



The Lyric Letter

Volume 24, Issue 7, October 2024

**PO Box 339, Englewood, CO 80151
www.DenverLyricOperaGuild.org**



Greetings all! It's nice to be back in the swing of things with Opera on Tuesdays, giving us all a chance to catch up with friends while delighting in beautiful music. Speaking of beautiful music, on the last weekend of September we had the chance to enjoy four past DLOG Competition winners in one magnificent concert, including the incomparable Cynthia Lawrence. What an extraordinary night of music we were treated to, with a magical blend of voices. Those who braved the drive were treated to a very special evening indeed!

While we have certainly been treated to some beautiful music this past month, with our Opera on Tuesdays and the Cynthia Lawrence Concert, we mustn't lose sight of our primary mission – to support young opera singers. In that vein, we were presented with one of the finest Master Classes I have seen in a very long time this past weekend. Ms. Lawrence conducted a definitive yet entertaining Master Class for eight up and coming singers. Much was learned by both the singers and the audience who were privileged enough to attend. In addition, in mid-October we will be conducting our second

Headshot Day where we provide low cost professional headshots to singers. On the surface this may not seem like such a big deal, but at around \$400 for a private session, this can make a big difference to a struggling young singer. Two of the many ways DLOG supports young singers. Many, many thanks to those who stepped up to the plate to support this year's Headshot Day and all of those who attended our Master Class. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Yours in song -

Karen Bruggenthies
President DLOG 2024-25

Our Mission

Denver Lyric Opera Guild's mission is to support and encourage young opera singers through grants to University Opera Programs and Young Artist Programs; to provide continuing education for members' appreciation and knowledge of opera; and by sponsoring an annual Competition for Colorado Opera Singers.

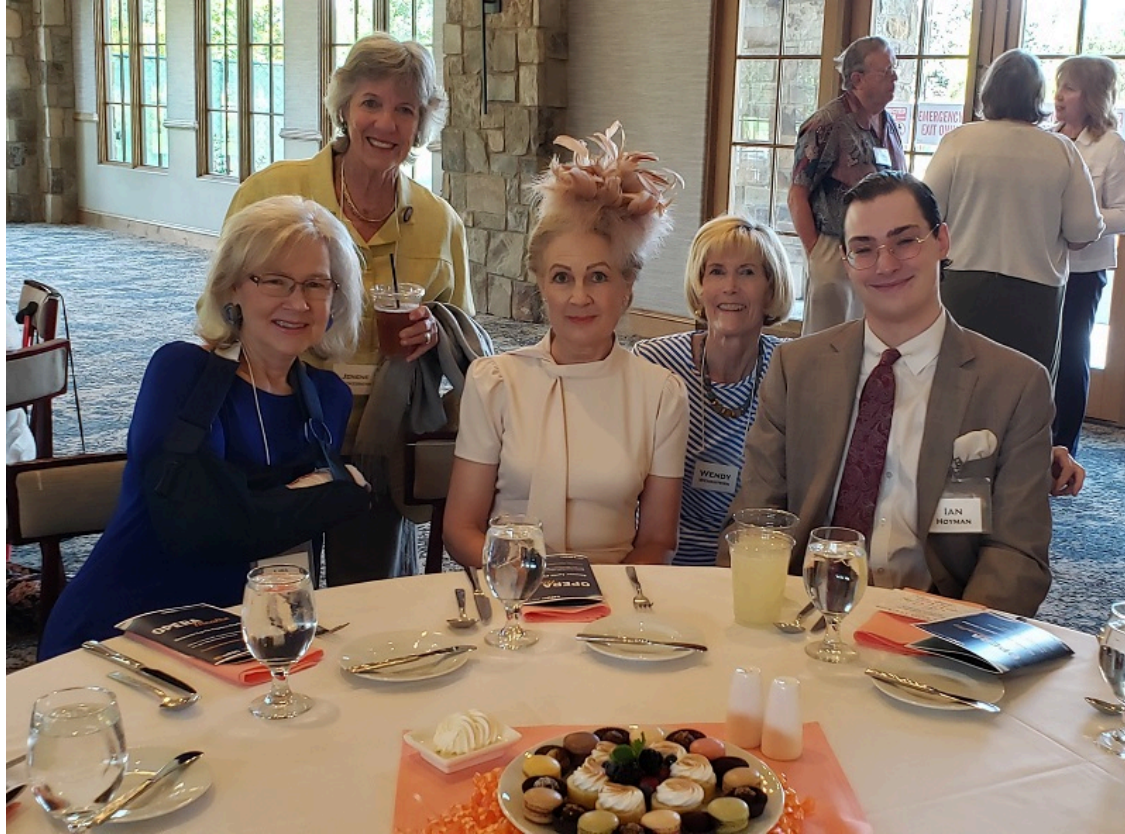
Opera on Tuesday Recap
Season Opener September 10 AND October 1
Practically a DLOG Double Header

The first two Opera on Tuesdays of the 2024-2025 season came roaring in quick succession. On September 10th, DLOG held its season opener with the University of Northern Colorado Opera Theatre. Then a quick turn-around to October 1st with the Lamont Opera Theatre singers. As always, the singing was wonderful. Thank you to all organizers and performers for a great start to our new season!

All photos are courtesy of **Linda Young**. To see more photos from these event, make sure to check out the [DLOG Gallery](#).



September 10: UNC College of Performing and Visual Arts Dr. Joe McAllister (piano), Grace Lesniewicz, Alexa Perez, Eliot Whittier, Luis Valencia, Brian Clay Luedloff



September 10: Lisa Curtis, Jenene Stookesberry, Sandra Gish, Wendy Wenkstern, Ian Hoyman



October 1: Lamont Opera Theatre Matthew Plenk, Dr. Keith Ward, Sandra Paz-Garcia, Hanyue Zhang, Natacha Condor, Sibio Msibi, Hansheng Liu, Mason O'Brien, Dr. Beth Nielsen



October 1: Neal Engel, Jean Krusemark, Linda Bjelland, Kathy Van Arsdale, Peter Van Arsdale, Sitting
Deanna Leino, Carolyn Cho, Phyllis Wicklund

September 27th and 28th Cynthia Lawrence Concert and Masterclass Recap



Jeremy Reger - Pianist Extraordinaire, Cynthia Lawrence - Soprano and Colorado Music Hall of Fame Inductee, Anna Montgomery McMahan - 2021 DLOG Competition Winner, Claire McCahan - 2020 DLOG Competition Winner, Miguel Angel Ortega Bañales - 2024 DLOG Competition Winner, Bret Thom-Central City Touring Artist. Photo Courtesy of Becky Gantner

After Cynthia Lawrence was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame this summer at opening night of Central City Opera Festival, a conversation between President Karen Bruggenthies and Cynthia took place exploring the possibility of Cynthia's doing a concert and Master Class for DLOG. After further discussions, President Scott Finlay of Central City was involved in the conversations resulting in a zoom call between Karen, Scott and Dennis Jackson. The conclusion that a joint venture between Central City Opera and Denver Lyric Opera Guild was the way to proceed.

Cynthia suggested we include former winners of the Competition to be included in the Concert. Former competition participants would be invited to participate in the Master Class. Karen would work with Cynthia on the concert and Dennis would proceed with the MasterClass. Scott helped by providing the excellent facility, Applewood United Methodist Church in Golden and some publicity to the Central City audience. Included in the concert with Cynthia were former Competition winners: **Miguel Angel Ortega Bañales**, tenor, **Claire McCahan**, Mezzo, **Anna Montgomery McMahan**, Soprano, and **Bret Thom**, from Central City Opera Young artists Program.

Those in attendance on Friday evening September 27 were thrilled by the voices featured along with Cynthia accompanied by Jeremy Reger, Associate Professor at CU, Boulder. It was an outstanding concert highlighting the support DLOG has provided for so many years to the advancement of the art of singing in Colorado. Opera companies young artist programs and university opera programs as well as individuals have all benefited from financial support from Denver Lyric Opera Guild.

On Saturday September 28 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Cynthia did a Louise C Center Master Class with 8 singers of varying voice ranges. Six of those singers were former competition participants and the other two were suggested by faculty from Denver University, Lamont School of Music and the College of Music, University of Colorado. The singers were provided with professional guidance from Cynthia and accompanied again by Jeremy. Those singers in the Master Class were: **Oliver Poveda**, Baritone, **Claudia Diaz**, Soprano, **Randy Ho**, Tenor, **Mackenzie Laun**, Soprano, **James Robinson**, Baritone, **Alice Del Simone**, Soprano, **Jenna Clark**, Mezzo Soprano and **Joan Sebastian Marques**, Tenor. All of these singers were excellent and took direction, making suggested changes by Cynthia.

It was a learning experience for everyone in attendance. There were moments of laughter and moments of OH WOW as well as just glorious singing under the tutelage of an accomplished singer/teacher.

The whole weekend was thrilling and inspiring for everyone in attendance and participating.

Thank you Cynthia for your contribution! A great thank you to Jeremy whose artistry at the keyboard is incredible. Thank you President Karen and Scott Finlay for making this possible at Applewood United Methodist Church in Golden, which is a wonderful facility for singing and listening.

BRAVI TUTTI

Dennis Jackson

Opera on Tuesday Notes



OPERA ON TUESDAY NOTES....

The 2024-2025 Opera on Tuesday season is off to a great start! We're already two shows in and registration is now open for the November 5th Opera on Tuesday with Colorado State University Ralph Opera Program.

[Click here to Register for Nov 5 now!](#)

Make sure to mark your calendar with the

2024-2025 Opera on Tuesday dates:

September 10, 2024

October 1, 2024

November 5, 2024

[Click Here to Register Now for the Nov 5 OOT!](#)

December 10, 2024

January 21, 2025

April 1, 2025

May 13, 2025

All luncheons will be held at Columbine Country Club who continues to be a welcoming venue with staff who graciously works within our budget, reserves our advance dates and cheerfully responds to special requests.

A Message from University of Denver Lamont Opera Theatre - A Double Bill!



University of Denver Lamont Opera Theatre presents:

Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Mozart's *The Impresario*

Friday, November 1 at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 2 at 7:30pm

Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Gates Concert Hall

\$5 for reserved parterre seats, or FREE general admission (\$3 fee to purchase online)

[Click Here to Purchase Nov 1](#)

[Click Here to Purchase Nov 2](#)

Complimentary parking

Join us for this double bill of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Mozart's *The Impresario* in a semi-staged concert version accompanied by a professional orchestra. The iconic Baroque opera *Dido and Aeneas*, filled with hauntingly beautiful arias and stirring choruses, tells the tale of Queen Dido's passionate love for the Trojan hero Aeneas and her ultimate despair. Then, step into the comedic world of *The Impresario*, Mozart's delightful opera that follows the humorous struggles of an impresario trying to manage the egos of his rival sopranos. Matthew Plenk is the director and Sahar Nouri is the conductor of the production.

Angela Mitchell

Manager of Marketing and Communications

Lamont School of Music

**Even More from Denver Lamont School -
100th Anniversary Gala Concert
See Matthew Plenk Sing "Nessum Dorma"!**



LAMONT SCHOOL OF MUSIC
100TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA CONCERT

featuring works written in 1924, including
Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue (Stephanie Cheng, Piano)
Respighi: Pines of Rome (with Lamont Alumni & DYAO Brass)
Ravel: Tzigane (Linda Wang, Violin)
Gershwin Songs (Tatiana Mayfield Brown, Jazz Vocalist)
Puccini: "Nessun Dorma!" (Matthew Plenk, Tenor)
Grondahl: Trombone Concerto (Richard Harris, Trombone)

Lamont Symphony Orchestra
Lawrence Golan, conductor

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Lamont Symphony Orchestra Centennial Concert
Gates Concert Hall

Step back in time with the Lamont School of Music as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary with "1924 Revisited."
This special event pays homage to the year of our founding with a selection of iconic works that premiered in 1924, performed by our talented students, faculty, and distinguished alumni.

[Click Here for Details and Tickets](#)

ABOUT THAT WATERMELON GAZPACHO...

The Watermelon Gazpacho served at our September Opera on Tuesday luncheon was such a hit, many asked for the recipe. Ingredients are the chef's best estimate of amounts so adjust for your individual preferences.

- 1 watermelon
- 1 cucumber – whole
- 2 celery sticks
- 2 Red bell peppers, no seeds
- 4 whole tomatoes
- Mint to taste
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup lime juice
- approximately 2 cups tomato juice
- salt and pepper to taste

*Chop all ingredients then blend together
Bon appetite!

Gayle Landis

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Denver Lyric Opera Guild relies on volunteers to run the organization. A Nominating Committee is formed in the Fall to identify candidates for Board and Committee positions for the following year. Volunteers are needed to fill Board positions, to assist with the Competition for Colorado Singers, the Summer Party and Special Events such as Head Shot Day and the recent Cynthia Lawrence Concert. Volunteering provides the opportunity to forge new

friendships, become familiar with the governance of the organization and most importantly to learn and appreciate the value of our mission to support aspiring professional singers through our collegiate grants, the annual Louise Conter Masterclass, and the Competition for Colorado Singers.

If you have a particular area of interest, please email Gayle Landis, giple@comcast.net
The Nominating Committee members will soon begin making calls, please consider volunteering!

Gayle Landis

Membership Renewal



THIS IS A FRIENDLY REMINDER

**IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR DLOG
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL,**

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FORM TODAY OR**

RENEW ONLINE AT

denverlyricoperaguild.org

WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR
HAVE LOST YOUR RENEWAL FORM,**

PLEASE CONTACT:

Debbie Roth

303-921-7424

debr54@comcast.net

THANK YOU



DLOG Directory

To access Denver Lyric Opera Guild's current online directory, simply go the DLOG website at:
denverlyricoperaguild.org/directory.

Please note this is a password protected area of the site so as to only be accessed by DLOG members. Please do not share the password or use the directory for any business or marketing purposes. The password is "Opera!". That's capital O, "Opera" followed by an exclamation point.

To inform us of corrections to the directory, please email admin@denverlyricoperaguild.org .

Opera Around Colorado



A Gilbert & Sullivan Gem - *Iolanthe*

Oct 11,12,13,17,18,19, Rialto Theater, Loveland

Join us for a magical journey into the whimsical world of fairies and British politics with *Iolanthe*, one of the most enchanting operettas ever written by the iconic duo Gilbert & Sullivan. This topsy-turvy comedy will keep you laughing and humming the memorable tunes long after the performance ends. Book your tickets now for a memorable evening of music, humor, and beautiful music..

[Click for Tickets](#)



Everest: A Graphic Novel Film

Oct 22, Bud Werner Memorial Library, Steamboat

Opera Parallèle began developing this new genre of opera in 2013, based on a concept by Creative Director Brian Staufenbiel, with an exploratory performance combining specially commissioned illustrations projected during live performance. Everest follows the true-life stories of three climbers, Rob Hall, Doug Hansen, and Beck Weathers as they attempt to summit Mount Everest in 1996.

[Click for More Info](#)



Artists in Conversation

Wed, Oct 23, Ellie Caulkins Opera House

This event will feature mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook, bass-baritone Stefano de Peppo, tenor Andrew Stenson, maestro Ari Pelto, and director Chia Patino, moderated by Ellie Caulkins General & Artistic Director, Greg Carpenter.

Enjoy gaining exclusive behind the scenes insight into the process of bringing this delightful story to the stage!.
Free Event!

[Get all the Details Here!](#)



Opera on Tap at New Image Brewing - OOos, AWOos and BRews!

Fri Oct 25, New Image Brewing, Wheat Ridge

Join us for a spooky show full of thrills, chills and trills, as we bring you opera and musical theater's scariest, spookiest moments..

[Click for Details](#)



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Hänsel und Gretel

Oct 25-27, Macky Auditorium, Boulder

The Eklund Opera Program invites you to take a magical journey in which powerful operatic voices and a Wagner-inspired orchestral score bring to life the beloved opera Hänsel and Gretel. Guided by angels, a Sandman and a Dew Fairy through a wondrous and sometimes frightening forest, they'll outsmart a wicked witch in a candy-coated cottage and bravely rescue the gingerbread children. Indulge your imagination with this delightful adventure for all ages!

Sung in German with English subtitles.

[More Info Here](#)



Season 2024-2025 Gala Concert "Operatic Gems"

Sat Nov 2, Trinity Lutheran Church, Boulder

Join us for a fantastic evening where we will share many operatic treasures with our wonderful neighbors, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and, of course, the amazing voices of our artists at our 2024-25 Season Gala Concert.

Our talented singers will present a preview of what is coming in our 2024-25 season, and you can support us by participating in the silent auction that will help us raise essential funds for our Family Series, outreach education programs, and mainstage productions. As a cultural gem itself, the Boulder Opera continues to be a cherished treasure in the Boulder community, nurturing the arts and inspiring audiences with its diverse and captivating productions.

We can't wait to see you at the Gala Concert! Your participation and support will help us share the treasures of opera with the community!

[Click for Details](#)



Daughter of the Regiment Sitzprobe and Brunch

Sun, Nov 3, Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Begin your day by indulging in a delicious brunch, complete with mimosas and bloody marys, before witnessing the magic of opera come to life. You'll have the rare opportunity to observe the Sitzprobe rehearsal, where the cast, led by Maestro Ari Peltó, unites with the Opera Colorado Orchestra and Chorus for the first time on stage.

Don't miss this insider's look at Opera Colorado's 2024-25 season opener—a perfect blend of music, artistry, and behind-the-scenes magic!

[RSVP Here](#)



Fall Fest - *The Old Maid & The Thief*

Wed, Nov 6, St. Paul Catholic Church, Colorado Springs

Join us for an evening of elegance and charm at Fall Fest, our annual fundraiser showcasing the timeless classic, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, presented by Bel Canto Legacy. With performances by Emily Anderson, Connie Heidenreich, Moses Swedberg, Priscilla Viteri, and Malcolm Ulbrick as the thief, experience this captivating tale of love and intrigue.

[Tickets Here](#)



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

French Fables & Fairytales

Nov 15 & 16, Campus Commons Performance Hall, Greeley

Classic settings of familiar tales in family-friendly performances.

Le docteur Miracle (Doctor Miracle)

Music by Georges Bizet • Libretto by Léon Battu & Ludovic Halévy

Bizet's one-act operetta exudes youthful romance through a twisting plot of humor, disguises and omelets.

Cendrillon (Cinderella)

Music and Libretto by Pauline Viardot

A French version of the classic fairy tale by an early 20th-century female composer, this charming operetta retells the story sans stepmother, plus swapping princes and mysterious strangers..

[More Info Here](#)



The 48th Annual L'Esprit de Noël Holiday Home Tour

Nov 22 & 23, Crestmoor Neighborhood, Denver

2024 marks the 48th year for Central City Opera Guild's Holiday Home Tour, L'Esprit de Noël. For decades, L'Esprit de Noël has raised funds to help support programs of Central City Opera, including Education and Community Engagement programs serving more than 80,000 people each year.

This year, the home tour will feature beautiful homes in Denver's historic Crestmoor neighborhood! We hope the designs of our featured local florist and table designers will put you in the holiday spirit and provide you with new ideas for your very own home, with the season of family, friends and merriment upon us.

[Buy Tickets](#)

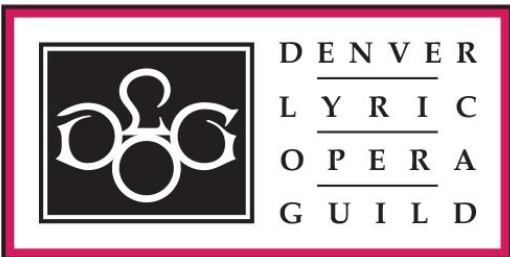


Mortal Euphonies featuring Melanie Dubil

Nov 23, Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver

Our 2024 Art Song Competition Winner, Melanie Dubil, presents "Mortal Euphonies" as she explores modern art song in this prize-winning concert..

[Details Here](#)



DENVER LYRIC OPERA
GUILD

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