

L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEATTLE
Opera Guild

September 2019 • Volume 68 • Issue 2

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



Happy Days! We have enjoyed our spectacular summer days and vacation visits and await a fresh new season of Seattle Opera. We are all eager to meet the new General Director, Christina Scheppelmann.

Seattle Opera Guild is a vital organization and we urge you to renew your membership soon. An application is attached to this issue of L'Arria, and is also online: <https://seattleoperaguild.org/join-us/membership-renewal/>. Please join us for another season of opera previews and festivities.

Save the date! Opera America will meet in Seattle 13-17 May, 2020. Be a part of this exciting event by joining those of us who will be brunching and enjoying the company of opera lovers from around the country. See you soon!

Gayle Charlesworth

SOG's 62nd Annual Meeting & Luncheon

By Judi Kalitzki

Our annual event was held at the Seattle Yacht Club on June 20, the day before this year's summer solstice. Since President Gayle Charlesworth was on vacation, Penny Wade and Suzy Wakefield shared emcee duties. Penny welcomed everyone and introduced Suzy, who underlined the Guild's past and continuing accomplishments and honored each preview group. There was good attendance from each group, as well as from our members at large.

Suzy also welcomed the "Four A's," the representatives from Seattle Opera who joined us: outgoing General Director Aidan Lang, Director of Development Allison Rabbitt, Community Engagement Manager Alex Minami and Director of Partnerships and Programs Alejandra Valarino Boyer. Especially given that Aidan was leaving two days later to begin his new position as Director of the Welsh National Opera, we particularly appreciated that he made time to attend our meeting.

We were also honored to have Maryanne Tagney as our guest. The reason the new Seattle Opera at the Center was built on schedule and is now part of our world, is largely because of the tremendous, herculean efforts of Maryanne Tagney and Aidan, as announced at the Seattle Opera Board meeting the day before our luncheon.



Penny Wade gifts Aidan Lang with a chef's apron and Pike Place Market cookbook.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Annual Meeting

Agi Day introduced the slate of officers for 2019-2020, who were elected by voice vote:

President: Gayle Charlesworth
VP Administration: Penny Wade
VP Special Events: Maria Van Horn
VP Communications: Ann Milam
VP Education: Christine Szabadi
Treasurer: Sally Buckingham
Secretary: Judi Kalitzki
Membership: Emily Mattson
Officer at Large: Agi Day
Trustee: Suzy Wakefield

Penny Wade presented this year's Award of Distinction to Christine Szabadi for all the roles she has filled and the efforts she has given to the Guild over the years. In an amusing aside, Penny noted that even as she was listing Christine's various positions and accomplishments, Christine still didn't appear to recognize herself as the person being touted! Penny presented Christine with a gift and a floral arrangement.

Penny also presented special gifts to Seattle Opera's Director Aidan Lang, who loves to barbeque. She presented him with a chef's apron with a starry night graphic of downtown Seattle and a fun Pike Place Market cookbook with lots of local pictures. Marilyn Pedersen won the herb pot raffle and Judi Kalitzki was the lucky winner of the English tea basket.

Before presenting the Seattle Opera Guild's annual gift to Seattle Opera to Aidan Lang, Treasurer Sally Buckingham noted that each and every member of the SOG works tirelessly to make the previews happen and support Seattle Opera. She also noted what a joy it is to work with all the people at Seattle Opera and offered her thanks for that wonderful reciprocal relationship.

In accepting the Guild's gift, Aidan posed the question: "Is opera dead?" His answer, of course, was a resounding "No!" But in order to make sure opera stays alive, he emphasized, opera companies can never sit still. They always have to consider how to deliver their product today.

As an example of the rewards of doing just that, Aidan pointed out that the recent production of *Carmen* was the highest grossing opera in Seattle Opera's history. In addition, this last season the Opera sold more single tickets (indicative of newcomers to the Opera) than in any season since 1995.

Aidan stressed that SOG's gift to Partnerships and Programs is particularly welcome because its activities will help Seattle Opera not only survive but thrive. He also pointed out that the SOG has donated over \$4,000,000 to the Opera over the years, and thanked the Guild for all its support for the art form we all believe in.

Suzy thanked Chair Penny Wade and her committee for doing a wonderful job organizing the annual meeting and luncheon: Christine Szabadi (Program Chair), Zoe Erickson, Linda Heinen, Judi Kalitzki, Emily Mattson, Mary Ellen Mullen, Kathy Reichlin and Suzy Wakefield.

We also appreciate the underwriters of our event: Gayle Charlesworth, Ann Milam, Sarah Navarre and Penny Wade.

Before introducing the performers for our musical program, Christine Szabadi explained that one of the Guild's most important

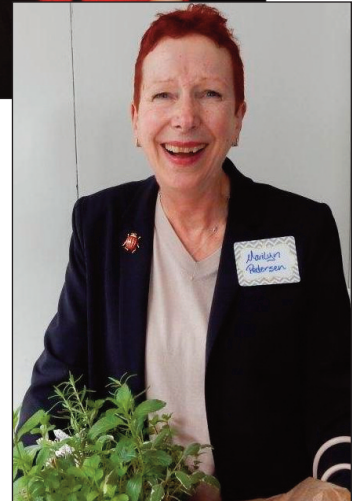


All photo credits: Suzy Wakefield.

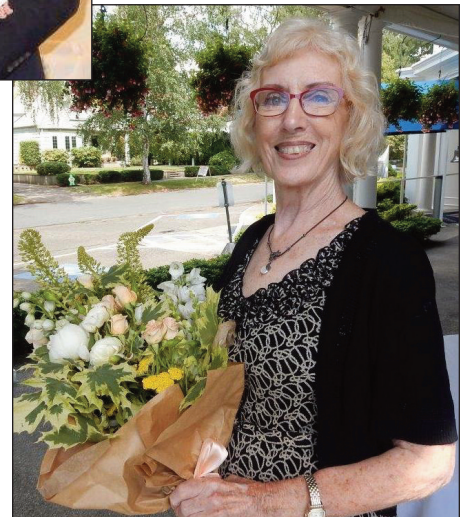
L to R: Aidan Lang, Elisabeth Ellis, Debra McKinney and Jonah Spool.



Alex Minami with the English tea basket won by Judi Kalitzki.



Marilyn Pedersen won the herb pot raffle.



Christine Szabadi, recipient of our 2019 SOG Award of Distinction.

functions is to support talented and driven singers who are trying to make opera their career. The singers who performed at our luncheon were two of the winners of this year's Singers' Development Awards.

Debra McKinney, soprano, and Jonah Spool, baritone, presented a full panoply of arias and Broadway songs, from Mozart (Spool) to Wagner (McKinney), from *Carousel* (Spool) to *The Music Man* (McKinney). They were ably accompanied by Elisabeth Ellis. Spool's and McKinney's final arias, "Il balen" from *Il Trovatore*, and "Einsam in trüben Tagen" from *Lohengrin*, truly showed off their exceptional talents.

Summer in Seattle

By Ann Milam

Magnolia/Queen Anne's fundraiser, "Summer in Seattle," was held on Saturday, July 13, a beautiful, sunny day. Guests enjoyed *al fresco* dining in the garden court yard at Queen Anne Retirement Community, followed by a delightful musical program presented by Shelly Traverse (soprano), Erich Parce (baritone) and Lisa Bergman (pianist). The highly successful event was organized by Florence Thompson, Nick Elder, Ellen Beardsley, Frank Gregory and Patricia Hitchens. Congratulations to all for this most enjoyable party!



Guests enjoy dining *al fresco*.
Photo credit: Marnie Walker

L to R: Shelly Traverse, Erich Parce and Lisa Bergman.
Photo credit: Marnie Walker

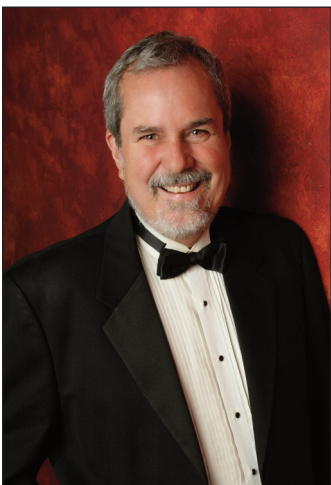
Our Rigoletto Fundraiser

By Ann Milam

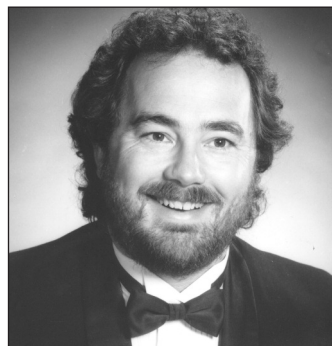
Parties and Previews held a highly successful celebration of Verdi's popular opera, *Rigoletto*, in the Newport Hills home of Gabriela Sirbu on August 3. The attendees enjoyed the festive Italian decorations and a delicious full course buffet. Organizers of the event were Mary Ellen Mullen, Emily Mattson and Gabriela Sirbu and Bo Woronowicz.

The highlight of the evening was a delightful preview of the dramatic opera by Charles R. Stephens (baritone), Gino Luchetti (tenor), Ksenia Popova (soprano) and Glenda Williams (pianist). They delighted the audience with a description of the plot of this tense, brutal melodrama and performed several popular arias, including "La donna è mobile," "Questa o quella" and "Caro Nome."

Everyone had a splendid time, with proceeds benefitting our Singers' Development Award program. *Bravi*, all!



Charles Robert Stephens



Gino Luchetti



Ksenia Popova



Glenda Williams

It all started with Daphne...

By Christine Szabadi
VP of Education



...or at least this was thought to be the beginning of “opera” when, towards the end of the 16th century, a group of musicians and writers called the Florentine Camerata aimed to revive the classical Greek Tragedy in a new form, employing musical recitative for dramatic effect. They were convinced that the ancient Greeks included vocal renditions in their dramas, especially in the “Chorus.” Through these men, *La Dafne*, described as a “Dramatic fable”, was conceived. With music by Jacopo Peri, it received its first performance at the 1597 *Carnivale* in Venice. It is not surprising then that operas were centered on Greek mythology for at least the next hundred years. Some of the more popular stories retold in music were Orpheus and Euridice, Dido and Aeneas, and Acis and Galatea. From these tentative beginnings arose the first bright “star” of opera - Monteverdi - whose genius is still evident and whose operas are still performed.

Since time immemorial, music and the theatre have gone hand in hand. It seems to me that no matter which ancient culture is studied, the need to tell stories in music, sung or intoned, accompanied or a capella is prevalent. As opera evolved, the enormous power of this combination was discovered. That being said, the evolutionary thread leading to the birth of opera passes through an unlikely precursor - the Church. In medieval times, musical dramas (Mysteries, Miracles and Moralities) became popular, their main purpose was to enlighten the populace in a way they could easily grasp. Performed both in and apart from the liturgy, they mostly consisted of two or three persons from scripture, sometimes speaking, or singing, and sometimes accompanied. The move away from the religious to the secular through stories of the Saints and then the personification of abstract ideas (Love, Beauty, Death, etc.) was gradual, but it seems to represent yet another thread woven into the final exquisite tapestry that we know as Opera.

If Daphne had only known!

Cinderella by Rossini

Preview Schedules

Saturday, October 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, October 5, 2019

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
ffrose@comcast.net

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Bellini

Home of Dot Fuller
6311 146th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98052
*425.883.0033 or 425.785.3004
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Program: 2:00pm
Dessert: 3:00pm
Contact: Sally Buckingham, 425.293.4510
Suzy Wakefield 425.828.6186

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Parties & Previews

Home of Lesa Sroufe & Matt Barnes
923 22nd Ave E., Seattle, WA 98112
*206.795.2190
5:00pm - Social
5:45pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Program
Contacts: Mary Ellen Mullen 206-498-5785,
Emily Mattson 206-920-0588

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Mercer Island

Host: Gale Kessler & Ron Stoner
7905 W. Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040
*206.219.9104
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:00pm
Contact: Nancy English
206.409.842932@comcast.net
Nenglish232@comcast.net

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Amici

Skyline (Sky Club Room)
725 9th Ave (Valet Parking)
Seattle, WA 98104
Arrival: 11:00am
Program: 11:30am
Lunch: following Program
*Contact: Penny Wade, 206.938.5949
or Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132
mcvh4@yahoo.com

Friday, October 18, 2019

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

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

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

September 13 & 15, 2019

La Traviata
by Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
<https://www.vashonopera.org>
(206) 388-2926

October 19-November 1, 2019

Cinderella
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall, Seattle
www.seattleopera.org/onstage/
(206) 389.7676

October 24-November 3, 2019

Elixir of Love
Tacoma Opera at Rialto Theater
www.tacomaopera.com
(253) 627-7789

October 26, 2019

Metropolitan Opera National Council NW
Washington District Competition
Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall
200 University Street
Seattle, WA 9810
10am-4pm
metoperanw.com/monc-news

October 26 & 27, 2019

Eternal Beloved
Pacific MusicWorks
St. James Cathedral & Epiphany Parish, Seattle
(206) 323-0300

October 28, 2019

L'Orfeo ed Euridice
Seattle Symphony
Benaroya Hall
www.seattlesymphony.org/concerttickets/calendar/2019-2020/symphony/orfeo-euridice

November 1-10, 2019

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

November 2, 2019

Three Singing Sisters
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall, Seattle
www.seattleopera.org/on-stage
(206) 389.7676
metoperanw.com/monc-news

November 3, 2019

Passage, Veritas & Camp Songs
Music of Remembrance
Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall
200 University St, Seattle, WA 98101
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770

November 15-24, 2019

The Falling & The Rising
by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall, Seattle
www.seattleopera.org/on-stage
(206) 389.7676

January 11-25, 2020

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

February 22-March 7, 2020

Charlie Parker's Yardbird
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

May 1-10, 2020

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

April 16-19, 2020

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

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 St, Seattle, WA 9810
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770

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

DATE _____

1st Member

PREFIX _____ FIRST NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

PHONE 1 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 2 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 3 _____ H - M - W _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

2nd Member if a couple membership

PREFIX _____ FIRST NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

PHONE 1 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 2 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 3 _____ H - M - W _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Household

MAILING ADDRESS _____ APARTMENT _____ CITY AND STATE _____ POST CODE _____

Preview Group _____ or At Large

2nd Preview Group _____ or At Large additional \$20 for couple or \$10 for individual

Membership Level - Couple Patron @ \$195 Sustaining @ \$120 Supporting @ \$90
- Individual Patron @ \$145 Sustaining @ \$ 85 Supporting @ \$60

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.

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Remarks _____

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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 December 2019 issue of *L'Aria*: November 1, 2019

Don't forget to renew your SOG membership!



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

Or contact
Sally Buckingham:
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com

SOG Officers

President	Gayle Charlesworth
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VP Special Events	Maria Van Horn
VP Communications	Ann Milam
VP Education	Christine Szabadi
Treasurer	Sally Buckingham
Secretary	Judi Kalitzki
Membership	Emily Mattson
Officer at Large	Agi Day
Trustee	Suzy Wakefield