June 2023-June 2024 SOG Officers

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Editorial Policy:
Editorial changes to submitted articles, other than correction of grammatical errors, will be made after consultation with the author.

Supporting Opera
Jonathan Gerson

When I was in the US Army I had a buddy who shared my passion for opera. One time, when I was in Germany, I attended the opera at the theater in Munich. It was a concert performance of the opera La Traviata. I remember being so moved by the music and the story that I decided to pursue opera as a career. Since then, I have dedicated my life to supporting opera, both as a performer and as a supporter of the Seattle Opera Guild. I believe that opera is a unique art form that has the power to inspire and move people. Opera is a medium that can convey powerful stories and emotions in a way that is both beautiful and profound. I am proud to support the Seattle Opera Guild and its mission to support and promote opera in the Pacific Northwest.
2013 SDA Winner ‘Tess Alitveros’ Flourishing Operatic Career

Judi Kalitzki

Tess Alitveros is a soprano from Seattle who, in her short career, has already made a big impression on the Seattle opera scene. She won Seattle Opera Guild’s (SDA) 2013 SDA competition, which has become a launching pad for some of Seattle’s most notable opera singers. Tess has performed with companies such as Opera Colorado, Portland Opera, and Pacific Northwest Opera, and is currently a member of the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program. She has also been a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the Adler Opera Studio.

Tess’s journey to opera began at a young age. She grew up in a musical family and was inspired by her mother, a pianist, to pick up the piano at the age of four. She later discovered her love for singing and began studying voice with Judi Kalitzki, an opera coach and artistic director of Seattle Opera Guild. Under Kalitzki’s guidance, Tess developed her technique and began to explore the operatic repertoire.

Tess’s talent was recognized early on, and she was awarded first prize in the Seattle Opera Guild’s (SDA) 2013 competition. This victory helped her gain entry into the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program, where she has had the opportunity to perform in various productions and work with some of the top opera coaches and directors.

In her most recent role, Tess portrayed the title character in the Seattle Opera’s production of “The Marriage of Figaro,” directed by Stephen Lawless. The production, which was produced in a collaboration with the Puget Sound Opera, ran from November 2013 to January 2014. Tess’s performance was praised by critics and audiences alike, with one reviewer noting that her singing was “vivacious and spirited.”

Tess is also a member of the Seattle Opera Young Artists’ Ensemble, which provides educational and performance opportunities to young opera singers. She has performed in various concerts and recitals, including a performance of “Vissi d’arte” from Puccini’s “Tosca,” which was published in the Seattle Opera Guild’s newsletter.

Tess is currently preparing for her next role in the Seattle Opera’s production of “Turandot,” which is set for the 2014-2015 season. She is excited to continue her operatic career and to share her passion for opera with others.

Melinda Bargarren: Seattle’s Classical Music Critic Par Excellence

Judi Kalitzki

Melinda Bargarren is a classical music critic for The Seattle Times and a frequent contributor to The Classical. She has been writing about music for over 30 years and has won numerous awards for her writing, including the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Arts Criticism. Bargarren is known for her insightful and engaging reviews, which often explore the cultural and historical context of the music she writes about.

Bargarren was born and raised in Seattle and attended the University of Washington, where she studied musicology. She later earned a master’s degree in musicology from the University of Texas at Austin. Bargarren has also taught musicology at the University of Washington and has served as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Bargarren’s writing has appeared in a variety of publications, including The Seattle Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. She is also a regular contributor to The Classical, a classical music website that covers news and reviews from around the world.

In addition to her writing, Bargarren is an active performer and collaborator in the Seattle music scene. She is a founding member of the Seattle Opera Guild and has performed in various concerts and recitals.

Bargarren is a champion of music education and has worked to promote the arts in Seattle through her writing and activism. She is a member of the Seattle Opera Guild’s board of directors and is a founding member of Seattle Opera Guild’s Young Artist Program.

Bargarren is also a passionate advocate for the arts in Seattle. She has been involved in numerous initiatives to support the arts, including the Seattle Opera Guild’s annual Gala, which raises funds for the organization’s educational programs.

No matter what role she has, from critic to performer, Bargarren always brings a fresh perspective to the music she writes about. Her writing is always engaging and informative, and she is a true advocate for the arts in Seattle.
2023 Singer Development Award Audition

The Seattle Opera has the honor of welcoming two new members to their community: Harriet Alitveros and Tessa Alitveros. Their talents and promise were evident during their recent auditions with the Seattle Opera, and their potential for future artistic excellence is promising.

Harriet Alitveros, soprano, and Tessa Alitveros, mezzo-soprano, were chosen from a pool of talented applicants for the 2023 Singer Development Award. The competition was open to all singers from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and British Columbia, and the judges were Dr. Mitchell Kahn, Artistic and General Director of Pacific Northwest Opera (Mt. Vernon); Regina Miller, Opera; and Jennifer Krikawa, Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Guild and to these wonderful young opera professionals for agreeing to judge our competition.

There were three judges: Dr. Mitchell Kahn, Hallie Schmidt, and Jennifer Krikawa. The judges were pleased with the applications and the auditions. The singers sang from a variety of vocal pieces, showcasing their diverse repertoires. The winners were Hallie Schmidt, soprano; Tessa Alitveros, mezzo-soprano; and Madeline Wagemans, soprano.

The prizes consisted of a $3,000 award for first place, a $2,000 award for second place, and a $1,000 award for third place. The judges were impressed with the talent and potential of all the applicants and were grateful for the support of the Guild and Seattle Opera for making this opportunity possible.

Congratulations to all the contestants on their hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in the opera world.
2013 SDA Winner Tess Alitvoro's Flourishing Operatic Career

Jodi Kaliti

On Tuesday, June 27 on a beautiful, sunny afternoon from noon to 5 PM, at Ballard Hall, Seattle Opera hosted its annual New Artists Previews. This is the last weekend of the Seattle Opera's July trek. The Seattle Opera is considered the sixth-oldest opera company in the United States, and is the only professional opera company in the Northwest. The participants in the Seattle Opera's Creation Lab program have come to Seattle Opera for the chance to work with some of the most talented and accomplished directors in the opera world. In addition to her musical presence with Seattle Opera, SSO's cultural coaches. She also feels privileged to have had the magic of music. This is one of the most difficult arias in the operatic repertory. Her second aria was the very magic having the full chorus on stage this time and explained, "the music is like that and the whole show is like that." Following this, she sang the "Herodiade" from Joan Sutherland's production of "Magic Flute". The Barber of Seville. Not only is the character Susanna a lot of fun, tess said, but being in a production of Figaro is always full of fun. Another role tess mentioned as a favorite is Susanna in The Barber of Seville. Seattle Opera has always had the opportunity of having Vinson. Today, however, she was there to sing Adina in The Elixir of Love. The Barber of Seville. One of her most cherished memories is seeing the film found the production as a whole quite enjoyable.
June 2023—June 2024 SOG Officers

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Supporting Opera
Jonathan Gerson

When I was in the US Army I had a buddy who shared my passion for opera. He once said to me that he loved opera because “when you watch opera you never know if you might be watching the next Pavarotti, or at the very least, the next Placido Domingo.”

One night when I was on vacation in Guanajuato, Mexico, I attended a concert in the Opera House which was built in 1883. The thought occurred to me that 1883 was the only entertainment that I’ve seen in a Mexican city. This year, the Seattle Opera Guild has been participating in the recent success of this opera house. We’ve been treating opera opera fans to a series of operas that we’ve held in different locations throughout the city. Our 2023-2024 season has included the following operas:

June 2023—June 2024

La Traviata
Don Giovanni
La Bohème

Supporting Opera
Jonathan Gerson

Editorial Policy:

Editorial changes to submitted articles, other than correction of grammatical errors, will be made after consultation with the contributor.

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Supporting Opera

Jonathan Gerson, VP Special Events

When I was in the US Army I had a buddy who shared my passion for opera. He once said to me that he loved Opera because “it’s a way of expressing and understanding the world.” I can’t disagree. Opera is a window into the human soul, a mirror that reflects our deepest fears and dreams. It’s a journey that takes us from the最高点 to the nadir, from the joyous to the despairing.

One way of sharing this passion is through the Seattle Opera Guild. The Guild provides financial support for Seattle Opera, funds vocal scholarships and promotes opera education for all age groups.

The Guild gives a very special thank-you to Barbara Stanton, an opera star, Carol Vaness. She has made her way into education, and is passionate about sharing the love of opera with others.

The Guild provides a variety of programs throughout the year, including the annual Singer Development Auditions and the Seattle Opera Guild Young Artist Program. The Guild also offers a variety of workshops and master classes, as well as opportunities for singers to perform in front of a live audience.

The Guild supports its members in their pursuit of excellence in opera, and encourages them to continue their education and training. The Guild is committed to providing its members with opportunities to perform in front of a live audience, and to helping them achieve their dreams.

On June 10, about 35 enthusiastic opera aficionados gathered at the Guild’s annual meeting, which was themed in-home preview party of our successful Singer Development Auditions held June 27! We were able to raise enough funds to cover the prizes for our successful Singer Development Auditions held June 27!

In particular, the interim Board of Directors: Stuart Sechrest, Judi Kalitzki, Brenna Pink Pampena, and Eduljee, soprano, gave a beautiful performance of operatic arias by Rossini, Mozart and Puccini, introducing the audience to the Guild’s commitment to promoting opera throughout the year.

Thanks to the Board of Directors: Stuart Sechrest, Judi Kalitzki, Brenna Pink Pampena, Jonathan Gerson, Zoe Erickson, Patricia Darrig Palm, and Stew Law, we will meet in early September for an all day retreat to review our Guild’s 2022-2023-2024 strategy and plan our activities and events. Watch this space. Our 2023-2024 Board of Directors: Stuart Sechrest, Jonathan Gerson, Zoe Erickson, Patricia Darrig Palm, and Stew Law, will meet in early September for an all day retreat to review our Guild’s 2022-2023-2024 strategy and plan our activities and events.