, NYC Opera and other prestigious opera houses in North America and Europe. Our singers were Lucy Weber, mezzo-soprano; Dierre Lopez, baritone; Ksenia Popova, soprano and Julia Benzinger, mezzo-soprano. Elizabeth Ellis was our piano accompanist. They were all delighted with their experience and told me they had learned a great deal from the master. I was especially fascinated by his teaching and the way he and the students interacted. He knew immediately the area of their presentation he would concentrate on, and managed to bring out the best in their singing. He was particularly painstaking with word pronunciations, drawing on his vast experience with languages. Overall this was a superior event of which the Guild can be proud!



L to R: Dierre Lopez, Lucy Weber, Marco Nistico, Ksenia Popova, Julia Benzinger and Elisabeth Ellis.



Marco Nistico

Photo credit: Christine Szabadi

## SOG's Electronic Stops

We're on the web: [seattleoperaguild.org](http://seattleoperaguild.org)

Like us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/TheSeattleOperaGuild/](http://www.facebook.com/TheSeattleOperaGuild/)

## SOG Board Meeting Schedule for 2019

January 7, February 4,  
March 8, April 3rd  
and May 6 at 10:30am.

### Editorial Staff:

**Editor:** Ann H. Milam

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

**Digital Communications:** Ann Milam

**Web Manager:** Josh DeLacy

**Graphics/Printing:** Spot-on Print & Design 425-558-7768

**Submissions:** *Text and Photographs* to Ann Milam: [annmilam1@gmail.com](mailto: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, 2019 issue of L'Aria:** March 1, 2019

### 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
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