



Opera Guild of Southern Arizona

The Guild Voice

September 2017

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In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Susan Stokes on Opera Previews
- UA Opera's New Stage Director
- Events Calendar

From the President . . .



Dear Friends,

The Opera Guild has exciting activities for your enjoyment this fall. We start our popular series of [free previews](#), *Brown Bag Opera* at Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tucson, October 6, and *Say Hello to Opera* at Oro Valley Public Library, October 4. See the article by Board member Susan Stokes, below.

The Opera Guild has entered an innovative collaboration with the Tucson Jewish Community Center and the UA Opera Theater under its new stage director, Cynthia Stokes. We will host *Opera in the Sculpture Garden*, directed by Cynthia, on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m. The JCC's Sculpture Garden is magically beautiful, and its curved wall provides good acoustics. Stay tuned for more details. Cynthia is known for producing opera in unusual venues, so save the date and do not miss this event.

And this year we've added something special! The UA Singers' Club, with Prof. Andrew Stuckey as faculty adviser, aims to give students experiences beyond the classroom, such as master classes, career guidance, and interactions with the community. We gave the club a \$1,000 startup donation, and they responded by offering OGSA members free community memberships. If you join (<https://goo.gl/forms/jpmM1SQqQH8BdDOG2>) you will get email announcements of their activities and events, which is a wonderful way to meet the students and get an inside look into UA's excellent opera program.

Thanks very much for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Sincerely,
Carol Garrard, President



Find Your Seats!

OGSA Preview Season Starts Oct. 4 & 6

By Susan Lane Stokes



If you are a member of the Opera Guild of Southern Arizona, you have probably seen some of the outstanding opera preview productions we have presented. If you have an interest in opera but have not yet been to one of our previews, you will want to explore this bite-sized operatic adventure. Featuring talented student artists, top Tucson professionals, University of Arizona faculty members, and local opera experts, OGSA's *Brown Bag Opera* and *Say Hello to Opera* productions are the perfect way to whet your appetite for opera. Both venues, the *Brown Bag Opera* at Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church and *Say Hello to Opera* at the Oro Valley Public Library, give an introduction to both standard repertoire and new and innovative shows in an intimate setting. And, for a freewill donation, it's the best priced ticket in town.

This season we will once again offer five previews; please see the [full schedule](#). Our first preview, presented October 4 at 3:00 p.m. in Oro Valley and October 6 at noon in Tucson, is a new concept this season. Entitled "Tucson Opera Showcase," it features three of the venues that help make Tucson a great opera town. Our tradition of previewing AZ Opera's productions continues with the innovative *Hercules vs Vampires* at the Fox Theater. Don't be afraid: It's a real opera, and we'll tip you off about the format. The second opera venue in this preview is the University of Arizona's Opera Theater. Student artists from the Opera Scenes class will be featured in this segment. And finally, the young Arizona Rose Opera Theater will be represented by two of their performing artists. Popular narrator Betty Allen will weave these three diverse groups into an appealing program for you.

Read future *Guild Voice* emails to get the inside scoop on our future previews; many glorious singers and entertaining narrators on deck. We guarantee that these one-hour opera offerings will leave you wanting more!



U of A Chooses New Opera Director

[Cynthia Stokes](#), who guest-directed last season's *The Elixir of Love*, has become the new opera director for the University of Arizona. She is the artistic director of San Diego City Opera, a new opera company dedicated to taking opera off-site—out of its familiar context of large hall, fancy clothes, and exorbitant ticket prices. She has directed productions for Glimmerglass, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego, and many other opera companies. Ms. Stokes believes that opera is at its best when it is visceral, and staging it "in a space that re-contextualizes great works makes us see them with new eyes,

and discover new depths.”

The Opera Guild will host “Opera in the Sculpture Garden,” directed by Cynthia Stokes, at the Jewish Community Center on Sunday afternoon, December 10, 2017, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cynthia is a gift to the University and to Tucson, and her innovative and imaginative productions promise theatrical magic—even if the audience is not in the theater. See her ideas in action and meet her at “Opera in the Sculpture Garden” for only \$10.00.



Upcoming Events

- **Monday, September 25** — **Recital: Stephanie Houtzeel, Mezzo-soprano**, 7 pm
- **Friday, September 29** — AZ Rose Opera: ***Hansel and Gretel***, 4500 N Oracle Rd Ste 329, 7:30 pm
- **Sunday, October 1** — AZ Rose Opera: ***Hansel and Gretel***, 4500 N Oracle Rd Ste 329, 2:00 pm
- **Wednesday, October 3** — Say Hello to Opera: Tucson Opera Showcase, Oro Valley Public Library, 1305 W. Naranja Dr., 3:00 pm
- **Friday, October 6** — Brownbag Opera Preview: Tucson Opera Showcase, Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E Adams St., 12 noon
- **Saturday, October 7** — [Met Live in HD](#) *Norma* (Bellini), 10 am
- **Saturday, October 14** — [Met Live in HD](#) *Der Zauberflöte* (Mozart), 10 am
- **Sunday, October 15** — AZ Opera: *Hercules vs Vampires* (Morganelli), 2 pm, Fox Theater
- **Friday, October 20** — Opera Guild Board Meeting, Habitat for Humanity, 3501 N Mountain Ave
- **Sunday, October 29** — Marguerite Ough Vocal Competition, Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona, 1 pm

Please note that Met HD presentations are generally repeated on the following Wednesday. [Find your theater](#) to check times, prices, etc.

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