



# Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

**The Guild Voice**

January 2017

[Make A Donation](#)

[Join or Renew](#)

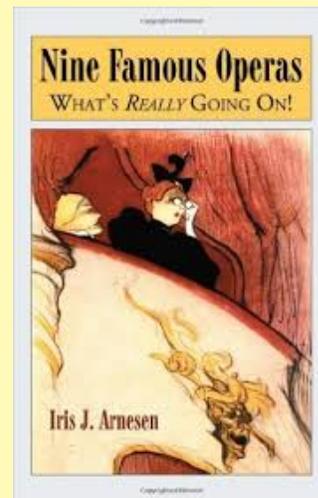
[Website](#) [Our Singers](#) [Videos](#) [Gallery](#) [About Us](#) [Students](#) [Newsletters](#)

## **OSGA To Honor Iris Arnesen at Quest for the Best Event**

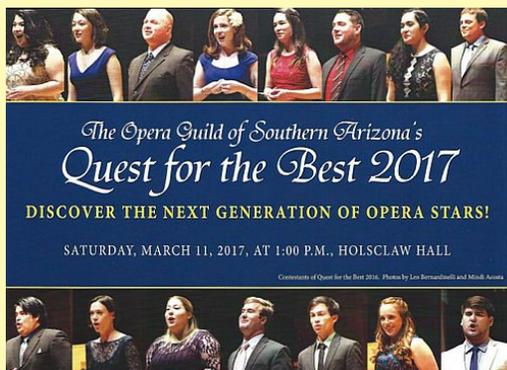
Each year OSGA names its top *Quest for the Best* award in honor of a person important to the Guild, opera, and the arts in general. This year, the recipient is Iris Arnesen, and at the event on March 11, OSGA will publicly thank her for her contributions.

You may remember Iris's informative and interesting lectures at some of our free opera previews of Arizona Opera productions. She is a writer, teacher, accountant, and woodworker. She has lived in Tucson since 1972 and has edited and published *The Opera Glass*, a periodical devoted to literature and the arts, since 1999.

Iris has published two books on opera, *The Romantic World of Puccini* and *Nine Famous Operas*. The Arizona Press Club has honored Iris for her articles on opera and on the plays of Henrik Ibsen and David Ives. We thank her for her dedicated support of OSGA, of opera in general, and of the arts in Southern Arizona.



## **Quest for the Best March 11: Tickets Available Now**



We're excited about our popular annual vocal competition where the best undergraduate and graduate opera students (they need their teacher's nomination just to compete!) will win \$10,000 in cash prizes. Your ticket price includes the arias and a fabulous wine and hors d'oeuvre reception where you can chat with the students, faculty, and your opera friends. Buy your general admission [tickets](#) in advance and pay \$10 less than at the door.

This year's event will be held Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Holsclaw Hall at the Fred Fox UA School of Music. There is free parking at the UA garages, and a shuttle to take you from the Park Avenue garage to the Music Building for the event. The Festival of Books will take place that same Saturday, so you can make a full day of it and attend both events.

Please also help us keep our pledge of \$10,000 in prizes by [donating](#) toward student awards. This is a good way to honor or memorialize friends and family or publicize your business; your message will appear in the *Quest* program.



## Top Student Cast Previews Madama Butterfly

OGSA's 2017 Previews begin with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, AZ Opera's upcoming production. The first preview is at the Oro Valley Library on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 3 pm, and the second is a brownbag at noon on Friday, Jan. 20, at Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Our narrator is Iris Arnesen, this year's *Quest for the Best* honoree.

We are excited to have talented student singers for these events. They are soprano Jenina Gallaway (right) as Butterfly, tenor Brian McNiff (below right) as Pinkerton, and mezzo-soprano Samantha Luna (below left) as Suzuki. They all are UA opera students and past *Quest for the Best* winners. UA graduate Dr. Kyungsun Choi will be at the piano.



## Guild to Preview World Premiere

We are proud to acquaint Southern Arizona with *Riders of the Purple Sage*, an opera by award-winning composer [Craig Bohmler](#), with libretto by Steven Mark Kohn. Based on the best-selling novel by Zane Grey, this Southwest-themed work will be given its world premiere in Tucson by [Arizona Opera](#) on February 25. Through the cooperation of the opera company and the composer, UA opera students are studying this new music and will sing highlights for you. Guild stalwart Betty Allen, a soprano and music teacher, will narrate. Our [free previews](#) will be Monday, February 13, at 3:00p.m. in Oro Valley, and Friday, February 17, at noon in Tucson. Be among the first to hear the music and plot of this important new opera!



## AZ Opera Captures *Rusalka's* Dark Heart

*By Carol Garrard*

*Arizona Opera's recent production prompts Carol Garrard to look beyond the fairy tale to historical events that likely inspired the composer and librettist. The Metropolitan's production of Rusalka will be live in movie theaters on February 25.*

In this age when opera directors feel free to impose their own "concept" on the work, it is delightful to see Joshua Borths' sensitive staging of *Rusalka* penetrate to the core of this beautiful but puzzling opera. As we know, at the denouement, the Prince asks Rusalka for the kiss which will end his life. She gives it, knowing that the kiss condemns her to being one of the water beings who lure men to their death for eternity. However beautiful her last aria, the audience is left to wonder about a murder/suicide which brings down the curtain.

Borths set the opera in the last decade of the 19th century, in the Habsburg Empire. And when, in the second act, the Prince comes out, his costume gives us the key to solving the puzzle.

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



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, January 7** – [Met Live in HD](#): *Nabucco* (Verdi)

**Tuesday, January 17** – OGSA [Say Hello to Opera](#): *Madama Butterfly* (Puccini)

**Wednesday, January 18 – Sunday, February 5** – [Tucson Desert Song Festival](#)

**Friday, January 20** – OGSA [Brownbag Opera](#): *Madama Butterfly* (Puccini)

**Saturday, January 21** – [Met Live in HD](#): *Roméo et Juliette* (Gounod)

**Saturday & Sunday, January 28–29** – Arizona Opera: [Madama Butterfly](#) (Puccini)

Visit our website