

# L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SEATTLE  
**Opera Guild**

Sept. 2025 • Volume 74 • Issue 1

## 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

**Patricia Derrig Pavia**

Members and friends of the Seattle Opera Guild, let me start by thanking you for trusting me in this role as a leader. I'd like to share just what this role means to me.

Leadership is often described as the ability to influence and guide others towards a common goal. I hope to demonstrate a clear vision, inspire others, and encourage a culture of openness and trust.

One of the critical components of leadership is encouraging community, which I have chosen to focus on. During my tenure, I will be emphasizing our connections to the Seattle Opera, the Seattle Opera Board, regional opera companies, and BRAVO. I would also like to include members of our broader vibrant artistic community. I know this is a gigantic endeavor, but with your active support, enthusiasm and contribution we will make a reality: a large, cohesive gathering of lovers and supporters of the arts, working together to make a difference.

I will do my best to accomplish the success and growth of our beloved Seattle Opera Guild with your help and support.

## Seattle Opera Guild Celebrates 68 Years in June

**Kelly Beachell**

On June 22, members of the Seattle Opera Guild gathered to celebrate 68 years of continuous support for opera in Seattle. At the Guild's Annual Meeting, held this year in the community room at First Hill Plaza, attendees enjoyed sweeping views, sparkling entertainment, and delicious canapes after attending to the business of the Guild. President Patricia Pavia called the meeting to order, and the agenda began with an update from Treasurer Marilyn Leck. The first formal budget in six years has been developed and approved by the finance committee (add names), and the IRS audit of several of the Guild's COVID-era tax returns is now complete, with special thanks to Stuart Seacrest for his tireless effort to resolve these issues. Stew Law, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, then moved to approve the new slate of officers, who were unanimously approved by the attending members: President, Patricia Pavia; Vice President of Administrative Services, Stew Law; Secretary, Kelly O'Shea; Treasurer, Marilyn Leck; Vice President of Communications & Marketing, Sarah Heady; Vice President of Special Events & Meetings,



*Loveday Conquest and Patricia Haggerty. Photo by Stew Law.*

Pam Johnson. There are three open positions that still need to be filled: Vice President of Education; Vice President of Membership Services; and Trustee. If any members are willing and able to fulfill the duties of these offices, please contact Stew Law.

The Guild was honored to have Maryanne Tagney in  
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# Annual Meeting continued from page 1

attendance at this year's meeting. Maryanne presented an exciting new concept that will be introduced at the Seattle Opera Building beginning in July. Aimed at building community and increasing collaboration between arts organizations, a coffee cart and café will open as a pilot program, with invitations to members of the Opera Board, Opera employees, SOG members, and members and staff of the Seattle Chamber Music Society, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. Contact Patricia Pavia if you're interested in helping out.

Entertainment began with tenor Jonathan Suck giving a soaring rendition of "Wie stark is nicht dein Zauberton" from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, followed by this year's recipient of the Maryanne Tagney Encouragement Award, Soprano Sophia Emanuel, who sang "Batti, batti, o bel Masetto" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. The two singers traded spots on the stage to give a diverse concert, and came together at the finale to celebrate another glorious year of music, camaraderie, and philanthropy with a duet of "Libiamo ne'lieti calici" from Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Special thanks to pianist Luke Raffanti for his virtuoso accompaniment and Phil Anderson for generously providing the gorgeous meeting space. We are thrilled to launch our 69th year and can't wait to see all our members at our recital in September.

## NOISE Continues Its Educational Mission Taking Opera to Washington Schools Judi Kalitzki

On a recent sunny Saturday morning, I sat in the sanctuary of a church in Shoreline along with many excited kids and their parents, waiting for a dress rehearsal of "Hansel and Gretel" to begin. It was the first time I would be seeing a production of Northwest Opera in the Schools, Etc., more familiarly known as NOISE\*.

Not that I wasn't familiar with the organization. As a member of the Seattle Opera Guild, I knew that NOISE was a regular recipient of donations from the Guild since 1985, and I was certainly familiar with Lisa Bergman, a co-founder of NOISE and a long-time member of the Guild. I had often enjoyed Lisa's wonderful piano accompaniment for the singers at our events, and cherish the memory of her hilariously playing Christmas carols in the mode of various composers at our holiday lunches.



*The witch: Katie Stevenson*

There were five cast members: Hansel, Gretel, Mother, Father, and of course the Witch! With costumes, a set that first appeared as the home of Hansel and Gretel's family and then turned into the witch's den, and piano accompaniment, the opera soared. The singing was professional and powerful and the pianist

was stunningly effective in playing the score. At the end, the cast and pianist were given a well-deserved ovation.

Amazing to think it's over forty years since NOISE was founded in 1983. Although it had to stop its performances during the COVID years, NOISE reemerged in 2023 when they went on the road with "The Magic Flute." This year they'll be taking



*L to R: Shelly Traverse, Jared White, Jordan Knapick (in back) Cassandra Willock*

"Hansel and Gretel" to schools across Washington, providing a unique artistic and educational program to kids and their teachers.

As the NOISE Board pointed out in a thank you letter to the Guild for its long-time support, "In the very real times of school districts cutting arts programs, NOISE is prepared more than ever to bring our introduction of opera to children throughout western Washington and beyond."

The 2024-25 schedule will be over by the time this article reaches your hands, but please look for an announcement in the next L'Aria about NOISE's schedule for the 2025-26 school year.

*\*Northwest Opera in Schools, Etcetera (NOISE) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to sustaining the vitality of opera in Washington State through live, on-site educational performances now and for generations to come.*

# SEATTLE OPERA GUILD

## *Singers' Development Award Final Auditions* Christine Szabadi



*L to R: Lawrence Barasa, Rosamund Dyer, and Emma Petersen. Photo by Judi Kalitzki.*

As I sat listening to some outstandingly beautiful voices, it came to me just how important events such as this are to the future of opera and the future careers of these talented singers. Over the years it has been exciting to follow their progress and hear their incredible voices mature. The Guild can be proud of its role in this process.

This year the auditions were held on May 29 in the Tagney-Jones Auditorium at the Opera Center. There were eight singers. The three judges were Mitchell Kahn, general and artistic Director of the Pacific Northwest Opera, Ksenia Popova, soprano and former winner of this competition, and Bernard Kwiram, conductor, singer and vocal coach. Due to the extremely high performance quality, they had a difficult job choosing the winners. First place went to soprano Emma Petersen, second place was mezzo-soprano, Rosamund Dyer, third place was tenor Lawrence Barasa and the Encouragement Award went to soprano Sophia Emanuel. Tenor Anthony Nguyen was chosen Audience Favorite. It was a real treat to hear these talented singers up close and personal. All Guild members will have a chance to hear them in the coming year.

## *Seattle Opera's Costume Shop*

*Judi Kalitzki*

To walk into the costume shop at the Opera Center is to enter a very busy world, whose inhabitants help create the magic of opera with hard work, expertise, organization, and imagination.

I was lucky to get a guided tour from the manager of the costume shop, Kathleen Trott. We began in an enormous warehouse of a room that holds the costume collection. Interns from several different colleges in the Puget Sound area were going through every shirt, pair of pants, cloak, jacket, gown, and pair of shoes (to say nothing of Chinese robes and tutus) in order to catalog the extensive collection. Eventually every piece in that collection will have a bar code including a photo and history, so that it will become much easier to identify for Seattle Opera's own use and the use of all the other artistic companies that borrow items.

Kathleen explained that as future seasons are planned, one step is to look at what fits within the scope and scale of what SO can do. She also pointed out that Seattle is a very "arty and share-y" place (I loved that characterization!), as opposed to other cities she's worked in. Since Seattle has many performing arts organizations, from Pacific NW Ballet to Seattle Rep, from the 5th Avenue Theater to the University of Washington, there are reciprocal arrangements for sharing costumes for small per piece fees.

Along with borrowed costumes or those pulled from its own collection, some costumes must be created from scratch. The costume shop employs cutters/drapers (who make the patterns), first hands (who actually cut the fabric), and stitchers (who not only build new pieces but also make alterations). There's also a whole crafts department to make hats, shoes, armor, and jewelry. The last area I saw was the crafts department. That includes anything that isn't a garment from a parasol to a holster for a piece of weaponry. All of these have to be designed to be appropriate for the opera and the particular production.

So the next time you walk by the big windows looking down on the costume shop, marvel at the immense amount of work and the artistic talent that go into creating the look of every opera and every singer and extra you see on stage.



*Photos by Judi Kalitzki.*

# SEATTLE Opera Guild

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### Editorial Policy:

Editorial changes to submitted articles, other  
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made after consultation with the contributor.

## Find SOG Online!

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

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## June 2025-June 2026 SOG Officers

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VP Communication & Marketing.....	Sarah Heady
VP Education .....	Open
VP Membership .....	Open
Treasurer .....	Marilyn Leck
Secretary .....	Kelly O'Shea
Trustee .....	Open

## Save the Date

### Seattle Opera Guild Presents *Rising Stars*

**Saturday, October 4 | 3:15 PM | Tagney Jones Hall**

Join us for a thrilling celebration of emerging operatic talent at Seattle Opera's Open House, as the Seattle Opera Guild proudly presents recent winners of the Singers' Development Awards in a dazzling showcase performance.

**Tagney Jones Hall, 363 Mercer Street, Seattle**

• Performance: 3:15 PM

• Open House Hours: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

*Admission is FREE and open to the public.*