



# Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

**The Guild Voice**  
**November 2016**

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## **Rusalka Previews to Feature Elizabeth Futral and Student Singers**

We are excited about our upcoming previews of AZ Opera's production of *Rusalka*, a musical and dramatic delight that is too infrequently performed. (See the article below for the intriguing plot, and the events calendar below for times and places.)

Our narrator will be former Metropolitan Opera soprano **Elizabeth Futral**, now on the voice faculty at UA's Fred Fox School of Music. Ms. Futral has performed more than 75 roles at great opera houses around the world. We are proud that she is at UA and part of the Opera Guild family.



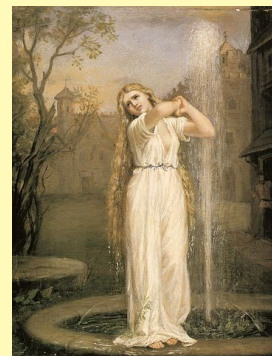
As usual, we will feature outstanding UA student singers. Soprano and *Quest for the Best* winner **Clare Demer** will preview the title role, and the baritone will be **Mark Hockenberry**. At the piano will be **Kyungsun Choi**, a stalwart of our previews who was recently awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree by UA.

## **Rusalka: Not your Disney Mermaid**

*By Carol Garrard*

If you took your children or grandchildren to Walt Disney's "The Little Mermaid" and are hoping to replicate that experience with more elegant singing — well, *Rusalka* is not the opera for you.

The ninth of Antonín Dvořák's ten operas, it alone has entered the repertoire. It contains one of opera's greatest hits, *Rusalka's* beautiful Act I "Song to the Moon," with its haunting glissando string motif. There is a great deal of other beautiful music in this fairy tale made into opera, but its ending of doom for both the eponymous heroine and her lover is dark indeed.



*Rusalka* is based on Czech and German folk tales that have often 'surfaced' in literature, opera, and ballet. A notable example is the novella *Undine*, by Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué. (See the book illustration at right by J.W. Waterhouse.) In Fouqué's story the water nymph gets her legs, and she gets her man too. Yes, he betrays her, but they are reunited in love, and as the curtain goes down, they die in each other's arms.

*Rusalka* has an altogether more troubling denouement. The plot is that of the water nymph who falls in love with a mortal she has seen at her lake, and as this is opera, naturally he is a prince.

The witch Ježibaba allows her to become human to wed her prince, but utters two conditions: Rusalka must remain forever silent to the prince, and he must always remain true. Should either condition be broken, both will be damned.

[Continue reading on our web site.](#)

## News Briefs

### **Quest for the Best is March 11, 2017**

The annual Quest for the Best vocal competition is set for March 11, 2017, at 1 pm in Holsclaw Hall at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music. There will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception after the event. [Buy tickets online.](#) We are also seeking advertisers for the event program booklet. With these ads, you may honor someone or congratulate contestants. For advertising rates and other information, call 520-905-3792.

### **Win a Car and Help OGSA**

OGSA is participating in the Jim Click raffle for a 2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350. Tickets are \$25 each, or five for \$100. All expenses of this raffle are borne by Jim Click; 100% of your ticket purchase will support UA opera students. For tickets, call 520-905-3792.



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, October 30** - 2:30 pm. Marguerite Ough Vocal Competition UA Holsclaw Hall (Free)

**Wednesday, November 9** - 3 pm. OGSA Say Hello to Opera: *Rusalka* (Free) at OV Library

**Friday, November 11** - Noon. OGSA Brown Bag Opera - *Rusalka* (Free) at Grace-St.Paul's Church

**Saturday, November 19** - 7:30 pm. Arizona Opera Co. *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák

**Sunday, November 20** - 2:00 pm. Arizona Opera Co. *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák

**Tuesday, Nov 29** - 7:30 pm. "An Evening of Opera Scenes" - UA Crowder Hall (\$5)



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