



# Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

## **The Guild Voice** January 2018

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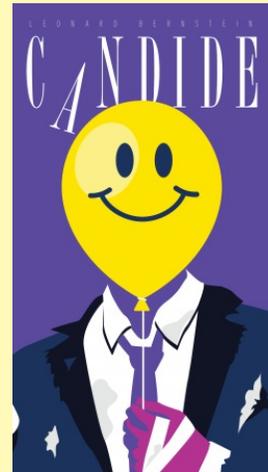
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### **Opera Previews**

## ***Candide* Coming to Tucson in January**

One of literature's classic figures is Voltaire's *Candide*, a young man who travels the world after the loss of his betrothed. During his travels, he meets with a series of comic disasters. Leonard Bernstein turned the story into an opera that now is considered a classic.

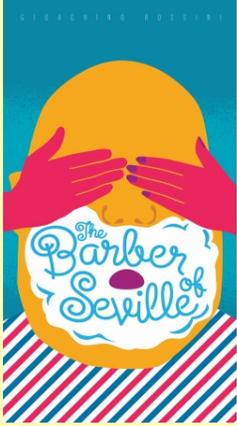
On Wednesday, January 17, and Friday, January 19, the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona will present free previews of Bernstein's opera. The previews will be narrated by Monte Ralstin, professor at the UA Music Theater Department. Singers will be from the UA Fred Fox School of Music, singing arias including *Glitter and Be Gay* and *Make Our Garden Grow*.



Previews are Wednesday, January 17, 3 pm, at Oro Valley Library, and Friday, January 19, 12 noon, at Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

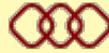
## ***Barber of Seville* on Tap for March**

One of the world's most popular operas is Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. Full of memorable characters and beautiful arias, this opera is full of twists and turns. In this story, the handsome Count Almaviva falls in love with Rosina and asks the town barber, Figaro, to help him win her favor. Madcap comedy



ensues.

OSGA will offer previews on February 23 at noon at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church and on February 26 at 3 pm at Oro Valley Library.



## OSGA Offers *Love in Seville* Luncheon

Ah, Seville--land of oranges, bullfighters, palm trees and a multi-lingual population! Seville is "ground zero" for opera--*Don Giovanni*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fidelio*, *The Force of Destiny*, *The Culpable Mother*, *Carmen*, and more are all set there. To get you in the mood for the Arizona Opera production of *The Barber of Seville*, OSGA is offering a special event. The sounds of Seville will be on display at our luncheon, *Love in Seville*, on Sunday, February 11. [Email Carol Garrard](#) for tickets and directions.

This event will be at the beautiful home of member Carmen Dolny and will include a paella luncheon with sangria and beautiful singing, featuring our former *Quest for the Best* winner, Asleif Willmer (see article below). There also will be a short DVD of a real bullfight filmed in 1959. Wear Spanish clothes if you are in the mood. The door prize will be the Metropolitan Opera Guild's 1938 original edition of a children's book telling the story of *Carmen*. Ole!



## 2011 *Quest* Winner a Rising Star in Opera World

Asleif Willmer, who as a UA junior took first place at the 2011 *Quest for the Best*, has been moving up in the opera world ever since. While studying for her DMA at Arizona State University (granted in May 2017) she placed highly in several competitions, becoming a Western Region Finalist for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions and winning an Encouragement Award. She has appeared at the prestigious Brevard Music Festival, singing Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten opposite world-renowned countertenor David Daniels.



She has kept a fast pace since graduating, with many auditions including the Paris Opera. Asleif is also a Rocky Mountain Regional Finalist for this year's Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions and will compete for a spot in the national semi-finals. She will sing Gounod's Juliette for the ARE Opera, an innovative company based in New York, and compete in the finals of the Mary Trueman

Vocal Arts Competition on June 9, 2018, also in NYC. There will be little vacation time this summer, as she will be a young artist at Opera Saratoga.

The Opera Guild is honored to have Asleif singing just for us at the *Love in Seville* luncheon on February 11.

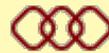


## Desert Song Festival Features Bernstein

This year's TDSF honors the 100th birthday of composer Leonard Bernstein. Many Tucson musical organizations are participating, with events, many of which are free or very low-priced, taking place from January 16 through February 4.



Besides performances of *Candide* by Arizona Opera and OGSA's previews, highlights for opera lovers include recitals and masterclasses by Met soprano Lisette Oropesa, Met mezzo Jennifer Johnson Cano, and baritone Kelly Markgraf. See the complete [list of events](#).



## 2018 Quest for the Best is Coming



### The Opera Guild of Southern Arizona's *Quest for the Best 2018*

DISCOVER THE NEXT GENERATION OF OPERA STARS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018, AT 1:00 P.M., HOLSCLAW HALL

Contestants of Quest for the Best 2017. Photos by Leo Bernardinelli and Mindi Acosta.



Don't miss the fifteenth edition of our great vocal competition, and the wine and hors d'oeuvres reception following. Southern Arizona's best vocal students will vie for \$8,000 in cash prizes, and you, the audience, are the judges.

Reserve your tickets and donate toward prizes securely online [online](#) or download and mail our [reservation form](#).

Volunteers are also needed on the day of the event.

Please [email Judi Hasbrouck](#).

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