



High Notes
Pikes Peak Opera League Newsletter
Summer, 2020



Team Work makes the Dream Work!

Message from your President,
Dr. Susan Rae Jensen

This spring and summer have not been what any of us would have expected at the start of the 2020 year. I know that it has been very disappointing to see several of our programs and a special event cancelled due to health concerns and regulations with the Covid pandemic, along with many regional summer festivals. It has been an honor to share with you through email correspondence at this trying time, the many wonderful opera, concert, and musical theater free online streaming performances that have become available.

Your PPOL Board and I are hopeful for a brighter tomorrow and have been working on your behalf to plan for the future.

Enclosed in this newsletter, we have included the program and special event schedule for the 20-21 PPOL year beginning in September. It is with watchful optimism that we proceed and will look for even more ways to connect.

Also, please find in this newsletter, the membership renewal form for 20-21. Your dues go to help underwrite our wonderful programming and these vocal artists need our support now more than ever.

It is my most fervent wish to see you all in person again soon but until that time offer to you a "virtual" hug, Susan



Special Thanks to the following members who contributed to our Scholarship Fund this month:
Nicole deNaray and Mary Margaret Brummeler.



20-21 PPOL calendar of programs and special events

September 9—Noon-1:30 at Broadmoor Community Church, light lunch.

Program: Schubert's "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen," ("The Shepherd on the Rock,") with Amy Mushall, soprano; Darryl Stevens, clarinet; and Simon Jacobs, piano.
Venue Sponsors: Dr. Michael and Lesly Blend.

Special Event: October 9, Fall Fest from 5-8pm at Brookdale/Skyline.

The theme will be *A Night in Spain* with Spanish tapas, wine, and Spanish music.
Program: Amalia Dobbins, mezzo-soprano, with Spanish songs/guitar.

Young Voice competition in November—

Nov. 15 at 3 pm—Master Class in Flex Room at Cornerstone, CC

Nov. 20—Finals Concert, 7 pm, at Packard Hall, CC

December 2—**holiday luncheon**, 11-2 pm at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club

Program: Martile's Merry Singers

February 3—11:30-1:30, light luncheon at the Colorado Springs Conservatory

Program: Presentations from the scholarship recipients of the PPOL donation to CS Conservatory scholarship fund.

Special Event, February 19, 5-8 pm—at Gold Hill Mesa with hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Program: *Stories from the Opera Stage* presented by Opera Theatre of the Rockies' Artistic Director, Martile Rowland, (& a chance to celebrate Martile's birthday.)

March 3—2:30-4:30 pm, Carriage house at Penrose house, light refreshments.

Program: CS Children's Chorale Summit Ensemble. The CS Children's Chorale received a donation from PPOL for their young vocalist scholarship fund.

April 7—4-6 pm—Career Advancement Awards Concert at MacLaren School, light refreshments post concert.

Program: Career Advancement Awards Concert

May 5—**Spring luncheon**, 11:30-1:30 pm at The Pinery at the Hill.

Program: Martile highlights the summer program for Vocal Arts Festival and the Opera Theatre of the Rockies' summer opera.

Special Event-- June 23, 5-8 pm, home of Special Advisor to the Board, Stephanie Edwards, with the Great Gatsby Lawn party with wine and appetizers.

Program: past scholarship and award winners with songs celebrating summer and the Gatsby era.

We will adhere to all updated recommendations for gatherings and may need to have RSVPs to all programs and events with a potential cap on numbers attending. We are also looking into special ways to present our programs, such as a special viewing/streaming of that program, if required.

Possible other collaborations:

***Parish House Baroque for a possible house concert event.

***Denver's "Opera on Tap" program comes to the Springs for a possible joint program/event.

***Kate Johnson is working with AFA about potential opera presentation to possibly include PPOL at that program or a separate special program for PPOL.

***Central City Opera summer party buses to 2 matinee performances.



A Note from Membership Director, Kathy Winnick

Pikes Peak Opera League membership for the upcoming 2020-2021 season will be full of exciting, varied, and entertaining performances!

The Pikes Peak Opera League's mission is to support opera, musical theater, and the vocal arts through monthly programs and special events featuring regional vocal artists as well as providing scholarships and educational outreach.

The PPOL year runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31 with monthly programs and events through June. We are planning a calendar for the upcoming 2020-2021 season to comply as much as possible with regulations.

At each program we employ regional professional talent who are paid from the membership dues. That is part of our mission to promote & support opera, musical theater, and the vocal arts, and these vocalists & accompanists need our support now more than ever.

Also, as part of our mission, we provide scholarship funds to high school, college, & post graduate students throughout the year as well as to the scholarship funds of the Conservatory and the Children's Chorale. As part of the PPOL mission, we fund the Young Voice competitions and the Career Advancement Awards every year. It is our intention to continue these grants going forward which are also needed now more than ever.

And as a member, you receive the newsletter as well as other communications that inform you about where you can see or hear vocal performances. Most recently that has been to let members know of various free vocal performance streaming links.

If you have not done so already, please complete the form on the next page of this newsletter (& include all your contact information for an accurate database) or go online to www.pikespeakoperaleague.org to pay through PayPal.

We are so proud and appreciative of our membership and invite you to be a vital part of our efforts in the Pikes Peak region on behalf of promoting the vocal arts. Please join us for an enjoyable and memorable 2020-2021 season as a member of the Pikes Peak Opera League!

Pikes Peak Opera League President & Membership

Pikes Peak Opera League Membership Application/Renewal Form



PLEASE RENEW MEMBERSHIP: Membership fees are for September 1st through August 31 of each year. **Renew by July 1, 2020 to be included in the directory!**

Please PRINT information as you would like it to appear in the Membership Directory and include phone #s and all contact information even if it is the same as last year.

Your dues go to underwrite and pay performers for our excellent professional programs. These vocalists and performers need our support now more than ever. Also, please let us know if you can support (even in part) a program this season.

Name: _____

Address: _____
(Please include FULL ADDRESS with city, state and zip code)

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

Membership Category: Individual \$40 _____ Couple \$60 _____

I would like to sponsor a program to further assist vocalists:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ \$_____ (write in amount)

Volunteer by checking your areas of interest:

Fund Raising _____ Young Voice Competition _____ Hospitality _____

Mailings _____ Special Events _____ Publicity _____ Membership _____

Gift Baskets _____ Other _____

Make checks payable to PPOL; mail payment along with form to: Pikes Peak Opera League,
P.O. Box 38478, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478.

Thank you for your membership and support!

**Or you can elect to pay by credit card through PayPal on our website at pikespeakoperaleague.org but we would still like this form returned for accurate information which we do not always get from PayPal.



News from a past PPOL Young Voice Competition finalist and Career Advancement Award winner, Maire Therese Carmack



Dear Members of the Pikes Peak Opera League,
My last update was in Spring, 2019, and Dr. Jensen asked me to fill you in on further exciting advances for me in my career.

Working as a young artist has proven quite the adventure. I most recently won the Florida District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and went on to take third place at the Gulf Coast Region. I am very grateful for the financial support of the MONC and excited to give it another shot next year.

This past season, my second with Palm Beach Opera, I was afforded the opportunity to cover the Witch and Mother in *Hansel und Gretel*, study cover Berta in *The Barber of Seville*, and would have covered Larina in *Eugene Onegin*, but our performances were cancelled due to COVID-19. Prior to the cancellation, I was able to thoroughly role study Olga and sing one room run of Larina with the visiting artists from Russia, and conductor Christian Knapp of the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg. I hope to revisit these roles very soon.

This summer I was asked to join the Glimmerglass Festival as a 2020 Young Artist, but all of our training and performances will be limited to Zoom and other online platforms due to the Covid outbreak in New York. Nevertheless, joining this young artists' program has been a dream since being an Undergrad, so I'm thrilled to be accepted.

Following Glimmerglass, I will be joining the Pittsburgh Opera as their Mezzo Resident Artist for 20-21, and will be singing the Third Wood Sprite in *Rusalka*, Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Hannah Watkins in *Emmeline*, and Governess in *Charlie Parker's Yardbird*.

As always, I am forever grateful for the love and support that I continue to receive from the Pikes Peak Opera League, and I look forward to updating you as I pursue this career!

With gratitude,
Maire Therese Carmack
www.mairecarmack.com



The incoming PPOL Board with some fun personal photos



OFFICERS

Board President, Dr. Susan Rae Jensen

--Susan is a Board certified interventional Cardiologist and also a soprano soloist featured in opera, oratorio, classical voice, concert, and musical theater performances. She was a Metropolitan audition finalist and is the recipient of the PPOL lifetime achievement award membership.

--Pictured here with her husband, Tom Trainer, snorkeling in St. Lucia this past year. "Swimming & snorkeling are favorite activities, where I'm actually graceful in the water."



Vice President, Robyn Sedgwick

--in college, Robyn began as a music major, graduating with a BA in communication. She now serves as the General Manager of Classical KCME 88.7 and Jazz 93.5, & she's a vocalist, having performed all over Colorado.

--Photo here is with her sons Andrew & William in January.

--"I love opera's power to bring music to life and to transform the audience with its message. I am honored for this opportunity to serve on the PPOL Board."



Secretary, Connie Joiner

--Connie is a former Teller County Clerk & also Teller County Treasurer. She has sung in musical theater and operetta as well as in the Grace Episcopal Taylor Choir.

--Photo was taken at Thanksgiving in Houston with her daughter, Catherine Thompson, who has also assisted at many of our PPOL events.



Treasurer, Linda Silver

--Linda returned to Colorado Springs several years ago from Europe where she and her husband, Dr. Gordon Silver, had lived for 12 years. Her daughter, Julie, has performed for us & is part of Denver's Opera on Tap.

--Photo is from travel to see the Sand Hill cranes.

--"I am an avid bird watcher, love gardening & travel, belong to 2 book clubs, and enjoy hand stitching projects."





DIRECTORS



Membership Director, Kathy Winnick

--Kathy currently is a realtor with Flying Horse Realty. She is married to Bill and her daughter, Rachel, was a Young Voice finalist.
--Pictured here with her hiking companion, Shepherd.
--"When I'm not selling homes or enjoying music, I am out hiking with Shepherd."



New Incoming Director, Fran Pilch

--Fran served as a political science professor for 22 years at USAFA receiving a Fulbright Teaching Award and is well known for her annual soiree to benefit a variety of local nonprofits.
--Also, she is an accomplished pianist.
--She is pictured here at the Champagne Soirée that she hosted on June 1, 2019 with our PPOL scholarship funds as a recipient.



Returning Director, Jaqueline Sanderson

--originally from Canada, Jaqueline has been in banking for over 30 years, now serving as an Investment Advisor Representative with Wells Fargo Clearing Services here in Colorado Springs.
--Photo is with her daughter on past travel to London.
--"It is very important for me to be involved in the community, and I am extremely happy to be a member of PPOL and a representative on its Board."



Returning Director, Cynthia Zapel

--Cynthia has extensive choral training and performed with the Kenneth Jewel Chorale and Contari Choir. She has taught all grades in music and also private piano lessons.
--Photographed here this past year at a PPOL event.
--"I love swimming, walking, hiking, and listening to Bach, Madrigals, and Pentatonic."



Some fun news from membership



Gerri Johnston

--"Having three granddaughters who are into Spanish, I felt a need to keep up with them so I decided to study Spanish from the Great Courses, and am now into the second course which I find both challenging and time consuming. This has helped with the pandemic. At the Senior Center, the Hispanic ladies are delighted that I am studying Spanish, and I find that it has helped break down barriers."



Charles and Judy Warren

--"This photo was taken last year at the Santa Fe Opera pavilion. Last year was our first year to attend the Santa Fe Opera. We loved the whole experience so much that we had planned to return this year. Alas, the three operas there this summer have been cancelled due to the virus, but we look forward to returning. Our memories are such happy ones!"



Trudy Fennewald

--The photo shares a recent memory with Trudy and husband, Marty, with grandchildren, Paige and Keiron, on a trip to Disney World.

"Since 2015, we have taken 8 grandkids so far to Disney World when they turn 9. One more boy to go, but he's just turning 5 so it will be a few more years."



Herman Tiemens

--Herman shares this photo memory from this past year with son Colin and wife Tang Lin at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore. Tang Lin is from Singapore, and her mother and some family still live there. This photo was taken during a visit there last summer. Colin is now enrolled at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



More Member Moments



Susan Loring

--Susan is the proud grandmother of Blake Elizabeth and is photographed with her here at the ocean side on a family trip this past year to Hawaii. Susan's daughter, Jordan, is Mom to Blake and lives in Phoenix with husband, David. And we hear that another grandchild is expected in July, so expect more trips to Phoenix by the Lorings and more photos.



Gloria and Allan Wendt

--Gloria sends us this photo from the deck at their home in Elbert, Colorado. They have been busy with many home projects and have even found some things that they thought had been lost. "We have had a new deck under construction since February and now it's done! Now we enjoy our deck for morning coffee and drinks in the evening for a nice vacation at home."



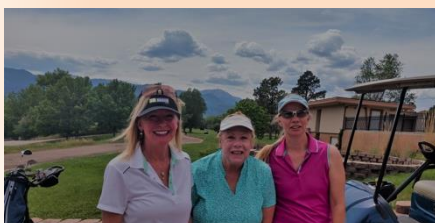
Susanne Wheeler

--Susanne with husband, Bob, in Santa Fe before the opera. "We'll never forget our special dinner at the Compound before attending the Santa Fe Opera. One of the most memorable evenings ever!"
--On the right, the grand twins, Grayson & Christian.



Sue Anselmi

--Sue with grand twins, Brianna and Jonathan, and their sister, Michaela, while visiting in California.
--"While there, the twins decided to bake cookies for the first time. Grandma supervised. The cookies turned out great with Mom & Dad exclaiming 'Wow, cookies! Who did these?'Me: 'Cookies? What cookies?' "



Elizabeth Leslie

--Photo of Elizabeth (center) with girlfriends, Lori and Ginny, at Valley Hi playing in their golf league. Donations from Mike and Elizabeth Leslie's golf tournament last summer were given to our PPOL scholarship funds.

Other ways to experience the musical arts

Announcing Virtual Festival for 2020 Season—Aspen Music Festival

July 4 - August 23

The Aspen Music Festival and School presents a summer festival FREE for all to view from the comfort and safety of your home or personal device.

Events include fresh, new recitals, teaching insights, panel discussions, seminars, and a triumphant live tribute to our Music Director Robert Spano on the occasion of his 10th year with the AMFS. Many are live with an opportunity to be in the moment with the performer; some offer the chance to ask questions via the chat function.

Artists featured performing and teaching include violinist James Ehnes and pianist Andrew Armstrong, pianist Daniil Trifonov, cellist Alisa Weilerstein and pianist Inon Barnatan, pianist Behzod Abduraimov, violinist Stefan Jackiw and pianist Jeremy Denk, pianist Andreas Haefliger, and violinist Augustin Hadelich (on violin *and* piano), and AMFS artist-faculty members Stuart Stephenson, Robert Lipsett, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Edward Stephan, Nancy Allen, Elaine Douvas, and Renée Fleming.

The full schedule is available on website: aspenmusicfestival.com

Weekly Schedule:

Mondays at 3 pm | FREE

High Notes at Home

Live conversations with the artists performing and teaching each week, hosted by AMFS President and CEO Alan Fletcher, with the opportunity for your questions.

WEDNESDAYS AT 5 PM | FREE

Faculty-Student Showcases

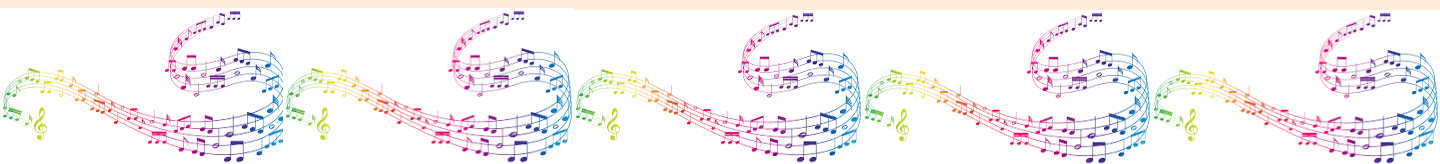
AMFS artist-faculty and students offer a rare insider look at the teaching process. Witness the passing of musical wisdom on to the next generation in these intimate recorded exchanges.

SUNDAYS AT 3 PM | FREE

Aspen Festival Concerts

The Mercedes T. Bass Sunday Concert Series features live and pre-recorded recitals on Sunday afternoons with cherished Aspen artists. Watch each Sunday with the AMFS community in this virtual re-creation of Aspen's most beloved summer tradition.

From Aspen Music Festival: "We hope that you will enjoy this virtual season and see you back in the Tent soon."



From the Metropolitan Opera, the weekly online nightly streams continue. Go to metopera.org

Week 14

Monday, June 15

[Rossini's *Armida* SEP Starring Renée Fleming, Lawrence Brownlee, John Osborn, Barry Banks, and Kobie van Rensburg, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. From May 1, 2010.](#)

Tuesday, June 16

[Rossini's *Semiramide* SEP Starring Angela Meade, Elizabeth DeShong, Javier Camarena, Ildar Abdrazakov, and Ryan Speedo Green, conducted by Maurizio Benini. From March 10, 2018.](#)

Wednesday, June 17

[Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* SEP Starring Susan Graham, Plácido Domingo, and Paul Groves, conducted by Patrick Summers. From February 26, 2011.](#)

Thursday, June 18

[Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* SEP Starring Leontyne Price, Giuseppe Giacomini, Leo Nucci, and Bonaldo Giaiotti, conducted by James Levine. From March 24, 1984.](#)

Friday, June 19

[Philip Glass's *Akhnaton* Starring Dísella Lárusdóttir, J'Nai Bridges, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Aaron Blake, Will Liverman, Richard Bernstein, and Zachary James, conducted by Karen Kamensek. From November 23, 2019.](#)

Saturday, June 20

[Philip Glass's *Satyagraha* Starring Rachelle Durkin, Richard Croft, Kim Josephson, and Alfred Walker, conducted by Dante Anzolini. From November 19, 2011.](#)

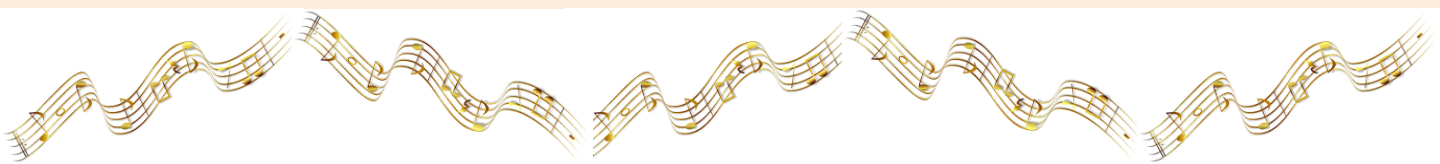
Sunday, June 21

[Verdi's *La Traviata* SEP Starring Sonya Yoncheva, Michael Fabiano, and Thomas Hampson, conducted by Nicola Luisotti. From March 11, 2017.](#)

Other online resources for streaming opera:

--The Virtual Festival through desmoinesmetroopera.org featuring *Billy Budd*, *Rusalka*, *Manon*, & *Le Comte Opy*.

--A Digital Festival Experience with St. Louis Opera at opera-stl.org featuring *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Awakenings*, *Susannah*, & *Center Stage 2020*. Also, streaming are the weekly Tent Talks.



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