

## *A Tribute to a Special Friend*

**O**n Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Opera League lost a true friend and valuable member, Dale Ross.

Dale's funeral mass was held at St. Finbar's in Burbank on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 14 co-celebrants including Monsignors and priests. Over 700 people attended. Los Angeles Opera provided Domingo-Thornton Young Artists Angel Blue to sing the *Ave Maria*, accompanied by Douglas Sumi.

*Some condensed excerpts from Opera League President, Dorothy Wait's eulogy...*

Opera was Dale's real passion. She was the first Opera League of Los Angeles Volunteer of the Year, because she literally did everything. Can't you just picture her walking along with her square cart on wheels chock full of all the things she needed as she headed off to an Opera League event?

One of her favorite activities was transporting opera artists from and to LAX. According to Bob Bernard our Artist Services Chair, Dale earned several "La Cenerentola Awards" for greeting artists in and around the midnight hour and "La Sonnambula Awards" for transporting a departing artist to LAX prior to 7 am. In one of her assignments, she managed to get through traffic barricades by telling a traffic officer "I've got one big diva opera singer waiting for me and if I can't get to her to get her to the airport it's not going to be pretty."

Another favorite League activity was cast dinners. For years Dale was either Cast Dinner Chair or Assistant Chair. After that responsibility ended, she attended almost every dinner. When

you consider that she brought food for 25 people each time, over years she fed hundreds of cast members.

As Membership Chair she was at every event. That job is very time-consuming and demanding. Dale did it with her usual cheerful good will.



Dale Ross

Dale's last day was spent with her friend Barbara Merkle attending the Long Beach Opera production of *The Cunning Little Vixen*. They went to dinner and had such a good time. To think that her last day was so joyous helps to ease the pain of her loss. The cause of death has been established as a heart attack.

We will greatly miss Dale's humor, warmth and kindness. She welcomed new members to the League as if they were long lost friends and made all volunteers feel welcomed and appreciated. She participated in her friends' lives; she helped with weddings, sent remembrances, called to tell of a

special event that might be of interest and even borrowed a dog so that she could join friends in Downtown Dog Day at the Cathedral!

Dale always ended her e-mails or conversations with the word "Later" as in "See you later." So we say to our darling Dale with her cute upturned nose and unique hairstyle, her clear blue eyes and smile as wide as a hug, "Later, we'll see you later."

The Opera League has developed the Dale Ross Memorial Fund. Contributions may be made to Opera League of Los Angeles and note Dale Ross Fund in the memo portion of the check. Mail to: Opera League of Los Angeles, P.O. Box 65918, Los Angeles CA 90065-0918.

*Photo by Brita Millard*

## *Fly Away to the Worlds of Braunfel and Verdi with Our Spring Seminar on Die Vögel and La Traviata*

Don't miss the last Opera League seminar on Saturday, April 5 from 1 to 4 pm at the 5th floor salon of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Two operas will be the topic of this seminar: *Die Vögel* and *La Traviata*.

Dr. Michael Hackett, Professor of Theater at UCLA, will introduce us to Walter Braunfel's *Die Vögel* (*The*

*Birds*) which was adapted from Aristophanes' extravagant and whimsical allegory with a serious political motif. The production of this opera is a continuation of LA Opera Music Director, James Conlon's multi-year "Recovered Voices" project that strives to raise public consciousness to the significance of works of composers whose lives and

*Continued on page 6*

## a word from our president

Dear Members and Friends,

It is only the beginning of February as I write this column for the spring issue and so much has transpired already this year. Thanks to Diane Gray, event chair, and social chair, Steve Kohn along with other volunteers our Insider "Ring" Preview on January 20 was a huge success! It featured LA Opera's Music Director James Conlon, costume experts Hallie Dufresne and Heather Bair, and music from the "Ring" performed by artists Jeannine Altmeyer, Arnold Bezuyen, and Ronnita Miller, accompanied by Mark Robson.

However, shortly after, on January 26 we were notified that our dear Dale Ross was gone. The shock of her sudden passing away was overwhelming and filled us with deep sadness. We not only lost a dear friend, we lost someone who was so integral to the League, so involved on the Executive Committee and the Board as membership chair and participant in many activities. We are currently reassigning activities to other members, so please be patient with us if your membership renewal or other things you are waiting for are a little late. Truly, we are still reeling from the loss of Dale, but the work of the League goes on.

Our all day seminar on February 14 focused on *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* and had a very large attendance. Thanks go to Allan Edmiston, who engaged the four talented speakers, and to Annie Prokopovych, the event chair, and to the many volunteers for bringing this about. The German-style lunch and the "Romance of the Ring" quiz enhanced the terrific day of education and fun. The first-place winner of the quiz, which was developed by Wendy Van Haerlem and Janet Ciriello, was Norman Cadman.



**Dorothy Wait, President**

At this writing, the results of our first fundraising concerts are not yet known. However, we are most grateful to Millicent Gappell and her husband Stanley Sklupe for graciously hosting the concerts. Millicent and Allyson Johnson performed operatic music transcribed for piano on the twin grand pianos. We'll keep you posted about future fundraising efforts to help keep the League going financially so that we in turn can help keep LA Opera going during these difficult times.

Our website has been able to register event attendees online, which is turning into a great asset. We can also accept membership registrations and renewals online. I want to recognize Ed Shaff for his work in the ongoing development of the website. And I want to acknowledge our outstanding 24 hour message line directors, Eleanor Gnuip and Wendy Van Haerlem. Many calls are returned everyday and the numbers markedly increase preceding events when they take reservations by phone.

I want to also recognize our wonderful volunteers helping with the community education programs, working at the Boutique, transporting artists, providing food for cast dinners, and contributing in many other ways.

Warm regards,  
Dorothy



### Executive Committee

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Send mail to: P. O. Box 65918,  
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## Our Hope And Optimism Spring Musicale on May 2

We all need a dose of optimism now and then, and now more than ever. Our Spring Musicale on Saturday, May 2nd, will feature optimistic selections from the opera repertory.

Come join us from 2 to 4:30 pm at a restored home in the historic Adams Neighborhood, Mid-Wilshire, to celebrate good music, good friends, and to enjoy snacks in an after-concert reception in a beautiful garden. (See the invitation on page 5.)

## Peter Hemmings Memorial Award 2009

By Brita Millard

In 2004 the Board of the Opera League of Los Angeles established the "Peter Hemmings Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Los Angeles Opera" to honor Peter Hemmings for his leadership, enthusiasm for opera, and in particular for his interest and support of the educational programs of both organizations. This annual award was formalized as a tradition of honoring individuals who stimulated interest and participation in opera in our community.

This year's honoree is Dr. Stacy Brightman, Los Angeles Opera's Director of Education and Community Programs. She is directly responsible for the oversight and production of the company's Education and Community Programs, which currently serves 160,000 students and family members annually. In addition, she is also in charge of developing new programs, supervising in-school and community opera commissions, productions and tours, creating and leading teacher seminars, and partnering with schools, community organizations, and volunteer groups.

This celebration will take place at the renowned Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, on **Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 5:30 pm.**

We will start with a champagne reception, hors d'oeuvres, followed by a three-course menu (with red and white wine included), and a program consisting of arias by the Domingo-Thornton Young Artists singers. Please show your support and join us at this prestigious event.

Watch for your invitation in the mail. After you receive your invitation, you may register for this event by mail, by phone, or on our website at [www.operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org).



Dr. Stacy Brightman

Photo: Bob Millard

## The Insider "Ring" Preview

By Edward Lieb

Many of our Opera League members enjoyed the special version of our yearly "Insiders' Preview" on January 20.

First, James Conlon, the Richard Seaver Music Director of LA Opera, thanked our League members for meeting artists at LAX, helping them in many ways, and returning them to LAX. He also thanked our League volunteers for the cast dinners. He and the opera casts really look forward to the rehearsals when the League provides their dinner!

Maestro Conlon then talked about the "Ring" operas and Achim Freyer's staging and gave us a run-down on who will

be singing what parts in the four operas. (This will include our own Plácido Domingo who will be singing "Siegfried" in *Die Walküre*.)

The second presentation was by Heather Bair and Hallie Dufresne. Heather is a senior craft person in her 6th season at LA Opera, and Hallie is a

cutter/drafter who has worked on Broadway and with five US companies.



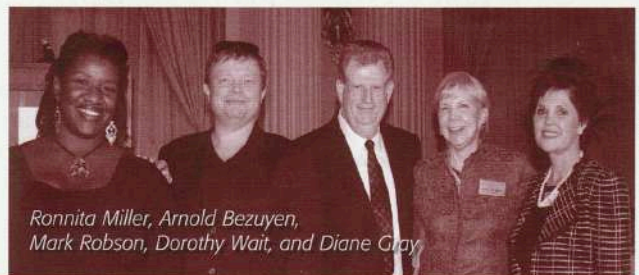
Heather Bair and Hallie Dufresne

They brought several of the costumes that they were helping Achim Freyer create for the first two "Ring" operas. These are very different from the usual costumes because they are made from stiff material that Mr. Freyer himself often decorates.

Our third presentation was by a group of very talented singers who sang selections from various "Ring" operas.

Ronnita Miller (mezzo-soprano) sang "Weiche, Wotan! Weiche!" from Scene 4 of *Das Rheingold*. Arnold Bezuyen (tenor), who is Loge in our production, sang "Immer ist Undank Loges Lohn" from Scene 2 of *Das Rheingold*. And Jeannine Altmeyer (soprano) sang "Starke Scheite schichtet mir dort" from Act 3, Scene 3 of *Götterdämmerung*.

They were accompanied by a truly amazing pianist, Mark Robson, who is on the faculty at the Herb Alpert School of Music at Cal Arts. Anyone who can play the music from the last act of *Götterdämmerung* HAS to be extremely talented!



Ronnita Miller, Arnold Bezuyen, Mark Robson, Dorothy Wait, and Diane Gray

Photos: Edward Lieb

## c a l e n d a r

## March

**Cast Dinners***Thursday, March 12, 5:30 pm**Friday, March 13, 5:30 pm**Monday, March 23, 5:30 pm**Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 pm**Thursday, March 26, 5:30 pm**Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Laurel Howat, Ldhowat@aol.com,  
 562.810.5724

**Opera 101***Saturday, March 14, 8-4 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Alma Guzmán, Nr1Hugr@aol.com

**Opera For Educators***Sunday, March 29, 8-4 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Alma Guzmán, Nr1Hugr@aol.com

## April

**Spring Seminar***Sunday, April 5, 1-4 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5th floor  
 See invitation on page 5.

**Opera Talk at Julienne's***Monday, April 6, 7 pm*

2649 Mission St., San Marino  
 \$10 for program and beverage, an extra \$10  
 for the "Light Supper Box"  
 Reservations are required. Call  
 626.441.2299 ext 20  
 or email Julie@julienne.biz

**Cast Dinners***Tuesday, April 7, 6 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Laurel Howat, Ldhowat@aol.com,  
 562.810.5724

**Backstage Magic**

For Regular Membership level and above

*Tuesday, April 14, 6 pm**Wednesday, April 15, 6 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
 See the invitation on page 5.

**Opera For Educators***Saturday, April 18, 8-4 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Alma Guzmán, Nr1Hugr@aol.com

## May

**Spring Musicale***Saturday, May 2, 2-4:30 pm*

At a historic home in Los Angeles  
 See the invitation on page 5.

**Opera Talk at Julienne's***Monday, May 6, 7 pm*

2649 Mission St., San Marino  
 \$10 for program and beverage, an  
 extra \$10 for the "Light Supper Box"  
 Reservations are required. Call  
 626.441.2299 ext 20  
 or email Julie@julienne.biz

**Hemmings Award Event***Saturday, May 9, 5:30 pm*

Riviera Country Club, Pacific  
 Palisades  
 Invitations will be mailed

**Cast Dinners***Wednesday, May 13, 5:30 pm**Saturday, May 16, 6 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Laurel Howat, Ldhowat@aol.  
 com, 562.810.5724

**Senior Dress Rehearsal***Tuesday, May 19, 12 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
 Contact Alma Guzmán, Nr1Hugr@  
 aol.com

**Opera For Educators and  
Opera 101***Saturday, May 30, 8-4 pm*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
 Contact Alma Guzmán, Nr1Hugr@  
 aol.com

## June

**Opera Talk at Julienne's***Monday, June 1, 7 pm*

2649 Mission St., San Marino  
 \$10 for program and beverage, an  
 extra \$10 for the "Light Supper Box"  
 Reservations are required. Call  
 626.441.2299 ext 20  
 or email Julie@julienne.biz

**Antelope Valley**

Please call for information about future meetings  
 Dr. Harald Krueger 661.728.0671

**Beverly Hills****La Traviata**

Sunday, May 24, 10 am

2712 Monte Mar Terrace, Los Angeles

Millicent Gappell 310.836.4676

Anne Russell Sullivan 323.697.9733

**Claremont****The Birds**

Sunday, March 22, 2-5 pm

150 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont

**La Traviata**

Sunday, May 17, 2-5 pm

530 West 11th Street, Claremont

Patricia O'Donnell 909.447.5038

**Hollywood/Hancock Park****The Birds and La Traviata**

Saturday, March 21, 2-5 pm

441 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles

Mike and Claudia Margolis 323.935.3366

**Orange County****The Birds and La Traviata**

Sunday, March 29, 2-4:45 pm

19 Bella Rosa, Irvine

Claire Chambliss 714.533.4186

**San Fernando Valley****The Birds and La Traviata**

Sunday, March 22, 3-5:30 pm

10240 Camarillo St., Unit #102, Toluca Lake

Jackie Johns 818.980.5743

**San Gabriel Valley****The Birds**

Tuesday, March 24, 7-9:30 pm

**La Traviata**

Tuesday, April 28, 7-9:30 pm

5278 La Canada Blvd., La Canada

Michael Sholer 818.502.1988

**Santa Clarita****Walküre**

Monday, March 30, 7 pm

**La Traviata**

Monday, May 25, 7 pm

23710 La Salle Canyon Rd, Newhall

Kathy Crandall 661.255.9661

**South Bay**

Location, date and time to be arranged

Please call for information

Bob Lerner 310.543.4544

**Southeast****La Traviata**

Monday, May 18, 7 pm

Whittier Public Library

7344 South Washington Ave., Whittier

Carlos Rodriguez 562.692.5577

**Ventura County****The Birds and La Traviata**

Sunday, March 29, 2 pm

1724 Shady Brook Dr., Thousand Oaks

Ann Randall 805.445.8250

**Westside****The Birds and La Traviata**

Monday, March 30, 7:15-9:45 pm

12938 Evanston St., Los Angeles

Monika Whitaker 310.826.4743

Chuck or Alice Bragg 310.454.9662

# invitations

Please note that this is the *ONLY* invitation you will receive for these events.

## Opera League Seminar Die Vögel and La Traviata

**Sunday, April 5, 2009, 1 to 4 pm**  
at the Dorothy Chandler  
Pavilion, 5th floor salon  
135 North Grand Ave.

(Enter under the outside stairs on  
Grand, then take the elevator to the  
5th floor)

**Speakers: Dr. Michael Hackett  
and Mr. Fred Plotkin**

Refreshments will be served  
during the break.

Tickets at the door: \$35  
(or a voucher for Members)

Your mailed reservations must  
be received by March 30.

Online reservations must be received by April 1

### Number of Seminar Tickets

\_\_\_ x Member (or voucher) @ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x Non-member @ \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x Student member @ \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Backstage Magic

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 6 pm**  
and

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009,  
6 pm**

**Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
135 N. Grand Ave.**

Each day will be the same to  
accommodate as many members  
as possible.

Regular Level members (no guests)  
and above can register online at [www.  
operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org) or by calling the  
hotline at 213. 972.7220. Indicate  
the date you wish to attend and the  
name(s) of the members.

Limited space is available, so  
first-come, first-served!

Please notify the League if you must  
cancel a reservation so other members  
will be able to attend.

\_\_\_ x Member for April 14  
\_\_\_ x Member for April 15

## "Hope and Optimism" Musicale

**Saturday, May 2, 2009,  
2-4:30 pm**

**At a home in the  
historic Adams District**

You will receive directions to this  
musicale in your self-addressed  
stamped envelope (or by email if  
you register online).

Your mailed reservations must be  
received by April 25.

See the article on page 2 for more  
information.

### Number of Musicale Tickets

\_\_\_ x Member (or voucher) @ \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x Non-member @ \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x Student member @ \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ORDER FORM (Please return this entire page with your order)

You can order online at [www.operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org), or you can use this form to check the number of tickets you wish to order, then enclose your check, credit card info, or voucher(s) for the total amount. Make your check out to the **Opera League of LA**. Enclose a *self-addressed stamped envelope* so the tickets and other information may be mailed back to you. *Sorry, no refunds!*

Mail to: The Opera League of LA, P.O. Box 65918, Los Angeles, CA 90065-0918.

Seminar     Backstage Magic     Musicale

**Be sure you have indicated (on the forms above) the number of tickets you want for each event.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (circle)    M/Card    Visa    AmEx    Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call the Opera League 24 Hour message line at 213.972.7220 or e-mail OLLA at: [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org).

## *The Opera League Wishes to Give a Special Thank You to our Patron Members!*

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## **Backstage Magic** *April 14th or 15th*

LA Opera will provide Opera League members with another special evening of behind the scenes magic. You can attend either one of two presentations: Tuesday, April 14 or Wednesday April 15, both starting at 6 pm.

During this event, members will take a guided tour of the stage and have a talk by Rupert Hemmings, Production Director, or other team members. We will be able to see the stage for *Die Walküre* and hear about the joys and challenges of staging opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The attendees for each evening will be divided into two groups. One group will tour while

a reception is provided for the other and then they will reverse the order.

This event is a benefit for membership levels Regular and above. Sorry, there can be no guests (because space will be very limited on each evening). Reservations will be taken on a first-come first-served basis (see the invitation on page 5).

IF YOU MUST CANCEL, please notify the League via the hotline (at 213. 972.7220) or send an email to [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org) so that members on the waiting list can be accommodated.

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*Braunfel and Verdi Opera Seminars - Continued from page 1*

compositions were affected by the Holocaust and the Nazi regime.

Fred Plotkin will present a talk on Verdi's masterpiece of romantic opera, *La Traviata*. It is a timeless work that transcends sentimentality to reinforce the notion that the highest virtue in a human is having a good heart.

Fred Plotkin was Performance Manager of the Metropolitan Opera, has directed opera at La Scala, has coached singers, and has lectured at more than 40 universities in the United States and Europe. He also is a popular guest speaker on the Saturday afternoon Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts and was featured in the January 2008 issue of *Opera News*.

Mark your calendar and join us on April 5 for an enlightening seminar. (See the invitation on page 5.)

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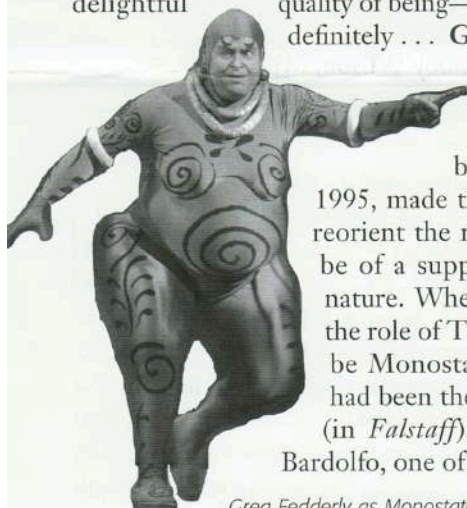
## It's Not Easy Bein' Green

By Bob Bernard

The late Jim Henson's alter ego, Kermit The Frog, said it so well: "People tend to pass you over 'cause you're not standing out like flashy sparkles in the sky."

Joe Raposo's lyrics, although written to promote themes of tolerance and fair play for youngsters, also apply to the world of opera, specifically: It is all too facile for the average opera-goer to overlook the performance of the non-principal singers, the comprimarios whose contributions so often make the difference between a good performance and a great one.

In Los Angeles Opera's recent production of *The Magic Flute*, we were treated to another stellar performance by tenor Greg Fedderly, an artist who has dedicated his career into being a comprimario. In this production, Mr. Fedderly's characterization of Monostatos had the delightful quality of being—in every sense—most definitely . . . **GREEN**.



Greg Fedderly as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*  
Photo: Robert Millard for LAO

Just as Kermit decided, "I think it's what I want to be", Greg, around 1995, made the career decision to reorient the roles he strove for to be of a supportive, even comic, nature. Where once he had sung the role of Tamino, now he would be Monostatos; where once he had been the young lover Fenton (in *Falstaff*), now he would be Bardolfo, one of Falstaff's lackeys.

The results of his career decision have been gratifying to Greg and an unending treat for audiences everywhere. A regular now at the Met, Greg includes in his repertoire there the roles of Goro, Bob Boles (*Peter Grimes*), Don Basilio, Valzacchi (*Der Rosenkavalier*), and Monostatos, including that historic performance of January 21, 2006, the first 'round the world live telecast from the Met.

As LAO's Monostatos, Greg maneuvered about in that bulbous costume, evoking laughter at every entrance and exit. For the last *Falstaff* that LAO did in 2005, Bryn Terfel was only here for a few days prior to the May 28

opening. So it was, as the performance run progressed and the cast members grew more comfortable with each other, each succeeding show evidenced increasing hilarious physical interplay between Greg (as Bardolfo) and Terfel's misguided knight.

Ironically, it was just as Greg's career as a lead tenor was achieving new heights that he decided upon this shift in direction. A Swedish-made film of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, released in 1995, featured Greg as Tom Rakewell (a naïve country lad, who is easy prey for the sleazy delights of London), Barbara Hendricks as Ann Trulove (Tom's betrothed), and Håkan Hagegård as Nick Shadow (a Mephistophelean character). Gunnar Källström directed the photography, and some beautiful scenes of the Swedish countryside in summer are captured in this film.

Looking back, Greg Fedderly has impacted the history of Los Angeles Opera more than any other singer (save Maestro Domingo). Greg, along with Rod Gilfry, Suzanna Guzmán, John Atkins, and Richard Bernstein, worked to build an audience in preparation for the opening of Los Angeles Opera [originally christened the Los Angeles Music Center Opera] in October of 1986. They went into private homes, gave mini-concerts, and encouraged sign-ups for season subscriptions.

Then, with the LAO off and running, these young singers matriculated into what became the first group of Resident Artists associated with the company. Initially assigned to small parts and covering major roles, they, as they developed, moved into major roles themselves. Greg reveres the memory of founding General Director Peter Hemmings, recalling, "It was he who provided the opportunity for us to develop without having to go to Europe to sing."

Continued on page 8



Fedderly as the Steersman in *Der Fliegende Holländer*  
Photo: Robert Millard for LAO, Photo Montage by May Wang

*Fedderly, continued from page 7*

Greg holds the singular distinction of having performed in at least one opera every season since that opening in 1986. Sometimes the roles have required special preparation; other times they have required a lot of *nerve*. For his role as the marriage broker Goro in Robert Wilson's production of *Madama Butterfly*, Mr. Wilson tutored Greg for hours on end in the development of that super-smooth heel-and-toe walk which gave us the impression that Greg's Goro was moving about on some sort of a motorized skateboard.

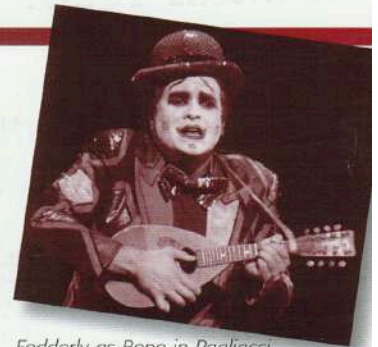
For his role as the Steersman in Julie Taymor's production of *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Greg was on station at the helm of Daland's hull-of-a-ship a full eighteen feet above the stage. (He would have been placed even closer to the thirty foot high proscenium arch, only Ms. Taymor didn't want the folks in the upper balcony to be un-sighted.) Some years earlier, he was suspended a like distance above the stage as the Phrygian sailor Hylas in Berlioz' *Les Troyens*, singing a lullabye.

A native of Wisconsin, Greg has grown roots in our Southland. He earned a graduate degree from USC, being the first recipient of the Marilyn Horne Scholarship. He is owner of the Off Vine Restaurant (located at Sunset & Vine), an establishment specializing in California Comfort Cuisine. It is temporarily *hors de combat* because of fire damage, but is scheduled for re-opening this coming summer.

Early in *The Rake's Progress*, the Tom Rakewell character muses about life and success, reasoning (mistakenly) that,

"It is not [by] merit we rise or we fall, but the favor of Fortune that governs us all."

Greg Fedderly has avoided that trap and, by recognizing his inherent personal aptitudes, has found his "Trulove" in becoming the *Tenore Buffo . . . Assoluta!*



*Fedderly as Bepe in Pagliacci*  
Photo: Robert Millard for LAO



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