

TALKING OPERA – SEASON XIII

This may be our most diverse and exciting Talking Opera series yet! Here's a taste of what's in store for us in May.

The Talking Opera Series starts with two presentations, May 12 and May 19. The series will continue into June, with presentations June 2, 9, and 16, all at 7:00 pm. May presentations will be at Christ Church Parish Hall in Cooperstown.

On May 12, Richard Johnson, co-editor of the Guild newsletter, and our resident expert on the American musical, will share his insights into *Carousel*, and the contributions of Rodgers and Hammerstein to the American musical.



On May 19, we will have the opportunity to hear Tim Newton, Associate Professor of Music at SUNY Oneonta, talk about the music of Richard Strauss and the intricacies of the plot of *Ariadne in Naxos*. Please visit www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org for more details on Mr. Newton's presentation.

In the May newsletter we will have more detailed information on the June programs.

MARY BRODZINSKY

OPERA INVOCATIONS PROJECT

In opera, as in life, even the strongest or most steadfast of characters may experience intense emotion, perhaps of love, despair, jealousy, revenge or faith. At times those individuals may cry out to a power beyond themselves to beg forgiveness or offer praise. Perhaps they may seek sacred intercession to accomplish some act beyond their own power. These invocations to a sacred world, whether that of Christian or pagan gods, animistic spirits, or even the darker forces of evil, provide us with some of opera's most memorable moments.

A recent Internet search discovered no commercial CD collection of such invocations. Several Guild members (Celeste Johns, Chuck Newman, Corinne Plummer, Elsie Rhodes, and Tom Simpson) have joined together to produce a virtual CD of operatic invocations and hymns of praise to share with other interested Guild members. The virtual CD project will provide a list of member-recommended selections, program notes, and Internet download instructions. If you have a favorite invocation you would like to share with members, please send recording or YouTube video details to Corinne Plummer at plummercm@oecblue.com by mid-April. (Note: The virtual CD approach requires that each member download chosen recordings to his or her own computer, CD, or music player, but avoids involving the Guild in copyright matters needed to produce an actual CD for sale.)

CORINNE PLUMMER

Join us on Monday, May 5, at 6 PM in Templeton Hall, Cooperstown, for
A Season Preview by
Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello
And a spring membership reception for Guild members and their invited guests.
Contact Jen Brickley at jenbrickley@yahoo.com or (607) 437-2332 by April 18 for reservations.
Space is limited; please reserve early.

GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2014, JULY 11 – AUGUST 24

GIACOMO PUCCINI
Madame Butterfly

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN
Carousel

RICHARD STRAUSS
Ariadne in Naxos

TOBIAS PICKER
An American Tragedy

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org

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News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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Member of



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Marshall Duell
 Thomas and Gail Jacobsen

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings. As I write this in mid-February, the snow continues to fall, the mercury hasn’t the strength to pass freezing and thoughts of warm breezes on summer evenings at The Glimmerglass Festival seem a fiction.

The winter will pass, of course, and for seven weeks beginning July 11, the theater will be filled with glorious sights and sounds, and thoughts of this winter will be long forgotten.

The Guild gets a head start on the season with a special member reception on May 5. Our guest for this festive occasion, Festival Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello, will share her thoughts and insights about the exciting 2014 Festival ahead. See page 1 of this newsletter for more details, and be sure to make your reservations early.

The following week, on May 12, our popular Talking Opera series begins. The roster of speakers and topics is impressive so you won’t want to miss any of these interesting and informative programs. More details on page 1.

As always, we look forward to welcoming company members at our annual Eat & Greet (July 6), and we will celebrate performers and crews at each opening performance cast party.

Again this summer the Guild will demonstrate its ongoing support of the Young Artists Program by promoting the annual YAP performance. This summer’s performance, Puccini’s tragic *Madame Butterfly*, will take place August 3 in the Alice Busch Opera Theater.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the popular Guild Gala and Silent Auction hosted by the Otesaga Hotel on August 5.

Two special member events are presently in the planning stage. The first of these is a visit to regional venues and sights where *An American Tragedy* unfolded. Later in the season, members will be invited to meet famed director Jonathan Miller, who brought Glimmerglass audiences *La Traviata* in 2009 and many other memorable productions.

More information about these and other Guild activities will be found in future newsletters and on the Guild website at www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org.

This is the time of year to renew your membership in the Guild - renewal forms are in the mail. Please respond

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CAROUSEL

The second production in the 2014 Festival is *Carousel*, by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. This show opens on Saturday, July 12, and will have 12 performances through August 22.

Rodgers and Hammerstein based their 1945 musical on a 1909 play, *Liliom*, by Hungarian playwright Ferenc Molnar. They changed the locale from Budapest to New England in the late nineteenth century. This is their setting for the bittersweet romance between carousel barker Billy Bigelow and mill worker Julie Jordan.



Carousel has proved very popular, both with audiences and critics, has had several New York City productions, was a major motion picture, and remains a standard work on stages throughout the world.

Artists familiar to Glimmerglass audiences assume principal roles. Ryan McKinny, the Dutchman in 2013, is Billy Bigelow, and Andrea Carroll (YAP 2011) is Julie Jordan. Deborah Nansteel (YAP 2013, Mary in *The Flying Dutchman*) is Nettie Fowler, and Wynn Harmon (Merlyn/Pellinore in *Camelot*, 2013) plays another double role: the Starkeeper and Dr. Seldon. Making their Glimmerglass debuts are Doug Peck, conductor, and Charles Newell, director.

EXPLORING PUCCINI, PART 2

A free educational program is being offered by the Glimmerglass Opera Guild on April 5, 2014 at 12:00 noon, prior to the Metropolitan Opera's High Definition Simulcast of Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Foothills Performing Arts Center.

The 30-minute program is being held in the Production Room on the first floor of the Foothills Performing Arts Center at 24 Market Street in Oneonta, NY.

The Foothills Performing Arts Center will open at 11:30 am for this special program. Attendees will be able to "save" seats for the broadcast of *La Bohème* that begins at 1:00 pm by picking up a reserved seat sign when they purchase their tickets. In this way your seat is saved for the Met simulcast while you learn more about the opera you are about to experience.

JANET POTTER

ALIVE AND WELL

[For our readers who may have missed it, we are pleased to reprint Francesca Zambello's letter that originally appeared in *The Daily Star*, February 17, 2014.]

On Feb. 7, *The Daily Star* published an excerpt of Mark Vanhoenacker's article titled "The Death of Classical Music in America." Claims such as these come around every so often, citing companies that are sadly no longer with us or the decline in classical music sales.

It is true that some classical music institutions have not had the support necessary to thrive. However, in this community, classical music is far from the grave, and for that I want to thank you.

The amount of classical music, available in this community is astounding. In addition to the Glimmerglass Festival, for which I serve as artistic and general director, we have many other organizations, including the Catskill Symphony Orchestra, Catskill Choral Society, Oneonta Concert Association, Little Delaware Youth Ensemble, and Cooperstown Chamber Music Festival, not to mention the musical performances presented by the many colleges in the area. The fundraising done by Cooperstown Central School's Friends of Music and Art, and your attendance at the local high school musicals and plays, also show that you think creative outlets are important.

The community wants to discuss what they see and hear on stage; people are becoming more engaged. At Glimmerglass, we are witnessing this phenomenon. My goal is for us to provide an outlet for this, not only through performances, but through all of our ancillary activities. Arts = community.

Peter Macris and his peers identified this community as ripe for arts, culture, and classical music in 1975 when they founded Glimmerglass Opera, and community members have shown their agreement by continuing to show support for the many arts events in the area. I'm writing to say thank you to the ticket buyers, donors, and volunteers of this area. Thank you for proving that classical music has a place here.

FRANCESCA ZAMBELLO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 2)

by April 15 and make plans to take part in all these Guild events and volunteer opportunities. Your membership and participation will help ensure a bright future for the Guild and for The Glimmerglass Festival.

TOM

MOVING ON WITH THE YOUNG ARTISTS

The Glimmerglass Young Artists Program (YAP) was established in 1988 to provide an artistically challenging training environment for young performers. Many of its former members are now at the beginning of fine careers. Others have become well established in the opera world.

Guild members have always held the program in high regard, and so we thought you would like to know the current activities of some of the more recent, and a few not so recent, YAPs.

This month, Arizona Opera's *La Traviata* will feature three former YAPs: Caitlin Lynch (2008) sings Violetta, Patrick O'Halloran (Eduardo, *King for a Day*, 2013) portrays Alfredo, and Beth Lytwynec (2013) sings Flora.

Catherine Martin (Amneris, YAP *Aida*, 2012) and Norman Garrett (Amonasro, YAP *Aida*, 2012) recently recreated these roles in the Glimmerglass production of *Aida* with Opera Santa Barbara. This season Martin sings Wellgunde in Houston Grand Opera's *Die Walküre* and Annina in *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Washington National Opera. Garrett joined WNO as the Steersman in Francesca Zambello's production of *Tristan und Isolde*.

This year, Matthew Worth (2006) sings Starbuck in *Moby-Dick*, also with WNO. Later he joins Pittsburgh Opera as Philip Glass' *Orphée*; Caroline Worra (2002) will sing Euridice.

Mark Diamond (Top, *The Tender Land*, 2010) sang two roles with Houston Grand Opera this season: the Steersman in *Tristan und Isolde* and Count Carl-Magnus in *A Little Night Music*.

Tosca appears to be the opera of choice for soprano Jill Gardner (2006). She will be singing Puccini's diva in Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Toledo in upcoming seasons.

The YAP program is well represented in many European opera houses as well. Jessica Stavros (Glauce, *Medea*, 2011) is presently singing with Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Dusseldorf. Rebecca Jo Loeb (Aninna, *La Traviata*, 2009/Sailor, *Dido and Aeneas*, 2010) and Chris Lysack (2010) are members of the Hamburg State Opera. Julia Mintzer (soloist, *the little match girl passion*, 2013) is appearing with Semperoper, Dresden. And Alex Lawrence (Belfiore, *King for a Day*, 2013) will take a break from his appearances with the Zurich Opera to sing *Billy Budd* in Mexico.

Glimmerglass
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News & Notes

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Closer to home, many principal roles at Glimmerglass this summer will be sung by former YAPs. All four leads in *Ariadne in Naxos* were members of the program: Christine Goerke (1993) will sing Ariadne; Corey Bix (2004), Bacchus; Catherine Martin (2012), the Composer; and Rachele Gilmore (2005), Zerbinetta. *Madame Butterfly* will feature Eric Margiore (2003) as Pinkerton and Aleksey Bogdanov (Escamillo, YAP *Carmen*, 2011) as Sharpless. Bogdanov will also sing Samuel Griffiths in *An American Tragedy*. Finally, Andrea Carroll (2011) and Deborah Nansteel (Mary, *The Flying Dutchman*, 2013) will sing Julie Jordan and Nettie Fowler in *Carousel*.

More than twenty former YAPs appear with the Metropolitan Opera this season. Among them are Christine Goerke, who earned extraordinary praise as the Dyer's Wife in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and Anthony Roth Costanzo (2009), who sang Prince Orlovsky in a new production of *Die Fledermaus* and Ferdinand in a revival of *The Enchanted Island*.

Congratulations to all of you and to the many others whose careers are glowing examples of the fine training of the Glimmerglass Young Artists Program.

ERNIE ADAMS and TOM SIMPSON