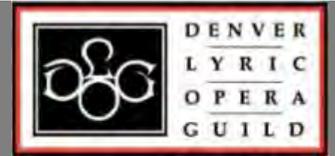


The Lyric Letter



Volume 19 Issue 4 Spring 2018

23 March, 2018



Greetings, Everyone!

What a busy time it is for the Guild! Many of us enjoyed Arias and Art at RedLine on February 9th.

The downtown location and the extreme weather may have kept many of our members away, but it was a marvelous party! The food was fabulous and we enjoyed wonderful entertainment by three singers from the University of Denver Lamont School of Music. Kudos to Karen Bruggenthies who chaired this fun event, which netted approximately \$2,500.

Our Competition for Colorado Singers is in full swing, and I hope all of you will be able to attend one or more of the four events. The Master Class on February 17th was as educational as it was enjoyable. Jeremy Reger both coached and accompanied each of 12 singers. Approximately 50 of us attended all or part of the day and thoroughly enjoyed it. The venue, Calvary Baptist Church at Hampden and Monaco, is proving to be an excellent choice. Easy to find, lots of free parking, and great acoustics! Hats off to Barbara Walton, our Vice President of Competition, who keeps all the many moving parts coordinated!

Forty-two singers signed up for the Preliminary Competition on Saturday, March 10th. The Competition Finals will be the afternoon of Saturday, March 24th, and I encourage you to come

and bring family and friends. It's free and open to the public, and it's a great way to introduce people to Denver Lyric Opera Guild and what we do.

Immediately following the Competition Finals is the Judges' Reception at the Wellshire Event Center. It is a cocktail party and a chance to hear from the judges as well as the finalists. Check the flyer in this newsletter for all the details, including how to reserve your ticket. I hope to see you there.

At our Opera on Tuesday, April 3rd, we'll get to hear the Competition winners sing. We are all in for a treat, especially our new members and first-time guests. Details on how to reserve your seat are included in this newsletter.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Mary Jo Weiker, is hard at work recruiting board members and committee chairs for next year. If you know someone ready to take on a leadership role in the Guild, please let Mary Jo know.

I'm sorry to let you know that long-time members Margie Kinslow and Alice Maercklein passed away in February. Many of our members will remember them both with fondness. Margie was very active in the Guild until about four years ago, when a bad fall left her homebound. The Celebration of Alice's life will be held on March 24 at 4:00 in Denver First Church of the Nazarene, Diehl Chapel, 3800 E. Hampden Ave., Englewood.

Marie Belew Wheatley, President

DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD PRESENTS . . .

*the WINNERS OF THE
2018 DLOG COMPETITION*

at the Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
11:00 am Program / 12:00 Lunch

PINEHURST COUNTRY CLUB
6255 W. Quincy Ave.
Denver, CO 80235

Reserve online through PayPal on the DLOG
website: denverlyricoperaguild.org

OR

Send check payable to DLOG to:
BECKY GANTNER
2082 Montane Drive East
Golden, CO 80401
303-526-1260

***Reservations: \$45
by March 26, 2018***

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
Annual Meeting and Opera on Tuesday
Featuring
University of Colorado
Eklund Opera Program – Jeremy Reger
Lakewood Country Club

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!

The LIVERPOOL CARD GROUP needs more players so we can continue to support one of the grants for our competition.

We meet the last Tuesday of every month at 11:30 am. We gather at a restaurant, eat and enjoy each other's company, and then play cards until about 3 pm. We each give a \$10 donation, which goes directly into the account for the grant. . . . AND we have lots of fun doing it! The card game is very easy to learn -- probably takes no more than 5 minutes to learn how to play. We also each put 50 cents in a pot so the winner can take a little something home.

For more information, please call Deanna Leino (303-424-2641) or Glo Hess (303-340-2602)

Around Town

Tea with a Diva

Opera Fort Collins is presenting its 9th annual afternoon Tea with a Diva. The diva this year is Jennifer DeDominici, who will present *A Dame at Sea: Tales from the High C's*, sharing her vocal talent and whimsical stories about her experiences working as an entertainer on a cruise ship.

The afternoon features a full British tea (finger sandwiches, scones, and pastries), a popular cake auction and a live performance. Hats appropriate but not required! We thought this would be a fun spring outing and a good way to support one of our Colorado groups.

Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018

Venue: Fort Collins Country Club

920 Country Club Road

Ft. Collins, Colorado

Cost: \$65.00

Tickets may be purchased directly via the website:

csuartstickets.universitytickets.com

or you may call/email Becky Gantner for information.

303-526-1260

Becky.gantner@comcast.net

Opera Opportunities

Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*

April 19-21 at 7:30, April 22 at 2:30

Lamont Opera Theatre

June Swaner Gates Concert Hall, Denver

NewmanTix.com/Lamont

Tickets \$11 - \$30

303-871-7720

Verdi's *Aida*

May 10-11 at 7:00, May 13 at 3:00

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

ENT Center for the Performing Arts

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs campus

in north Colorado Springs.

719-255-3232

Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*

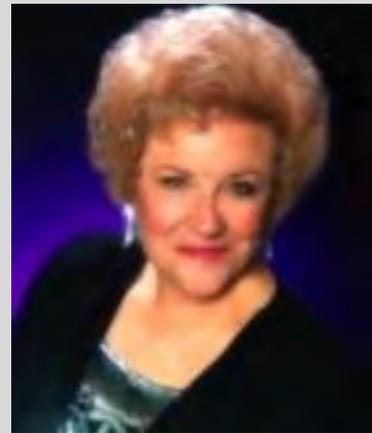
Boulder Opera

March 23, 7:30 and April 6, 7:00, Stewart Auditorium, **Longmont**, 303-731-2036

March 25, 3:00, Gordon Gamm Theater, Dairy Arts Center, **Boulder**, 303-444-7328

One of Our Own

Among the most loyal members of DLOG is our friend Beverly Fernald, who lives right here in the Denver area – after a full career as a soprano who performed throughout the world. One critic wrote "Beverly has made a profound mark on the musical world with her flawless and velvety voice." Many other critics have praised both her voice and her ability to portray operatic characters with rich insight. Well versed in the power of music, she has been an instructor of the vocal arts since 1969, when she began her teaching career at Colorado State University. Shortly afterward she moved to Metro State College, now Metropolitan State University, where she taught for 32 years until retiring in 2002. She also served as executive director and voice teacher at the Colorado Center for the Vocal Arts. Beverly still teaches vocalization, intonation, breathing, sight-reading, phrasing, harmony and melodic line in her private studio.



When she retired, Metro State University established a scholarship in her name. The winning student receives \$1,000 from her Foundation each semester. What a wonderful tribute to those many years of dedication to Metro State University and her students!

Bev is a familiar face at Opera on Tuesdays, and she attends our Competitions whenever possible. I look forward to seeing and visiting with her every summer in Central City before and after the performances there. Just sit down with Bev and you will enjoy a warm, rich conversation about many wonderful things... often leaning towards opera! When we talked about my interest in writing this article, I learned she loved singing Violetta in *La Traviata* and both Mimi and Musetta in *La Boheme*. She has a favorite aria from "Adriana Lecouvreur".

Beverly's extensive career included performances with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Denver Symphony (before the current Colorado Symphony) and many others. She performed leading roles in opera, sharing billing with such artists as Beverly Sills, Sheryl Milnes, Roberta Peters and Jan Peerce. Bev performed on Broadway, sang Oratorios and Recitals, was a Church soloist and a Night Club entertainer, and sang on network shows – even the Johnny Carson Show and Milton Berle's Night Club Review!!! And there is more...she received many prestigious awards, including the Ford Foundation Grant for Young Opera Singers and the Rockefeller Grant, and was a winner in the Concours de Geneve in Switzerland.

"Voice of the Homeland" in Moscow – yes, that's Moscow, Russia – said, "a pure light translucent voice...Mrs. Fernald is a charming soprano - a 'star of singing.' We would be most happy if she could organize a school in Moscow." Well, that didn't come to pass, but closer to home, she is also a former vocal teacher at Colorado Women's College, studied Vocal Performance at Manhattan School of Music and was a music major in both Voice and Violin Performance at the University of Denver. One more note: our friend, Beverly Fernald went to North High School and lives in Lakewood.

by Barbara Walton

Arias and Art at RedLine

This year's Competition kick-off fundraiser Arias and Art was held on February 9th at RedLine Gallery. While attendance was somewhat lighter than we had hoped, those intrepid DLOG members who braved the cold agreed that the event was well worth the effort. RedLine Gallery can be a bit tricky to find, and its proximity to downtown might daunt some, but it was a perfect fit for our event.



Pedro Barrera, Ken Cox, Karen Bruggenthies, Sarah Roth, Victoria Minton

It is DLOG's mission to support and mentor young vocal artists, and RedLine Gallery does the same for young visual artists. The evening of our event, our members were able to enjoy an exhibit of artwork by RedLine's resident artists. The artwork was interesting and fun, the space proved a perfect fit for a non-traditional event such as ours, and the acoustics were stellar.

Great acoustics were a real bonus throughout the course of the evening as we were treated to a series of outstanding performances by three singers and an accompanist, all from DU's Lamont School of Music. Victoria Minton, Sarah Roth, Pedro Barrera and Hukum Singh presented us with a wonderful evening of opera, art song and even a traditional Gaelic folk song.

To top off a great evening, we were honored by the presence of Professor Ken Cox, chair of the voice department of the Lamont School of Music, and his charming wife Cindy. Ken is also the director of the



Lamont Opera Theater. He will be retiring from DU at the end of this school year. DLOG was proud and honored to have this opportunity to thank Ken for his contributions to and support of DLOG over the years and to recognize him for all he has done to raise the level of vocal study at DU during his tenure as Voice Chair.

If all this wasn't enough, Arias and Art was a very successful fundraising event due to the generous contributions of members in attendance, along with many members who were unable to attend. We'd like to thank each and every one of our members who sent in contributions through the Arias and Art event. We promise to put those dollars to good use!

Marie Belew Wheatley,
Ken Cox

by Karen Bruggenthies

DLOG COMPETITION FINALS

This year's DLOG Competition Finals will take place Saturday, March 24, from 1:00 to about 5:00 p.m. We will be at our new location, Calvary Baptist Church, at the corner of Hampden and Monaco Aves. The entrances to the church are at 6500 E. Girard Ave., one block north of Hampden. There is ample handicapped parking west of the building and more parking east of the building, plus street parking available.



Jeremy Reger coaches Christiana McMullen

This new venue worked out beautifully for the Master's Class that was held in the Music Room on February 17, and we are excited about the lovely Sanctuary's size and acoustics. At the March 10 Preliminary Competition, the judges chose 15 singers who will sing in the Finals.

Jeremy Reger will be the accompanist on the piano. At the Master Class, we all learned a lot. In the competitions, when we see each singer hand him a notebook with their music, we think the "piano part" is right there for him to play. Well, not so! He is given the music for a whole orchestra, but must play on a piano, providing precisely the support the



singer needs to sing. Jeremy does this brilliantly and beautifully. The DLOG Competitions are free and open to the public and many music lovers believe they are the best show in town. We hope we'll see you on Saturday March 24, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending about 5:00 p.m. We think you'll enjoy every minute!

By Barbara Walton

Master Class Tutorial, Jeremy Reger coaches Michael Hoffman

JUDGES' RECEPTION

The 34th Annual Competition for Colorado Singers by the Denver Lyric Opera Guild invites you to the

2018 Judges and Finalists Reception

Saturday, March 24, 2018
immediately following the announcement of this year's winners.

Complimentary wines and hors d'oeuvres will be served
Cash bar available

Reservation deadline March 20, 2018

WELLSHIRE INN

3333 South Colorado Boulevard
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

There will be ample opportunity for interaction with the finalists and the judges!

Please include your questions with your check payable to Denver Lyric Opera Guild
\$25.00 per person
Guests most welcome!!

Mail check to: Suzanne Bufton, 8300 Fairmount Dr. A101, Denver, Colorado 80247-6526, 303-331-0345

Say Cheese!



Mary Jo Weiker and her daughter, Leah Hamilton



Carole Cruson, Marianne Anderson, Barbara Conrad, Stan Anderson, Gary Conrad.



Betty Natelson, Sandy Colavita, Marilyn Ogden, Jay Breen



Mike McBride, Veryl McBride, Mary Jo Weiker, Bill Maclay, Leigh Maclay



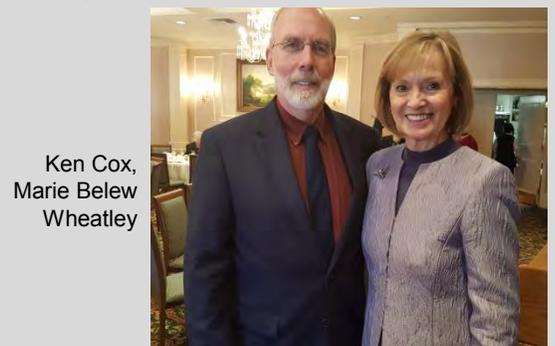
Lamont School of Music performers



Jennifer Heglin, Katie Nicholson, Scott Finlay, Clare Mail



Bruce Budy, Mary Ann Ross, Diana Budy, Louis Deegan, Carolyn Harrison



Ken Cox,
Marie Belew
Wheatley



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