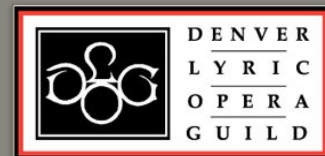


The Lyric Letter



Volume 19, Issue 2 Fall 2017

20 October 2017



Autumn Greetings!

Fall is off to a great start with our Kickoff Event in September at the Denver Country Club. The meal was lovely and the program was very informative and enjoyable. Then for October Opera on Tuesday, we ventured out east to Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club. In spite of the distance for some, we had a great turnout. The program was outstanding with the Opera Colorado Apprentice

Singers. All seven are new, and so talented. If you have not had a chance to hear them, go to Opera Colorado's website to look for opportunities to do so.

Also on Opera Colorado's website, as well as on the Guild's website, is an educational opportunity for DLOG members to attend Opera Colorado's Sitzprobe Brunch and Rehearsal Sunday, October 29 at a discounted ticket price. In a nutshell, our members (up to 30 guests) will be treated to a private backstage tour prior to the brunch. Then we are invited to stay for the sitzprobe (translation: "seated rehearsal") of La Boheme. It is the rehearsal when the orchestra and singers rehearse together for the first time. Directions on how to sign up are in this newsletter as well as our website.

Our next Opera on Tuesday is November 7 at Lakewood Country Club. Details are included in this newsletter, including the reservation deadline. But you don't have to wait until the last minute to send in your reservation. In fact, PLEASE DON'T! The earlier you send it in, the smoother the check-in will be on the day of the event. And less scrambling at the last minute for those who organize these wonderful events. So, go to your desk right now and send in your reservation. Please?

Attention New Members: Watch for an invitation in the mail for a New Members' Welcome Coffee. This event will be held prior to the December 5 Opera on Tuesday at Cherry Hills Country Club.

Speaking of new members, at a recent board meeting, we discussed strategies to recruit and retain new members. One strategy is to encourage all current members to bring guests (not a new idea). But our new idea is to offer a little gift from the board to all members who bring a guest who then joins the Guild. It's our way of saying thank you. We also discussed strategies to get the word out about our Competition for Colorado Singers. Bring your ideas to discuss at your table at the next Opera on Tuesday. We would like to double the number of people who come to hear all or part of the Competition, but we need your help to get them there.

Hope to see you at Opera on Tuesday November 7!

Marie Belew Wheatley, President

Updates

Sitzprobe Brunch

What could be better than brunch and opera?

When: Sunday, October 29, 2017

- 11:45am - Private DLOG backstage tour of The Ellie led by General Director Greg Carpenter
- 12:30pm - Brunch at Kevin Taylor's at the Opera House
(discounted ticket price of \$30/person - limit 30 guests)
- 2:00pm - Sitzprobe Brunch

Where: Ellie Caulkins Opera House & Kevin Taylor's at the Opera House

For access to the special DLOG discount, members must use the promo code **DLOG18** before selecting tickets. If you use the link below, that promo code is already included:

<http://my.operacolorado.org/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=540&promo=DLOG18>

- Marie Belew Wheatley



DLOG Winners are Online

Recently I googled the names of two of our recent competition winners. These two singers are progressing well with their careers. I googled "Michael Hewitt singer" and "Teresa Castillo singer" and discovered beautiful videos of them on YouTube. The videos came from performances at other competitions. We can enjoy following the careers of many singers that we have supported through our wonderful organization.

- Linda Young



Updates

William Maclay

A Pennsylvanian by birth – a Coloradan by choice!

Growing up I was exposed to the TEXACO broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera, which began a love of classical music that eventually brought me to a long association with Denver Lyric Opera Guild and my current position as President-Elect for the 2017-2018 year.

After a long and very fulfilling career in the field of public education (elementary to university levels) I branched out into consulting with school districts throughout Colorado and other states. The latter part of my career involved facility planning and construction of schools, especially making facilities accessible to handicapped students. During that time I served on the board of directors and later as president of the Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl.

For the past 30-some years I have been a charter member of Smoky Hill Rotary Club (Aurora) serving the club in many capacities, including president. One aspect of the club has been to specialize in assisting schools and hospitals in several foreign countries with educational materials and medical supplies. The trips to these countries have been one of the memorable highlights of my career.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. I look forward to a successful year and to the many activities of Denver Lyric Opera Guild.

Respectfully,
Bill Maclay

Comings and Goings...

Need a ride?

Give a ride.

We know that some of our members occasionally need a ride, especially to our evening events. If you or someone you know needs a ride, let us know and we will try to put you/them in touch with one of our members who has offered to give a ride occasionally.

Who to Call: Marie Belew Wheatley [303-986-7116](tel:303-986-7116).





Christie Conover

Was our 1st place competition winner in 2010. When I read the review of her performance as Pamina in *The Magic Flute* and saw some roles she has sung as her career has progressed, I decided to begin this article with a series of reviews. Christie is often referred to in these reviews by her then maiden name, Christie Hageman.

As Pamina, Christie Conover, was a wonder, at once probing and elegant; in "Ach ich fühls" she plumbed the depths of grief with singing of the utmost refinement. The Magic Flute, Minnesota Opera, 2015

- Opera News

The finest performance came from soprano Christie Conover as Caroline, singing with melting directness and bringing worlds of nuance to the character's plight. "Where Angels Fear to Tread," composer Mark Lane Weiser, Premier by Opera San Jose, 2015

- San Francisco Chronicle

Micaëla was sung and played with simple, Girl Scout grace by soprano Christie Hageman. An ideal courier of letters from Mommy, Hageman was able to maintain the sweet purity of her strong, winning instrument until the high passages of her Act 3 aria... revealed the woman beneath the guise. Here's hoping we can hear more from this former Miss Montana (!), who is currently resident artist at Minnesota Opera. Carmen, Livermore Valley Opera, Oct. 2013

- San Francisco Classical Voice

Her scarlet-clad Musetta was full of fiery physicality, her voice mellifluous and lovely, especially on her sweet chanson of a second-act aria. La Boheme, Minnesota Opera, June 2013

- Pioneer Press

Hageman in the role of Juliette displayed an estimably large and well-focused instrument with a lovely timbre, perfect trill, and soaring top. Her portrayal grew increasingly secure and tender as the act progressed. Hageman's lovely bearing and sympathetic countenance could serve as a model of French grace and restraint. Romeo and Juliette, Sept. 2011

- San Francisco Classical Voice

Christie Hageman Conover has been cast in an increasing number of new works, which surely requires courage on the part of a singer. It also reflects confidence in her among composers and directors, that they choose her above so many rising opera stars. Two good examples are that she covered the role of Sister James in the world premier of *Doubt* by Douglas Cuomo, Minnesota Opera (2013) and she portrayed the role of Jocelyn Jordan in the workshop of *The Mountain Candidate* (by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell), which continued on to have its premier there in 2015. More recently, in 2016 she sang the world premier performance of scenes from *The Origin* by Bruce Adolphe.

Christie has always done well in competitions. Among them are The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (2011 Rocky Mountain Region Third Place Winner and 2012 Finalist) and of course our 2010 First Place Winner. Her training includes many months with the Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Program (2012-2014), the Aspen Music Festival Opera Theater Program (2011), and the Opera Colorado Young Artist program (2010-11). Most recently she sang for us in the program at our September 9, 2017 Fall Kickoff at the Denver Country Club.

An extraordinarily creative, talented woman who demonstrated amazing versatility, Christie has developed a wonderful musical program. "Women of the West," celebrating woman of the American frontier. History comes alive as she performs music inspired by the woman who put the "wild" in the Wild West: gunslinger and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show Annie Oakley; notorious outlaw Belle Starr; scandalous beauty Baby Doe Tabor; and frontierswoman, marksman, and lavish drinker Calamity Jane. In a show designed much like the house concerts of the time, Christie spans the musical repertoire from opera to musical theater to art song—even yodeling!

- Barbara Walton

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From L to R: Leigh Maclay, Inez Wilson, Bill Maclay

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From L to R: Jeanette Thrower, Lisa Curtis, Georgia Becker (standing), Marleen Diamond, Lynn Harrington, Maria Shanley (guest)



7 Opera Colorado Young Artists and their directors, Charity Kopek and Brett Sprague



From L to R: Nia Wick (guest), Lydia Snyder (guest), Sandy Colavita, Carole Johnson, Evelyn Billberg (guest), Kathy Hammer

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Volunteer Opportunities **BIG & small**

If you would like to get more involved and meet new friends, consider signing up for one of our committees or volunteer opportunities:

- Opera on Tuesday Greeter
- Opera on Tuesday Table Captain
- "Uber" Driver to give a Guild member a ride
- Special Events Committee(s)
- Opera Tour Coordinator

Let us know if you are interested!

Marie Belew Wheatley: 303-986-7116

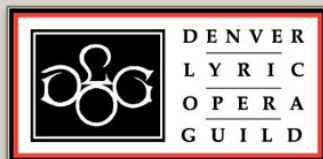
In Memoriam

*DLOG extends
sincere sympathy to
the family and
friends of*

Myrna Denholm

Dr. Giff Eckout

Marilyn Lammons-Dahl



DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD
Marie Belew Wheatley, President
14065 W. Virginia Dr.
Lakewood, CO 80228