

OPERA LEAGUE ANNUAL EVENT

Sunday, June 5, 5:00 pm

Natalie Limonick and Carol and Warner Henry will be honored as recipients of the **2nd Annual Peter Hemmings Memorial Award**, and celebrated soprano Elizabeth Futral will appear as special guest artist. Join us at the Los Angeles Athletic Club for this gala event. Watch for your invitation in May. *Details on page 7.*



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Volunteer Spotlight: Dale Ross

It all started with a phone call. Opera lover Dale Ross really wanted to get a peek behind the scenes. That's why she joined the Opera League in the first place. But with a full-time job, she didn't think she'd be able to volunteer. Then she learned about the cast dinners and how easily they might fit into her demanding schedule. Of course, she couldn't just waltz in and start producing home-cooked meals for the entire cast of a major opera, but Dale offered her services.

Then, the fateful phone call; the committee leader had a last minute vacancy. She jumped at the chance and did such a fantastic job she was quickly made a regular member of the Hospitality team. Dale was hooked. She loved being on the inside. She could see things close up from the front row: the incredible wigs, the stunning costumes, the exquisite earrings! And, over the years, she got to meet many of the visiting singers, and especially members of the chorus. Overall, she has been deeply impressed by the graciousness and gratitude of each cast and chorus member.

For thirteen years now, Dale has served cast meals. But being an

enthusiastic Hospitality volunteer was only the beginning of her involvement with the Opera League. Dale has run Musicales, chaired Gatherings, served on the Drawing Party committee, helped out with Seminars and Junior Opera, staffed the Membership



Where it all began—Dale helps prepare a cast dinner in the Green Room of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

at the Opera, and she is a regular driver for Artist Services – another volunteer activity that she thoroughly enjoys.

A passionate opera lover and dedicated volunteer with seemingly boundless energy, Dale Ross is a superb representative of the Opera League and a person many members are happy to call a friend.

a word from our president

The Opera League is changing: we have a new look and a new outlook reflecting our diverse membership - a vibrant community of opera lovers.

These changes are a direct result of talking to you, our members, about the Opera League experience. Based on your feedback, we challenged ourselves to look forward and set goals for the League's future success: growth in our membership, a larger volunteer support group, innovative education and fundraising programs and a dynamic communications program and identity.

Bravo, our new quarterly newsletter, is one of a number of new communications we are unveiling this spring. All the things you like about the League are in *Bravo* including information about League programs, news about our members, and an easy to read three-month events calendar. With *Bravo*, we also introduce a simpler way to sign up for our unique events such as our May 22nd

Summer, our spring Musicals and an excursion to the Hollywood Bowl on July 10. You can register for these one-of-a-kind events by using the enclosed envelope.

Our new outlook includes entertaining programs and enhancements to existing programs including:

■ A new League Boutique in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion lobby.



Monica Weil

Photo: Robert Millard

This pilot project replaces the Opera Cart and features opera-related, one-of-a kind items.

■ An underwriting campaign to support the student matinees of *Tosca*. This replaces the Annual Drawing and features some wonderful benefits for contributors.

As we set our sights on the future, we must also look back at some of our biggest accomplishments in the past year, including keeping up with LA Opera's 30% increase in performances, a summer festival, and *Operalia*. In the first seven months, our volunteers have already made 254 trips to the airport and by season's end our Hospitality team will have served a staggering 3,000 meals at the cast dinners. Our Volunteer committee has tackled this challenge head-on with dedication and plain hard work! My term as President ends on July 1st and I would like to thank our membership for their support, our volunteers for their continued perseverance, and especially our Opera League Directors for their tremendous contributions, wealth of knowledge, extreme diligence and friendship. I hold you all in the highest regard and offer you my heartfelt gratitude.



Officers

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Rebecca Bowne	Vice President
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Niina Haro	Secretary
Carol Diehlurst	Parliamentarian

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Ernest Prokopovych	Hospitality
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Warren Schubert	Membership
Carol Sholer	Special Events
Stanley Stocks	Fundraising
Janet Wade	Musicales
Dorothy Wait	Community Education
Angela Wood	Gatherings

Consulting Director

Dr. W. Allan Edmiston Seminars
League Telephone: 213 972-2770

Important Opera League changes in 2004-05

The Opera League adopted a strategic plan setting future priorities, which included:

- Increasing and retaining members and volunteers
- Improving communications through the revision of all printed materials
- Revamping fundraising activities to include an Underwriting Campaign, a pilot project for an Opera League Boutique and an Opera Film Program

In addition, we also:

- Expanded the Nominating process to include League members in the selection of nominees for the Board of Directors, and the selection of the recipients of the Peter Hemmings Memorial Award
- Increased the number of volunteer Dress Rehearsal tickets
- Amended the Opera League Bylaws
- Revised the League's web page which shows League activities and includes an application for membership

Visit us at www.operaleague.org

A very important request: If you wish to have a voice in our organization as well as be eligible for best industry company benefits, please send your e-mail address to info@operaleague.org. We would love to have all members on our e-mail list!

Editor Roy Hamilton
Newsletter Design Bacall Creative

the more we know...



At the Opera League of Los Angeles we can't learn enough about our favorite passion. So we've created lots of ways to get together and learn. Each of the following activities gives us the chance to increase our knowledge and enjoy each other's company. And each one has its own special character and unique rewards.

SEMINARS

If you want to learn the most from the best, the Opera League Seminars are for you. Four times a year we get together at the Omni Hotel to hear world-class speakers talk in detail about upcoming productions. These experts are drawn from leading scholars, musicians, authors and critics from across the country and around the world. Just look at who's been here: LA Opera Music Director Kent Nagano, *Verdi* author George Martin, *Wagner* author Bryan Magee, and Pulitzer Prize-winning opera critic Martin Bernheimer. Where else can you learn so much in two and a half hours surrounded by equally enthusiastic opera lovers? *Please see Invitation on page 5.*

MUSICALES

Simply put, an Opera League home. But the actual experience is so hearing talented young Resident Artists of LA Opera perform in the

intimacy of a home to make you appreciate the expressive power of the human voice. To round out the experience, you'll enjoy refreshments in the company of the artists and fellow opera lovers. Musicales are held three or four times a year in areas accessible to as many members as possible. So far this season there have been Musicales in Hancock Park and Pasadena. The final one will be on May 22 in the San Fernando Valley. Don't miss out! *Please see Invitation on page 5.*

GATHERINGS

Getting together at the home of a generous League member, hearing about the upcoming productions, and enjoying good conversation over refreshments – this is what the Gatherings are all about. Because the Opera League sponsors these throughout the Southland, League members and opera lovers have many opportunities to enjoy the presentations by volunteers from the Speakers Bureau and also get to know each other. Upcoming Gatherings will focus on *Falstaff* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. You'll find details on page 5. We welcome the chance to greet you!

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS

Why would approximately 1000 people show up an hour before their



Alan Chapman presents a Pre-Performance Talk in the Grand Hall.

lovers want to know all they can before the overture begins and the Pre-Performance Talks are a great place to learn. At these 45-minute talks, you hear about the music, the libretto, the singers and the opera's historic background, along with illuminating musical examples. So far this season, our excellent speakers have included Alan Chapman, composer/performer/educator/KUSC host; Michael Hackett, Professor of Drama, UCLA; Philip Gainsley, frequent panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz; Duff Murphy, host of KUSC's "Opera Show"; and Paul Floyd, Assistant Conductor, Los Angeles and Santa Fe Operas. The Opera League and the Flora Thornton Foundation sponsor this program so that anyone can attend and enhance their opera-going



calendar

april

African Americans for LA Opera—10th Anniversary Celebration

Brunch and Recital

April 23 (Saturday) 10am-1:30pm

Omni Hotel

Contact: Eva Grant

Phone: 323 663-9735

Ticket Prices: \$55, \$65 & \$75

may

Volunteer for LA Opera

Education Programs*

Saturday Mornings at the Opera (Family Series)

May 14 (Saturday) 8:30-11:30am

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Der Rosenkavalier Rehearsal

May 14 (Saturday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Der Rosenkavalier Rehearsal

May 18 (Wednesday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Der Rosenkavalier Rehearsal

May 19 (Thursday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Falstaff Rehearsal

May 20 (Friday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Education Programs *

Opera for Educators/Opera 101

Falstaff Seminar

May 21 (Saturday) 8am-noon

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Opera Seminar

Falstaff & Der Rosenkavalier

May 22 (Sunday) 9:30am-12 noon

See Invitation on opposite page

Musicale

San Fernando Valley

May 22 (Sunday) 2 - 4pm

See Invitation on opposite page

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Falstaff Rehearsal

May 22 (Sunday) 4:30 - 7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Falstaff Rehearsal

May 23 (Monday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Cast Dinner **

Der Rosenkavalier Rehearsal

May 24 (Tuesday) 4:30-7pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

* Contact: Melody Schubert

Phone: 562 691-7543

** Contact: Ernie Prokopovych

Phone: 818 222-4717

june

The Annual Event

Cocktail Reception

June 5 (Sunday) 5-7pm

Los Angeles Athletic Club

Presentation of 2005 Peter

Hemmings Memorial Award

Special guest artist: Elizabeth Futral

Invitations will be mailed

Volunteer for LA Opera

Education Programs *

Opera 90012

Der Rosenkavalier

June 8 (Wednesday) 4:30-7:30pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer for LA Opera

Education Programs *

Opera 90012

Falstaff

June 15 (Wednesday) 5-8pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

African Americans for LA Opera

Annual Membership Campaign Recital

June 19 (Sunday) 3-6pm

Invitations will be mailed

Special Patron Event

An Intimate Evening with Elizabeth Kennedy

Invitations will be mailed

july

Opera at the Hollywood Bowl

Götterdämmerung, Act III;

Twilight of the Gods

July 10 (Sunday) 7:30pm

See Invitation on opposite page

invitations

Please note that you will *NOT* receive additional invitations in the mail.

The Fourth Seminar of the 2004/2005 Season

Presented by the Opera League of Los Angeles
with partial underwriting from **The Brotman Foundation**
and supported by The Wagner Society.

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005 - 9:30 am to 12 noon

The Omni Hotel, 251 South Olive Street, Los Angeles

FALSTAFF

Der ROSENKAVALIER

Speakers:

Fred Plotkin, Lecturer and Author of *Opera 101*
Frequent Panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz

Ara Guzelimian Artistic Advisor and
Senior Programming Director, Carnegie Hall

Dr. W. Allan Edmiston will be the Moderator

Tickets: \$20.00 for Members, \$30 for non-members and members at the door

Reservations should be received by May 15th

Please complete the enclosed reply envelope

For information: 213 972-7220

San Fernando Valley Musicale

Sunday, May 22 from 2 - 4 pm

Resident artists from LA Opera
Wine, soft drinks and refreshments
League Members \$20, guests \$30

Reservations should be received by May 15th

Please complete the enclosed reply envelope

For information: Janet Wade, 818 727-7766

The Hollywood Bowl Concert

Sunday, July 10 at 7:30 pm

Götterdämmerung, Act 3, Twilight of the Gods

Christine Brewer & Christine Goerke, sopranos

Christian Franz, tenor Alan Held, bass

John Mauceri, conductor

Tickets \$30

Reservations should be received by June 30th

Please complete the enclosed reply envelope

For information: Tadea Pylko, 626 441-9531

The FALSTAFF and Der ROSENKAVALIER GATHERINGS

Ventura, Santa Barb.	May 13	28 Ranchero Road, Bell Canyon	7 - 9:30 pm	Dr. Chris Montgomery	818 346-4145
Orange County	May 15	3064 Java Road, Costa Mesa	2 - 4:30 pm	Claire Chambless	714 533-4186
San Fernando Valley	May 15	4736 Pk Encino Ln #216, Encino	2 - 4:30 pm	Regi Merwin	818 953-8920
San Gabriel Valley	May 17	5278 La Canada Blvd., La Canada	7 - 9:30 pm	Carmen Paz	818 765-2293
Santa Clarita	May 18	24271 San Fernando, Santa Clarita	7 - 9:30 pm	Olga Joseau	661 297-3086
Antelope Valley	May 22	43422 25th. St. West, Lancaster	2 - 4:30 pm	Dr. Harald Krueger	661 728-0671
Westside	May 23	585 Almar Ave., Pacific Palisades	7:30 - 10 pm	Dr. James Shumaker	310 829-1069
Historic L.A.	May 27	718 S. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles	7 - 9:50 pm	Sandra Kotin	323 733-7773

behind the scenes

As the primary volunteer support group for LA Opera, the Opera League is essential to LA Opera's success. Opera League volunteers, the heart and soul of our organization, enjoy an increasing number of opportunities to go behind the scenes and become part of the action.

Below are major areas of volunteer participation crucial to the smooth launching of each production. No matter how you serve, each hour you volunteer helps qualify you for tickets to a dress rehearsal.

HOSPITALITY

When the cast has been rehearsing for hours in full costume and has only a short break, what do these hungry performers do? They can hardly fan out across the plaza in costumes, wigs and make-up, even if this is Hollywood.



Hospitality volunteers gather at a cast dinner.

What they do is go downstairs to the Green Room where Opera League volunteers have set up tables for the performers. Whether a singer from international soloist to first-time chorister (sometimes their makeup makes it hard to tell which!). Besides the hours you accumulate towards dress rehearsal tickets, there is another bonus – the chance, once cleanup is complete, to slip quietly into the theater and watch the rest of the rehearsal.

ARTIST SERVICES

To stage superior productions, a

top-notch opera company like LA Opera brings in artists from around the world. Before these mighty creative people can work their magic onstage and backstage, their basic needs must be met. That's where Artist Services comes in.

Our primary task is driving our distinguished visitors to and from the airport. But it doesn't stop there. When they need to pick up something from the drug store or keep a doctor's appointment, we're there to help. As glamorous as it may seem escorting famous singers around town (and it can be), frequently the most interesting assignments are helping the lesser-known performers and behind-the-scenes veterans whose stories are priceless.

Our goal is to make our guests' visits so congenial that they look forward to returning. Besides accumulating hours towards dress rehearsal tickets, a major reward for Artist Services volunteers is keeping company with some of the most talented people in opera.

It may be the least noticed element in opera, but lighting is absolutely crucial. It defines the mood and gives dimension to the sets, sometimes changing their look completely. For endless hours, the lighting director, stage director and their crew adjust hundreds of lights until each scene is picture perfect. When they can't complete these adjustments with singers on stage, they turn to light-walkers, a rare breed of Opera League volunteers

League volunteer Alina Guzman interacts with youngsters at a Saturday Mornings at the Opera event.

who stand in for the singers. Light-walkers need to be available at odd hours and be available at odd hours. They need to be unafraid of heights. They need to wear colors similar to the costumes and be able to stand completely still for long periods of time (45 minutes to an hour), even on a raked stage!

If standing on the set and watching the magic happen around you sounds appealing, you may have what it takes to be one of the few, the proud, the strong...the light-walkers.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Opera League's collective passion for opera makes us an ideal partner for LA Opera's Education and Community Programs. And because there are so many activities, we can find one to match your interests and skills, whether you're good with kids or with their teachers, whether you enjoy intimate gatherings or working with large groups. Some commitments are demanding of your time, others take place only once a year.

Whatever your preference, a great benefit of serving with Education and Community Outreach is meeting like-minded individuals devoted to promoting their operatic passion. And often, when your task is done, you can attend the lecture or performance. It's another great way to be part of the action.



getting together

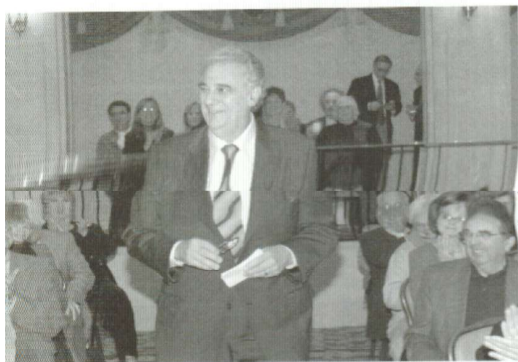


Photo: Robert Millard

At the January 2005 Insider's Preview, Plácido Domingo moves towards the podium to announce the 2005/2006 Season. This event, which took place at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in front of 750 League members and their guests, proves to be one of the League's most anticipated events.

HELP STUDENTS SEE *TOSCA* – WIN "TOSCA'S KISS"

Your non-opera pals might think it romantic when you claim to have received "Tosca's Kiss." But your Opera League buddies will first look at you with suspicious eyes askance. Later, of course, they will congratulate you, because they'll realize that you have contributed to our major fundraising campaign for 2005. Our goal: to financially assist the Company

in staging two special performances of *Tosca* so that over 6,000 students from area schools will experience great opera, probably for the first time. As a thank you, campaign contributors will receive a unique letter-opener designed in the shape of a dagger and engraved "Tosca's Kiss." Look for the upcoming mailing that will give you the chance to contribute and receive special benefits. Help students learn the excitement and joy of opera, and make sure that opera remains a healthy part of our community well

THE LEAGUE GOES TO THE BOWL!

The Opera League has reserved a limited number of good seats (in a block immediately behind the boxes) for Act III of *Götterdämmerung* on Sunday evening, July 10th, at the Hollywood Bowl. Please refer to the invitation on page 5 for details. Join us for what promises to be an exciting evening of Wagner under the stars, from Siegfried's heroic horn call to the destruction of Valhalla and the purification of the earth. Bring dessert and maybe a bottle of German wine to share with your friends and neighbors!



Photo: Henry Merkle

This festive Benefit Evening for the League's Sustaining and Special Patron members took place at the beautiful home of LA Opera Board members Carol and Warner Henry. Guests enjoyed a fascinating conversation between Kathryn Fauble on the right, and soprano Milena Kitic, who was currently singing the title role of *Carmen*.



Photo: Kimball Hall

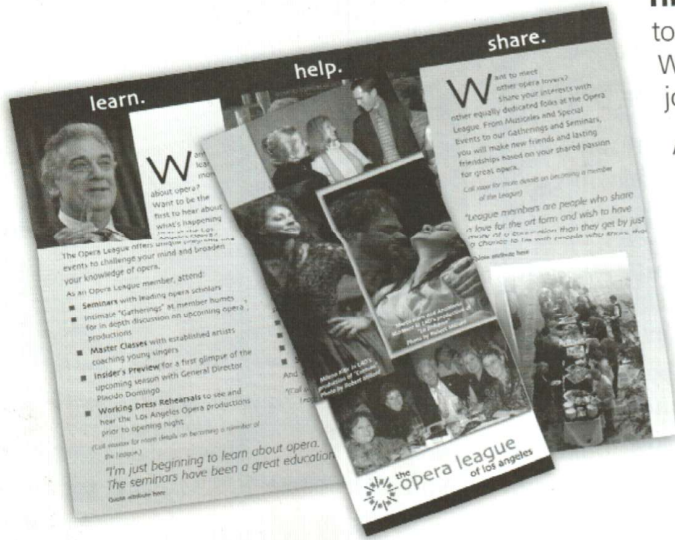
Dr. Sherwin Sloan and Duff Murphy, the recipients of the first Peter Hemmings Memorial Award, photographed at the League's Annual Event at the Skirball Center last summer.

ELIZABETH FUTRAL AT THE ANNUAL EVENT

The Annual Event is the most important social occasion of the year for the Opera League. Therefore, it is fitting that soprano Elizabeth Futral will perform as our special guest artist. In town to sing Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and warmly remembered as Cleopatra in the 2001 production of *Giulio Cesare*, Elizabeth Futral has established herself as one of the major coloratura sopranos in the world today, with stunning vocalism, dramatic range, and great beauty. This exciting event, at which we honor the recipients of the Second Annual Peter Hemmings Memorial Award for their contributions to opera in Los Angeles, will be held at the historic and exclusive Los Angeles Athletic Club, recently selected as one of the finest private clubs in America. Make your plans now to attend this crowning event of the season. Look for your invitation to arrive in May.

At a recent League Film Event, Academy Award winning director Maximilian Schell, LA Opera's Artistic Director Edgar Baitzel and author and lecturer Dr. Paul Fryer discuss the upcoming

spread the word...



The Opera League of Los Angeles is your insider's guide to the world of opera in one of the nation's most exciting arts cities. When you are a member of the Opera League of Los Angeles, you join kindred spirits—opera enthusiasts just like you.

As a member, you already know the benefits of membership: unique events, behind-the-scenes access, stimulating volunteer opportunities and great conversations, to name a few. So why keep it secret?

Tell a friend today about the League or give us your friend's information and we will send a new membership brochure.

Contact us at:

Phone: 213 972-7220 (24 hour message center)

Email: info@operaleague.org

Mail: The Opera League of Los Angeles
Membership Chair
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

“Through its many membership activities and volunteer support programs, the Opera League of Los Angeles provides a tremendous sense of family that is unique in the opera world.”

—Plácido Domingo, LA Opera General Director



135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

