

L'Arria

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEATTLE
Opera Guild

September 2018 • Volume 67 • Issue 2

Mission Statement

The Seattle Opera Guild is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes opera. The Guild provides financial support for Seattle Opera, funds vocal scholarships and promotes opera education for all age groups to ensure future opera audiences.

President's Chat



Please renew your membership and stay involved with our Seattle Opera Guild!

Please join us on Facebook and like our page—we share all sorts of information about our events and opera activities! Please also visit our website (www.seattleoperaguild.org) and note our new look! You may also renew your membership on this website easily and securely.

We are excited about the new Seattle Opera at the Center building, which will host a variety of opera events and be a vital new meeting place for our board of directors. All SOG members are welcome to attend our meetings—just contact any officer or your preview group chair for details. We value your input and enthusiasm for SOG's support of young singers and opera in the area.

Please let us hear from you, our valued SOG members!

Gayle Charlesworth

“Summertime!”

By Ann Milam

“...and the livin’ was easy!” Our Magnolia/Queen Anne preview group held a highly successful fundraiser at Skyline on June 23. Guests were treated to a southern-themed buffet, including pecan and sweet potato tartlets, “Dreamsickle punch” and shrimp kabobs, and a silent auction table filled with opera-related and other tempting treats. It was a gorgeous day and our attendees enjoyed the views of Mt. Rainier and downtown Seattle from the SkyClub, as well as visiting with SOG members and guests, including some Skyline residents.

The highlight of the afternoon was a unique musical preview of *Porgy and Bess* featuring soprano Ibidunni Ojikutu, mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod Lewis, baritone Dierre Lopez and pianist Li-Tan Hsu. They performed solos, duets and ensembles from this popular opera, which Seattle Opera presented in August. Highlights of our musical program included Ibidunni’s trademark “Strawberry Woman Song,” which earned her a compliment in the magazine *Opera News* after she performed it here in 2011. Other memorable songs included “I Got Plenty O’ Nuttin’” by Dierre, “Bess, You Is My Woman Now” by Cheryse and Dierre, and a rollicking “It Ain’t Necessarily So” by Dierre,



Our marvelous performers (L to R): Li-Tan Hsu, Cheryse McLeod Lewis, Ibidunni Ojikutu and Dierre Lopez.

Photo credit: Ann Milam

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“Summertime!”

continued from page 1

with backup singers Ibidunni and Cheryse. All three singers performed their grand finale, “Oh, Lawd, I’m On My Way,” and received a standing ovation by enthusiastic audience members. Our guests left humming and intent on purchasing their tickets for the Seattle Opera production, which featured our three singers in main stage roles.

Chair of the fundraiser was Ann Milam, assisted by Patricia Hitchens, Ellen Beardsley, Rubie Johnson, Van Johnson, Nick Elder, Frank Gregory and Casey Carlson-Iffert.

Ibidunni and Cheryse have benefitted from receiving SOG training grants that enabled them to study with vocal teachers and travel for auditions. This event was a fundraiser for our Singers’ Development Awards, which will enable still more young performers to polish their skills and advance in their promising careers!



Photo credit: Philip Newton

Our singers, Dierre Lopez and Cheryse McLeod-Lewis were featured in Seattle Opera’s dramatic ads for Porgy and Bess!



Photo credit: Ann Milam

Silent auction committee (L to R): Patricia Hitchens, Ellen Beardsley and Rubie Johnson.

DON'T FORGET

Renew your SOG membership!

seattleoperaguild.org/join-us/membership-application/

See membership form on page 5 or contact Sally Buckingham: sally.buckingham21@gmail.com



SOG Board of Directors’ Meeting Schedule: 2018-2019

Regular Board Meetings (1st Mondays unless noted):

Pacific NW Ballet, Jane Davis Boardroom
(301 Mercer Street, Seattle Center, 98109)

Contact: Nick Elder, 425-770-7750, nickelder@msn.com

Meeting Times:

Executive Committee: 10:30am—12:30pm

Preview Chairs’ Joint Meeting: 12:30pm-2:30pm
(Please bring your lunch: coffee & dessert provided)

September 10, 2018 (note: 2nd Monday)

October 12, 2018 (Friday)

November 5, 2018

December, 2018 (no board meeting)

Friday, December 7, 2018, SOG Holiday Luncheon
Seattle Tennis Club

January 7, 2019

February 4, 2019

March 8, 2019 (Friday)

April 3, 2019 (Wednesday)

May 6, 2019

Thursday, June (TBD), SOG Annual Meeting
Seattle Yacht Club

The Turn of the Screw

by Benjamin Britten

Preview Schedules

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Vivace

Home of Patrick and Emily Bennett
6116 NE 190th St.
Kenmore, WA 98028
*425.485.5036
Social: 2:30pm (appetizers and wine)
Meeting: 3:15pm
Preview: 4:00pm
Dessert: 5:00pm
Contact: Emily Bennett, 425.486.5036,
epbennett@msn.com

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Bellini**

Home of Dot Fuller
6311 146th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98052
*425.883.0033
Arrival: 1:00pm (appetizers and beverages)
Preview: 2:00pm
Dessert: 3:00pm
Cost: \$25 for members and guests
Contact: ***Sally Buckingham,
425.293.4510,
sally.buckingham21@gmail.com
Suzy Wakefield, 425.828.6186

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Amici

SkyClub at Skyline on First Hill
725 9th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
*206.407.1700
Arrival: 10:15am
Business Meeting: 10:30am
Preview: 11:00am
Lunch: noon
Contact: Maria Van Horn, 206.354.9132,
mcvho4@yahoo.com

Friday, October 5, 2018

Parties and Previews**

Home of Sandra Boyd
10000 Meydenbauer Way, SE #1
Bellevue, WA 98004
*425.450.0671
Social: 6:30pm
English Dinner: 7:30pm
Program: 8:30pm
Checks to: Emily Mattson,
6808 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6942
(206) 920-0588,
emilymattson@hotmail.com

*Host phone numbers are provided
for last minute driving directions.
Please call listed contacts
for all other enquiries.

** RESERVATIONS PLEASE.

Saturday, October 6, 2018

Allegro

Home of Christine Szabadi
5620 S. 233rd St.
Kent, WA 98032
*253.277.3064
Social: 4:30pm
Program: 5:30pm
Contact: Gayle Charlesworth,
253.639.1423, gaylewings@gmail.com

Saturday, October 6, 2018

Magnolia/Queen Anne**

Brookdale Queen Anne
805 4th Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98109
*206.284.0055
Arrival: 6:00pm
Program: 8:00pm
Contact: Florence Rose Thompson,
206.915.7829 m, 206.285.6510 h,
ffrose@comcast.net

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Mercer Island

Location TBD
Arrival: 2:00pm
Program: 3:00pm
Contact: Agi Day, 425.590.9211,
agiday@comcast.net

SOG and Stars in the Making

By Christine Szabadi, VP of Education

Committing one's life to singing as a career, especially in opera, is daunting indeed! Firstly, the voice is the most unreliable of all instruments. It cannot be traded in, it acts up with every invading virus or infection and it sometimes disappears altogether. The training is rigorous. No matter how beautiful the voice, it will thrive only with a fine technique, which includes vocal placement and correct breathing. Besides that, the singer has to learn music theory, languages, acting and stage direction, among other things. Then there is patience! You cannot rush the maturation of the voice. For instance, anyone aspiring to sing Wagner may have to wait until after the thirtieth birthday to handle the role.

The life of a singer is not easy. It is very competitive and may involve much travel chasing opera roles, young artist programs, etc. It relies on the need to be recognized (and therefore being hired) and is very expensive! This is where SOG comes in. Our Singers' Development Award program is one of the most important aspects of our organization. We give these artists the opportunity to compete for financial support to continue their careers. We then give them performance opportunities, providing them with additional experience and resumé material. SOG is so proud of our singers' successes—don't miss their upcoming SOG performances and competitions and show them your support. We attended Seattle Opera's *Porgy and Bess* last month and were thrilled to enjoy two of our past winners, Ibiidunni Ojikutu and Cheryse McLeod Lewis, on the mainstage!



Photo credit: Ann Milam

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS IN OUR REGION

September 14-18, 2018

La Bohème by Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
www.vashonopera.org
(206) 388-2926

October 12, 2018

Queer Voices by Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

October 13-27, 2018

The Turn of the Screw
Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/tickets/
(206) 389-7676

October 26-27, 2018

Monteverdi Masterworks by Pacific
MusicWorks in Lynnwood and Seattle
www.pacificmusicworks.org
(206) 708-6003

October 26-November 4, 2018

La bohème by Pacific Northwest Opera
McIntyre Hall, Mt. Vernon, WA
www.mcintyrehall.org
(360) 416.7727 Ex. 2

October 28-November 4, 2018

Lucia di Lammermoor by Tacoma Opera
Tacoma and Federal Way
www.tacomaopera.com
(253) 591-5893

October 27, 2018

MONC Washington District Auditions
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
www.metoperanw.org
253-874-6525

November 4, 2018

*Fall Concert: A 20th Birthday
Celebration* by Music of Remembrance
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770

November 10, 2018

Voices of War and Peace
Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

December 7, 2018

Seattle Opera Guild Holiday Luncheon
Seattle Tennis Club
Seattletennisclub.org
(206) 324-3200

December 7-9, 2018

Christmas in Rome
Pacific MusicWorks in Seattle
www.pacificmusicworks.org
(206) 708-6003

January 12-26 2019

Il Trovatore
Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/tickets/
(206) 389-7676

February 1, 2019

Black Voices by Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

February 3-10, 2019

The Rape of Lucretia by Tacoma Opera
Tacoma and Federal Way
www.tacomaopera.com
(253) 591-5893

February 8-9, 2019

Leading Ladies by Pacific MusicWorks
Lynnwood and Seattle
www.pacificmusicworks.org
(206) 708-6003

February 23- March 9, 2019

The Revolution of Steve Jobs
Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/tickets/
(206) 389-7676

March 8, 2019

Womxn's Voices
Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

May 3-4, 2019

Handel's *Samson* by Pacific
MusicWorks in Lynnwood and Seattle
www.pacificmusicworks.org
(206) 708-6003

May 3-12, 2019

The Ring of the Nibelung
Pacific Northwest Opera
McIntyre Hall
Mt. Vernon, WA
www.mcintyrehall.org
(360) 416.7727 Ex. 2

May 4-18 2019

Carmen by Seattle Opera
McCaw Hall
www.seattleopera.org/tickets/
(206) 389-7676

May 10, 2019

Voices of Mental Health
Seattle Art Song Society
Ballard First Lutheran Church
www.seattleartsongsociety.org
(206) 488-8048

May 17-19, 2019

A Streetcar Named Desire
Vashon Opera
Vashon Center for the Arts
www.vashonopera.org
(206) 388-2926

May 19, 2019

Spring Concert: The Parting by
Music of Remembrance
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
www.musicofremembrance.org
(206) 365-7770

In Memoriam

Stephanie and Lyle Waterman

By Penny Wade

Amici lost our beloved member Stephanie Waterman on July 11, 2018. She passed away peacefully at age 69, surrounded by love and the comfort of her home. Stephanie and her late husband Lyle were valued Guild members who joined SOG in 2005. They were very active and served as Amici Co-Chairs from 2010 through 2012. They were always generous not only with their time but also opened their beautiful home on Lake Washington to host many enjoyable Previews and Fundraisers. Lyle and Stephanie were perfect hosts with Lyle serving up delicious prime rib wearing his chef's hat and SOG apron.

Stephanie was a Guild Board Member from 2012 through 2015, serving as Secretary and Vice President of Administrative Services. As a board member, she was known for her enthusiasm and generosity. The family suggests memorials to SOG or the Humane Society.

DATE _____

1st Member

PREFIX _____ FIRST NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

PHONE 1 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 2 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 3 _____ H - M - W _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

2nd Member if a couple membership

PREFIX _____ FIRST NAME _____ PREFERRED NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

PHONE 1 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 2 _____ H - M - W _____ PHONE 3 _____ H - M - W _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Household

MAILING ADDRESS _____ APARTMENT _____ CITY AND STATE _____ POST CODE _____

Preview Group _____ or At Large

2nd Preview Group _____ or At Large additional \$20 for couple or \$10 for individual

Membership Level - Couple Patron @ \$195 Sustaining @ \$120 Supporting @ \$90
 - Individual Patron @ \$145 Sustaining @ \$ 85 Supporting @ \$60

Please make checks payable to **Seattle Opera Guild** and send to:
Seattle Opera Guild, c/o Membership Secretary, PO Box 5745 Lynnwood, WA 98046

Double Your Gift! Does your employer and or your spouse's employer match employee gifts? If so, please contact your employer to obtain the necessary company form and submit it to the Seattle Opera Guild.

Volunteers are always needed! Please indicate those areas where you could help the Guild or your Preview Group.

- Word Processing Marketing Raffle Committee Events Photography
- Excel and/or Access Membership Graphic Design Social Media Archives
- Publisher Newsletter
- Data Entry Mailing Other Skills or Interest _____

Remarks _____

SEATTLE Opera Guild

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Editorial Staff:

Editor: Ann H. Milam

Editorial Board: Gayle Charlesworth, Dennis Glauber, Judi Kalitzki, Christine Szabadi & Suzy Wakefield

Digital Communications: Van Johnson

Web Manager: Seamus Smith

Graphics/Printing: Spot-on Print & Design 425-558-7768

Submissions: *Text and Photographs* to Ann Milam: annmilam1@gmail.com. If email is not available, the Editor will accept a typed article. Mail to: 725 9th Ave, Apt. 1206, Seattle, WA 98104

Photographs should include subjects' names & name of the photographer.

Editorial Policy: Editorial changes to submitted articles, other than correction of grammatical errors, will be made after consultation with the contributor.

Deadline for December, 2018 issue of *L'Aria*: November 1, 2018

SOG Officers

PresidentGayle Charlesworth
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VP Membership.....Joan Herald
VP Special Events.....Penny Wade
VP Education.....Christine Szabadi
VP CommunicationsAnn Milam
Secretary.....Cheryl Lundgren
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TrusteeSuzy Wakefield
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AmazonSmile!**

And you can help SOG at the same time!
Just log onto Smile.Amazon.com and enter Seattle Opera Guild as your preferred charity. Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of your purchase to our Guild—it's a win, win!

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You shop. Amazon gives.