

# High Notes

Vol. XIV, No. 2

The publication of the Pikes Peak Opera League

Apr., May, June, 2015

## ‘A NIGHT OF UNEXPECTED SONG...’ AND MANY MUSICAL SURPRISES!

**Pikes Peak Opera League 2015 Spring Concert to Benefit Opera Theatre of the Rockies  
Tuesday, April 28th, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Broadmoor Community Church**

Jeanna Wearing  
PPOL Board Member

Mark your calendars, and save the date, please! On Tuesday, April 28th, the Pikes Peak Opera League will present its 2015 Spring Concert with a program of arias and songs from opera and musical theatre—but, not like you might expect! Reference points on your

operatic compass will be set askew when local divas Judeth Shay Comstock and Sally Hybl join baritone George Preston, General Manager of 88.7 KCME-FM, to perform excerpts from operas and musical theatre that will defy tradition and well-established musical boundaries. Pianist Daniel



Sally Hybl

Brink, collaborating artist, will join the trio to participate in this concert of jaw-dropping surprises. (Just imagine a baritone singing the *Queen of the Night's* aria from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*! Difficult for the baritone! A real musical challenge for the pianist who must transpose the music down from the coloratura range to the baritone register!)

*A Night of Unexpected Song...* is a concert that will leave you laughing, entertained, and astonished because the guest artists will turn operatic tradition on its head—but all in good fun—and all proceeds from this concert will go to support the work and productions of Opera Theatre of the Rockies, now celebrating its 35th anniversary year.

The evening will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Otto Fellowship Hall on the lower level of Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Avenue. Substantial hors d'oeuvres and wine will enliven the pre-concert reception, during which time there will be a raffle to win any one of three, themed

baskets. At about 6:45 p.m., concert patrons will move upstairs to the Sanctuary and settle in for an hour-long concert that begins at 7:00 p.m..

Tickets for *A Night of Unexpected Song...* and the pre-concert reception are \$25.00 per person (\$15.00 is tax-deductible) and are now on sale. You may make your reservations by mailing a check (made payable to Pikes Peak Opera League) to: C. Crater,



George Preston

470 Wembley Court, Colorado Springs, 80906. Reservations should be mailed no later than April 24. Tickets may be purchased online through the Pikes Peak Opera League web site, [www.pikespeak-operaleague.org](http://www.pikespeak-operaleague.org). For more information, please visit the web site or call Cindy Crater at 579-0816.

### PPOL June Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday

June 3 at 11:00 a.m.

at

**The Pinery at the Hill**

Choice of entrée:

**Honey Pecan Chicken**

or

**Stuffed Bell Pepper (vegetarian)**

Cost per person:

**\$35.00 (\$5.00 is tax deductible)**

Make your check out to PPOL

and mail to:

**Lu Benning**

**2634 Freedom Height**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80904**

The Program:

PPOL Young Voice

Competition Winners

For more information

please call (719) 667-0603

[This is the meeting at which the election of the Board of Directors will take place; please plan on attending.—Ed.]

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Judeth  
Shay-Comstock



### PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE

—a not for profit organization, organized exclusively to support and promote knowledge and appreciation of opera, to support Opera Theatre of the Rockies and Opera Goes to School, to encourage and support young and aspiring opera and musical theater talent, through fundraising projects, educational programs, scholarships, career grants, and volunteer activities: all within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or under the corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Revenue Law).

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#### Young Voice Competition

Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Apr. 1 9:30 a.m. Gen. Monthly Meeting  
 at 1st. U.M. Church, 40 N. Nevada St.,  
 Program: Amy Mushall and Neil Hesse
- Apr. 28 5:30 p.m. Spring Concert  
 at B'moor Comm. Church, 315 Lake  
 Program: *A Night of Unexpected Song...*
- May 6 9:30 a.m. Gen. Monthly Meeting  
 at B'moor Comm. Church, 315 Lake  
 Program: 2015 Career Grant Recipients
- June 3 11 a.m. Gen. Monthly Mtg. &  
 Luncheon, and Board Election  
 at The Pinery, 775 W. Bijou St.,  
 Program: PPOL Young Voice winners
- June 7 3 p.m. Opera Theatre of the Rockies  
 at First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave.  
 Program: *The Ballad of Baby Doe*  
 (narrated) and *Gallantry* (one act opera)
- Jul. 10 Arts in the Garden  
 at Gold Hill Mesa (142 S. Raven Mine Dr.)

## President's Corner

If you missed the 'Evening in Rome' Gala, on February 6, you missed a wonderful time. Everything fell into place seamlessly, thanks to the hard work of our co-chairs Gloria Wendt and Lu Benning and their committee. The Pinery at the Hill offered a wonderful, warm setting for a very appreciative audience. Even the moon joined us, peering in from the East in a huge glow. One cannot praise the evening's singers enough—Valerie Nicolosi, Solveig Olsen and Dan Fosha had the audience in the palm of their hands, and tapping their toes. They even enticed us into a sing-along of 'Funiculi, Funiculà' to wrap up the evening. As always, Dan Brink's nimble fingers created their accompanying musical beauty on the piano.



We were disappointed that Mother Nature did not cooperate with us on March 4, but be of good cheer; Amy Mushall and Neil Hesse will be on our program on April 1 at the First United Methodist Church.

In March, our Young Voice Competition took center stage, co-chaired this year by Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler with Dennis Jackson repeating his 'Master Class of Helpful Hints' for the contestants. This occurred at Packard Hall on the Colorado College campus on Sunday, March 15. The Final Competition/Recital took place on Friday, March 20th. The talent of these young people is amazing. A special thank you to members Norton Bain and Kathie Finney for their generous sponsorship of the prizes. Once again, our Hospitality Committee provided the delicious refreshments.

To start Spring off the right way, plan to attend the April 28 concert at the Broadmoor Community Church on Lake Avenue to benefit Opera Theatre of the Rockies. The evening will start with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine in the Otto Fellowship Hall and then some of your favorite singers will perform in the Sanctuary. Read more about this on the front page.

The Board knows you are enjoying the new format of HighNotes under editor Bob Collins and hopes you regularly access our website ([pikespeakoperaleague.org](http://pikespeakoperaleague.org)) for additional information, photos, and how to purchase tickets. Be sure to let our webmaster Robert Littrell and newsletter editor Bob Collins know what a great job they are doing. We give many, many thanks to Charles and Judy Warren for the photos of our meetings and events. These they supply almost immediately to the newsletter, the website and for our meeting needs.

As the commercial goes ... "But there's more!" ... our June Luncheon at the Pinery at the Hill (the information is on page 1) and the Arts in the Garden event at Gold Hill Mesa on July 10. See you there!

*Nancy*

## PPOL Young Voice Competition

On the evening of Friday, March 20, six elegant looking young ladies stepped out, in their turn, on to the stage of Packard Hall on the Colorado College campus and presented their respective vocal arts talents to the audience, which included a panel of three judges—Victoria Hansen, operatic soprano and member of the faculty of Colorado College, Cindy Saunders,

soprano, pianist and local choral director, and Robert Bruce, baritone and program host of local classical music radio station KCME (88.7-FM).

After they had sung their pieces, and we were all milling about in the lobby while the judges' panel was deliberating, this writer couldn't help but wonder which was the more nerve

(continued on p.7)

# In Memoriam

**Jane Warne Beeder**—died peacefully January 8, 2015 in Colorado Springs. She was eighty years old.

Jane was born in Washington, DC on December 8, 1934 to William and Edith Warne.



She graduated from Northwestern University with a journalism degree in 1956, and was a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

She came to Colorado Springs in 1999. She leaves behind many people she cared deeply about at Mackenzie Place, and the Broadmoor. She was an active member in the local art community, making jewelry at her Cottonwood Arts Center studio.

She is survived by two children, John Warne Beeder of Westlake, Ohio, and Ann Bordwine Beeder of New York City, New York; as well as three grandchildren, a brother and sister.

A memorial service was held February 28 at the Cottonwood Arts Center in Colorado Springs.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Murl Julius Sickbert**—a founding member of the Pikes Peak Opera League, died peacefully in Colorado Springs on January 29, 2015 at the age of ninety-six.

He was born on July 12, 1918, and graduated from Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois in 1940.



For most of his life, he was in some way involved in music, either as a conductor or as a performer, his instrument being the bassoon.

Murl retired to Colorado Springs from the U.S. Air Force in 1966, and taught band and orchestra in School District 11 for eight years. He was also active in music and theatre at

(continued on p.5)

# A Gift for Always

Jim Brozo, PPOL Director

**G**eorge and Ruth were remarkable people; they lived their lives as part of the 'Greatest Generation'. In their last will and testament, George took the time to gift a portion of their estate to benefit their favorite charities. In fact, he had just changed the beneficiary designations when illness quickly took him away from family, friends, and community. George and Ruth lit a candle for all of us to consider; they achieved a simple recognition that will last forever.

If the Pikes Peak Opera League has touched you and enriched your life, please consider remembering it in your

estate plan. The legacy you leave will forward your passion for music to generations yet to come. All preferences for recognition or anonymity are honored.

Just fill out the following form and mail it to:

PPOL  
P.O. Box 38478  
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478

As with any decision involving your estate plans, we urge you to seek the advice of professional counsel when considering a gift to the Pikes Peak Opera League.



## NOTIFICATION OF REVOCABLE BEQUEST

I/we am/are pleased to advise the Pikes Peak Opera League (PPOL)—Tax ID number: 74-2592657—that I/we have provided for a bequest through a provision in my/our will, trust or other estate gift arrangement. I/we direct that my/our bequest be used to support the mission and purpose of the PPOL.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donor1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Donor2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor1 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Donor2 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

[The PPOL recognizes those who have remembered it through its Legacy Society. However, it fully honors all requests for anonymity.]

- I/we prefer to remain anonymous
- My/our preferred recognition listing is written below

\_\_\_\_\_

# The ABC's of Opera

## An Ongoing Guide to the Best Recordings

### — La Bohème —

Robert Bruce, KCME Librarian and Weekend Host

Giacomo Puccini had made a name for himself in Italy with the production of *Manon Lescaut* in 1893—a very different treatment of the story than Jules Massenet's very French rendition, *Manon*, which had had its first production in 1884. With his next opera Puccini embarked on an international career as the recognized successor to Giuseppe Verdi. First produced in Turin on February 1, 1896, *La Bohème* was an instant success with the public, though its first critics were divided in their opinion of the new work. But more productions followed in Italy, and soon throughout the world, and Puccini's career was guaranteed.

It isn't difficult to see why *La Bohème* remains one of the most popular and best loved operas in the international repertoire. With its skillful blend of romance and comedy, pain and joy, soaring melodies and well-drawn characters, this timeless story of the everyday lives of struggling artists falling in and out of love remains evergreen.

There have been over two dozen commercial recordings of the opera, not counting those on DVD, and I won't pretend to have heard them all. But while a well cast, well played performance of *La Bohème* is practically foolproof, there are a handful of recordings that really stand out among a crowded field. One of the earliest—and still one of the best—is the 1956 EMI (originally RCA) recording with Victoria de los Angeles and Jussi Björling as the lovers, with strong support from Lucine Amara, Robert Merrill and Giorgio Tozzi, incandescently conducted by Thomas Beecham. This is one of those rare examples where everything clicked in a recording studio, and even though this one is in good

mono sound, it still rates as one of the go-to recordings of the opera. It can be obtained these days on EMI

or on a Naxos Historical edition. Also from 1956, and also in—not quite so good—mono sound, is the EMI recording featuring Maria Callas and Giuseppe di Stefano. Though she never played the role on stage, Callas' assumption of Mimì is one of those wonderful examples of her always insightful art, though the rest of the recording is somewhat run-

of-the-mill, with Antonino Votto's coarse conducting preventing the romance from really taking wing. Another example of this vintage is the opera's first stereo recording from 1958, on the Decca label and featuring the powerhouse cast of Renata Tebaldi, Carlo Bergonzi, Gianna d'Angelo, Ettore Bastianini, and Cesare Siepi, conducted by the doyen of Italian opera conductors, Tullio Serafin. A throbbing, full-blooded account of the score, this recording may be short on charm, but it's strong on great singing from top to bottom.

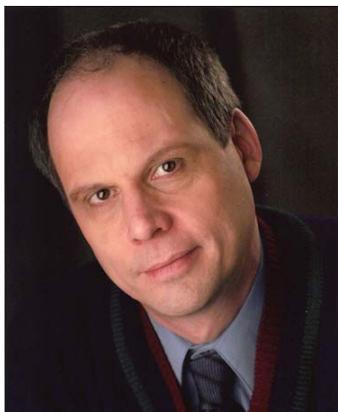
With the advent of the long-playing record and stereo, and with *Bohème* fitting nicely on only two LP records making it relatively inexpensive, every major label seemed intent on getting a *Bohème* into the catalogs. RCA brought out another recording in 1961, featuring what was then a 'Metropolitan Opera' cast including Anna Moffo, Richard Tucker, Robert Merrill and Giorgio Tozzi, conducted by Erich Leinsdorf—a fine recording that has stood the test of time.

A few sopranos have recorded Mimì twice, among them Mirella Freni and Renata Scotto. Freni's first recording, made for EMI in 1963 led by Thomas Schippers, has also stood

up well, while Scotto's first, on Deutsche Grammophon, is let down by the rest of the cast. While Scotto's second recording finds her and the tenor, Alfredo Kraus, past their best (EMI 1979, with James Levine conducting), Freni's second outing is pure gold. Recorded by Decca in 1972, Luciano Pavarotti, Elisabeth Harwood, Rolando Panerai and Nicolai Ghiaurov make up the rest of the cast, and with Herbert von Karajan leading his own Berlin Philharmonic, the results are stunning. Gloriously played, exceptionally well-sung and lovingly paced, this is the prize among stereo recordings of the opera.

There are, of course, many more recordings of the opera, some of which are decidedly more than just stopgaps: RCA went into the studio again in 1973 with the fabulous cast of Montserrat Caballé, Plácido Domingo, Judith Blegen, Sherrill Milnes, and Ruggero Raimondi, dramatically conducted by Georg Solti. Fans of these singers need not hesitate. Of the more recent recordings, Roberto Alagna has recorded Rodolfo twice, in 1995 (with Leontina Vaduva (an up-and-coming then, "where is she now?" soprano), Ruth Ann Swenson, Thomas Hampson, and Samuel Ramey, conducted by Antonio Pappano) and again in 1998, when he and then-wife Angela Gheorghiu were two of opera's hottest names. Both recordings are good, but I prefer the earlier one.

And so, in the end, I'm sure you can tell from my comments above which recordings I would recommend for your library. No serious collector should be without both the Beecham- and Karajan-led recordings—*La Bohème* just doesn't get any better than either of them. But should you have a penchant for any of the other singers I've mentioned along the way, you won't be disappointed in any of their recordings. By all means, feel free to indulge. Can a person own too many recordings of *La Bohème*? I think not. ■



# Opera Theatre of the Rockies Notes

Susanne Wheeler, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Liaison

For those of you who braved the snowstorm to make it to the Pikes Peak Center for the February performance of Puccini's masterpiece, *Tosca*, it was an extraordinary experience we will remember for a long time. Billed as a semi-staged concert version of the opera, "it was so much more than anyone could have imagined"; this is what we heard from the teachers who attended the 'dress' rehearsal on Thursday evening, February 19, and from so many audience members during the snowy February 21-22 weekend. The lead singers—Mardi Byers, soprano, played *Tosca*, José Luis Duval, tenor, sang *Cavaradossi*, DongWon Kim, baritone, was *Scarpia*, and Gabriel Preisser, bass-baritone, played *Angelotti*; and they really did act, so the drama and emotion of the storyline came to life after all. The orchestra soared, special lighting effects were used and the slide projections on the back drop of the towers across the stage during each act helped give one a feeling of the opera's setting.



We can all thank Martile Rowland and her vision for enlivening the action and invigorating the singers. The singers also worked together to add movement they had utilized on stage from previous *Tosca* perfor-

mances. It was a glorious collaboration with the orchestra on stage and Josep Caballé-Domenech was so excited to be conducting opera in Colorado Springs. This was a fabulous way to bring opera to the community and it was Opera Theatre's distinct pleasure to be a part of this wonderful production. And, we were gifted with beautiful singing from our remarkable featured soloists and chorus. We thank you all again for braving the elements to attend our stellar performance of *Tosca*.

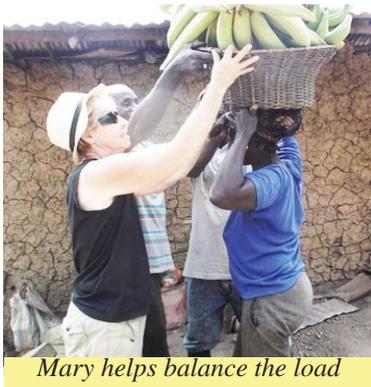
Next up for Opera Theatre of the Rockies is the *Douglas Moore in Colorado* concert on Sunday, June 7 at First Christian Church, 16 East Platte Avenue at 3:00 pm. It includes a narrated version of *The Ballad of Baby Doe* starring Amy Mushall, Malcolm Ulbrick, Victoria Hansen, Douglas Denning and Stephanie Brink. The performance also features a comic one-act opera, *Gallantry* based on an American soap opera, starring all four singers and Ms. Hansen as Director. Daniel Brink is Music Director/Pianist. Visit [www.operatheatreoftherockies.org](http://www.operatheatreoftherockies.org) for ticket information. And if you cannot come on June 7, the same show is being given at the Damon Runyon Theater, two days earlier, in Pueblo on Friday evening, June 5 at 7:30 pm. ■

## Back from Africa

Mary Koepp, PPOL Secretary

During my recent six month missionary sojourn to Ghana, I visited a bush country village where I was greeted by the chief and the queen mother as an honored guest in a home set up for four wives, and spent a day on a traditional farm where the entire village works and shares the produce.

Discovering the life cycle of a cashew nut is a highlight among my memories. Through centuries, Ghanaians have discovered the moment when the plant becomes edible—not poisonous—and then they eat the flower, not the nut. Many African tribal marks are made by scarring the skin with the acid found in cashew nuts.



Mary helps balance the load

As missionary for Christ, I taught a semester at the Good News Theological College and Seminary where pastors of the African Instituted Churches organization receive theological education. Flavoring their devout Christian values with traditional African forms of worship such as dance, oral community prayer, and drumming, creates an atmosphere of strong faith, but often pastors are 'called' to the pulpit with no formal training and some must often wait years to return to school. Students are 20 to 65 years of age.

I will return in late August to teach English skills, English as second language, and

## In Memoriam

(continued from p.3)

United Methodist Church here in Colorado Springs, and with the Colorado Springs Chorale, directing its Chamber Singers from 1981 to 1988.

He was involved with the Colorado Opera Festival from its inception, serving both as board member and singer, and performed on many occasions with the Opera Theatre of the Rockies.

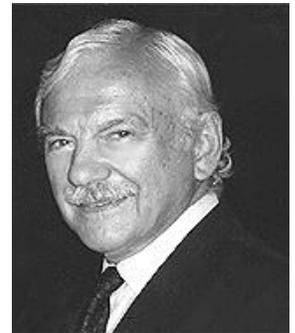
Murl was a widower and leaves four children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Raymond Charles Arthur Purl**—**R**died peacefully at his home on February 5, 2015, twenty-six days short of his hundredth birthday.

Ray and Marshie, his wife of seventy-two years (who predeceased her husband on July 19, 2013), were both very active members of the Pikes Peak Opera League.

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 3, 1915, to stage actress Beatrice Saville. By the age of three, he had already visited thirty states, traveling with his mother, thus setting the stage



for one of his two lifelong passions, the theatre, the other being international business.

He graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1937 with degrees in Civil, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering.

Ray and his wife Marshie lived in many parts of the world, including twenty years in Japan and five years in Hong Kong, and all the while he was able to enjoy both his passions.

The Purls moved to Colorado Springs in the mid-80s and were soon heavily involved in all aspects of the performing arts. Ray directed scores of plays and often acted as General Palmer, once in a play of that name that he himself wrote.

He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. ■

computer basics, at a school that has limited electricity and almost non-existent computer connectivity.

My experiences in Ghana are a gift from God to me; I am receiving far more than I am able to give. ■

## Paris! ...and a Wee Bit of France

Dennis Jackson

A small group of friends from the Pikes Peak Opera League and the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs will fly to Paris on May 8 to begin an adventure in northern France, in particular the city of Paris. They will enjoy French wines and cuisine in Paris and the northern regions of France.

Included in the tour will be a side trip from Paris to the Normandy Beach area, Mont Saint Michel, and the Loire Valley castles. After returning to Paris, they will visit the Gardens of Giverny where Monet painted and lived, followed by a trip to the most fantastic palace in the world—Versailles.

They will have time to visit the art

museums of Paris such as the d'Orsay and the Louvre, and will attend a service at the famous Notre Dame Cathedral.



Most of the group will also attend the Verdi *Requiem* at the Théâtre Champs-Élysées and the seldom seen opera by Chausson, *Le Roi Arthus*, featuring Thomas Hampson, at the Opéra Bastille.

They will partake of a final farewell dinner at the famous Paris restaurant, L'épi d'Or, where they will enjoy

multiple courses and French wines.

The group will be led by this writer, who has led tours for over thirty years. ■

*[They will give us a full report, complete with pictures, after their return on May 20. —Ed.]*

## Treasurer's Report

Nedra Engleson. PPOL Treasurer

At the end of February, the Main Checking account had a balance of \$19,219.60. This account included committed funds of \$16,080.53 which resulted in an available balance of \$3,139.07. Committed funds consisted of the Eiber memorial, the unspent balance of budgeted funds, deposits for the Paris trip and the preliminary profit from the Gala. The Raffle account had a balance of \$2,597.02. The funds in this account are used for scholarships and career grants only, which also includes the Young Voice Competition. The Fund Raiser account balance at the end of February was \$515.44.



Donations are still being accepted for our Do-Nothing Fundraiser. You can mail a check with the reference Do-Nothing in the memo line to Pikes Peak Opera League, P.O. Box 38478, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478. Your generosity is so appreciated, and all funds donated to the Do-Nothing Fundraiser directly support opera in the Pikes Peak region.

If you have questions, please contact Nedra Engleson at 574-5274, or send e-mail to nengelson@aol.com or write to me at 5270 Ladera Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. ■

## Membership for 2015-2016

Deanna Lyons

Pikes Peak Opera League members are dedicated, loyal, appreciative music enthusiasts. The PPOL is grateful for the support they express by becoming members, attending program meetings, enjoying the special events and volunteering time and talents to maintain the organization.

Please join PPOL again and renew your membership for the 2015–2016 season. The renewal form is on the



back page of this issue of *High Notes*; please complete it and mail it with your check, so that your name and contact information may be included in the new edition of the Membership Directory.

We must receive renewal information by June 30 in order that the directory may be printed and distributed at the September 2015 program meeting.

Welcome New Member:

**Glen Grantham**  
9838 State Highway 96  
Olney Springs, 81062  
(719) 267-3608.

Glen was previously a member, attended the February program and enjoyed *An Evening in Rome*.

Corrections

**Baker, Marjorie B.**  
2 Loma Linda Dr. (address)

**Clement, Lee C.**  
867-4684 (phone)

**Woltman, Rhea A.** (moved out of state)

**Thank you for your  
Membership!** ■

*[For your convenience, a membership renewal form is presented on the back page of this newsletter —Ed.]*

## Where Else Can You Enjoy Opera?

### Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network and Other Operas on Radio

By the time you get this newsletter, there will still be about seven operas remaining to be heard on our local classical music radio station KCME (88.7-FM), those being Verdi's *Ernani*, Verdi's *Don Carlo*, Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* (a traditional double header with Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*), Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. The *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci* double bill may also be seen live at the Tinseltown Cinemas at 1545 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. on Saturday April 25 at 12:30 p.m.

George Preston, General Manager of KCME, tells us that as soon as the 2014–2015 Met season ends, we will be hearing recordings of the Lyric Opera of Chicago season for a few weeks, the identities of the operas being uncertain at this point. After the Chicago broadcasts are over, Robert Bruce (see p.4) will be hosting a program of opera using the 'best recordings' from KCME's vast library. In the meantime, we will be discovering how the Met's 2015–2016 season is going to be comprised. We, in turn, will reveal that in the next issue of *High Notes*.

For further information, please call KCME at 578-5263.

### The Santa Fe Opera, New Mexico

Each spring the Santa Fe Opera goes on tour offering FREE concerts filled with arias and songs.

This year's concert in Colorado Springs will be on April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mezzanine at 20 North Tejon Street. For additional information call 505-986-5928.

The next newsletter will coincide with the Santa Fe Opera's season, and will provide information about seeing its upcoming season: Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Richard

Strauss' *Salome*, and the World Premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*.

What a delightful summer trip that could be.

### Central City Opera, Colorado

Join the 'Theatre of Dreams Gala' at the City Hall Night Club at 1144 Broadway, in Denver on April 24. This is a black tie event with cocktails, dinner and live entertainment featuring Soloman Howard. Capping off the evening will be a rocking after-party. For more information, call 303-331-7014.

Central City Opera's season coincides with the next issue of *High Notes*, in which we will have more information on their season: Verdi's *La Traviata*, Dale Wasserman's *Man of La Mancha*, Britten's *The Prodigal Son*, Lera Auerbach's *The Blind*, and Joseph Bodin's *Don Quixote and the Duchess*.

### Ralph Opera Center, CSU Fort Collins, Colorado

The Charles and Reta Ralph Opera Center will be presenting two one-act operas on May 8 at 7:30 p.m.: Menotti's *The Medium* and Pasatieri's *Signor Deluso*. The venue is 1400 Remington Avenue in Fort Collins.

For more information, please call 970.491.ARTS(2787).

### University of Denver, Colorado, Lamont School of Music

The Lamont Opera Theatre will be presenting Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* on April 16–18 at 7:30 p.m., and on April 19 at 2:30 p.m., at the Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 East Iliff Avenue in Denver.

Call 303-871-7720 for more details.

### Opera Colorado Denver, Colorado

Opera Colorado will be presenting a FREE concert, *Arias and Ensembles*, on April 14 at 12:00 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral, 1350 Washington Street in Denver.

You may also enjoy Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at 1101 13th. Street in Denver. Performances will be on May 2, 5, and 8 at 7:30 p.m., and on May 10 at 2:00 p.m.

More details at 1-800-628-1403.

### University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado

UNC's Opera Theatre will present Bizet's *Carmen* on April 24 and 25 at 7:30 pm at the Monfort Concert Hall at 651 10th. Avenue in Greeley, Colorado. For more information, please call (970) 351-2330.

### Crested Butte Music Festival Opera in Paradise Crested Butte, Colorado

Opera in Paradise, now in its fourth successful year, will present Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* on July 22 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts, 606 6th. Street in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Call 970.349.0619 to learn more.

### Empire Lyric Theater Denver, Colorado

The Empire Lyric Opera, Denver's exclusive Gilbert & Sullivan company, will present *The Mikado* on May 30 and June 4 and 6 at 7:30 p.m., and May 31 and June 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Elaine Wolf Theater at 350 South Dahlia Street in Denver.

Visit [elops.org](http://elops.org) for more information.

### Opera Fort Collins Fort Collins, Colorado

Opera Fort Collins will present Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* on May 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Center, 417 West Magnolia Street in Fort Collins.

More information at (970) 482-0220.

### Boulder Opera Boulder, Colorado

Boulder Opera, founded in 2012, will present Handel's *Orlando* on April 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Broomfield Auditorium, and on April 5 at 3:00 p.m. at First United Church in Boulder.

Visit [www.boulderoperacompany.com](http://www.boulderoperacompany.com). ■

## PPOL Young Voice Competition

(continued from p.2)

wracking: waiting one's turn to go out on stage to sing, or waiting for the judges' decision.

Finally, the doors to the auditorium were reopened and the audience and contestants were allowed in to the auditorium again to learn the results of the judges' adjudication.

The fourth, fifth and sixth place winners were presented

with special prizes donated by Suzanne Wheeler (OTR / PPOL Liaison). Third place (prize donated by Kathie Finney) went to Emily Wilbur, second place (prize also donated by Kathie Finney) went to Katarina Ivancik, and first place (prize donated by Norton Bain) went to Tabitha Jean Miner.

The first, second and third place winners will further be entertaining us at the June 3 general meeting. ■



From left to right (and in order of singing) Jessica Harris (17), Brenna Kerwin (15), Katarina Ivancik (16), Faith Matson (14), Emily Wilbur (16), and Tabitha Jean Miner (18)



Back from Africa —Mary Koeppe



Our fearless leader Nancy Daly and husband John



Bob Collins with Past President Gloria Wendt



A Full House!



Victoria Boswell with her raffle basket of Italian goodies



Cher Ford and Chris Scout of Wells-Fargo

# An Evening in Rome

Gloria Wendt, PPOL Past President

The Pikes Peak Opera League's fourth annual gala to benefit Opera Theatre of the Rockies was such a special night. How could we go wrong with a beautiful venue, great Italian food and fantastic music?

Valerie Nicolosi, Solveig Olsen, Daniel Fosha and Daniel Brink wowed us with their beautiful and sometimes humorous show. They performed in front of a wall of windows, providing a backdrop of the city night lights, with a full moon behind them. The repertoire ranged from an aria from La Bohème to a rousing sing-along finale of Funiculi Funiculà.

The PPOL gala is very popular, and this year was no different. We had a full house and are proud to say we raised over \$10,500 before expenses. We also broke a raffle basket record this year rais-

ing \$790 for scholarships. Thank you Victoria Boswell, for putting together a fantastic Italian basket and getting all those tickets sold.

Special guests included Martile and James Rowland, with Cher Ford, Herman Tiemens, Chris Scout and Kim Gunderson from Wells Fargo Advisors, one of the night's sponsors, and reporters from The Gazette, Cheyenne Edition, and Style magazine.

Hats off to Lu Benning, co-chair, and the many who helped make this night a success, especially Victoria Boswell, Nedra Engelson, Robert Littrell, Joyce Vogel, Jeanna Wearing, Mary Margaret Brummeler, Judy and Charlie Warren, Mary Ann Siehr, and Sylvia Hutson. Special appreciation goes to Susanne Wheeler for her creativity and tireless work for the Pikes Peak Opera League. ■



Someone turned the tables (or camera) on our photographers Charles and Judy Warren



PPOL board member Jeanna Wearing



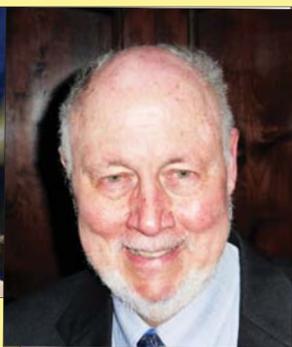
Pinery at the Hill —venue for 'An Evening in Rome'



Martile Rowland (front) with Dan Fosha, Mary McKinley, and Solveig Olsen



Does Martile Rowland ever not have a smile on her face?

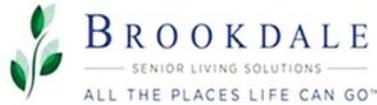


Our leader to Paris, Dr. Dennis Jackson



(l. to r.) Lu Benning, Gloria Wendt and Nancy Daly

# They Support Us Please Support Them



## The February General Meeting



Kathryn Lapp with Lineah Davey and Mary Koepf



Martile with Alex Sierra, Angelina Gadeliya, and Anna Woiwood



Martile passionately describing *Tosca*



Alex Sierra with Dr. Dennis Jackson



PPOL Membership Chair, Deanne Lyons



Marti Booth  
Opera Devotee  
Extraordinaire



PPOL President  
Nancy Daly



PPOL Treasurer  
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## High Notes

**PPOL Spring Concert**  
*'A Night of Unexpected Song'*

**April 28, 2015**

**at Broadmoor  
Community Church**

**PPOL June Luncheon  
Meeting**

**June 3, 2015**

**at The Pinery at the Hill**



**PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM  
2015-2016**

PLEASE RENEW MEMBERSHIP: Print information as you would like it to appear in the PPOL Membership Directory or indicate "No Change" if the information in the current directory is correct. To be included in the 2015-2016 Member Directory, a renewal needs to be received by June 30.

Name(or names) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one)

Individual—\$40     Family—\$55     Individual Sustaining—\$65     Family Sustaining—\$75  
(Membership fees are for July 1st through June 30th of each year.)

Volunteer by checking your area of interest (Please check all applicable):

Fund raising     Young Voice Competition     Hospitality     Mailings     Special Events  
 Publicity     Membership     Gift Baskets     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to PPOL and mail it with this completed form to:

**Pikes Peak Opera League  
P.O. Box 38478  
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deanna Lyons, Membership Chair at:  
(719) 527-8036 or e-mail to deannablco@aol.com

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

