

High Notes

Vol. XV, No. 2

The publication of the Pikes Peak Opera League

Mar., Apr., 2016

Introducing Derek Chester In Performance With Amy Mushall and Jennifer DeDominici

Susanne Wheeler

Pikes Peak Opera League is proud to introduce a world-renowned tenor, Derek Chester, to Southern Colorado.



Amy Mushall, soprano

You might have heard the accolades of his recent performance in the role of Ferrando in the Fort Collins Opera production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. A New York Times re-

viewer described his voice as "beautifully shaped and carefully nuanced".

Besides his featured operatic roles,

Dr. Chester is recognized for his artistry performing in many Bach Festivals around the world. He is currently Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Joining him for his debut concert in the Pikes Peak Region will be local soprano, Amy Mushall, and local lyric mezzo-soprano, Jennifer DeDominici. The Concert will feature works by Schumann, Fauré, Handel and Mozart, and will be held at 7 pm in the sanctuary of Broadmoor Community Church, 315



Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano

Lake Avenue, in Colorado Springs. A 'Meet The Artists' reception, with assorted dessert dishes, will be held downstairs in the Otto Room directly following the performance.

Tickets for this concert are available at \$25 for adults, and \$15 for students. Please visit the PPOL web site (pikespeakoperaleague.org) for more details, or to purchase your tickets online.

This is one of those not-to-be-missed events. ■



Derek Chester, tenor

The 2016 Young Voice Competition

Susan Loring, Co-chair, PPOL Young Voice Competition Committee

In the beginning, there was an idea; then the idea turned into a reality, thanks to Pikes Peak Opera League members, Nasit Ari and Dr. Dennis Jackson, the PPOL event founders of the Young Voice Competition. Now in its fourth year, this competition is the only one of its kind in the state.

The 2016 PPOL Young Voice Competition is already underway. Voice teachers have been contacted and are talking about how many students to refer to us. Participants must submit a list of three contrasting songs selected from at least two of the following categories: art songs, opera, oratorio, musical theater, folk songs or spirituals.

Preliminary auditions are closed to the public (including PPOL members) and will be held on Saturday, March 12.

A Master Class, conducted by Dr. Dennis Jackson, will be held for eight finalists on Sunday, April 3 at 3 pm, at First United Methodist Church, to which the public is invited at no charge. At 7 pm on Friday evening, April 15, the finalists will compete in a recital to be held in Packard Hall on the Colorado College campus, at which the winners will be announced. Tickets for the Final Recital are \$10 each, with \$5 for students, and will be available at the door, or through the PPOL web site.

Both the Master Class and Finals Recital are open to the public; all members and friends are encouraged to attend this important and entertaining event! You are assured of hearing quality singing from our young performers of the future! ■

In This Issue

An Open Letter From OTR.....	6
April Program Note.....	2
Know Your Board	5
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!	2
Meet Derek Chester	1
Membership News	5
Obituary	3
Opera Theatre of the Rockies Notes....	5
President's Corner.....	2
The 2016 PPOL Gala	6
The 2016 PPOL Gala Pictures	7
The 2016 Young Voice Competition ..	1
The ABC's of Opera.....	4
They Support Us	6
Where Else Can You Enjoy Opera? ..	3



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).

Board of Directors

Nancy Daly, *President*
 Jeanna Wearing, *Vice President*
 Nedra Engelson, *Treasurer*
 Mary Koepp, *Recording Secretary*
 Mary Ann Siehr, *Corresponding Secretary*
 Cynthia Crater, *Director*
 Don Jaeger, *Director*
 Connie Joiner, *Director*
 Robert Littrell, *Director*
 Gloria Wendt, *Past President*
 Susanne Wheeler, *OTR Board Liaison*

Committee Chairs

Lu Benning, *Hospitality*
 Victoria Boswell, *Publication Advertising*
 Bob Collins, *Newsletter Editor*
 Nedra Engelson, *Finance*
 Robert Littrell, *Webmaster*
 Susan Loring, *Programs*
 Kay MacEnulty/Cynthia Zapel, *Membership*
 Sheila Pereira, *Bulk Mail*
 Charles/Judy Warren, *Photography*
 Jeanna Wearing/Gloria Wendt, *Fundraising*
 Alan Wendt, *Financial Advisor*
 Gloria Wendt, *Marketing*

Young Voice Competition

Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler

© 2016 by Pikes Peak Opera League.
 All rights reserved.

April Program Note

We are pleased to announce that Emily Sorenson and Linda Cummings, with Dan Brink pianist, will perform their special all-classical concert *Love is a Many Splendored Thing* on Wednesday, April 6 at 9:30 am in the Hospitality Room at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Avenue.

The original program was to have taken place on February 3 at Broadmoor Community Church, but was canceled due to inclement weather.

We look forward to a big turnout for our guest artists.

President's Corner

Greetings to All,

I'm writing this on a snowy day; hopefully, when you read it, the day will be sunny and warm.

At press time, your Pikes Peak Opera League is looking forward to two major events: our Young Voice Competition in March and April, and the April 26th Fundraising Concert. (See the articles on page one).

If you have never attended a Young Voice Competition Master Class or the Final Recital, let this be the year that you do. It is so exciting for the observer (you) and at a very minimum of cost—free for the Master Class and just \$10 for the Final Recital.



*The April 26th Concert, on a Tuesday evening in the Broadmoor Community Church Sanctuary, will introduce Derek Chester, tenor, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, and a Bach specialist with an international reputation. Our very talented lyric mezzo soprano Jennifer DeDominici (who appeared with him in *Così fan tutte* in Fort Collins) and soprano Amy Mushall will fill out the musical bill.*

Our fifth annual Gala at the Antlers was a whirl of action: friends socializing, the silent auction, a wonderful dinner, and the splendid voices of six of Opera Theatre of the Rockies singers bringing beautiful arias and songs from exotic lands. We thank all those who helped, who donated, who attended, and who performed. Lu Benning was her usual organized self, handling the tickets sales and their distribution while Mary Koepp refused to be slowed down by her caged foot as she oversaw the silent auction. We thank, too, our sponsors: Wells Fargo Private Bank, the Antlers, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, 88.7 KCME-FM, the Gazette and Cheyenne Edition. Thank you to Nelson Daly for the delightful design for our postcard invitations and program. Thank you also to the PPOL crew who greeted arrivals, distributed tickets, oversaw the silent auction, pushed marketing, labelled postcards and so many other things.

Nancy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 2, 9:30 am, *Joining Forces*, at Brookdale Skyline, Skyline Room, 2365 Patriot Heights, Lower Gold Camp Road, with Martile Rowland, OTR and Thomas Wilson, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

April 3, 3:00 pm, Young Voice Competition Master Class, at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., conducted by Dr. Dennis Jackson

April 6, 9:30 am, *Love is a Many Splendored Thing*, at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., with Emily Sorenson, Linda Cummings, and Dan Brink

April 9, 7:00 pm, *Così fan tutte*, at First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave.,

by Opera Theatre of the Rockies and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

April 10, 3:00 pm, *Così fan tutte*, at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., by Opera Theatre of the Rockies and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

April 15, 7:00 pm, Young Voice Competition Final Recital, at Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache La Poudre St.

April 26, 7:00 pm, *Introducing Derek Chester*, a special concert at Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave., with Derek Chester, tenor, Amy Mushall, soprano and Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano

Obituary

Colonel Charles Shay, US Army (Ret.) died on December 7. He was an adventurer, soldier, loving father and husband, and a fixture in the Colorado Springs community since 1973, when he was first named Deputy Post Commander at Fort Carson.

Colonel Shay grew up in Forest Hills, NY. He joined the Marines in 1944 and, after WWII, enjoyed a brief stint playing football for the University of Alabama before reenlisting, first as an aviation cadet in the newly formed Air Force, and finally as an Airborne Ranger in the Army.



Over a thirty-eight year career in the Armed Services, his commendations included The Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters (OLCs), the Bronze Star (with three OLCs & "V" Device), the World War II Victory Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart (with two OLCs), and the Legion of Merit.

An avid devotee of the arts, he served as President of the Colorado Opera Festival and a board member of Opera Theater of the Rockies, and in his youth was a third generation member of the IATSE, the

Broadway stagehands' union, .

He is survived by his wife Joanne, his children, Judeth, Kathleen, and Patrick, his brothers, Harold and William, and his four grandsons.

He was a long-time member of the Pikes Peak Opera League and its predecessor organization, the Colorado Opera Festival Guild, and is the father of Judeth Shay Comstock, one of our favorite local lyric sopranos.

A funeral mass was held on December 15 at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

* * * * *

Mary Wieger died peacefully at home on December 6, 2015. She was born in Wheaton, Illinois on May 21, 1923, to Harry and Jessi Catterton. At the age of 23, she came to Colorado where she met and married Clifford Wieger, and lived in Colorado for the rest of her life.

Clifford preceded her in death after sixty one years of marriage; they had four children (Clifford Jr., Nancy, Jeffrey and James), eleven grandchildren, and numerous great grandchildren.

Upon retiring as a secretary in various school systems (including District 11), she and her husband traveled extensively, and she became deeply involved in supporting many local nonprofit organizations, including Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Colorado Springs Opera Guild (later to become the Pikes Peak Opera League), the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra (now the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra), and First United Methodist Church.

A memorial service was held on December 18 at First United Methodist Church. ■



Where Else Can You Enjoy Opera?

88.7 - KCME - FM

The Metropolitan Opera Saturday Broadcasts will continue through March and April (the period of this newsletter) and beyond. George Preston, KCME's General Manager, tells us that even in the midst of their Spring Membership Drive, *all* of the operas scheduled by the Met will be aired on KCME, those being:

- Mar 5 *—*Manon Lescaut* by Puccini
- Mar 12—*Don Pasquale* by Donizetti
- Mar 19—*L'Elisir d'Amore* by Donizetti
- Mar 26—*Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart
- Apr 2 *—*Madama Butterfly* by Puccini
- Apr 9—*Simon Boccanegra* by Verdi
- Apr 16 *—*Roberto Devereux* by Donizetti
- Apr 23—*Otello* by Verdi
- Apr 30 *—*Elektra* by R. Strauss

Those listed with a * will be simultaneously shown at the Tinseltown Theaters in Colorado Springs (starting at 10:55 am), each showing being repeated on the following Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

University of Denver Lamont School of Music

Mozart's sophisticated and witty comedy *Così fan tutte* will be presented by the Lamont Opera Theatre, with the Lamont Symphony Orchestra, on

April 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm, and on April 17 at 2:30 pm in the June Swamer Gates Concert Hall of the Newman Performing Arts Center, 2344 East Iliff Avenue in Denver.

Tickets may be purchased at the Newman Center Box Office, on line or in person.

University of Northern Colorado Greeley, Colorado

University of Northern Colorado Opera, with the University Symphony Orchestra, will present Henry Purcell's semi-opera *The Fairy Queen* (based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) on Saturday, April 16, at 7:30 pm, and again on Sunday, April 17, at 2:00 pm, at the Monfort Concert Hall, 701 10th. Avenue in Greeley.

For ticket information, please call the Box Office at (970) 351-2200

Loveland Opera Theatre Loveland, Colorado

The Loveland Opera Theatre will present Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* at the Rialto Theater, 228 East Fourth Street in Loveland. Remaining performances are on March 4 and 5 at 7:00 pm, and March 6 at 3:00 pm.

Tickets may be purchased by calling (970) 962-2120 or at rialtoloveland.ticketforce.com. ■

The ABC's of Opera

An Ongoing Guide to the Best Recordings

— Faust —

Robert Bruce, 88.7-KCME-FM Librarian and Weekend Host

Premiered in 1859 at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris because the Opéra had refused it as not being 'showy' enough, Charles Gounod's *Faust* soon went on to become the most popular opera in the world for the next century or so. Its popularity has waned somewhat in the last sixty years or so however, as its decidedly nineteenth-century moralistic views have not aged well. But for a ripping good romance full of sweet and memorable tunes, rousing choruses, and a devil of a villain, the opera simply cannot be beat.

Faust has fared well on recordings too, with almost forty available, although many of those are taken from live performances featuring legendary singers in the main roles. For the purpose of this article I'm going to limit myself to reviewing those studio-made recordings which are readily available, but for those of you who might want to hear the likes of Heddle Nash, Helge Rosvaenge, Ezio Pinza, Giuseppe di Stefano, Dorothy Kirsten, Jussi Björling, Cesare Siepi, Eleanor Steber, Jerome Hines, Renata Scotto, Norman Treigle, Beverly Sills, or Alfredo Kraus singing the leading roles, a search on Amazon should bring up live recordings featuring any of these singers.

The first major studio recording was made by EMI in 1953, with Victoria de los Angeles as Marguerite, Nicolai Gedda as Faust, and Boris Christoff as Mephistopheles. The success of this recording was such that it was quickly remade in stereo with the same cast in 1958. Many collectors claim this recording as their favorite,



and it does boast a fine Marguerite, a forthright and musical Faust, and a formidable Mephistopheles. Yet for all my admiration for these singers, I've always felt that de los Angeles is somewhat overextended in the more declamatory passages, and for all his exciting vocalism, Christoff limits himself to simply steamrolling through the score without bringing out any of the wit and humor the librettists have written into the role of the devil. As for the conducting, André Cluytens

seems to be just going through the paces. The recording has well stood the test of time, though, and was first challenged in 1966 when Decca rolled out its recording. With the exceptional vocal heft that Joan Sutherland, Franco Corelli, and Nicolai Ghiaurov bring to their parts, this has always been a very exciting performance, but ultimately short on Gallic charm, and therein lies the rub. *Faust* has long been treated as an operatic repertory warhorse, bringing international singers and a performance style more in line with late nineteenth-early twentieth-century Italian opera than that of mid-nineteenth-century French opéra lyrique. Even French conductors can't seem to do the score justice, and the next two recordings simply failed to catch fire. In 1976 Alain Lombard led Giacomo Aragall, Montserrat Caballé, and Paul Plishka in a read-through very much centered on Caballé's ultra prima donna turn as Marguerite, while in 1978 Georges Prêtre lazily conducted a drab Mirella Freni, bored Plácido Domingo, and by then aging and tired Nicolai Ghiaurov in a recording that promised much but simply failed to

deliver.

Things began to turn around in 1986 when British conductor Colin Davis attempted a fresh look at Gounod's score, with Mexican Francisco Araiza as Faust, a Maori Marguerite in Kiri Te Kanawa, and another Slavic bass in Evgeny Nesterenko as the devil. By no means a classic recording, it is at least more enjoyable than either of the previous two. Then in the early 1990s came two recordings that I think vie for top honors in the *Faust* discography. Michel Plasseon led his French forces and a cast that boasted Cheryl Studer, Richard Leech in one of his all too few recordings, José van Dam, and in the supporting role of Valentin, Thomas Hampson, in a 1991 recording on EMI that continues to hold up well. Admittedly, Van Dam's bass-baritone is somewhat lacking in the lowest notes, but he brings true Gallic wit as well as a sinister touch that many Mephistopheles that have gone before have missed. And finally from 1993 on Teldec comes another international assemblage that nevertheless manages to make the opera sound French again, with the late lamented Jerry Hadley as Faust, Cecilia Gasdia a lovely Marguerite, and Samuel Ramey in his element as Mephistopheles. Carlo Rizzi lovingly conducts the Chorus and Orchestra of Welsh National Opera in a stylish performance that for some is now the top choice among recordings of *Faust*.

In sum, if you are a fan of Victoria de los Angeles' consummate artistry, you need not hesitate to pick up the early EMI recording. I wouldn't want to be without the powerhouse recording on Decca, but for a first choice *Faust*, I would stick with either of the latter two recordings, both of which also happen to include appendices with numbers cut from Gounod's score. If I had to choose one, I'd make it the Plasseon. No, the Rizzi. Plasseon. Rizzi. Plasseon. Yes, the Plasseon on EMI. ■

Opera Theatre of the Rockies Notes

Susanne Wheeler, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Liaison



It is so hard to believe that here it is 2016 already. And how wonderful to report a full schedule of spring opera events.

On March 2 at Brookdale Skyline, we welcome Martile Rowland and Thomas Wilson to our monthly Pikes Peak Opera League meeting where they will talk about their vision for the upcoming collaborative performances of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. This is the first time that the Opera Theatre of the Rockies and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs will co-present an opera. Opening night is Saturday, April 9 at 7 pm at First Christian Church and the second show on Sunday, April 10 at 3 pm at First United Methodist Church. This will be a semi-staged concert version production with costumes, props and supertitles. Auditions were held in early February, so visit Opera Theatre's web site at operatheatreoftherockies.org to see who will be performing. Ticket information also will be posted soon.

I would remind you that Opera Theatre's 2016 summer Vocal Arts Festival

will be expanded to two weeks this year, running from July 10 until July 24. There will be two memorable concerts and a number of interesting classes to audit. Stay tuned for more details

Opera Theatre of the Rockies gives thanks to all the teachers and students who participated in this year's *Opera Theatre Goes to School's* pre-performance activities. And we are grateful to 88.7 KCME-FM for an exciting season at The Mezzanine, including a reprise of Amy MUSHALL and Brian Harris' full concert of art songs and opera. Keep visiting Opera Theatre's web site (operatheatreoftherockies.org) for more information on upcoming Mezzanine performances.

Also, special thanks to Solveig Olsen and Daniel Fosha for a wonderful performance of scenes from Verdi's masterpiece, *La Traviata*, presented by private invitation at the Pioneers Museum in celebration of their exhibit on tuberculosis treatment in Colorado Springs. We hope to be able to bring this performance back to the public soon. ■

Know Your Board

Mary Ann Siehr grew up on a farm in rural Wisconsin. In spite of her mother's insistence that she grow up to be 'ladylike', she very much preferred being outdoors with her brothers than learning the domestic arts in the kitchen.

She was always a devotee of fine music, and learned to play the piano very well at an early age. At the age of fifteen, her father persuaded her (or 'bribed' her, with the promise of driving lessons and a driver's license) to take over accompaniment of the church choir, replacing the organist who was failing in health. She soon learned the intricacies of the organ, and was church organist for over six years.

Her formal education was at an all-girls academy in Green Bay which her mother and her five aunts had attended. College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin was



also an all female environment, and part of a Franciscan organization from which she graduated with a degree in education.

Mary Ann subsequently taught primary school children for the next twenty five years.

Her proudest achievement was rearing three daughters whom she adores. She is also a devoted grandmother of three.

When her daughters moved away from home, she decided to move to Colorado where she met up with an old friend, Helen Gryboski (a long-time member of PPOL) who, among other things, got her involved in the Pikes Peak Opera League.

For that, we are all grateful, for Mary Ann is a very active member, being the PPOL's Corresponding Secretary, as well as its Recording Secretary when Mary Koepp is gone. ■

Membership News

Kay MacEnulty
PPOL Membership Chair

Please add the following names to your 2015-2016 Membership Booklet. Some are new (shown with *); others renewed after the booklet had gone to print.

Adams, Tucker *
4822 Alteza Dr.,
CS, 80917
597-6133 (Email preferred)
tuckhadams@aol.com

Allen, Rita
1028 Samuel Pt.,
CS, 80906
576-6509 c 210-7682
RAAllen58@gmail.com

Boehrer, Jerry, Myra, Kat *
2610 Helmsdale Dr.,
CS, 80920
531-7184 c 210-6972
mrs6972@msn.com

Dobson, Marcia
3510 Temple Dr.,
CS 80904
632-8068
jriker@coloradocollege.edu

Huggins, Joannie
2015 Oak Way,
CS, 80906
630-1955 c 313-1757

King, Sharon *
423 Hadley St.,
Fountain, 80817
510-6647
sharonsher5@aol.com

Miller, Dan & Megan
1027 E. Jackson St.,
CS, 80907
203-6294 c 685-6788

Pease, Jean *
120 Cobblestone Dr.,
CS, 80906
576-6312 c 649-5006

Railey, Linda *
2027 N. Tejon St.,
CS, 80907
632-6790

Riker, John
3510 Temple Dr.,
CS, 80904
632-8068
jriker@coloradocollege.edu

Koike, Takemi & Rowland, Jeff *
2913 N. Prospect St.,
CS, 80907
338-5963
takemi5006@yahoo.com ■

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS
 debhemmann.yourkwagent.com

They Support Us Please Support Them

A good reminder!

Members, please use the sponsors in the newsletter for your needs before going somewhere else. Remember this advertising pays for the mailing of the newsletter. And please always inform the sponsors "I saw your ad. in the PPOL newsletter". This will help for future advertising. Thanks!

—Victoria Boswell, PPOL Publication Ads



p. (719) 471-2290 f. (719) 471-3198
 tina@abatina.com • www.abatina.com
 1713 South 8th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80905



An Open Letter From OTR

Dear Members of the Pikes Peak Opera League (PPOL),

PPOL has been the most avid supporter of the Opera Theatre of the Rockies (OTR) with the cheerful attendance of so many of its members at all OTR events and with its most generous and sustained donor support. PPOL is one of the most dynamic and active audience groups in our town and OTR feels most privileged to have the blessings of such a compassionate group.

While various board members and our artistic director Martile Rowland have numerous times expressed their gratitude individually to the PPOL board and other PPOL members, the OTR board wants to offer at this time a more comprehensive acknowledgment to each and every PPOL member. To this end the board has passed a resolution to place this open letter to the PPOL membership as an expression of its deepest gratitude.

Hereby the OTR board salutes all PPOL members for their most encouraging support of vocal artistry in our region!

*Opera Theatre of the Rockies
Board of Directors*

The 2016 PPOL Gala and Silent Auction

Nancy Daly, PPOL President

In the space of a few hours, those attending Pikes Peak Opera League's Fifth Annual Gala were transported from the Summit Banquet Room of the Antler's Hotel to exotic locales around the Eastern World via the décor, the clever emcing of KCME's General Manager George Preston and the singing of Opera Theatre of the Rockies singers.

As soon as the Gala attendees stepped into the banquet room, they were thrust into a whirl of temptation. There was the European Picnic Basket raffle, donated by PPOL's Avis Cook and—to her astonishment—won by PPOL's President Nancy Daly, who exclaimed, "But, Victoria, you never assured me I'd win when you sold me my tickets!"

Creating the exotic locale theme, a beautiful display of Middle Eastern copper and bronze ware, perched on a gorgeous oriental rug loaned by Blake Wilson of Art Bank on North Tejon Street for our occasion (but available for purchase with a percentage to go to PPOL), greeted our guests. There were many appreciative viewings of this display.

Immediately to the left, one fell into the lure of the Silent Auction. Mary Koepf brought not only her organizing skills in setting this display up, but also her months in Africa to bear. Each table was covered with colorful African material of varying designs to serve as colorful background for the auction items. Temptation again. Many thanks to Mary, Sharon King, Judy and Charles Warren for their work, to item

donors and to the buyers for a successful auction.

No event hosted by PPOL would be complete without Victoria Boswell's simple but creative decorations. And she did it again, with the web-searching skills of Cynthia Zapel. Our tables carried over the exotic locales theme through the use of flags from just across the sea to the Far East.

The Gala dinner, while not exactly the fare of faraway locales, was nonetheless delicious and plentiful. The Antlers even provided a complementary bottle of wine at each table.

And the service was superb.

All this followed by lovely music. KCME's George Preston narrated the program, setting the background of each selection and offering us quick, and often amusing, insights into their various productions and history. Opera Theatre of the Rockies Singers were delightful, obviously enjoying themselves as much as we enjoyed them. When you have excerpts from operas like *Aida*, *Turandot*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Pearl Fishers* and *Lakmé*, and Broadway shows like *Kismet*, *Zorba the Greek*, *Candide*, and *South Pacific*, how can we go wrong? Indeed, how can we go wrong when we have Dan Brink playing the piano and an ensemble of talent that includes Stephanie Brink, Humberto Borboa, Amalia Dobbins, Amy Mushall, Solveig Olsen and Malcolm Ulbrick. And, how can we go wrong when the program closes with the alluring 'Bali Ha'i'? ■

The 2016 PPOL Gala and Silent Auction—The Pictures



They entertained us: (l. to r.) Malcolm Ulbrick, bass/baritone, Amalia Dobbins, mezzo-soprano, Solveig Olsen, soprano, Humberto Borboa, tenor, Stephanie Brink, soprano, Amy Mushall, soprano, George Preston, MC (General Manager, 88.7 KCME - FM and one of the event sponsors), and Dan Brink, pianist



Amy Mushall, soprano, and Amalia Dobbins, mezzo-soprano, sang the lovely flower duet from *Lakmé* by Delibes



...and Humberto Borboa, tenor, and Malcolm Ulbrick, bass/baritone sang the much-loved duet from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*



Nancy Daly, PPOL President, could not believe her eyes (or her good fortune) when she won the raffle basket that was donated by Avis Cook



In spite of her foot being held in the most horrible-looking post-surgery contraption, Mary Koepp (right) did a marvellous job of organizing the silent auction, with the help of Sharon King



Kathleen Fox Collins, here with her son Joel, bid on the keyboard, and won it. Should we expect a recital any time soon?



(l. to r.) Cynthia Zapel with Jeanna Wearing, PPOL Vice President, and Susanne Wheeler, PPOL/OTR Liaison



Victoria Boswell explained to Herman Tiemens (of Wells Fargo Private Bank, and a sponsor of the event) all about the Roaring Twenties party that she and Jeanna Wearing donated to the auction



(l. to r.) Kathleen Fox Collins, with Peggy Shivers, co-foundr of PPLD's Shivers Fund, and George Preston, General Manager of 88.7 KCME-FM, one of the event sponsors



PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 38478
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80937-8478

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 370

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.pikespeakoperaleague.org

High Notes

PPOL YOUNG VOICE COMPETITION

Sunday, April 3—Master Class
Friday, April 15—Final

* * * * *

MEET DEREK CHESTER

in concert with
Amy Mushall

Jennifer DeDominici

Tuesday, April 26
Broadmoor Community Church



PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print information as you would like it to appear in the PPOL Membership Directory or, if renewing your membership, indicate 'No Change' if the information in the current directory is correct.

Name(or names) _____

Address _____ City _____ ZipCode _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Category (Please check one)

Individual—\$40 Family—\$55 Individual Sustaining—\$65 Family Sustaining—\$75

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 Kay MacEnulty, Membership Chair at:
(719) 272-0529 or email to kaystahl@iglide.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF OPERA IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

