



THE GUILD VOICE

Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

Volume 57, Issue 2
January 2016



OGSA TO HONOR FELICIA SANDERS MAY AT *Quest for the Best*

Every year, OGSA chooses a person who has shown outstanding dedication to opera in Tucson by naming an award after him or her at *Quest for the Best*. This year, that honoree is Tucson native Felicia Sanders May. Felicia recounts that she was "raised on opera" broadcasts and saw her first opera in Austria. In Tucson, she has promoted opera by being a dedicated volunteer to OGSA and the Opera League.

Felicia joined OGSA in 1979 and over the years has held many board positions, including President, First Vice President, Recording Secretary, and a member of the Committees for Assistance and Awards and the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. She currently is the Historian for the Opera Guild. Felicia's lectures at the OGSA-sponsored opera previews have entertained many with her extensive knowledge of German language and culture.

Felicia has had an interesting life that has taken her to many places in the world. After completing her education (B.A. in German Language and German Literature), she traveled to Munich (intending to stay only one year) where she remained for nearly six years. There, she worked part-time translating for a German firm and acting as a guide for English-speaking spouses. Felicia continued her education at the Universität München and even passed the exam for Althochdeutsch (Old High German from the 8th century).

After returning to the US in 1969, Felicia completed her Master of Arts at the U of A, with additional study at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the Ph.D. program. In Tucson, she has taught German at the University of Arizona, Saguaro High School, and Pima College. Later, when The Nature Conservancy opened their Arizona chapter, Felicia was the first paid staff member and this sparked a love and interest in the Arizona environment.

Felicia is married to Warren May, a retired U of A Mathematics Professor. She and Warren love and appreciate foreign cultures and have traveled for conferences, leaves of absence, and sabbaticals. The couple has continued to travel after retirement. Their travels have included Europe, Turkey, South Africa, Papua New Guinea, Northern Pakistan, Western China, Burma, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Kashmir and Ladakh in India.



Felicia and Warren's love of hiking and backpacking also has taken them to the Dolomite Mountains in Italy, a 7 day climb to the source of Angel Falls in Venezuela, the Bavarian Alps, Patagonia in Argentina, and, for Felicia, 13 backpacking trips into the Grand Canyon. To this day, Warren leads an annual trek to the Navajo Mountain area of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona.

When in Tucson, however, Felicia works tirelessly for the Opera Guild. Our community is fortunate to have her assistance in promoting opera and OGSA is proud to choose Felicia Sanders May as the *Quest for the Best* honoree for 2016. We hope you will show your appreciation of Felicia by making a donation in her honor.

RECORDING SECRETARY NEEDED

OGSA's Recording Secretary is a fun, interactive role within a community of opera lovers. Our Board meets the third Friday of each month at Habitat for Humanity (Mountain & Prince), and we need a secretary to record the meeting minutes on a computer. Drop by a meeting to see what good work OGSA does for the community and the students!

METROPOLITAN OPERA LIVE IN HD

Puccini: *Turandot* Sat, Jan 30, 10:55 a.m.
Puccini: *Manon Lescaut* Sat, Mar 5, 10:55 a.m.
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.
El Con Mall, 3601 E Broadway
Park Place Mall, 5870 E Broadway
Foothills Mall, 7401 N La Cholla
Century, 12155 N Oracle

Encore performances may be presented on the following Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; check with the theaters!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Opera Lovers,

Quest for the Best is only a few weeks away. It's always nice to see and hear the extraordinary talent of the students who participate in this vocal competition. After the winners are announced, there will be the opportunity to meet the students during the wine and hors d'oeuvre reception.

The *Quest for the Best* honoree this year is Felicia Sanders May. She has been a tremendous supporter of opera in Tucson in many ways and currently is the historian for OGSA. You can learn more about Felicia and her involvement in OGSA and the Arizona Opera League of Tucson in this issue.



Judi Hasbrouck

I urge you to get your tickets early and to consider placing a message in the *Quest for the Best* program. You can show your appreciation of Felicia's dedication to opera, or congratulate the students, commemorate someone who has passed away, or advertise a business. The form, which is included with this issue, also has a place for you to order tickets. As a member of OGSA and if you get your tickets early, you will save \$10 off the ticket price. All donations are tax deductible and 100% goes to the students, so they can further their education and careers.

We need help at *Quest for the Best*, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact me. A list of opportunities is below.

On other topics, our free opera previews in two locations continue with *Don Giovanni* in February and *Falstaff* in March (see page 3). Also, look for more information later in the year about the OGSA Annual Meeting and Members' Party and other events.

Best wishes for a great year,

Judi Hasbrouck

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR *QUEST FOR THE BEST*

Volunteers help to ensure the success of this annual vocal competition for students of opera. Current needs include:

Greeting: Greeters show attendees where to sign in or register, and hand out ballots and programs.

Ushering: Ushers collect the ballots after the undergraduates and graduates have competed.

Assisting Back Stage: Assistants help the students prepare in the dressing room and tell them when to go onstage.

Assisting with the Unexpected: Assistants become problem solvers.

If you would like to get involved in this fun event or others, please contact **Judi Hasbrouck** at (520) 906-3792 or judihhasbrouck@aol.com.

WAS CARMEN RUSSIAN?

You probably know that Bizet's tragic heroine was Spanish, hailing from Seville. But historian and OGSA past president Carol Garrard traces the story back to a Russian poem by Alexander Pushkin, whose works have inspired many operas. Along the way she imagines how the *Arizona Daily Star* would have treated the tale if Carmen were a contemporary Tucsonan, and answers the question, "What does Carmen want, anyway?" Read the full engrossing article on our website, at azogsa.org/carmen-russian-roots.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JOY DI MENNA

Joy Di Menna's involvement with music and art began at a young age in Baltimore, where she wrote songs, sang professionally, and showed a gift for drawing and painting. Her mother, a well-known regional singer, and father, a TV audio and video engineer, provided ample opportunity for Joy's artistic and intellectual interests to develop. She studied art in the U.S. and meditation in India.

Introspective by nature, Joy's passion for understanding life is at the heart of her art. Her award-winning work has been exhibited in the U.S. and Europe. Joy's book, *In Loving Color*, draws the reader into a magical celestial realm. She conducts color workshops and consults on All Things Color.

Joy loves the emotion, pageantry, and extraordinary voices one experiences with opera. Understanding the importance of finding a voice in the arts, she is an advocate for all opportunities that support, develop, and nurture emerging young artists.



ZOLTAN ROSZTOCZY



Zoltan Rosztoczy was introduced to music and opera at an early age in his native Hungary, attending special performances for middle school and high school students in his home town. The love and appreciation of music nurtured in his youth has continued throughout his life.

Zoltan received his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Arizona. He has worked both in private industry and government. He worked on the design of numerous nuclear power plants including the three-unit Palo Verde Station west of Phoenix, focusing on safety systems. Later he joined the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, managing various units of the agency. He was responsible for the licensing of new plants, directing research on plant safety, and promulgating regulations.

He takes advantage of the variety of music available in Tucson, frequently attending local performances. When he travels, he seeks out productions as well. His purpose of participating in the activities of the Opera Guild is to help talented music students realize their dreams.

OGSA OPERA PREVIEWS

Don't miss this season's remaining opera previews. Knowledgeable narrators summarize the plot, and local singers (mostly our present and former students) offer musical excerpts.

SAY HELLO TO OPERA

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

Feb. 22 (Monday): *Don Giovanni*, Mozart

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

BROWN BAG OPERA LUNCH

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

Feb. 26 (Friday): *Don Giovanni*, Mozart

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

These members have joined since the last newsletter.

746-1354 *Burke, Carole* 85713
1302 Ajo Way #133

297-1099 *Cremisi, Annette & Julius* 85704
1846 W Dale Haven Circle

Please add them to your Member Directory.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Join online today. New members are always welcome!

Renewals for the membership year of 2016-17 are due **July 1, 2016**.

You can securely join, renew, and donate on our web-site, azogsa.org.



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

You may also become a member online at 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:

Copper \$50 Silver \$100 Platinum \$500
 Bronze \$75 Gold \$250 Other \$_____

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

Card # _____

Expires: ____/____/____
Month Year 3 digit code (Amex 4 digits)

You will receive your credit card receipt in the mail.

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



Quest for the Best 2016

Saturday, February 27, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, UA Music Building

Reservation and Donation Form

(Please print)

Get tickets and donate online at **azogsa.org**, or mail this form with your payment to:

OGSA QUEST 2016, P.O. Box 64327, Tucson, AZ 85728

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

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Members advance-purchase tickets: _____ @ \$50 (\$30 deductible)

Non-members advance-purchase tickets: _____ @ \$60 (\$40 deductible)

Student, Fine Arts Faculty, or Fine Arts Staff: _____ @ \$20 (with ID)

Please note: Tickets at the door are \$25 student/faculty, and \$60 for ALL others

For questions on reservations, call (520) 825-1563 or email buonasorte2@gmail.com

Donations Toward Awards

Your donations make our awards to singers possible. All donations will be recognized in the Program. For donations of \$125 or more, your advertising, congratulatory, honorific, or memorial message will also appear, as follows:

- \$1000 or more: Full page
- \$750: Three-quarter page
- \$450: Half page
- \$250: Quarter page
- \$125: 1/8 page (business card)

Please contact Cynthia Hagerman (cindy.ogsa@yahoo.com or 520-661-3483) with questions regarding donations or for help using a logo, image, or business card in your message.

Message text: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Contribution of under \$125: \$ _____ I (We) wish to contribute anonymously.

Total for donations and tickets: \$ _____

Signature (for credit cards only)

Card number

Expiration Date

3 or 4 digit code

We accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Thank you for supporting Southern Arizona's next generation of opera stars!