



# THE GUILD VOICE

Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

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## 13th Annual Quest for the Best a Rousing Success



**Top 2016 Quest Winners:** L to R graduate students Samantha Luna, Ariana Iniguez, Brian McNiff, and Michelle Perrier; undergrads Kyle DeGraff, Clare Demer, Caroline Crawford, and Antonio Cruz.

Nearly 150 people enjoyed an afternoon of song, camaraderie, food, and drink at OGSA's 13th annual *Quest for the Best* on February 27 at UA's Holsclaw Hall. The record throng heard 15 student singers—eight undergraduates and seven graduate students, voted for their favorites, then turned to a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception while their ballots were counted.

The top graduate award went to Samantha Luna, mezzo-soprano, who sang "Una voce poco fa," from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Her \$1500 award was named in honor of OGSA past president, current historian, and longtime supporter Felicia Sanders May. (See page 2.)

The undergraduate winner, who took home \$1000, was tenor Kyle DeGraff, who sang "Dein ist mein ganzes Herz," from *The Land of Smiles*, by Franz Lehár. All participants shared in the prize money, which totaled \$8,650. Thanks are due to our generous donors, who made these awards possible.

Hear all the *Quest* arias at [azogsa.org/2016-quest](http://azogsa.org/2016-quest).

### Verdi's Comic Masterpiece Completes OGSA Preview Season

Don't miss our free previews of *Falstaff*. Baritone Andrew Stuckey, a UA voice professor, will narrate and portray the title role. Soprano Sun-Young Lee will sing Nanetta, sopranos Susan Stokes and Betty Allen will be Alice and Meg, and mezzo Korby Myrick will sing Mistress Quickly. Kyung-sun Lee will be at the piano.

#### BROWN BAG OPERA LUNCH

GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, noon  
2331 E Adams St, 327-6857

Mar. 25 (Friday): *Falstaff*, Verdi

Don't forget to bring a lunch! Coffee, tea, and dessert are provided before the show.

#### SAY HELLO TO OPERA

ORO VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY at 3 p.m.  
1305 W Naranja Dr, 594-5580

Mar. 30 (Wednesday): *Falstaff*, Verdi

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope you were able to attend *Quest for the Best 2016*, because it was spectacular! The talent of the young singers in this vocal competition always amazes me. Everyone I spoke to at the delicious reception was impressed with the outstanding quality of the performances. Kudos to the singers, their teachers and the pianists. OGSA awarded \$8,650 in prizes; see the full list of participants and awards [azogsa.org/2016-quest](http://azogsa.org/2016-quest) .

Thank you to all who attended, placed messages in the program, and gave donations to honor Felicia Sanders May. (Please read her gracious letter below.) Your support allows OGSA to support the students of opera. I also want to express my appreciation to the many volunteers who helped make *Quest* run smoothly.

Save the date for *Quest for the Best 2017* — March 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Holsclaw Hall. The Festival of Books will be on the University of Arizona campus that day, so you can attend both.

I hope that we will see you at our Annual Meeting / Member Party. It will be held Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m. There will be refreshments and singing, and we will elect officers.

Thank you, again, for your generous support of the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona.

Sincerely, Judi Hasbrouck



Judi Hasbrouck

## Thank You from *Quest* Honoree Felicia Sanders May

Dear OGSA Members,

Thank you for honoring me so wonderfully. Thank you for producing such an excellent *Quest for the Best*. It really was THE BEST! Next year will be even better, and the next year, and the next.

I have always loved working with and for the Opera Guild. We are unique in what we are trying to achieve, and we definitely have a special niche in the Tucson community. I am proud of our work and I know you all are also.

As OGSA Historian, I can't resist recounting some *Quest* history. The idea came from Suzanne Clark. It was first held in 2004 at the home of Kasey Havas, with 55 people attending and 18 singers participating. The outstanding singers included Shermayne Brown, Christopher Herrera, Stella Markou, Angela Barnes, and Joshua Hanna. We awarded \$3,250, a small start perhaps, but to date we have awarded over \$97,000. Not bad for our little organization, "the best kept secret in Tucson."

Keep up the wonderful work that you are all doing and, again, thank you so very much for honoring me. I feel very privileged and grateful.

Fondly, Felicia

**Don't Miss Our Annual Meeting and Member Party on May 1**
  
 The annual members' get-together will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, at the home of Philippe Bodin, 5631 N Campbell Avenue. We will elect officers and, as we all like to do, enjoy music and refreshments. This event is for members and prospective members, so bring a friend.

## *Va, vecchio John!* – Carol Garrard considers Falstaff's Act III Soliloquy

In the autograph score of his last opera, *Falstaff*, Verdi added this note in his handwriting:

*The last notes of Falstaff. All is finished! Go, go, old John . . . Walk on your way as long as you can . . . amusing type of rogue eternally true, beneath different masks, in every time, in every place! Go, walk, walk, farewell!"*

Verdi's goodbye echoes Falstaff's own aria at the beginning of Act III. After being thrown into the Thames, he drinks warm wine to avoid catching a cold and muses: *Go, old John, go, go on your way; walk on until you die. Then true virility will disappear from the world.*

Read the complete article on our website, at <http://azogsa.org/va-vecchio-john>.

### SUPPORT OGSA AND WIN A CAR!

OGSA offers you the chance to win a sporty 2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350, along with the knowledge that every dollar goes to support our students. Through the generosity of auto dealer Jim Click, eligible Tucson charities receive 100% of raffle sales. The drawing will be held on December 15, 2016. The tickets cost \$25 each, or 5 for \$100. Please contact Judi Hasbrouck (906-3792) to get your tickets. They make wonderful gifts, too.

### METROPOLITAN OPERA LIVE IN HD

Puccini: *Madama Butterfly* Sat, Apr 2, 9:55 a.m.  
Donizetti: *Roberto Devereux* Sat, Apr 16, 9:55 a.m.  
R. Strauss: *Elektra* Sat, Apr 30, 9:55 a.m.

Participating theaters:

El Con Mall, 3601 E Broadway  
Park Place Mall, 5870 E Broadway  
Foothills Mall, 7401 N La Cholla  
Century, 12155 N Oracle

Check with theaters re encore performances!

### In Memoriam: Geraldine Young

We note sadly the passing of our longtime member and strong supporter Geraldine (Jeri) Young. Her daughter Karson Aubuchon sent this obituary:

Geraldine Manon Young was born in San Francisco in 1922. Named after Geraldine Farrar, she knew on hearing her first aria that opera would be a lifelong passion. By the age of 16 she was an usher at the San Francisco Opera House. She loved opening nights, not only the spectacular performances, but the glittering audience as well.

She was particularly intrigued with Wagner's *Ring*, attending at least six cycles nationwide. Arizona Opera's production, directed by Glynn Ross, was her second favorite, after New York's Metropolitan.

Moving to Tucson, she found a vibrant opera community, and she so enjoyed the friendships that she made. She also treasured the many educational outreach programs that she gave at local schools. She was always happy when she was introducing young people to the wonders of opera.

Jeri lived all of her 93 years with a great respect for music in all of its forms, but opera was always her favorite. It was a life well lived.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Olga A. Bever	George & Fern Fousse
Hank Bogen	Janet Hedgpeth
Carole Burke	Judy Milton
Michael Campbell	Matt Perri
Annette & Julius Cremisi	Ellie Starer
Helen Deluga	Margaret Thielemeir
Martha Demer	Melody O. Weber

These opera lovers have taken advantage of our **spring membership special**. (See page 4.) Invite your friends to do the same. Anyone joining in March will be paid through June 30, 2017, and receive free tickets to UA Opera.

**Existing members:** Renewals for the membership year 2016-17 are due by **July 1, 2016**.

You can securely join, renew, and donate on our website, <http://azogsa.org>.



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## The Guild Voice

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Visit Our Website <http://azogsa.org>

## OGSA March Membership Madness

The Opera Guild of Southern Arizona has its own “March Madness” event. The Opera program at the Fred Fox School of Music is generously offering to every new member in March a voucher good for two free tickets to the UA student opera, Donizetti’s *The Elixir of Love*, in Crowder Hall April 7–10th.

Since a single membership in OGSA is \$40, and the tickets are \$20 each, this is like getting free membership! What’s more, new members who join this month won’t need to renew until July 2017. That’s four months free! As a further bonus, new members get to enjoy our **Annual Meeting / Member Party May 1**. (Details on page 2)

Please tell your friends to fill out the membership form, mail it with payment, and join our happy band. Even easier, they can join securely online at <http://azogsa.org/membership-form/>. This rare opportunity expires March 31st. On receipt of the membership form and dues, we will mail the voucher; or come to one of our free *Falstaff* previews and get it in person.

*The Elixir of Love* is a sparkling bel canto comic opera. It is directed by Beth Greenberg, who comes to UA from New York where for 22 years she was opera director at the New York City Opera. New York’s loss is Tucson’s gain.

You won’t want to miss this gem—it glows with laughter and beautiful singing. And you don’t want to miss out on joining the Opera Guild. Our promise is simple. Everyone who belongs never ages—we “youthen.” Why? Because we can access all spheres of the human condition through the mysterious power of drama told in music.