



## *HIGH NOTES, the Pikes Peak Opera League Winter Newsletter* *December 2021 to February 2022*



**Message from Dr. Fran Pilch and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen,  
PPOL Co-Presidents**

### **Upcoming programs in 2022**

--There are no programs or events in January as our usual first Wednesday of the month program falls too close to the holidays with so many of our members away.

--**February 2, 2022 program** will be at the CS Conservatory recital hall 415 S. Sahwatch, **2-3:30pm**, featuring students from the Conservatory and some of our scholarship winners. Please bring your own beverage. **Please note change of time due to scheduling conflict at the venue.** Dessert bites will be provided by the Board.

--**February 18, 2022: Special Event, A Return to Broadway**, featuring Josh Franklin and John Wolfe of Icon's at Patty Jewett Clubhouse, 5-8 pm. More information and invite are on following pages.

--**March 2, 2022 program** at CS Youth Symphony Rehearsal Hall, 3113 Primrose Dr, 11:30-1PM, featuring Kacie Kenton, soprano. Please bring your own beverage. Finger sandwiches will be available.

**Thank you to Allan and Gloria Wendt as sponsors of the vocalist and to Judy Rogers as pianist sponsor.**

### **Happy New Year!**

Best wishes to you all as we enter into the New Year of 2022! Thanks to so many of you for your support this past year so that PPOL could be able to continue hiring regional professional vocalists and musicians for our programs. Also, we were able to continue our scholarship programs with the Young Voice Experience for high school students and the Career Advancement & Enhancement Awards for collegiate and post graduate vocalists to encourage and support their training.

We look forward to this upcoming new year with more wonderful programming and Special Events. Please mark your calendars with information included in this newsletter.



## Recent individual scholarship recipients from our PPOL Scholarship Funds



### **Our Conservatory scholarship recipient, Maya Sanchez-West**

My name is Maya West and I am an 18 year old gap year student at the Colorado Springs Conservatory. I am primarily a vocalist, along with playing bass and piano. My motivation for doing music truly lies in its emotional influence. Since I was little, I've always admired and noticed the ways that music can change somebody's mood or day, and how (through an extensive domino effect) one song holds the potential to change somebody's entire life. To be able to create such a powerful connection with others and invoke inspiration in others is the entire reason I chose to pursue music. My personal inspiration lies in knowing how music has gotten me back up on my feet time and time again. The idea of being able to help others this way is my greatest aspiration.

Thank you to PPOL for this scholarship to help me continue my studies.

### **First Recipient of the new PPOL scholarship, the Aspiring Vocalist Inspiration Scholarship Award, has gone to Jack Chaddon**

Jack is 14 and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, homeschooled. He is thrilled to receive this scholarship award to assist with further voice lessons and coaching.

#### **His musical theater credits to date include:**

*Into the Woods*, 2021, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Wicked*, 2020, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Grease*, 2020, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Hamilton*, 2020, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Let's Make a Musical*, 2019, Fine Arts Center  
*Schoolhouse Rock*, 2019, Fine Arts Center  
*Sound of Music*, 2019, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Beauty and the Beast*, 2019, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Greatest Showman*, 2019, Academy of Children's Theatre  
*Mulan*, Kidstage, 2018  
*Aladdin*, 2018, Academy of Children's Theatre

#### **Choral Experience:**

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale *Sing, Raise the Roof* Boys' Choir Festival  
St. Peter Catholic Church Children's Choir, 2018 – 2020

#### **Theatre Productions, all at Academy of Community Theatre:**

*Bye Bye Birdie*, 2021  
*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, 2021  
And coming in 2022—*Seussical*

Vocal and Audition Coaching from Amalia Dobbins, Amy Mushall, & Sarah Atkinson





**Pikes Peak Opera League presents its  
winter Special Event,  
A Return to Broadway: A Broadway Revue,  
featuring John Wolfe and Josh Franklin.  
Friday, February 18, 2022 from 5-8 pm  
at the Patty Jewett Clubhouse,  
900 E. Espanola, Colorado Springs**

**Your reservation includes appetizer buffet  
& the Broadway Revue. Cash Bar.  
Your paid RSVP must be in by 2/11/22.  
Waiting list once venue capacity reached.**



**John Wolfe and Josh Franklin**

**Cost is \$70 pp by check or  
\$75 pp by Credit Card (to cover fees)  
Please send checks to PPOL, PO Box 38478,  
Colorado Springs, 80937-8478  
Credit Card payments through PayPal on  
PPOL website: [pikespeakoperaleague.org](http://pikespeakoperaleague.org)  
--All proceeds go to PPOL Scholarship Fund**

**Event Sponsor: the Tiemens Private Wealth  
Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors  
Program Sponsors: Dr. Susan Rae Jensen &  
Tom Trainer**

The PPOL winter Special Event, ***A Return to Broadway: A Broadway Revue***  
featuring Josh Franklin and John Wolfe  
on Friday February 18, 2022, 5-8 pm, at Patty Jewett Clubhouse



**Josh Franklin and John Wolfe**

Josh and John recently moved to Colorado Springs, Josh's hometown, after successful careers on Broadway and around the world. You may have seen these two in the press recently regarding their most recent venture, ICONS. ICONS is the only lgbtq+ venue in downtown Colorado Springs and was recently voted "Best New Bar" and "Best Overall Bar" through the Independent's Best Of Colorado Springs. ICONS is not only a safe space for all with craft cocktails, delicious food, and an upscale esthetic, but every employee is a world class musician providing live music all day, everyday.

Before ICONS, Josh was seen in nearly a dozen Broadway Shows and National tours including *The Prom*, *Anything Goes*, and *Jersey Boys*. He has two solo pop albums and has written/co-written three full length musicals, most recently *The Consoling Mechanism* which was a 2021 NAMT selection and has plans for a world premiere next year. Josh is a former CS Conservatory student.

John is originally from Huntington, WV and is still performing part time with the first national tour of *My Fair Lady*. John spent the majority of his career as a tap dancer and associate choreographer to Tony Nominated Choreographer Denis Jones. Performance highlights include *A Chorus Line*, *42nd St.*, *Holiday Inn*, *White Christmas*, and *Mary Poppins*.

## PPOL March Concert Program, featuring Kacie Kenton, soprano



March 2, 2022, 11:30 am, light refreshments, concert at noon,  
at CS Youth Symphony rehearsal hall, 3113 Primrose Dr, Colorado Springs, 80907

### **Kacie Kenton, soprano**

Kacie has been living and working locally in Colorado Springs since 2017. Kacie was born in sunny San Diego, CA, and received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music in Illinois. She recently completed her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Kacie studies voice with Martile Rowland and sings with various organizations in the Colorado Springs area. She has been a featured soloist with the Colorado Springs Chorale and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, as well as the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble and Parish House Baroque. Kacie enjoys singing with the Taylor Choir of Grace and St. Stephens Episcopal Church as a soprano section leader, and often sings in recitals and other engagements through the church. Kacie also sings with Opera Theatre of the Rockies in their outreach program. Her previous roles include Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Laurie (*The Tender Land*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Prima Sorella Cercatrice (*Suor Angelica*), Monica (*The Medium*), Emily Webb (*Our Town*), and The Shepherd Boy (*Tosca*). Kacie is looking forward to another Messiah engagement with the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble and Parish House Baroque this coming November, and she is honored and excited to perform a program for the Pikes Peak Opera League in March 2022.



**Thanks to Program Sponsors, Allan and Gloria Wendt, and Accompanist Sponsor, Judy Rogers.**



### ***Other Places to hear vocal music upcoming in 2022***

--Sunday, January 23, 2022, 2:30 pm—Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Chorale and Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. Location—First United Methodist Church. For more information and tickets, please go to [cschorale.org](http://cschorale.org) or [chamberorchestraofthesprings.org](http://chamberorchestraofthesprings.org)

--Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 3 pm—The Taylor Memorial Concert Series at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. For more information, go to [cvae.org](http://cvae.org)

--Broadway in Colorado Springs at the Pikes Peak Center: *Waitress* on January 4 and 5, *Fiddler on the Roof* on February 15 and 16, *An Officer and a Gentleman* on March 1 and 2, and *South Pacific* on March 29 and 30. For more information, please go to [pikespeakcenter.com](http://pikespeakcenter.com)

--Colorado Springs Philharmonic: Pops Spectacular on February 11-12 featuring songs from *Porgy and Bess* to best of John Williams; Ray Charles: Motown and Beyond on March 18-19. For more information, please go to [csphilharmonic.org](http://csphilharmonic.org)

--Opera Colorado at Ellie Caulkins Opera House in Denver, *The Shining*, based on the novel by Stephen King on February 26, March 1-6. For more information, please go to [operacolorado.org](http://operacolorado.org)

--Denver Center for the Performing Arts: *Hamilton* from February 16-March 27; *Tootsie* from March 29-April 10. For more information, please go [dcpa.org](http://dcpa.org)

---Arvada Center: *Kinky Boots* from March 25-April 24. For more information, the website is [arvadacenter.org](http://arvadacenter.org)

### **Upcoming Events this summer from our Central City Opera and Santa Fe Opera friends:**

--Central City Opera season: 2022 will be its 90<sup>th</sup> Season throughout the month of July into first of August with *Light in the Piazza*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Two Remain*. Subscriptions go on sale in January and single tickets in April through [centralcityopera.org](http://centralcityopera.org)

--Santa Fe Opera 2022: The season will run from July 1-August 27 and feature the following operas:

*Carmen*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Falstaff*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and *M Butterfly*.

Tickets are on sale now through their website of [santafeopera.org](http://santafeopera.org)

**And Opera Theatre of the Rockies plans a return of the Vocal Arts Festival throughout July, culminating with performances of *The Music Man*.**

--The Met in HD presentations: Massenet's *Cinderella* on January 1, *Rigoletto* on January 29, *Ariadne auf Naxos* on March 12, and *Don Carlos* on March 26.

## Please meet our new Director to the Pikes Peak Opera League Board, Dr. Logan Contreras

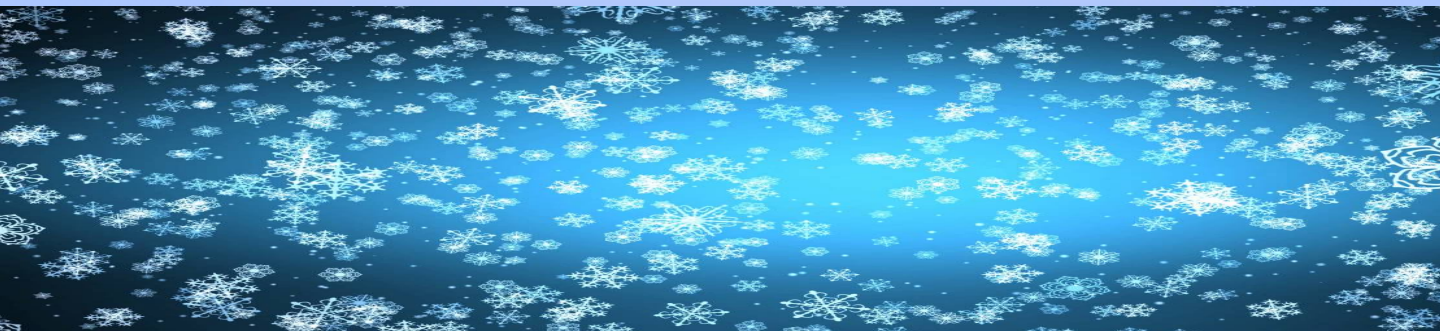
Dr. Logan Contreras is Artist in Residence in voice and the Voice Area Coordinator at Colorado State University Pueblo. She has performed dynamic characters on the operatic stage, such as Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*) the Witch (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Eduige (*Rodelinda*), Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Carmen, and Mrs. Herring (*Albert Herring*). Recitals have featured works by women composers, World War I and II era lieder, Romantic and 20<sup>th</sup> Century folk song settings, and Benjamin Britten's dramatic cantata, *Phaedra*. A strong advocate for inclusivity and diversity in music, Dr. Contreras is the creator of the [Kassia Database](#), a database of art song by women composers in addition to being the co-coordinator for the [Institute for Composer Diversity](#) Art Song Works Database. She has presented her research at universities throughout the United States, at the 2019 and 2021 West-Central NATS Regional Conference, and the 2020 NATS National Virtual Conference.



Dr. Logan Contreras, mezzo soprano

Dr. Contreras holds her Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance and Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Contreras has served as Instructor of Voice at the University of Northern Colorado, Adjunct Instructor at the Conservatory at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Adjunct Instructor at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri.

Her husband, Armando Contreras, baritone, was our PPOL fall Career Advancement Award winner with a concert for us on November 3, 2021.





## Fun stories from our Members



### From Linda Silver, Treasurer

The only trip we took this year was with our daughter, Julie, to the Santa Fe Opera in August. Our hotel had drop dead beautiful flowers, so we had a photo taken there. The photo from left to right: Julie, Linda, and Gordon Silver



### Linda Cummings, Member

A highlight of my year was being part of Opera Theatre of the Rockies' "Let's Make a Scene" concert in August. And I got the fun of impersonating a boy, Patrick, in the scenes from *Mame*. It was so special to be a part of a live performance again and being creative together with close friends, Emily Sorensen & Tammy Teske Lenz.



### From Charles and Judy Warren, Members (& past PPOL historians)

The photo taken here was at the wondrous Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone on our nine day visit to Yellowstone National Park.



### From Dr. Susan Rae Jensen, Co-President

My Christmas gift request last year was for a puppy, a golden doodle bundle of joy and energy. Of course, she had to be named Aria. But little did we know that this small six pound puppy would grow up to be 55 pounds, as of last measurement. And she still thinks she's Mom's lap dog!!



## More Member and Friend News

### Nicole deNaray, Vice President



--photographed with grandson, Archer, on the grand staircase of Opera Garnier in Paris on a trip with family to France in September. Nicole was so happy to be able to make this much rescheduled trip and to share past & new memories and experiences. "I will forever cherish these memories."

### Dr. Fran Pilch, Co-President



Last May, I visited my son, Lance, in Hawaii, where he was serving with the Pacific Air Command. Lance retired as a two star General in October. Here is a picture of us in Hawaii with his beautiful family and his favorite jet!



### Maire Therese Carmack, Mezzo Soprano --previous PPOL Young Voice Finalist & Career Advancement Award winner, 2016

Maire Therese is engaged to be married to Winston Oliver Whiting on January 1, 2022 in Rochester, NY, where they met in 2017 while Therese pursued her Master's at Eastman School of Music and Winston was finishing pre-med at University of Rochester. This season, Therese will be joining Renée Fleming's Song Studio at Carnegie Hall and will be completing her second year as a Resident Artist at Pittsburgh Opera. This summer, she will be headed to Santa Fe Opera to participate in their Artist Apprentice Program, so many of us may be able to see her on stage again.



**Brittany Renee Robinson, soprano**

**--past PPOL & Opera Theatre of the Rockies' performer**

We last saw Brittany Renee as part of the ensemble in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Porgy and Bess*, the recording winning a Grammy. This fall, she portrayed Evelyn in the Met's production of *Fire Shut Up in my Bones* and was praised in Opera News for her "plush soprano bloom." She will debut as the Soprano Soloist at Carnegie Hall in Handel's *Messiah* with the Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra and will return to the Met as Annie in *Porgy and Bess*. Also, Brittany has headlined the concert series, *Feel the Spirit*, which is dedicated to the preservation and performance of the Negro Spiritual. To close out the holiday season, she returns to Lincoln Center as Soprano Soloist with the National Chorale.



**Christiana Danae, soprano**

**--PPOL Career Advancement Award winner, 2019**

Christiana and her husband welcomed their first child, Zechariah, in November, 2021, and are happily adjusting to their new lives as parents. She has also continued to expand her own teaching studio in addition to her work at the Community College of Aurora as an adjunct music instructor. Christiana recently put on a recital celebrating the Juneteenth holiday titled "Juneteenth: Sounds of Freedom," which offered genres of music affected by the Black experience, specifically spirituals, hymns, and gospel songs.



**Johvanna and Humberto Borboa,**

**PPOL Career Enhancement Award winners 2020**

Greetings to all our PPOL friends. Since we last saw you, we have had the addition of baby Martile\* to our family. She loves music and loves to "sing" although it still sounds a little bit like a small chick. When she smiles, she melts everyone's heart. We continue to enjoy our lives in Arizona, singing and teaching.

--\*baby Martile is named after OTR Artistic Director, Martile Rowland

**From our Vocalist Friends**





Susanne Wheeler, Evelyn Kwaak,  
and Victoria Boswell



Doug and Dianne Herzberg



Jim and Carol Montgomery



Greeters: Catherine Thompson,  
Linda Silver, and Connie Joiner

Judy Rogers & Annabel Widney



Linda Silver & Lu Benning



Thank you to venue sponsors: Fred & Victoria Boswell  
Accompanist sponsors: Jim & Carol Montgomery  
Career Advancement Award: PPOL member donations

Mary Koepp & Mary McKinley



Susan Rae Jensen, Nicole deNaray, & Fran Pilch



Darryl and Terry Thatcher





*November 3 Program featuring Career Advancement Award winner,  
Armando Contreras, baritone  
with Dan Brink on piano*



This year's PPOL sponsored Young Voice Experience—November 14 and 19, 2021

Thanks to Young Voice Team: Amalia Dobbins, Board Director Team Contact, and the Team of Kate Johnson and Sue Anselmi along with Susan Loring and Susanne Wheeler as Advisors.

Thanks to the Young Voice Scholarship sponsors: Jim and Mary Waddle, Fran Pilch, Linda and Gordon Silver, Becky and Jon Medved, Helene Knapp, and the Colorado Association of Realtors as facilitated by Kathy Winnick. And to Dr. Susan Rae Jensen for sponsoring the Young Voice Encouragement Award.

**Thank you to our Finalist judges for their critiques to the students.**



**Dr. Logan and Armando Contreras**

**Thanks to our Master Class Facilitator for her individualized and positive approach to each student.**



**Amy Mushall**

**And thank you to the fabulous Dan Brink for his loyalty in assisting our Young Voice program as accompanist.**



**Dan Brink**

Photos from the PPOL Young Voice Experience  
November 14 and 19, 2021



Encouragement Award Winner,  
Aaron Lippy, with his coach,  
Lee Ann Soulvie



Finalists with the  
judges, Dr. Logan  
and Armando  
Contreras.



Finalists: Olivia Newman, Sandra Hagen, Aaron  
Lippy, Fallon Hunter, and Luis Alejandro Rodriquez



Photos from our December 1 PPOL Holiday Luncheon



Greeters: Connie Joiner and Linda Silver



Marti Booth, Helen Gryboski, and Sheila Pereira



The all important wine ticket table: Kay MacEnulty & Lu Benning



Kim Gunderson, Herman Tiemens, & Catherine Creppon



Evelyn Kwaak with Judy & Charles Warren



Kathryn and Elizabeth Leslie



Susan Loring & Catherine Thompson



Joan Agee and Phyllis MacDougall



Victoria Boswell, Mary McKinley, and Cherri Disque

Thank you for the continued support of Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher as our Sponsors for this lovely venue at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club.

Thank you to Martile and Opera Theatre of the Rockies for providing the Merry Singers for our holiday luncheon program.

And grateful to the following for additional photos: Allan & Gloria Wendt, Judy & Charles Warren, and Tom Trainer.



**More photos from the December 1 Holiday Luncheon**



**Bill and Jan Sturdevant with Jackie and Dick Whipple**



**Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer**



**Helene Knapp with Patty & Don Bortz**



**Gloria and Allan Wendt with Dawn Eiber-Thurmond**



**Robyn Hamilton and Janis Cross**



**The enthusiastic audience**

**Our Holiday Luncheon Program with Amy Maples Wickberg and Lori Bammesberger accompanied by Dan Brink**

