

the Lyric Letter

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Mary E Bahde, Editor



News of the
Denver Lyric Opera Guild



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Now that our Competition has concluded for this year, hopefully you were able to attend some of the sessions. If not, you have one final opportunity to hear some of our winners. These talented performers will

be singing for us at the Opera on Tuesday event, April 5 at Pinehurst Country Club. You won't want to miss this sparkling array of talent. Hope to see you there.

Knowing that spring appears to be approaching and since summer will be here before you know it, be sure to check all the upcoming events and mark them on your calendar. Your board has worked very hard to schedule good times for all.

As a new board will assume their positions in the very near future, please feel free to send suggestions and recommendations to the board members. Also, if you wish to help on a committee, please contact a member of the board and needless to say, your assistance is always appreciated.

To help increase our membership, invite a guest to join you at one of our events. I am sure they will enjoy the experience and perhaps decide to become a member.

I also want to wish you a happy and joyous Easter season.

Remember to enjoy opera and music. It makes the day a happy occasion.

Dick Bronowski
President



Competition Awards Luncheon — Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Come celebrate spring at Pinehurst Country Club with your DLOG friends. Opera on Tuesday in April is a very special event, our top ten finalists of the 2016 Competition will be singing for us, sure to be a terrific performance. This is a great chance to bring a guest to Opera on Tuesday and to meet the donors that make this wonderful competition possible.

*Pinehurst Country Club is located at 6255 West Quincy Ave., Denver, 80235. Cost is \$40. **Reservations must be received no later than Thursday, March 31, 2016.***

10:30 a.m.	Social time
11:00	Program
12:30	Lunch

Mail checks to — Mary Sharon Wells, 3081 Kendrick St., Golden, CO 80401 or pay through PayPal on the DLOG website — www.denverlyricoperaguild.org

Opera on Tuesday and Annual Meeting — May 3, 2016

Don't miss our last Opera on Tuesday of the season, another really special event. We will hold the Annual Meeting, followed by a social time, a program and lunch at Lakewood Country Club. We have the University of Denver Lamont School of Music singing for us. This group consistently puts on one of the best performances we see each year.

*Lakewood Country Club is located at 6800 West 10th Ave., Lakewood, 80214. Cost is \$35. **Reservations must be received no later than Thursday, April 28, 2016.***

10:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting
11:30	Social time
12:00 noon	Program followed by Lunch

Mail checks to — Mary Sharon Wells, 3081 Kendrick St., Golden, CO 80401 or pay through PayPal on the DLOG website — www.denverlyricoperaguild.org

The finals for the Denver Lyric Opera Guild 2016 Competition for Colorado Singers took place on Saturday, March 5th and the winners are as follows:

1 st Place - Sarah Cambridge	age – 26 soprano
2 nd Place - Phoenix Gayles	age – 28 soprano
3 rd Place - Rebecca Robinson	age – 28 mezzo
4 th Place - Anna Englander	age – 25 mezzo
5 th Place - Maggie Sczekan	age – 27 soprano
6 th Place - Matt Peterson	age – 23 baritone
7 th Place - Humberto Borboa Beltran	age – 27 tenor

Certificates of Merit:

Emily Morris	age – 29 soprano
Neila Getz	age – 28 soprano
Christian Mark Gibbs	age – 24 tenor

Honorable Mention:

Joshua DeVane	age – 31 baritone
Kelsey Fritz	age – 24 soprano
Kevin Gwinn	age – 25 tenor
Megan Schirado	age – 25 mezzo
Benjamin Wood	age – 29 baritone

This year we had a total of 48 singers registered for the Competition with 46 participating. Singers from the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, University of Denver, and University of Northern Colorado participated along with a number of young Colorado singers who have finished their studies and are pursuing their careers. Our finalists represented a true cross-section of this mix. The quality of singers at this year's Competition was once again outstanding. Those in attendance were treated to some truly stellar performances.

The audience for this year's Finals was the largest we have had in some time. Special thanks to Marie Belew-Wheatley and the members of the Publicity Committee for all of their hard work and to all of the DLOG members who came out to support these wonderful young singers. Our singers love to perform for a large and enthusiastic audience. Without exception they will tell you that it helps to elevate their performance and that is something that is of great importance in a competition like ours.

Following the Competition Finals, Leigh and Bill Maclay put together a lovely Judges' Reception at the Wellshire Inn. There our guests were treated with an entertaining and informative question and answer session with our judges and two of our top three singers (Phoenix was performing in *Pirates of Penzance* with Loveland Opera that evening). Our judges, Jeanie Darnell, Keith Miller and Adam Turner were candid and charming not to mention very good sports and it was lovely getting to know a little more about both Sarah and Rebecca. One of the more interesting and gratifying comments of the evening came from Adam Turner (conductor for Virginia Opera). He picked up a copy of our program after the Competition and, after reading the names of our past winners and last year's top finishers, realized that a large number of them have recently appeared or are soon scheduled to appear at Virginia Opera – Megan Marino, Taylor Raven and Tatiana Ogan just to name a few. That was when he realized that the caliber of singers moving through our competition has been top notch not just this year but for many years past.

Our Master Class this year was also well attended. It was conducted by Dr. Robert Harrison who recently retired from the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He was both entertaining and informative. Our participants all gained some great insight into their performances and both our singers and audience were thoroughly entertained. A good time was had by all.

A big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made this year's Competition a success. It would not have been possible without each and every one of you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Hope to see everyone at our April Opera on Tuesday celebrating this year's winners.

Karen Bruggemthies
Competition Vice-president

Winners 2016 Competition for Young Singers



1st -Sarah Cambidge, 3rd-Rebecca Robinson, 4th-Anna Englander, 5th-Maggie Sczekan, 6th-Matt Peterson, 7th- Humberto Borboa Beltran

2nd -Phoenix Gayles not pictures



Judge Keith Miller and candidates as awards are announced



Rebecca Robinson ,3rd place awardee,
and Jeremy Reger, accompanist



Phoenix Gayles, 2nd place awardee,
and Emma Sipe, performance numbers

2016 Competition for Young Singers Attendees



Members and guests enjoy potluck prior to the Finals



Break time in Fellowship Hall

Dr. Lyn Barber with Bill and Leigh Maclay, co-chairs of Judges' reception



IN THE LIMELIGHT —

Sarah Cambridge, first place winner at the 2016 Competition for Young Singers, will be a participant at the Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera. She will be singing the role of #1 in Conrad Susa’s opera Transformations.

Paul Kroeger, finalist in 2015 Competition, writes: “I had an audition today for the public agency in Leipzig. It went really well! They gave me feedback on my aria package for a little bit. They want to meet with me again in February to have a lot of time to talk through all my repertoire and hear whatever I want to sing. They also invited me to sing for this big competition in Munich. All of the state agencies send a few of their best singers there. If you make it to the top of that, you get to sing for the intendant and director of basically every theater in Germany at these big auditions in Berlin. So things are going well!

Liebe GrüBe ays Weimar,

Paul

Sarah Cambridge



In Memoriam
*DLOG extends sympathy to the family
 and friends of
 Honorary Life member Stasia Davison*

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Mary Hayes, a two time Past President of the DLOG will observe her 90th birthday on April 17. If you would like to send a card of remembrance and congratulations on this special occasion it would be most welcome. Her address is 2835 W. 32nd Ave. #27, Denver 80211.

PRE COMPETITION FINALS POTLUCK--A potluck lunch was held prior to the Finals. Marie Belew Wheatley suggested the potluck and also invited some friends from the Lions Club. This was a successful outreach to another group and a social get-together for our members. **I think we should do this again.**

Linda Young
 Competition Luncheon Chairman

NOMINATIONS—A note of thanks to those who have agreed to fill the vacant DLOG Board positions for the coming year. Those being nominated will be announced and voted into office at the Annual Meeting in May. Only one position remains to be filled and it is of utmost importance to continue the progress of the Guild: **that of President-Elect.** Please consider volunteering for President-Elect by calling Jeanette

Thrower at 303-421-0684 or to submit the name of someone who would be able to take this position.

WE NEED YOU.!!!

Jeanette Thrower
 Nominating Committee Chairman

COMING EVENTS — MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 5, 2016	Competition Winners Luncheon
May 3, 2016	Annual Meeting and Opera on Tuesday
June 14, 2016	Melting Pot fund raiser
July 12, 2016	Summer Party
TBA	Central City Opera tour
August 23-27, 2016	Opera Plane Tour— Santa Fe via bus
August 24, 2016	Vanessa
August 25, 2016	Romeo and Juliet
August 26, 2016	Don Giovanni

Details in Summer issue.

2017 Competition for Colorado Singers

All events will be at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Master Class ***Saturday, February 4, 2017***

Preliminaries ***Saturday, February 25, 2017***

Finals ***March 25, 2017***



Denver Lyric Opera Guild
Mary Bahde, Editor
2880A Riverwalk Circle
Littleton, CO 80123

