



GUILD VOICE

Opera Guild of Southern Arizona



Volume 55, Issue 3 February 2014

"I have always believed that opera is a planet where the muses work together, join hands and celebrate all the arts." ~ Franco Zeffirelli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A happy new year to you all, and aren't you glad you belong to the ONE non-profit organization that did NOT ask you for a contribution over the holidays? Our big annual event is coming up; please mark your calendar for *Quest for the Best*, March 29th, Saturday, at 1:00 p.m. at Holsclaw Hall. After you hear the lovely arias and cast your ballot for your favorite singers, you will join them for a hors d'oeuvres and wine reception. Tickets are \$50.00, \$30 of which is tax deductible.

Vital to our mission is supporting the vocal students at the University of Arizona. They are gifted and talented, but the path ahead of them is expensive as well as demanding. Please help fund their *Quest* awards by taking an ad in the program—to remember a loved one, to honor a relative or friend, to advertise a business or professional practice, or just to congratulate the singers. Can you buy at least 1/8 of a page (\$100) in the program? I myself have bought half a page to remember my beloved parents, both of whom loved going to the previews. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and to fill Holsclaw Hall on March 29th. Please come, and bring a companion. Since 1958 the Opera Guild has given over \$400,000. That is a glorious past. Let's make the future as wonderful.

Those of you who came to the UA Opera performance of *Die Fledermaus* saw a gorgeous production. The singing, the wonderful dancing (the dance department performed the entire ballet!) the costumes—all went to make an evening that would have done a professional company proud. David Ward, the new Opera Director, paced and directed the production into outstanding theater. The spring opera will be Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, on April 10–12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 13, at 3:00 p.m. It will be truly magical.

Finally, I hope to see you all at one of our previews for Arizona Opera Company's *La Traviata*. They will be Monday, (NOT Wednesday!) February 24, at Oro Valley Library, and the usual Friday, February 28th, at Grace St. Paul's. The narrator will be Vivian Weede, who knows opera from the inside, as she was once a professional singer. Her knowledge is phenomenal, and you are in for a treat.

~~ President Carol Garrard

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Honoring

ELIZABETH CHADWICK



Elizabeth Chadwick is one of the Opera Guild's longest standing members and we dedicate this issue of the newsletter to her and her unwavering support of opera students and opera in general here in Tucson.

An abbreviated bio of Elizabeth Chadwick

Tucson's Opera Roots:

by Kathi Metzger

Opera lovers are and unwavering category of performing arts devotees: prepared to attend performances under any circumstances, willing to give freely of their time and talents and absorbing every precious moment of the show until the final curtain falls on our desperate heroine.

One such opera lover is Elizabeth Chadwick, one of the founders of the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona and in 1971 a loyal supporter of the original Tucson Opera Company.

Elizabeth played an active role in the development of Tucson Opera through her work as a pianist, as well as through hiring and coaching the chorus, assisting with costumes and set building and even cleaning the offices. "Back then, we did it all," she says, which included spending day and night at the opera.

Chadwick discovered her enthusiasm for opera after her parents took her to see a touring production of *Don Carlo* in the San Francisco area, and she giggled at the action on stage.

She moved to Tucson in 1953 and worked at McWhorter Music Co. until 1967. At that time she joined the University of Arizona Piano Faculty, and became acquainted with Tucson Opera Company founding General Director James Sullivan.

(Continued on page 3) See CHADWICK

Saturday, March 29 - 1:00pm Quest for the Best

UA Music Bldg, Holsclaw Hall

(please note changes from what is printed in the directory)

Southern Arizona's best undergraduate and graduate voice students compete for cash awards to further their education, **and you the audience are the judges!** Afterward, enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, and chat with these exciting young artists.

Tickets are \$50 per person (\$30 tax-deductible); only \$20 for students and Fine Arts faculty.

For more information and reservations, contact Patrick Schifano at (520) 825-1563 or email him at buonasorte2@gmail.com. See the reservation form on the back page.

REMAINING PREVIEWS for 2014

La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

Previews:

Say Hello to Opera, MON Feb 24th, 3:00pm
Oro Valley Library

Brown Bag Opera, February 28th, 12 noon
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Opera:

Arizona Opera - March 8th, 7:30pm
March 9th, 2:00pm

Opera's original pretty woman throws a gala party at her Paris apartment and meets the young man who will forever change her destiny.

Don Pasquale by Gaetano Donizetti

Previews:

Say Hello to Opera, March 26th, 3:00pm
Oro Valley Library

Brown Bag Opera, March 28th, 12 noon
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Opera:

Arizona Opera - April 26th, 7:30pm
April 27th, 2:00pm

In Donizetti's dazzling vocal fireworks we celebrate the composer's comic masterpiece of wit, wealth and domestic warfare.

These members have joined since we printed the Member Directory. Please add them to the back page of your Member Directory.

815-516-6529	Belardinelli, Leo 14065 N Clarion Way	85755
342-7495	Bowlby, Vera 7216 E 34th St	85710
529-3380	De Sa, Melanie 4830 N Valley View Rd	85718
298-0417	Dirks, Carlinda C 2245 N Arena Vista Ave	85715
471-1485	Feldman, Shirley 5054 N Pueblo Villas Dr	85704
529-4569	McCreary, Rita 4601 E Skyline Dr #818	85718
825-1607	Nobles, Daniel 63686 E Haven Ln	85739
◆ 393-3892	Ore-Giron, Jennepher 2121 N Walnut Ave	85712
298-3754	Sanner, Connie 7241 E Calle Agerrida	85750
—————	Seely, Edith 3320 E 4th St	85716
621-9396	Ward, David 6651 N Campbell Ave #159	85743
+ Honorary Life ♥ Benefactor ◆ Donor s Student		

You should also have added Bertrand, Cox, Rothschild, Rohrbach, & Sanchez. If you need their information, please email cindy.ogsa@yahoo.com.

New Director of UA Opera Theater



We are pleased to welcome David Ward, Interim Director, UA Opera Theater, UA School of Music. David comes to Tucson from Houston where he obtained his Masters of Music in Vocal Performance/ Pedagogy and Opera Directing at the University of Houston's Moore's School of Music, under the direction of Buck Ross and Dr. Timothy Jones. Last season he directed a critically-acclaimed *Falstaff* for Houston's Opera in the Heights while teaching for both the voice and opera departments at the Moore's School. In 2014 Mr. Ward will return to the Ozarks to direct *Così fan tutte* as well as co-direct the Scenes Program for his third season.

CHADWICK (Continued from page 1)

Although the company began with very little money, the fledgling Tucson Opera received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 that brought the very first production in 1972 of Rossini's *Barber of Seville*.

Chadwick's affectionate memories of those early days include numerous animals that were used in the productions. *Pagliacci* was to include a burro pulling a small cart onstage, but artists being what they are, the burro refused to go on without his companion, a small Hereford bull. An executive decision was made and both animals pulled the cart onstage, while Sullivan cleaned up after them.

Elizabeth also fondly remembers snakes borrowed from the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum for *The Magic Flute*, a small squealing pig finally expelled from *Faust*, and a *Queen of the Night* costume designed to light or dim depending upon the notes that the diva hit.

Since the opera company's founding, more funds have enhanced the artistic quality, and in 1976 the company expanded to include Phoenix and became the Arizona Opera Company. But as Chadwick notes, "there were fantastic ideas translated into real life—great ideas and creativity were born with little money."

While Elizabeth is no longer able to attend opera performances as often as she would like, she recalls experiences with Tucson Opera Company as great fun. "The biggest challenge is educating the public to the benefits of opera," she says.

Reminiscences

Shortly after moving to Tucson in 1970, thanks to the United States Air Force, I attended a vocal recital at Crowder Hall on the UA campus. What stands out in my memory was not the vocalist but the piano accompanist who, when entering the stage, presented such a lovely vision of grace and elegance, words that can also be used to describe her piano playing. My mental reaction at the time can be summed up in one word -WOW!

Soon afterwards, having been accepted into the vocal studio of Igor Gorin, I discovered to my happy surprise that Mr. Gorin's studio accompanist was the same lovely lady, Elizabeth Chadwick. Thus began a musical association and friendship that lasted part or all of these last 40 odd years.

During the decade of the 1970's I was fortunate to have many music related associations with Elizabeth. In addition to coaching privately with her, I performed in numerous Opera Guild preview programs to the accompaniment of Elizabeth. For a time she was the coach-accompanist for the operatic quartet, I Cantori, founded by the soprano Linda Veres and myself. During the formative years of the Arizona

Opera company (then known as the Tucson Opera Company) I gratefully coached several roles with Elizabeth.

The Arizona Opera Company was indeed fortunate to enlist the services of Elizabeth for not only was she the rehearsal accompanist and coach but a general factotum who performed a vast array of administrative activities. I seriously doubt that she has ever received proper recognition for all her work during those early years.

I would like to relate one experience shared by Elizabeth and myself during the late 1970's. Elizabeth and I were manning a booth in El Con Shopping Mall one Sunday afternoon, promoting the current production of the Tucson Opera Company. It was proving to be a pretty dreary day until a "hippy" looking young woman approached our booth. She shyly asked us if we had ever heard of an opera singer by the name of Lawrence Tibbett. After exclaiming that of course we knew of Tibbett, one of the greatest-ever American baritones, she divulged that she was a daughter of one of Lawrence Tibbett's twin sons and was living in a small community in Sothern Arizona. Elizabeth, unsuccessfully trying to contain her excitement, invited the young lady to the next Opera Guild preview and be presented to the operatic faithful. Alas, Elizabeth was never to hear from her.

During the last few years dear Elizabeth has been confined to her lovely home because of health issues and advancing years. I have been privileged during frequent visits to learn many facets of her extraordinary life hither-to unknown to me, including her family history, her years of piano study, her adventures as a super during performances of the San Francisco Opera with her sister Jean, and the stories of her encounters with legendary performers such as Marian Anderson, when she worked for the Steinway franchise in San Francisco. I will always treasure our visits."

~~Russ Simbari, February 2014

Although she had retired from accompanying, Elizabeth responded to the emergency when the scheduled accompanist for an OGSA opera preview of *Lucia* was indisposed at the last minute. Vivian and I picked her up, handed her a score which she glanced at as we drove to Oro Valley Town Hall. Without rehearsal, she played the program including the Sextet as if it had not been 35 years plus since she did so for the beginning of the Arizona Opera Company.

She is a formidable lady and ever a memorable asset to the OGSA and to the extraordinary art-form we know as opera.

~~Vivian and Bob Weede, February 2014



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OPERA GUILD WEBSITE

http://www.azogsa.org

Mail form by MARCH 15

Quest for the Best

please print

**Saturday, March 29, 2014, at 1:00pm
Reservation and Award Donation Form**

Please mail this form with check payable to OGSA or credit card information to:

Patrick Schifano
37647 S. Spoon Dr.
Tucson AZ 85739

Name(s): _____
(as you wish them to appear in the list of donors)

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Note: tickets will not be issued.
You will check in at the door.**

Individual Admission: _____ \$50 (\$30 tax deductible) **Indicate # of Tickets.**

Student, Music Faculty, or Music Staff: _____ \$20 (with valid ID) **Indicate # of Tickets.**

I am (We are) unable to attend, but will contribute towards awards.

Sponsored Awards: (please enclose your Program message text or advertising copy)

Award Title: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Award Title: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Contribution under \$100: \$ _____ I (We) wish to contribute anonymously

Total for Awards and Admission: \$ _____

We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express

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Signature: _____