

L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEATTLE
Opera Guild

December 2017 • Volume 66 • 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 Message



Photo credit: Ann Milam.

If wishes were nickels...today that would be a fiver, or five hundred, depending on the person.

The best of intentions got us where we are today, still going with seven preview groups after sixty years. We must walk into our future with more nickels. What we do requires lots of them. Supporting Opera and Young Singers is the reason we are here. These are not easy times, but we have much for which to be thankful. Our wishes must continue to be realities.

As we begin the holiday season and come to the end of the year, we look forward to a vibrant and collaborative Seattle Opera Guild. One where all members understand that there is much to be done, with many to help. These words mean to me that I still have a healthy smile on my face and am willing to work with all people who share our goals. I am thankful for members who feel the same and for their communications over the past few months. Have a wonderful wrap-up of the present year and a great kick-off to the next one. Please stay with us and invite your friends to join our organization!

Gayle Charlesworth

Our Annual Holiday Luncheon

by Ann Milam

We celebrated the holiday season at this memorable event on December 8, 2017 at the Seattle Tennis Club. Co-Chairs of the gala event were Penny Wade (VP of Special Events) and Maria Van Horn. Linda Heinen, Seamus Smith and Peggy O'Brien-Murphy greeted our guests, Penny collected fees and Paul Brotman sold raffle tickets. Other committee members were Zoe Erickson, Marie-France Gautier, Ann Milam, Regina Thomas, and Laura and Greg Van Horn. Our attendees included 69 members, 17 guests and six performers.

Laura Van Horn sold adorable opera bears donated by Penny and raffle tickets for a colorful holiday basket generously gifted by Penny and Maria.

Penny, Maria and President Gayle Charlesworth greeted our guests and thanked all who had contributed to



L to R: Penny Wade, Gayle Charlesworth and Maria Van Horn.

Photo credits: Suzy Wakefield and Ann Milam.

the luncheon. Penny announced that our raffle raised \$22K this year and thanked the sellers for their help—bravi to all! Gayle announced that our long-time SOG member and event greeter, Liz Bagshaw, had passed away the previous day. She acknowledged Liz’s many contributions to our Guild.

Our guests from Seattle Opera were Lisa Bury, Janell Johnson, Allison Rabbitt, Barbara Lynne Jamison, Alex Kyger and Nerys Jones. Barbara thanked the Guild for our long-time support of the Education/Community Engagement Department and acknowledged the generous matching gift by Suzy Wakefield for contributions to the new Seattle Opera building.

Education VP Regina Thomas introduced our performers: Ibidunni Ojikutu (soprano), Lucy Weber (mezzo), Kwangsuk Ku (baritone) and pianist Lisa Bergman. They delighted us with a program of individual arias, beginning with three from *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart: “Non so piu, cosa son” by Lucy, “Porgi, Amor, qualche ristoro” by Ibidunni, and “Hai gia vinta la causa” by Kwangsuk. Ibidunni, Lucy and Kwangsuk delighted us with “Soave sia il vento” from *Così fan tutte*, and Ibidunni and Lucy sang the lovely “Flower Duet” from *Madama Butterfly*. The musical program concluded with “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” and a group sing of “Silent Night.”

Our performers are this year’s recipients of our Singers Development Awards. Each spoke movingly of how this award has funded vocal studies and helped to



Greeters (L to R): Paul Brotman, Penny Wade, Linda Heinen, Seamus Smith and Peggy O’Brien-Murphy.

cover expenses essential for career development. We are very proud of our long tradition of SOG support for young singers and opera education. This wonderful performance both rewarded and reminded us of the importance of our fundraising activities to support all aspects of opera study and performance.

Lisa Bergman, Chair of NOISE (Neighborhood Opera In Schools Etc.) thanked SOG for our longtime support of its program (now in its 33rd year), which this season brought live opera performances to 43 regional schools! This year SOG donated \$2000 to NOISE, for a total of \$50.1K over the years! Lisa also acknowledged the late Donn Talenti and Julian Patrick for their great support of NOISE. In addition to educating children,



The winning Paris Apartment ticket! L to R: Maria Van Horn, Janell Johnson and Lisa Bury.

NOISE provides valuable singing experiences for young singers, many of whom are still in training.

Next on the agenda was the long-awaited SOG raffle drawing. Lisa Bury drew the winning tickets and Maria announced the winners. Lucky recipients in our audience were Van Johnson (Turgeon Raine jewelry certificate) and most excitingly, Janell Johnson, who was surprised by winning the Paris apartment visit! Congratulations also to Susan Venegas, who won the raffle basket.

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



L to R: Our marvelous performers Ibidunni Ojikutu, Lisa Bergman, Lucy Weber and Kwangsuk Ku.

SAVE THE DATE!

SOG Annual Meeting

June 7, 2018

Seattle Yacht Club

Photo credits: Suzy Wakefield and Ann Milan.

Our Unique Fundraiser With Sarah Larsen

Sunday, September 10, we enjoyed a memorable recital by Sarah Larsen (mezzo) and Elisabeth Ellis (pianist) at the beautiful Lake Washington estate of James and Sherry Raisbeck. Sarah began her musical program with Rachmaninoff selections, accompanied by Elisabeth on the composer's own piano!

After introducing and performing other memorable arias, Sarah told of her very first public performance as a singer in *The Sound of Music* at her high school graduation. She said she was initially disappointed to be cast as the Abbess, rather than the lead role of Maria. Then she realized she would get to perform "Climb Every Mountain," which she reprised for us. How appropriate that Sarah began her career with this inspirational piece that encourages people to take every step towards attaining their dreams! With support from two SOG awards, for which she thanked us, training in Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, and many hours of hard work in her studies, Sarah is now enjoying a highly successful operatic career!

The event was a cooperative effort between Parties and Previews and SOG. Sandra Boyd chaired the event, assisted by our President Gayle Charlesworth and Penny Wade, VP of Special Events. Volunteers deserving special praise were: Peter Phillips (bartender and program emcee), Todd Houle (wine and set-up), Mary Beth Marx (check-in) and Virginia Gagnon (treasurer).

We all enjoyed the wonderful hospitality provided by James and Sherry in their very special home. The perfect weather allowed us to wander the grounds and enjoy the view of the lake. When it was time to come inside, their unique music room set the scene for the very special performances by Sarah and Elisabeth!



Elisabeth Ellis and Sarah Larsen.



Chair Sandra Boyd.



Sherry Raisbeck and Peter Phillips.



Alecia Rossano and Lisa Bury.



James Raisbeck and Lisa Bury.



Music for "Climb Every Mountain."

Photo credits: Ann Milan.

SOG Spotlight on Barbara Howell!

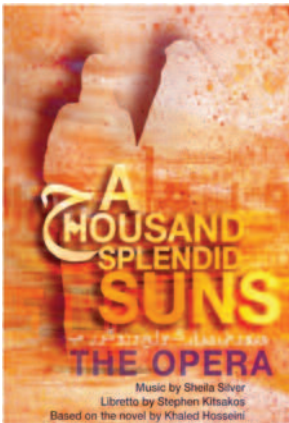
We honor and thank Barbara Howell for her many contributions to the Guild. She received our prestigious Award of Distinction in 2000 in recognition of her many years of outstanding service. A long time Membership Secretary and SOG board member, Barbara was treasurer for a number of our fundraisers, including home tours and Divas and Diamonds. A charter member of the Mercer Island Preview Group (in ~1970), she chaired that group in 1988. Always capable and cheerful, Barbara has handled a variety of SOG projects, including membership renewals, the directory, newsletter and bulk mailings, and many other activities. Her personal annual contribution for 27 years was the sale of holiday fruitcakes to raise funds for SOG. At Seattle Opera, Barbara was a ticket office volunteer for many years. We acknowledged Barbara's invaluable service at our Annual Meeting last June and are delighted to thank her again here in *L'Aria*!



Photo credit: Alan Alabastro.

A Thousand Splendid Suns (The Opera)

By Gayle Charlesworth



On August 17, a friendly and well-attended reception was held for Seattle native Sheila Silver. She is currently working on an opera version of Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

The Kirkland home of Frank and Rose Dennis was filled with good wishes and delicious food. Aidan Lang attended and announced his interest in staging this opera in 2020. Conversation was lively about opera and Sheila's previous

compositions, including the opera, *The Thief of Love*.

Sheila has garnered many awards for her music, including a Prix de Paris, the Rome Prize, The Sackler Prize in Opera and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She has received several development grants for *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, which is already garnering attention on the international opera scene: www.sheilasilver.com/1000-splendid-suns-3/



Aidan Lang and Sheila Silver.

Photo credit: Suzy Wakefield

News from Regina Thomas Our VP of Education



We continue to develop new opportunities to promote and support our Training Grant recipients. On Friday, October 27, Classical KING FM 98.1 featured our 2107 Training Grant recipients on NW Focus Live. Ibidunni Ojikutu (soprano), Rachele Moss (contralto), Lucy Weber (mezzo) and Kwangsuk Ku (baritone) presented a program of mostly Italian opera with a smattering of Mozart, some of which will be heard live on December 8 at our Holiday Luncheon. They were accompanied by John Burkhardt, principal accompanist and Chorus Master of Puget Sound Concert Opera and former Chorus Master of Bellevue Opera. NW Focus host Sean MacLean devoted time to talk about the history of the Guild, our influence on the Seattle music scene and our Training Grant program. Sean interviewed SOG President Gayle Charlesworth and our singers, discussing their arias, voice types and career plans. The NW Focus Live experience was so positive. It will add another link to the armor of confidence and resiliency, enabling our artists to withstand the auditions and rejections they face in making their way through the professional world. A recording of the show will be available on the KING FM website. We will notify you on our Facebook page and website when it is ready!

John Burkhardt, Rachele Moss, Ibidunni Ojikutu, Lucy Weber, Sean McLean, and Kwangsuk Ku.



Photo credit: Gayle Charlesworth.

The Metropolitan Opera National Council-NW

The NW Region's Washington District Competition was held on October 29 in the Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall. The judges were Nicholas Russell (Boston Lyric Opera), William Stone (Academy of Vocal Arts) and Craig Terry (Lyric Opera of Chicago). Accompanied by Seattle Opera's David McDade, 24 young singers competed to represent the District in the upcoming Regional MONC-NW Competition on March 4, 2018, along with winners from the three other NW Districts.



Winners Ashley Dixon and LaMarcus Miller. They are holding Kelly Lynn Ferguson's photo because she had to catch a plane to her next audition!



Encouragement awardees (L to R): Catherine Thornsley, Lauren Kulesa, Dora Barnes and John Marzano.

Photo credits: Glenda Williams.

Encouragement awards were given to sopranos Catherine Thornsley, Lauren Kulesa and Dora Barnes, and tenor John Marzano, all of whom live in Seattle. Winners who will advance to the Regional Competition are mezzo Ashley Dixon and bass-baritone LaMarcus Miller, both based in Los Angeles, and soprano Kelly Lynn Ferguson, originally from Enumclaw, WA but now living in San Francisco.

MONC was established in 1935 and is the longest running competition for young singers in the US. SOG has provided financial support to MONC-NW since our inception in 1956. The Guild was thanked in the event program, including a description of our "Partners in Excellence Award" from Opera Volunteers International, plus ongoing support of young singers through our training stipends and preview performance opportunities.

SOG's New Website!

By Kathleen Martin

We have redesigned our website for easier reading and better organization! The address is: seattleoperaguild.org. The new format improves visibility, especially on a cell phone. Clicking on the photographs will take you directly to the information. For instance, if you click on the Preview Group title or photo, you will be taken to information about all of the Preview Groups. If you click on the Singers' Development Awards photo or title, you will see photographs of our past award winners with their web pages.

We invite you to explore the new site. Click around and check out "You Might Enjoy" for links to other operatic organizations. The Calendar shows you upcoming events and meetings. Just select which events you are interested in on the top bar of the calendar. If you click on a listed event, more information about that event will appear! You may also view current and past issues of *L'Aria* on this site.

The Members' login button links you to the members' section of the old website, which contains members' names and addresses, bylaws and other private Guild information.

Please visit our new website frequently for news and events. The more times you visit, the higher our popularity ratings, which will put this new site closer to the top of the lists when searching online for "Seattle Opera Guild." Encourage your friends and other members to use this site to learn about our organization!



Cosi fan Tutte

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Preview Schedules

Thursday, January 4, 2018

Amici

Home of Christine Riley
4233 92nd NE
Yarrow Point, WA 98004
*206.972.8124
Arrival: 10:15am
Business Meeting: 10:30am
Preview: 11:00am
Lunch: noon
Contact: Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Friday, January 5, 2018

Vivace

Home of Patrick and Emily Bennett
6116 NE 190th St.
Kenmore, WA 98028
*425.485.5036
Social: 12:30 pm
Meeting: 1:30pm
Preview: 2:00pm
Contact: Emily Bennett 425.486.5036
epbennett@msn.com

Saturday, January 6, 2018

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 6, 2018

Magnolia/Queen Anne***

Brookdale Queen Anne
805 4th Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: ***Alecia Rossano
206.284.7556, aleciarossano@gmail.com
Florence Rose Thompson
206.915.7829, frose@comcast.net

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

*** RESERVATIONS PLEASE.

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Bellini***

Home of Ernesto Alorda and Jonathan
Gerson
2215 Lake Washington Blvd.
Seattle, WA 98112
*206.328.2262
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Preview: 1:30pm
Dessert: 3:00pm
Cost: \$25 for members and guests
Contact: ***Sally Buckingham,
425.293.4510
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com
Suzy Wakefield, 425.828.6186

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Mercer Island

Home of Mike and Martha Galvin
6701 West Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040
*206.232.6339
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:30pm
Contact: Agi Day, 425.590.9211

Friday, January 12, 2018

Parties & Previews

Home of Virginia Seneor
Skyline, 725 9th Ave #1801
Seattle, WA 98101
*206.467.0136
Social: 6:30pm
Dinner: 7:30pm
Program: 8:30pm
Contacts: Sandra Boyd, 425.450.0671
Emily Mattson: 206.920.0588

Beatrice & Benedict

by Hector Berlioz

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Bellini***

Trilogy at Redmond Ridge, Cascade Club
23215 NE Greens Crossing Road
Redmond, WA 98053
Hostess: Roberta Erwin Lyon
425.216.1431
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Preview: 2:00pm
Dessert: 3:00pm
Cost: \$25 for members and guests
(a reduced rate for Trilogy members)
Contact: ***Sally Buckingham, 425.293.4510
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com
Suzy Wakefield, 425.828.6186

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Amici

Home of Linda Voelker
5500 SW Spokane St.
Seattle, WA 98116
*206.948.7902
Arrival: 10:15am
Business Meeting: 10:30am
Preview: 11:00am
Lunch: noon
Contact: Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Allegro

Home of Gayle and Michael Charlesworth
23914 124th Ave S.
Kent, WA 98031
*253.277.3064
Social: 4:30pm
Program: 5:30pm
Contact: Gayle Charlesworth
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Magnolia/Queen Anne***

Brookdale Queen Anne
805 4th Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: ***Alecia Rossano
206.284.7556, aleciarossano@gmail.com
Florence Rose Thompson
206.915.7829, frose@comcast.net

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Mercer Island

Home of Dr. Milton and Nancy English
7015 West Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040
*206.232.8429
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:00pm
Contact: Agi Day 425.590.9211

Friday, February 16, 2018

Parties & Previews

Home of Sandra Boyd
10000 Meydenbauer Way SE Apt #1
Bellevue, WA 98004
*425.450.0671
Social: 6:30pm
Dinner: 7:30pm
Program: 8:30pm
Contacts: Sandra Boyd, 425.450.0671
Emily Mattson: 206.920.0588

*Please note: There will be no Vivace preview for this opera.
Members are encouraged to attend another preview group's meeting.*

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

January 13-27, 2018

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

January 14 & 21, 2018

Baroque to the Gluck Reform Opera
(Featuring Regina Thomas)
Ladies Musical Club of Seattle
West Seattle Library (January 14, 2018)
Mirabella (January 21, 2018)
lmcseattle.org/concerts-events/
public-concerts/

January 29-21, 2018

L'Elisir d'Amore
Vancouver Opera
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, BC
www.vancouveropera.ca/2017-2018-
Season-and-Festival
(604) 682-2871

February 2-3, 2018

Robin Hood Youth Opera Project
at Cornish Playhouse
https://www.seattleopera.org/tickets/
(206) 389-7676

February 3-11, 2018

Carmen
Tacoma Opera at Pantages Theater
www.tacomaopera.com
(253) 627-7789

February 15-25, 2018

La Bohème
Pacific Opera Victoria
Royal Theatre of Victoria, BC
www.pov.bc.ca/2017-18.html
(250) 385-0222

February 16-18, 2018

Il Trovatore
Puget Sound Concert Opera
www.pugetsoundconcertopera.org
/season1718.html

February 24-March 10, 2018

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

February 26, 2018

Recital by UW Voice Students
of Thomas Harper
Kari Ragan & Cyndia Sieden
Brechemin Auditorium, UW Campus
music.washington.edu/events/
(206) 543-6450 (free)

March 4, 2018

Metropolitan Opera National Council NW
Pacific Regional Competition
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
200 University St, Seattle, WA 98101
metoperanw.com/monc-news/

March 8, 2018

L'Enfant et les Sortilèges
by UW Voice Students
Meany Studio Theater
music.washington.edu/events
(206) 543-6450

April 6-15, 2018

Turandot
Pacific Northwest Opera at McIntyre Hall
2501 East College Way, Mount Vernon, WA
www.mcintyrehall.org
(360) 416.7727 Ex. 2

April 14-22, 2018

The Merry Widow
Tacoma Opera at Rialto Theater
www.tacomaopera.com
(253) 591-5893

April 19-29, 2018

Rinaldo
Pacific Opera Victoria
Royal Theatre of Victoria, BC
www.pov.bc.ca/2017-18.html
(250) 385-0222

April 27-May 5, 2018

Eugene Onegin
Vancouver Opera
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, BC
www.vancouveropera.ca/2017-
2018-Season-and-Festival
(604) 682-2871

April 28-May 6, 2018

The Overcoat: An Opera
Vancouver Opera
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, BC
www.vancouveropera.ca/2017-2018
-Season-and-Festival
(604) 682-2871

May 5-19, 2018

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

May 12, 2018

Roman Holiday:
Young Handel's Italian Adventures
Pacific MusicWorks
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4400 86th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 232-1572

May 14, 2018

UW Voice Division Recital
Students of Thomas Harper
Kari Ragan & Cyndia Sieden
Brechemin Auditorium, UW Campus
music.washington.edu/events/
(206) 543-6450 (free)

May 18 & 20, 2018

The Magic Flute
Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
www.vashonopera.org
(206) 388-2926

May 20, 2018

Gaman
Music of Remembrance
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
200 University St, Seattle, WA 9810
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770

June 8-10

Fedora
Puget Sound Concert Opera
www.pugetsoundconcertopera.org
/season1718.html

In Memoriam: John Porter Reed, MD / 1924-2017

Porter was born in Springfield, MA. His early ambition was to become a doctor. Enduring family losses during the Great Depression, he worked hard to make his dream a reality. Porter and Janet, his beloved wife of 69 years, lived in their Bellevue, WA home for 58 years. He was Chief of Anesthesiology at The Doctors Hospital in Seattle for 16 years and served on the staffs at Maynard, Swedish, Children's and Cabrini Hospitals. A member of the Mountaineers Club, Porter climbed many of Washington's peaks and was active in the Bellevue Probus Club and the Republican Party. Porter and Janet were members of our SOG Bellini preview group.

SEATTLE Opera Guild

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Visit Our New Website!
www.seattleoperaguild.org

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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, 2018 issue of *L'Aria*:
March 1, 2018

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Plus you can help SOG at the same time! Just log into
AmazonSmile.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!