

High Notes

Vol. XV, No. 6

The publication of the Pikes Peak Opera League

Nov., Dec., 2016

Join Us At The November and December Membership Meetings

Susanne Wheeler, Co-Chair, Programs Committee

You won't want to miss the November 2nd and December 7th Membership Meetings of PPOL. We have long awaited the opportunity to host the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and look forward to being totally enthralled by these talented young singers.

First, the November 2 meeting. If you have ever experienced the Chorale's superior musicianship and angelic voices, you know that normally there's not a dry eye in the house. And they are sure to bring us another memorable and uplifting performance as part of their *Fortieth Anniversary Season*. We look forward to having the Summit Ensemble, a sub-group of the Colorado Children's Chorale, join us at 9:30 am at Brookdale Skyline, 2365 Patriot Heights, off Lower Gold Camp Road.

The Summit Ensemble is an auditioned high school choir representing fifteen high schools in the Pikes Peak region. They perform fifteen to twenty times a year, with a wide range of repertoire. The group has also traveled around the country and internationally, receiving rave reviews for all their concert appearances.

The Ensemble is conducted by Brad Peterson, a co-founder of the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and a well-known award-winning arts educator and conductor in our community. The Summit Ensemble

accompanist is Colleen Peterson, who brings a broad-based background in music to the group and is also well known to audiences throughout Colorado Springs.

December 7, 2016 is the date of the PPOL Holiday Luncheon. It also happens to be the seventy-fifth anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. Opera Theatre of the Rockies will present a special music program for our Holiday Luncheon this year. *The Liberty Belles Remember the Forties* includes some of the greatest hits of the forties and Christmas tunes from that era, all sung a cappella by classically trained singers, Amy Mushall (filling in for Jennifer De Dominicci who is performing on the cruise ship *Encore*), Amalia Dobbins and Amber Marek.

As the Liberty Belles bring the tunes of the forties to life, they have just been named the *Voice of our Olympic City* by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR).

Along with Martile Rowland and Opera Theatre of the Rockies, the Pikes Peak Opera League is most excited to offer something different this holiday season, remembering this important day in our history as we all become nostalgic while hearing the music of those times.

We hope you will join us for both programs as we make music memories together. Please make sure you make reservations for this extraordinary Hol-



iday Luncheon on December 7 at 10:30 am at the Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, 9 Lake Avenue, by mailing in the completed form on p.5, or by calling Lu Benning at (719) 667-0603. ■



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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 Theatre 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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We will miss Robert Bruce's 'ABCs of Opera' in this issue of High Notes, but don't worry—he'll be back in the next issue.—Ed.

President's Corner

The goblins and ghosties of Halloween, the super heros and X-Men, the hockey players and princesses are on their way, or maybe they've already come and gone; regardless, it's always exciting and fun to watch them turn out.

Equally exciting is the PPOL 'contest' among members to participate 100% in the 'Do Nothing' Campaign. At September's end, only the 'Z's' had reached the desired 100% goal of the 'contest of the alphabet'. With a financial goal of raising \$5,000 and \$2,000 already in the coffers, I am anticipating announcing the success of our campaign at the December Luncheon.



Sadly, the Fundraising Committee found it necessary to cancel the November event. We do need more volunteers. How about you?

A happy note. I received an email from a law firm, requesting pertinent information for a client who wishes to remember PPOL in their estate planning. If it was you, thank you for thinking of us in the future.

See Susanne Wheeler's article in this issue of 'High Notes' for information on the annual December Luncheon.

It's settled! Opera Theatre of the Rockies will be presenting 'The Mikado' on May 12-14 at Armstrong Theater.

The ad hoc Brochure Committee is making fine progress designing a new PPOL brochure. It's been 8 years since the last one.

Have you checked our website (PikesPeakOperaLeague.org) recently? Webmaster Robert Littrell does a wonderful job of designing and keeping it up-to-date. Let him know. Also, let our 'High Notes' editor Bob Collins know what you like about our newsletter and if you have any ideas for topics.

And that holds true for ideas you have for making meetings, programs and events better. Do you have an idea for a different type of fundraising event? Your Board and the committees welcome your suggestions. You can contact any of us by referencing page 3 in your Directory.

Don't forget—invite a friend to a meeting. See you at Brookdale/Skyline on Nov 2nd and at the Cheyenne Mountain Country Club on December 7th (wait until you hear the special program!)

Nancy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

✓ **Nov. 2, 9:30 am, Membership Meeting in the Skyline Room, Brookdale Skyline, 2365 Patriot Heights, off Lower Gold Camp Road. Refreshments by Brookdale Skyline. Program: 'The Fortieth Anniversary Season' with the Colorado Children's Chorale (the Summit Ensemble).**

✓ **Dec. 7. 10:30 am, Holiday Luncheon and Membership Meeting at the Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, 9 Lake Avenue. Program: 'The Liberty Belles Remember the Forties' (in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day) with Amy Mushall, Amalia Dobbins and Amber Marek.**

Where Else Can You Enjoy Opera?

88.7 - KCME - FM

Robert Bruce will be continuing his regular 1 pm Saturday show *Robert's Hour of Opera* until the Metropolitan Opera starts its broadcasts. See below.

Until then, Robert's program topics will likely be:

Oct. 22—Wagner—*Der Ring des Nibelungen: Das Rheingold*

Oct. 29—Wagner—*Der Ring des Nibelungen: Die Walküre*

Nov. 5—Bartók—*Bluebeard's Castle*

Nov. 12—Wagner—*Der Ring des Nibelungen: Siegfried*

Nov. 19—Gilbert & Sullivan

Nov. 26—Wagner—*Der Ring des Nibelungen: Götterdämmerung*

This information is, of course, contingent on KCME's Fall Membership Drive being finished by October 22; if it is not, then call Robert at KCME (578-5263) to get a revised scheule.

Metropolitan Opera

The Metropolitan Opera Saturday Matinée broadcasts will beginning its eighty-sixth season in December. For the period of this newsletter, the operas will be:

Dec. 3—Puccini—*Manon Lescaut*

Dec. 10—Saariaho—*L'Amour de Loin*

Dec. 17—R. Strauss—*Salome*

Dec. 24—Humperdinck—*Hansel and Gretel*

Dec. 31—Rossini—*L'Italiana in Algeri*

The opera on Dec. 10 will also be shown in the following cinemas:

- Tinseltown
1545 Cheyenne Mtn.Blvd.
- Cinemark Carefree Circle
3305 Cinema Pt.
- Interquest Stadium 14
11250 Rampart Hill View

Opera Jam

A reminder to those who have ordered jam. We will be bringing those orders to the November 2 meeting at Brookdale/Skyline so bring your checks.

Haven't ordered yet? Don't fret. We still have several dozen jars not sold. You can order by phoning Nancy at 635-7087.

Opera Colorado, Denver

Opera Colorado will present Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* on November 5, 8 and 11 at 7:30 pm. and on November 13 at 2pm at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in Denver. Tickets may be purchased at

OperaColorado.org

Boulder Opera

As part of its popular Children's Series, Boulder Opera will present an adaptation for young audiences of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. Performances will be on:

Dec. 1 at 1 pm

Dec. 2 at 6 pm

Dec. 3 at 1 pm

Dec. 4 at Noon and at 3 pm

Tickets are \$16 for adults, and \$12 for children and seniors, and are available through Boulder Opera's web site

BoulderOperaCompany.com

Empire Lyric Players Denver

With Dickens' timeless story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption, blended with the whimsical tunes from your favorite Gilbert and Sullivan operas, *A Gilbert & Sullivan Christmas Show* will be presented at the Parker Schoolhouse Theater, 19650 E. Mainstreet, Parker.

Shows are on December 16 and 17 at 7:30 pm, and on December 18 at 2 pm. Ticket information was unavailable at the time of writing, but keep checking the web site at

elps.org

Grand Junction, Colorado 'High Desert Opera'

High Desert Opera will present Frank Loesser's celebrated musical comedy *Guys and Dolls*, on December 30 at 7:30 pm, and December 31 at 1:30 pm and at 7:30 pm. The performances will be at the Robinson Theatre in the Moss Performing Arts Center in Grand Junction.

Ticket Information was unavailable at the time of writing, so keep checking the web site at

HighDesertOpera.org

Membership News

Kay Mac Enulty,
Membership Committee Chair

For the October 5th meeting we had three guests: Amy Mushall and Peter Tuff, both guests of Susanne Wheeler, and Lorraine Hurley, guest of Lu Benning. We love having guests. Keep up the good work PPOL members!

Changes to the Membership Directory

Correction: Nicholas Boder should be spelled Nicholas Bodor

Please add the following new member names:

Avis & Dr. Curtis Cook

2755 Mt. Herman Rd.

Monument, CO 80321

(719) 481-3310

avisbarbourcook@yahoo.com

Elisabeth Haase

1621 Lehmborg Blvd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80915

(719) 591-5899

Dan & Megan Miller

1027 E. Jackson St.

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

(719) 203-6294

(719) 685-6788c

meganelpf@gmail.com

Linda & Don, Olivia, Loren, Nico, & Nina Luellen-Sipes

3245 Cedar Heights Dr.

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

(719) 685-1744

(719) 323-4212c

lindaluellen@icloud.com

Dora "Ann" Thomas

308 Blue Windsor Ln.

Colorao Springs, CO 80906

(719) 579-9163

(719) 338-1050c

dannthomas2@comcast.net

Meet Betty Rickel

Nancy Daly, PPOL President

[I met Betty Rickel at the June PPOL Luncheon meeting. She was PPOL's President at one time, and she is a fascinating lady.—Ed.]

She's a Colorado gal all the way through, but her heart especially resides in the Aguilar farm of her family and in deep ties to the Aguilar-Trinidad area. The farm was purchased by her grandfather Newton Dotson in 1908 and became a Colorado Centennial Farm in 2008 since it had been in the same family for more than 100 years. [In a way, the farm had been in the family since 1888 when a Capt. James Allen Foster moved west from Virginia after the Civil War and pioneered in the Apishapa (now Aguilar) area. However, that kinship was not a direct descent one].

Betty's keen sense of the past is revealed in her memories of growing up in the Aguilar-Trinidad area. She was born in that Aguilar two room farm house without electricity or running water in 1933. Her parents taught her



the ABC's, to read, write, and count before she went to school. She walked a mile and a half to school and carried her brown bag lunch...or in today's lexicon, she 'browned bagged it.'

A junior year history assignment to research Aguilar's history caused Betty to think, "Heck, I'll just research my family since they are so involved in Aguilar's history." The result is an incredible booklet of family genealogy on one side of the family. A family Bible revealed an ancestor of Scottish origin who settled in Virginia back to 1754. She recalls writing letters to relatives in Virginia for more information.

Following high school, Betty worked briefly for the San Rafael Hospital on the old time switchboard and also at several stores before the opportunity to work at the First National Bank arose. In 1968, she would move to Colorado Springs to work at what is now the USBank, and to raise her daughter.

Before that, Betty became involved in the world of fashion on several fronts.

In Trinidad she modeled in style shows for the top dress store in the area. As a young girl, her mother had taught her to sew and crochet. Betty made all of her clothes on her grandmother's treadle sewing machine. A county agent suggested that she enter a Colorado Contest called 'Make it with Wool.' She did, and won the District competition and second in state.

In the late 1980s, she married Cyrus Rickel, a man of great kindness and supporter of the arts, especially the music world. When his Arabian horses were used in a Colorado Springs production of *Aida*, they were front row for the performances. After her husband died in 1995, Betty decided to get more involved. She served as President of the Pikes Peak Opera League from 2005-2007. She recalls with great appreciation the PPOL organized trips to Sante Fe and to Central City.

Betty's love for her family farm is revealed in her almost weekly trips to visit it, to ride over the fields on her tractor (maybe doing some mowing), to the idea that she nourishes to create an animal rescue place that will carry the name "The Newton Dotson Farm." ■

Prohibition Stops Here!

Jeanna Wearing, Fundraising Co-chair

As guests, dressed in 1920s apparel, entered Victoria and Fred Boswell's garden, they saw the sign about Prohibition—and they knew they were going back in time—to an era of *art déco* elegance and high sophistication. They were about to begin a smashing evening of food, fun and fantasy.

The Great Gatsby Garden Party, a fundraising idea created by Victoria Boswell and Jeanna Wearing, was offered as a 'silent auction item' earlier this year at the PPOL Gala dinner. Herman Tiemens outbid everyone. He could invite a guest list of twenty individuals of his choosing. The two hosts, Boswell and Wearing, would do the rest.

Arriving, looking fabulously *soigné*,

Herman's guests walked amid twinkling lights, candles, and torches, drinking champagne and mint juleps. (A sign near the champagne stated: 'Have a drink! No great conversation ever began with a salad.')



Artfully arranged tables with beautiful flower arrangements, an array of wine glasses, cutlery, and pristine napery awaited the guests as they were served the first course of home-

made herb *paté de foies gras* and *paté en gelée* along with a variety of other *hors d'oeuvres* and wines. The entrées, Beef Tenderloin and *Salmon en Croûte*, were presented with grilled vegetables, *pommes duchesse*, refreshing salads and other tasty accompaniments. Every course was paired with the appropriate wine.

After the dinner—and before serving the dessert of Victoria's justly famous steamed bread pudding with rum sauce—the guests were treated to music performed by some of Colorado Springs' finest musicians who played jazz of the Gatsby Era. A few guests 'cut a rug' on the terrace! Elegantly dressed in tuxedos, the musicians created an atmosphere of the 1920s where Daisy and Jay Gatsby would have felt as if they belonged.

As the stars appeared in the sky—and the hoot of an owl in the trees in Victoria and Fred's garden punctuated the evening's atmosphere, the guests were content and enveloped in the 'time capsule' of this 1920s evening.

Herman Tiemens' guests experienced a magical evening, and The Pikes Peak Opera League was able to raise funds to support opera and outreach into our schools because of his donation. Everyone agreed with the sign that read, 'Too much of a good thing is WONDERFUL!' ■

Opera Theatre of the Rockies Notes

Susanne Wheeler, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Liaison



As we have welcomed a beautiful fall here in Colorado Springs, it is usually the time to announce Opera Theatre's upcoming season. As I mentioned in our last *High Notes* newsletter, Opera Theatre of the Rockies is pleased to bring you Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* for its major opera in 2017.

This is Opera Theatre's nineteenth season and what better way to celebrate another successful year than to present a colorful, fully-staged and costumed production. Mark your calendar for the weekend of May 12-14, 2017 when the comic opera, *The Mikado* will open at Colorado College's

Armstrong Theater, 14 East Cache La Poudre Street. Further details will be announced soon.

It has been some years since *The Mikado* has been performed in our region so we look forward to wonderful performances complete with orchestra.

The opera will be staged by Steven LaCosse, from the North Carolina School of the Arts. The work of Mr. LaCosse is well known to Colorado Springs audiences, as he has partnered with Martile Rowland and Opera Theatre of the Rockies for many years, directing many scenes of the Vocal Arts Festival's annual summer Scenes Concerts as well as some recent larger

works presented in the summer including Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* and *The King and I*.

We hope that you will support Opera Theatre's spring main stage opera performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* and share the excitement with friends, families and colleagues. And check the web site at *OperaTheatreOfTheRockies.org* for on-sale dates to reserve your tickets. And do keep an eye out for several pre-opera events that will be scheduled, sponsored by PPOL as well as Opera Theatre in anticipation of this popular opera coming in May 2017. We hope you will join us. ■

The 'Do Nothing' Campaign 100% Participation is the Goal

Nancy Daly, PPOL President

Gorgeous fall days bring a skip to our steps and a smile to our faces. This is exactly what your Board felt with the first month of the *Do Nothing Fundraising Campaign*.

We are pleased with the response and are looking forward to a 100% membership participation. When we consider the initial character of last names, already the Z's have reached that 100% mark (well, there aren't too many people whose last name begins with Z!) and the A's, F's and M's are at the 50% mark with the W's nudging that mark, too.

We do empathize with the B's, of which there are 18 names! You can do it, B's!

With a \$5,000 goal, we are optimistic that it can be reached by our December Luncheon.

At the November meeting, the 'Alphabet Contest Challenge' graph will be joined by one showing your Board's

percentage of participation and an actual dollar amount from our non-member contributors. And for those family members who maintain two different last names, we've thought of that too. A contribution from one is a



contribution from the other also. Okay, alphabet teams, let's go ...100%! ■

December Luncheon Reservation

Cheyenne Mountain Country Club
9 Lake Avenue
Colorado Springs

December 7 at 10:30 am

Name: _____

Entrée
Chicken Breast stuffed with Goat Cheese and Roasted Red Pepper (How many?) _____

Vegetarian
Portobello Mushroom stuffed with Goat Cheese and Roasted Red Pepper (How many?) _____

Cost per plate
\$35.00 (\$5.00 Tax Deductible)

Make checks out to
Pikes Peak Opera League and mail to
Lu Benning
2634 Freedom Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Reservations must be made by
Friday, 2 December, 2016

They Support Us Please Support Them



HAUSMUSIK
 ColoradoHausmusik.com
 'CELEBRATES 25 YEARS'

 Saturday, 19 November
 St. George's Anglican Church
 217 Pikes Peak Avenue
 For information, please call (719) 235-5959

 Monday, 21 November
 Grace Episcopal Church
 601 N. Tejon St.
 . 6:15 pm wine, dinner & dessert
 7:00 pm Concert



Too Hot to Handel

Susanne Wheeler, OTR Liaison

If you missed Amy Maples' performance of Handel arias at the October 5 PPOL meeting, you missed a heavenly concert. Amy's clear, strong voice filled the Sanctuary at the First United Methodist Church. While the setting added to her performance and Dan Brink's always magnificent command of the piano added mightily to the concert, she remained the focus.

From the moment Amy stepped onto the stage to sing this special all Handel program for PPOL, her audience was mesmerized. She presented "one of the most memorable programs I've ever heard," said one of our members. Another wrote, "It was a wonderful program...Amy was outstanding and impressed us all. It was a first class presentation and we



(PPOL) can feel very proud."

Her sense of professionalism, and an acknowledgement to this PPOL audience of their importance to her, was revealed by the elegant gown she wore: one that a singer would normally wear on a professional concert stage.

Amy was a PPOL Career Grant winner three years ago and her last concert aria "Tornami a Vagheggiar" from the opera *Alcina* was the same aria she performed when she was awarded that grant. With the breadth of her appearances in operas and symphony orchestras across the country expanding and each performance gaining rave reviews, Pikes Peak Opera League members can be proud that we support the career of Amy Maples, a true artist. ■

At Recent Membership Meetings...



Evan Lennon, and his mother Jen, delighted us at the September inaugural meeting, with songs selected that illustrate the relationship between parent and child.



A 'Men Only' table at the October meeting. Clockwise, Allan Wendt, Charles Warren, Don Jaeger, Bill Mac Enulty, Bob Collins, Rex Kramer and Jere Joiner



Amy Maples delighted us all with her interpretations of the music of George Frideric Handel at the October meeting.

At the Great Gatsby Party...



With all the amusing signs about the place, there was no doubt in the minds of the guests that they had arrived at the right place.



Herman Tiemens, founder of the feast, thanks chefs Jeanna Wearing and Victoria Boswell, and PPOL.



Jeanna Wearing, center, co-producer of the feast, chats with Herman Tiemens, founder of the feast, and Kim Gundersen.



PPOL members Sheila Pereira, Helen Gryboski and Mary Ann Siehr provided helping hands...



Allan and Gloria Wendt got into the spirit of things...



...as did George Preston, Gen. Manager of KCME, and his wife, Sidney



Nancy Daly, PPOL's President had a good time too...



...and so did Hope Mena



The jazz trio played superbly...



...and the guests gathered together for a group photograph.



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High Notes

November 2, 9:30 am
The Colorado
Children's Chorale
at
Brookdale Skyline
 * * *
December 7, 10:30 am
The Liberty Belles
at
Cheyenne Mountain
Country Club

PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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 _____ Zip Code _____

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):

Fundraising Young Voice Competition Hospitality Mailings Special Events
 Publicity Membership Gift Baskets Other _____

Will you require transportation assistance getting to the monthly Membership Meeting? Yes, please No, thanks
 ...or would you be willing to provide such assistance Yes No

Please make your check payable to PPOL and mail it with this completed form to:
Kay Mac Enulty, 4504 Bell Flower Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kay Mac Enulty, 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