



THE GUILD VOICE



Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

Volume 57, Issue 1 December 2015

The Opera Guild of Southern Arizona AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FRED FOX SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Invite you to an afternoon of song, excitement, and refreshment, as you the audience will choose the winners of this unique voice competition:

Quest for the Best 2016

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, AT 1:00 P.M. IN HOLSCLAW HALL

Up to \$8000 in prizes will be awarded in undergraduate and graduate divisions.

Admission, including wine and hors d'oeuvres, is \$60 (Member pre-order \$50) and only \$20 for students and Fine Arts faculty and staff.

To reserve, contact buonasorte2@gmail.com or (520) 825-1563
Details at www.azogsa.org

Quest for the Best will be here before you know it! Our annual vocal competition and reception is a distinctive delight that you and your friends won't want to miss. Hear southern Arizona's best student voices and vote for your favorites. Then enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres as you chat with the singers, faculty, and fellow opera lovers.

This year, we recognize board member and former president Felicia Sanders May for her outstanding commitment to the Opera Guild. Our top graduate student award will be given in her honor. Contributions toward this award are welcome, and are a good way to show your appreciation for Felicia's many years of service to the Guild. All contributions will be acknowledged in the program book.

General admission is \$60, but members can save \$10 per seat by ordering in advance. Please also consider placing a message in the Quest program as a way to honor or memorialize someone special to you, to publicize your business, or just to salute our students. Get tickets and make donations securely on our website, www.azogsa.org.

A Letter from Our President, Judi Hasbrouck



Judi Hasbrouck

Dear Opera Lovers,
I am pleased to introduce myself to you as the new president of the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona. Carol Garrard has done a fabulous job for the last few

years, and I know that the 2015-2016 season will be filled with more fantastic OGSA events to support the students of opera and promote appreciation of opera in Arizona.

I want to thank all who have renewed your memberships, increased your levels of membership, and donated to the Guild. One hundred percent of the donations we receive go to the students. The other sources of funds that have made OGSA successful for more than 58 years are donations in the names of loved ones who have passed away, donations to OGSA given at the opera previews, Quest for the Best ticket sales, and funds raised at special events.

The free opera previews, *Say Hello to Opera* at the Oro Valley Library and *Brown Bag* at the Grace St. Paul Church, will continue. This season, the Arizona Opera Company presents new operas – *Arizona Lady* and *Florencia en el Amazonas* – alongside the familiar. Our singers and accompanists for the OGSA previews have

been working very hard to prepare the new music.

Quest for the Best, on February 27, 2016, will showcase our wonderful undergraduate and graduate opera students in a competitive format where the audience members are the judges. More exciting fundraisers will be announced in the coming year. Last year, the tour to the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix and the Opera on the Streetcar Aria Auction (which involved the first flash mob on Tucson's streetcar) were huge successes.

Information for events that are free to our members will be sent to you. Please encourage your friends to join the Guild, so they can enjoy opera as well. At a special member planning meeting (date and place TBA early in 2016), you will have the opportunity to tell the Board of Directors what you would like to see the Guild do this year, as well as sign up to volunteer at OGSA events. We are looking for a Recording Secretary for this year and a Treasurer for next year, and hope that you'll consider volunteering in these positions. You may contact me anytime with your ideas. Again, thank you for supporting our opera students and promoting opera by being a member of the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona.
Sincerely,

Judi Hasbrouck, President

METROPOLITAN OPERA HD PERFORMANCES AT AREA THEATERS

El Con Mall, 3601 E Broadway—Park Place Mall, 5870 E Broadway—Foothills Mall, 7401 N La Cholla Centruy, 12155 N Oracle—call theaters for times and future performances.

LULU ENCORE—Wed, Dec 2

MAGIC FLUTE SPECIAL—Dec 12

PÊCHEURS DE PERLES LIVE—Sat, Jan 16

PÊCHEURS DE PERLES ENCORE—Sat, Jan 20

STUDENT SINGERS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

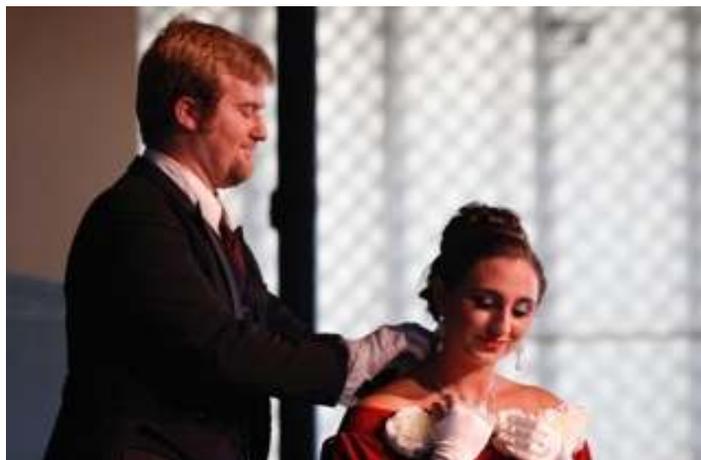
By Betty Allen

“Wow!” “Terrific news!” “I can’t begin to tell you how grateful I am.” We received many comments like these from the recent recipients of OGSA grants and scholarships. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the Opera Guild designated \$10,000 to give to students at the U of A. To date, we have distributed more than \$8,500 in grants and scholarships, and we are now in the process of awarding the balance.

The Guild awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to students selected by the U of A voice faculty: undergraduate Joseph Gouge, and graduate student Brian McNiff. OGSA also gave Pima College student Katie Cowhey a \$250 Encouragement Award.

In addition to our scholarships, the Opera Guild awarded several grants to assist students by alleviating the cost of programs, workshops, auditions, and other activities that help them toward their goal of becoming professional opera singers. This year, our grants have helped students to attend summer workshops, sing in summer programs, and work with important figures in the music field.

Students who studied in the continental U.S. this summer include undergrad Ariana Iniguez, who attended the Redwoods Opera Workshop. Ariana sent us a lovely letter expressing her thanks for the richness of the experience, and calling it “the best ten days of my life.” Mezzo-soprano Samantha Luna participated in Le Chiavi di Bel Canto, a vocal program in Houston, Texas. She is the first in her family to hold a bachelor’s degree, and is currently pursuing her master’s. Matthew LaRochelle and Brian McNiff, both graduate



Les Cante d'Hoffman at Opera in the Ozarks

students, attended Opera in the Ozarks, where Brian performed the title role of Hoffman in *Les Cante d'Hoffman*. Matthew shared with us some of the pictures of their time (included here). Doctoral student Jenina Gallaway was able to audition for the Chicago Lyric young artist’s program last July in part because of an OGSA grant.

Clare Demer, one of the students studying outside the U.S., attended the Toronto Summer Music Festival as an Art of Song Fellow. “This program was instrumental to my development as a singer and artist,” wrote Clare, “and it would not have been possible without your generosity in supporting me and the art of singing in general.” Additionally, Levi Pratt participated in the Choral Institute at Oxford, England. Seth Kershisnik has been performing the role of the Count in a production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, in Vienna. The company, Sound of Austria, presents fully staged productions for cruises.

(See *Student Singers* on page 4)

Celebrating OGSA Member Iris Arnesen

OGSA member Iris Arnesen placed twice in the Arizona Press Club's 2014 Writing and Design Contest for her publication *The Opera Glass*. She received first place in the Community Arts Criticism category, and tied for second in Statewide Arts Criticism.

Both categories were judged by Inga Saffron, a Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic for the Philadelphia Inquirer, whose work has featured in numerous publications. Said Saffron of *The Opera Glass*, "These are very impressive deep dives into local theater and opera productions. The essay 'Venus in Fur' was especially notable for its insights and the connections it made to classical Greek literature."

The Arizona Press Club holds annual contests to honor writing, design, and photography in the journalism field. As a nonprofit and a statewide network, they work to "promote excellence in journalism through an annual contest, training seminars, scholarships and networking events."

Student Singers

(Continued from page 3)

Seth will be able to sing two hundred performances of this opera, opening up other opportunities in Europe. Both he and Mitch Sturges, who is a U of A graduate also singing in *Figaro*, will be exposed to exciting opportunities abroad through this experience.

All the students who have received OGSA grants and scholarships are extremely grateful for the support we have given them. These opportunities are important stepping-stones to a future in the opera field, and may not be possible without additional funding. We are excited to be a part of these wonderful young singers' lives, and we deeply enjoy hearing all about their summer experiences!



Welcome New Members

These members have joined since the distribution of the Directory. Please add them to your Member Directory.

881-4026	Cain, Prudence 5331 N Calle Bujia	85718
531-1413	Wilcox, John 5950 N Fountains Ave #4103	85704

Correction: Member Contact Info

Please note in your member directory these corrections.

319-520-8957	Casady, Mary	
Use this phone #	Our apologies to Mary!	
Street # is corrected	Collins, Gretchen 1583 E Painted Colt Loop	85719

Membership Matters: Join Online

New members are always WELCOME any time!

Renewals for the membership year of 2016-2017 are due **July 1, 2016**.

You can securely join, renew and donate on our website, www.azogsa.org.

Remembering Members Who Have Passed Away

Elizabeth Chadwick



Elizabeth passed on July 23, 2015. She was one of the founders of the Opera Guild, and played a role in the Tucson Opera Company's development. In a recent issue of *The Guild Voice*, we celebrated Elizabeth's wholehearted involvement with opera: she worked as a pianist for the Tucson Opera, as well as "hiring and coaching the chorus, assisting with costumes and set building and event cleaning the offices. 'Back then, we did it all.'"

Corinne Milton of OGSA says of longtime friend Elizabeth: "Her piano playing was marvelous and she was a one-person show in finding and introducing the singers, accompanying them, and previewing the operas... She worked very hard for OGSA and the Arizona Opera and kept us board members on track... I will always remember her with admiration and great affection."

Ellie Gabriel

Ellie, a long time board member of the Opera Guild, departed this life on August 10, 2015. Born in Vienna, her first opera was *Der Rosenkavalier*. Ellie was a professional tour guide and led several opera tours for OGSA (Santa Fe, LA, San Francisco). She also narrated several "Brown Bag" previews. She loved hiking, travelling, opera, and her grandson. Ellie is survived by her daughter, Lisa Olson, her son-in-law, Michael P. Olson, her grandson, Michael C. Olson, a sister, Helga Bornsted of Vienna, Austria, and longtime companion, Walter Hurley. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to Casa de la Luz Hospice, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona, or the Tucson Opera League. The celebration of Ellie's life was held at the San Pedro Chapel in Tucson.



Christine Nelson

Christine passed away peacefully on May 4, 2015. She was dynamically involved with music all her life: she belonged to the SAI music fraternity for more than fifty years, and played piano with the Tucson Symphony and at various concerts in town. As stated in her obituary, "She also had a special love of opera and served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Opera Company and The Opera Guild for many years." Christine is richly survived

by a big family, who asked on her behalf that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Altar Guild.



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*Visit Our website
www.azogsa.org*

BECOME A MEMBER (and pass a copy on to a friend!!!)

You may also become a member online at www.azogsa.org

Please **PRINT CLEARLY** all information

Mail this form with your check (payable to OGSA) or your credit card information to:

OGSA-Membership, PO Box 64327, Tucson AZ 85728-4327

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS—please check one

Student \$5 ___ Individual \$30___ Family \$50___ Donor \$60 ___ Benefactor \$75 or more ___

CONTRIBUTIONS are also welcome and go directly to student scholarships and awards.

Contribution Levels—please check one:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copper \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____ |

Credit Card Info: please check one: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card # _____

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TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (membership & contribution): \$ _____