

High Notes

Vol. XV, No. 3

The publication of the Pikes Peak Opera League

May, June, 2016

The 'Introducing Derek Chester' Concert

Susanne Wheeler, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Liaison

Many of you had the distinct pleasure of hearing a special concert performed by tenor, Derek Chester, with mezzo-soprano Jennifer DeDominici and soprano Amy Mushall on Tuesday evening, April 26 at Broadmoor Community Church.

There was much anticipation about this performance, since Jeanna Wearing and Don Jaeger arranged Dr. Chester's first southern Colorado appearance months ago. And the concert did not disappoint!

A full program of art songs, operatic arias and songs from classic musical theater contained something for everyone.

We've heard especially wonderful comments from audience members who enjoyed the Schumann *Liederkreis*, sung by Dr. Chester, Benjamin Britten's *Canticle II* sung by Jennifer DeDominici and Dr. Chester, the Mozart aria, *Parto, parto*, from *La Clemenza di Tito* sung by Miss DeDominici and accompanied by clarinetist, Chris Kjeldsen, and *Ach, ich*

fühl's from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* sung by Amy Mushall. The staging greatly enhanced the performance with its charm and creativity.

Other works included excerpts from Bernstein's *Candide*, and songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* and *Showboat*.

And the elegant attire of the performing artists seemed to add to the special ambiance of the evening.

A fabulous dessert reception sponsored by Brookdale at Skyline followed the concert and gave everyone a chance to meet the artists and share in the joy of this marvelous experience.

If you were not able to attend this exceptional Pikes Peak Opera League Spring Concert, make sure you stay tuned for any such concerts that are announced for next year that will broaden your musical tastes and fill out your calendar. It is well worth coming out to support such a memorable event.

See pictures on p.9. ■



From left to right,
Chris Kjeldsen, clarinetist,
Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano.
Derek Chester, tenor,
Amy Mushall, soprano,
Dan Brink, pianist

BUCKAROO FAMILY BBQ

Save The Date!!!!

Friday, July 8, late afternoon at
Gold Hill Mesa

Games, crafts, puppets and
prizes for children

America's own western musical
favorites presented by
Opera Theatre of the Rockies
Wear your decorated cowboy
hat to the event—there will be
prizes!



Kick-off * event for
Opera Theatre of The Rockies
Vocal Arts Festival
Many volunteers will have a won-
derful time hosting this special
fundraiser for Opera Theatre.
Please be one of them.
Contact Mary Koepp 237-5720.

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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 Goes to School, to encourage and support young and aspiring opera and musical theater talent, through fund-raising 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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President's Corner

Dear Members,

So many things to cover in this message.

First, there is the reminder that it is time to renew your membership. Dues remain the same for one more year. Please send your fully completed renewal forms and checks to Kay MacEnulty, 4504 Bell Flower Dr., CS, 80917 or bring them to the June Luncheon. It is very important to fill out the entire membership form available with this newsletter.

Second, I hope you were able to attend our May 4th meeting at the Broadmoor Community Church's Otto Room and were able to enjoy the entertainment of, and presentations to, the recipients of this year's Career Grants. These are the artists who will be our future professional stars. In addition, there was the presentation of next year's slate of officers.

Third, our June Luncheon will be at the Doubletree Hotel at 1775 East Cheyenne Boulevard (that's off Lake Avenue near Interstate-25). We will be in the 'Windows' Room, a lovely glass enclosed venue. Lu Benning has arranged some excellent luncheon selections for us (see p.3) so be sure to fill out the form and mail it back to Lu. Election of next year's officers will also occur. Our program will be music from PPOL's Young Voice Competition winners.

Fourth, Mark the July 8th date on your calendar for PPOL's Buckaroo Family Barbecue at Gold Hill Mesa (off 21st Street). Musical emphasis will be from American Western Musical Theater. Chair Mary Koepp and her committee are already planning fun events for those attending.

Your attendance at these fundraisers does double duty. It provides the funds for our support of Opera Theatre of the Rockies, PPOL's Young Voice Competition, the Career Grants, our monthly programs, Opera Goes to School, and it provides an audience and encouragement for those pursuing an operatic career.

Finally, we send many, many thank you's to the hard working Co-Chairs Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler for a very successful Young Voice Competition completed in April. It is exciting that this year, nineteen applicants applied. Also, an equally hard working committee deserves our appreciation and thanks—the April 26th Concert introducing tenor Derek Chester to Colorado Springs. Thank you Co-Chairs Jeanna Wearing and Don Th Jaeger and Marketing Chair Susanne Wheeler with Bob Collins and Robert Littrell adding additional marketing savvy.



Nancy

Yes, It's Late!

This issue of *High Notes* is reaching you a little later than usual. We thought it important to include timely reports on the PPOL Young Voice Competition, and the April concert *Introducing Derek Chester*, both of which took place toward the end of April, making it difficult to write report articles, print the newsletters and to meet mailing deadlines within our usual schedule. We anticipate that the next issue of *High Notes* will arrive in your mail box according to the usual schedule.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✓ **June 1, 10:30 am, PPOL Luncheon Meeting** (see form on p.3) at **The Doubletree Hotel, 1775 E. Cheyenne Blvd. (off Lake St.) in the 'Windows' Room.** Entertainment by winners of **PPOL Young Voice Competition, Faith Matson, Maija Pieper and Joseph Berrios.**
- ✓ **July 8, Late Afternoon, Buckaroo Family Barbecue** at **Gold Hill Mesa, 142 S. Raven Mine Dr. (off 21st. St.)** to kick off the **Opera Theatre of the Rockies annual Vocal Arts Festival.** More details to follow in the next issue of *High Notes.*
- ✓ **July 10 through July 24, on the Colorado College campus, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Vocal Arts Festival.** More details of the *two 'Scenes Concerts'* planned for this year will be in the next issue of *High Notes.*

2016 Young Voice Competition

Susan Loring, Young Voice Competition Co-chair

Do you ever find yourself smiling for days after experiencing something wonderful? This year's Young Voice Competition provided that feeling from start to finish.

In its fourth year, we had the most applicants (nineteen) from as far reaching as Centennial, Limon and Pueblo. The singers, ages 14 through 17 years represented eleven voice teachers and fourteen schools. These young people were prepared, carried themselves well, took the Preliminary Judges' comments and Master Class comments and grew in their vocal performance for the Finals. Those of us who attended both the Master Class and the Finals Auditions Recital saw and heard remarkable differences!

Finals Judges, George Preston of 88.7-KCME-FM, Martile Rowland of Opera Theatre of the Rockies, and Don Jaeger of the Pikes Peak Opera League expertly executed their difficult job of choosing the award winners from the eight finalists. After listening intently, writing detailed comments, keeping the recital moving and deliberating (while the singers and audience enjoyed a delicious reception), their unanimous decisions were ready to be announced. Ayana Kjonaas (Encouragement Award), Joseph Berrios (Third Prize), Maija Pieper (Second Prize) and Faith Matson (First Prize) were announced respectively.

Co-chairs Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler thank the Pikes Peak Opera League and its Board of Directors for supporting this event. Also special thanks to our volunteers: Nancy Daly, Nedra Engelson, Judy and Charlie Warren, Evelyn Kwaak, Mary Koepf, Jeanna Wearing, Dennis Jackson, Victoria Boswell and Lu Benning as well as those who brought delectable goodies for our special reception. We also are grateful to our wonderful donors Norton Bain, Kathie Finney, an Anonymous Donor and Cindy Crater.

Kudos once again to our Preliminary Judges, Sarah Groh Correa, Trudy Fennwald and Bradley Thompson and our Finals Judges, Martile Rowland, George Preston and Don Th. Jaeger. Thank you to Kelly Zuercher for stepping in at the last minute and of course, we couldn't do it without our fabulous Dan Brink.

See Pictures on pp.7 and 8. ■



Pikes Peak Opera League Young Voice Competition Winners
From left to right, Faith Matson (First Place), Maija Pieper (Second Place), Joseph Berrios (Third Place), Ayana Kjonaas (Encouragement Award)

Pikes Peak Opera League Luncheon Meeting

'Windows' Room, Doubletree Hotel,
1775 East Cheyenne Boulevard (off Lake Street),
Colorado Springs

Entrée	How many
Roasted Loin of Beef with Bordelaise Sauce	_____
Grilled Salmon with Teriyaki Pineapple Glaze	_____
Mushroom Vegetable Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)	_____

\$35 per plate (\$5 tax deductible)
Please make checks payable to PPOL
and mail to

Ms. Lu Benning
2634 Freedom Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

(Reservations must be made by Friday, May 27)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Zip: _____

Entertainment will be provided by
Faith Matson, Maija Pieper and Joseph Berrios,
winners of the PPOL Young Voice Competition

The ABC's of Opera

An Ongoing Guide to the Best Recordings

La Gioconda

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

Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886) is one of those 'other' nineteenth century Italian opera composers known today for one work. Although he wrote ten operas, the only one given today is *La Gioconda*, and of late, that one isn't heard too often at that.

The reason is the oft heard one: there are simply no singers active today with voices that can do justice to the score. The opera requires six major singers, one in each vocal category: soprano, mezzo, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass. The orchestration is lush, the vocal writing strenuous, and the libretto is... well, perhaps that's best left alone.

The text is by one Tobia Gorrio, which is actually a pseudonym/anagram for Arrigo Boito, who would go on to prove his literary merit with two of the finest libretti that Giuseppe Verdi would set.

Yet in the not-too-distant past, sopranos, mezzos, tenors and baritones vied with their peers for the principal roles in this opera, which requires the good, old-fashioned 'stand and deliver' type of singing that today seems a thing of the past. A melodramatic story, great melodies, and the opportunity for each singer to distinguish his- or herself once made this a popular favorite in the opera house, and on record. Four recordings alone were made in the 1950's, with one singer recording the opera twice.

That singer was Maria Callas, who first appeared on stage in the title role in 1946. She recorded the part for Cetra in 1952, with an admittedly undistinguished cast, save for Fedora Barbieri as Laura, although Gianni Poggi as Enzo Grimaldo, Paolo Silveri as Barnaba, and Giulio Neri as Alvisé Badoero do more than hold their own.

Callas again recorded the role in stereo for EMI in 1959, the rest of the cast consisting of a very young Fiorenza Cossotto, the much-admired but little-known dramatic tenor Pier Miranda Ferraro, another young singer in baritone Piero Cappuccilli, and bass Ivo Vinco. Although by this time Callas' voice was nothing like her earlier self, she herself said that if one wanted to know what her art was about, it's all there in this second *Gioconda*.

Zinka Milanov was another soprano

known for her assumption of the title role, although by the time she got around to recording it in 1957 she was approaching the end of her career. I must admit to not having ever heard this particular recording, as



it has been in and out of print for years and hard to come by at a reasonable price. Yet as much as I yearn to hear it, everything I've read about it would seem to indicate that it simply isn't one of the better recordings—Milanov being too old, Giuseppe di Stefano over-parted as Enzo, Leonard Warren doing little more than blustering his way through Barnaba's music, and with only a young Rosalind Elias managing some dependable

singing as Laura.

Also in 1957 came the one recording of only two made by soprano Anita Cerquetti. Making her debut in 1951, achieving international stardom in 1958, and retiring at age 30 in 1961 with her voice exhausted from overuse, her *Gioconda* is nevertheless a formidable one. And the rest of the cast is exceptional in their way, too: Giulietta Simionato, Mario del Monaco, Ettore Bastianini, and Cesare Siepi are all major singers singing the music with style, conviction and dramatic aplomb. If only conductor Gianandrea Gavazzeni did more than rush the proceedings along, as well as making a few nit-picky cuts, this could have been a great recording. As it is, it's all very exciting and surely gives one a taste of what this opera can sound like when done well.

At this point I need to step back and address an issue some more astute readers may have noticed, namely my not indicating the contraltos singing the role of *Gioconda*'s mother, *La Cieca*. The reason is simple: the part rarely attracts first-rate singers. After leading a gorgeous ensemble in Act One, the character all but disappears and has little more to sing. So the part is often given to an up-and-coming mezzo or a down-and-out character mezzo. And any mezzo who can sing the role (true contraltos being extremely rare birds) will more than likely have her eye trained on the much meatier part of Laura. But there are two recordings where the small part has been cast from strength, and they are both excellent recordings of the work.

First came the Decca recording in 1967 with Renata Tebaldi (admittedly at the end of her career but still sounding fabulous), Marilyn Horne, Carlo Bergonzi, Robert Merrill, Nicolai Ghiuselev, and as *La Cieca*, Oralia Dominguez. Dominguez was a Mexican singer who identified as a mezzo-soprano but who sang a number of contralto roles, including Erda in *Der Ring des Nibelungen* for Herbert von Karajan. The recording is an excellent one and has stood up well to those that came before and after.

The first of those that came after arrived in 1980 when Decca again assembled a superstar cast including Montserrat Caballé, Agnes Baltsa, Alfreda Hodgson (another contralto), Luciano Pavarotti, Sherrill Milnes and Nicolai Ghiaurov. What Caballé lacks in dramatic heft she more than makes up for in her exquisite singing of high-lying phrases, and Pavarotti brings his trademark squillo, if not a true dramatic tenor, to Enzo's music. In sumptuous digital sound, this recording is something of a curate's egg, but a worthy addition to the discography.

Of the last two recordings I'm going to consider, the first was made for Hungaroton in 1986, with Eva Marton already displaying the tattered condition of her once extraordinary voice.

And in 2001 ageing tenor Plácido Domingo decided he wanted to finally make a recording of the opera. At age 62, he still sounds remarkably well, and Violeta Urmana, a dramatic mezzo turned soprano, copes well with the demands of the title role. Mezzo Luciana d'Intino and baritone Lado Ataneli manage their roles satisfactorily, but bass Roberto Scanduzzi's tattered voice is not a pleasant listening experience. Still, fans of the remarkable tenor need not hesitate.

So where does that leave us? No one should be without one, or both, of the Callas recordings, and I think the one to go for is the second, in better sound with a better cast, and with Callas' artistry, if not her voice, at peak condition.

But for a single all-round best recording, choice comes down to either of the earlier Decca recordings. For great vocal grandstanding, choose the earlier, with Cerquetti, Simionato, del Monaco, Bastianini, and Siepi. For a little more subtlety and musicianship along with great singing, you can't go wrong with Tebaldi, Horne, Dominguez, Bergonzi, Merrill, and Ghiuselev in 1967. ■

Opera Theatre of the Rockies Notes

Susanne Wheeler, Opera Theatre of the Rockies Liaison



Opera Theatre of the Rockies is rightfully proud of its recent production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Rave reviews are still pouring in about the extraordinary singing with all six princi-

pal cast members (Michelle Diggs Thompson, Jennifer DeDominici, Humberto Borboa, Chad Reagan, Paul Grosvenor and Karla Hughes) performing superbly. Together with the beautiful costumes and



The principal cast members of *Così fan tutte*, from left to right, Jennifer DeDominici as Dorabella, Michelle Diggs Thompson as Fiordiligi, Chad Reagan as Guglielmo, Karla Hughes as Despina, Paul Grosvenor as Don Alfonso, and Humberto Borboa as Ferrando

lovely props, Martile Rowland's brilliant staging made this an opera to remember. And thank you to the many Pikes Peak Opera League members who attended. Your support is always appreciated.

So, what's up next for Opera Theatre? Mark your calendars for the fifteenth anniversary of the company's renowned Vocal Arts Festival from July 10 through July 24, 2016 on the Colorado College campus. There will be two special 'Scenes Concerts' this summer, showcasing the talents of our participants, ranging in age from middle school through post-college/young professionals. These have proven to be some of Opera Theatre's favorite productions.

Visit our web site at operatheatreoftherockies.org for more details on all summer Vocal Arts activities and performances (dates, times, locations, tickets). We take this opportunity to thank the Pikes Peak Opera League, once again, for kicking off our summer season on July 8 with a special family event at Gold Hill Mesa. Visit pikespeakoperaleague.org for more information. ■

Know Your Board

Victoria Boswell is a native of Colorado Springs, but has also lived in New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana and North Carolina. In 1990, she returned to Colorado Springs, and loves it here so much, she has vowed never to leave again.

A lady of many talents, Victoria has worked in dentistry (in several capacities), started a practice management consultancy specializing in the medical and dental fields, has owned a catering and cooking class business, a consignment boutique (Cozy Closet), and Victoria's Estate Jewelry. She is currently co-owner, with her brother, of A&B Estate Brokers. So she has retired four times, but doesn't plan a fifth retirement any time soon.

We don't know how she does it, but she even finds time for a multitude of hobbies. She enjoys cook-



ing (and teaching it), catering, gardening, and garden art design. She is currently taking classes in ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement), and sumi-e (Japanese ink wash painting). She also plays an Indian flute, and grows orchids.

Victoria enjoys feeding the birds in her garden, and has an ongoing adversarial relationship with the squirrels; she has repeatedly designed and constructed new bird feeders to defeat the squirrels' bird food thievery, but to no avail.

Cooking is Victoria's passion; she has cooked at the Southern Living Cooking School, has cooked with and assisted several nationally known chefs (long before television cooking shows were the vogue), and has even demonstrated cooking on local TV Channel 11 during the nineties.

When she can (how does she find the time?) she attends Broncos and Rockies games with her son, James.

In addition to being a member of the Pikes Peak Opera League, Victoria is a member of several music organizations, her tastes in music being very eclectic.

Victoria is married to Fred, and has family in Denver whom she adores—her son and his wife (James and Shelley). In June, she expects to become a grandmother.

She joined the Pikes Peak Opera League in 1993, and has served in most position on the board; she believes it is important to participate. She has joined several PPOL trips to enjoy opera, including to Europe, Santa Fe, and soon to New York..

She says: "Being part of Pikes Peak Opera League, I have acquired many wonderful friends and knowledge of Opera. It's a great organization to be involved with".

We have to agree, Victoria. ■

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



Congratulations, Don Jaeger

Pikes Peak Opera League board member Don Jaeger was recently presented the Outstanding Alumnus Award by Mark Parker, Dean of the Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University. Moreover, he has been given a permanent place in the Hall of Distinguished Performers at the Bass School of Music.

Don, now retired to Colorado Springs, has been a distinguished conductor of many prestigious symphony orchestras here in the United States, and all over the world.

We knew of him in Colorado long



before he retired here; he had been a guest conductor at the Aspen Music Festival, and is known for his having been the founder of the Boulder Bach Festival.

In addition to his experiences as an international conductor and music director, he is an accomplished oboist, having played with many of the world's leading symphony orchestras.

We are indeed honoured to have him as an important part of the Pikes Peak Opera League, and offer our heartiest congratulations on his award. ■

Where Else Can You Enjoy Opera?

88.7 - KCME - FM

The Metropolitan Opera Broadcast season just ended with Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* on May 7, with the simulcasts at the Tinseltown cinemas ending on May 4 with a repeat of the April 30 broadcast of Strauss' *Elektra*.

Continuing through June (the period covered by this issue of *High Notes*, KCME will be airing recordings of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, those being:

- May 14—*Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart
- May 21—*Bel Canto* by Jimmy López
- May 28—*Cinderella* by Rossini
- June 4—*Wozzeck* by Berg
- June 11—*Merry Widow* by Lehár
- June 18—*Nabucco* by Verdi
- June 25—*Der Rosenkavalier* by Strauss

The Mezzanine

The Pikes Peak Opera League's Board member Don Jaeger will be conducting Sir William Walton's *Façade*, with KCME's George Preston narrating, on June 9 at 6:30 pm. Although not operatic, this is a 'must attend' event for PPOL members.

Santa Fe Opera

Santa Fe's season starts in July; their operas will be *La Fanciulla del West* by Puccini, *Don Giovanni* by Mozart, *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod, *Capriccio* by Richard Strauss, and *Vanessa* by Barber. Unfortu-

nately, the KCME trip to Santa Fe in August is filled, but watch this space for more details of Santa Fe's season in the next issue of *High Notes*.

By the way, KCME's George Preston tells me there will likely be an upcoming trip to New Orleans in the spring of 2017 to see *Faust*.

Central City Opera

Central City's season also starts in July, and they will be presenting *The Ballad of Baby Doe* by Douglas Moore and *Tosca* by Puccini at the Central City Opera House.

Orchestra stalls tickets, a box lunch, and a day trip by bus to a performance of *Tosca* on July 26 might still be available by calling PPOL member Dr. Dennis Jackson at (719) 579-6999. But hurry; these trips fill up quickly.

Central City Opera is presenting operas away from Central City Opera House again this year. On July 28, you will be able to see a modern adaptation of Mozart's *The Impresario* in Boulder. Also on July 28, at 7 p.m., you may see the one-act opera *Later the Same Evening* by contemporary composer John Musto, at a venue 'yet to be determined' in Colorado Springs. **That's us!** Watch for more information in the next issue of *High Notes*.

Opera Colorado, Denver

You might still have time to get tickets to *The Scarlet Letter* at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Performances will be given on May 7, 10 and 13 at 7:00 pm, and on May 15 at 2:00 pm. Call 303-468-2030 for ticket availability.

The Empire Lyric Players, Denver

Think opera can't be sidesplittingly funny? Think again! The one act opera, *Cox and Box* was written by Arthur Sullivan (with F.C. Burnand) before he even had met W.S. Gilbert, and the one-act opera *Trial by Jury* was only Gilbert & Sullivan's second collaboration. You may see both for the price of one ticket (\$15) at Montrose Presbyterian Church in Denver on June 16, 17 and 18 at 7:00 pm. and June 19 at 2:99 pm. Go to elpl.org to buy your tickets.

Opera Fort Collins

Opera Fort Collins will present Verdi's *Otello* on Friday, June 3 at 7:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased by calling (970) 468-2030 or by visiting lctix.com.

Broadcast in Cinemas

Lyric Cinema Cafe	Fort Collins
<i>Marguerite</i> , Friday, May20,	Time TBA
Boedecker Thrater	Boulder
<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i> , Sun, May 22,	1 pm
and Wed, May 25,	1 pm
Chez Artiste Theatre	Denver
<i>La Cenerentola</i> , Wednesday, May25,	7 pm

Pictures of April General Meeting and Young Voice Competition Master Class



At the April mtg., Linda Cummings, soprano, Dan Brink, pianist, and Emily Sorensen, soprano

Dr. Dennis Jackson coaches Singer #8

Dr. Dennis Jackson coaches Singer #5

The audience sat in the chancel

Kelly Zuercher collaborated at the piano

Dr. Jackson coaches Singer #6

Obituary

James Rowland, husband of Martile Rowland, Honorary Life Member of Pikes Peak Opera League, internationally known soprano and Founder and Artistic Director of Opera Theatre of the Rockies, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2016.

Born in Louisiana on September 19, 1940, James was always devoted to Martile and the music that was at the center of their forty plus year love story and marriage. They moved to Colorado Springs in 1980 where James had a successful career as a Psychotherapist who specialized in serving the needs of children and their families.

At the end of his professional career, he worked with senior citizens through Silver Key Senior Services. For a number of years, James and Martile traveled the world together during Martile's singing career. Martile says that without James' love and constant support and encouragement, she would not have had a career as an opera singer nor would Opera Theatre have been created.

James always thought positive thoughts and showed great enthusiasm for the wonderful opera productions and talented singers. He never wavered in his belief of Opera Theatre's mission.



He watched members of the ensemble grow through the years with great interest, as the singers shared their gifts with our community and the world.

Martile offers a special thank you to PPOL members for their cards, flowers and many condolences. She is most touched by your sincere acknowledgment of how special a man James was. Martile said, "He would be so touched by your kind and generous spirit."

A Musical Memorial Celebration will be held on Saturday morning, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. in Grace Episcopal church at 601 North Tejon Street. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

[Contributed by S. Wheeler —Ed.]

Gerda Johanna Nickels died peacefully on March 24, 2016; she was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was 'Oma' to her three grandsons.

Gerda was born in Steeden, Germany and grew up in Runkel, Germany. She became a dental assistant in Germany and immigrated into the U.S. in 1956. She was a dental assistant in the Chicago area, until marrying her adoring husband Oliver in 1958. They moved to Colorado

Springs in 1996.

Gerda's parents were Albert Müller and Luise Krauss Müller. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Heinrich. She leaves behind her husband Oliver, son Stephen, daughter, Dr. Heidi V. Pace, grandsons Daniel, Peter, and Benjamin, and great-grandson Nathan Pace. She is also survived by her brother Herbert Müller along with many nieces, nephews, and their descendants.

Gerda was active in many different charitable organizations including the Hinsdale Humane Society, the Lyric Opera Guild of Chicago, the Pikes Peak Opera League, and The Colorado Springs Philharmonic Guild.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 2nd at the Broadmoor Community Church in Colorado Springs. The Nickels family wants to also extend its sincere thanks to the staff of Brookdale at Skyline for their superb care of and assistance with Gerda.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Swan-Law Funeral Directors, Colorado Springs, CO.



Pictures Of Young Voice Competition Finals



The judges (l. to r.), George Preston, GM of KCME-FM, Martile Rowland, Founder of OTR, and Don Jaeger, international conductor, acknowledging their introduction.



Ever reliable Dan Brink, collaborated throughout the session



Nail biting time—who won?



Dan Brink, pianist, with the eight finalists



The competitors were young, but that didn't mean they didn't already have a fan club



While the judges deliberated, the rest of us enjoyed the reception



The Winners!
1st-Faith Matson
2d-Maija Pieper
3d-Joseph Berrios
4th- Ayanna Kjonaas

The 'Introducing Derek Chester' Concert



Jeanna Wearing, Co-chair of the concert, and Nancy Daly, PPOL President, greeted the guests



Derek Chester, tenor, Amy Mushall, soprano, and Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano enjoy the applause at the conclusion of their concert



Nasit Ari, President of the Board of the Chamber Orch. of the Springs, chatting with Susan Loring of PPOL



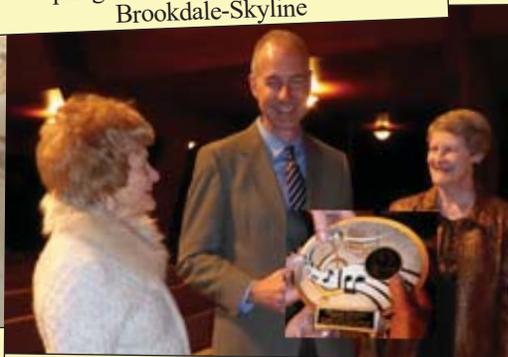
Jennifer DeDominici, mezzo-soprano, Derek Chester, tenor, and Amy Mishall, soprano



Don Jaeger, Co-chair of the concert sampling the desserts sponsored by Brookdale-Skyline



Rev. Steve Harter of First United Methodist Church, enjoys a moment with Jennifer DeDominici



Herman Tiemens, one of the concert's sponsors, showing the plaque he was awarded recognizing his beneficence



Rachel Winnick (ctr), who wants to be a singer, chatted with Derek Chester and Jennifer DeDominici; perhaps we'll see her next in the Young Voice Competition

Vote Early and Often

Election of the Pikes Peak Opera League's Board of Directors will take place at the Luncheon Meeting on June 1 at the Doubletree Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Blvd (that's just off Lake Avenue near I-25).



Stephanie Edwards

attention to it; we will be voting all at the same time, with a show of hands, and the hands will be counted only once (it is to be hoped that nobody raises both hands!).

The positions of President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer are, at the time of writing, uncontested, so it is likely that Nancy Daly, Mary Koepp and Nedra Engleson respectively, will be re-elected, as will Cynthia Crater, who is currently a 'non-officer' director.



Susan Rae Jensen, M.D.

Two 'non-officer' positions are available on the Board, and the nominees for those positions are Susan Rae Jensen, M.D. and Stephanie Edwards.

If you have someone you'd like to nominate, get their names to Gloria Wendt right away (495-1278). ■

As amusing as the above headline might be, pay no at-



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High Notes

Pikes Peak Opera League

June Luncheon

June 1 at 10:30 am
in the 'Windows' Room
Doubletree Hotel
1775 E. Cheyenne Bvd.,
Colorado Springs

Board of Directors Election

Entertainment by
PPOL Young Voice
Competition winners

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):

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:

Kay MacEnulty
4504 Bell Flower Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

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