



Opera Star To Dazzle At Spring Musicale

By Thomas Shepherd

Once in a while the stuff of our dreams alights and we find that we are in the living presence of the gods that rule our passions. And so to spend a few hours a month with our gods and goddesses of singing at the Dorothy Chandler becomes our pilgrimage. We are so fortunate to have live access to our Legendary Domingo, our Divine Netrebko, our Supreme Fleming. We are so blessed to have the LA Opera... our own urban Valhalla where the gods are always "IN"!

Well, prepare yourself for an Opera League event where you and your guests will be rubbing shoulders with one of our very own "live-from-Los Angeles" goddesses.

On Saturday, April 30, at 2:00 pm, world-renowned soprano, Carol Neblett, will be our guest at our annual Spring Musicale to entertain you with stories and personal anecdotes of her most amazing career.

One of America's greatest and most acclaimed sopranos, Carol Neblett made her operatic debut in 1969 with the New York City Opera as Musetta, in *La Bohème*. Her career has spanned over forty years, performing opera's most coveted roles in the world's greatest opera houses, including the Metropolitan

Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Salzburg, Hamburg and Chicago Lyric Opera.

The Musicale will be hosted in a fabulous private home in Sherman Oaks. Our beloved Mark Robson will be our conductor and special guest singers will be on hand to sing arias representative of Carol's repertoire. And... POSSIBLY... Carol will sing an aria HERSELF!!!!!! It just doesn't get any closer to heaven than that!

Reservations are limited. This is sure to be a quick sell-out event. Go online now at www.operaleague.org or mail your response (see the "Invitation" page).

BASK IN THE GLOW OF YOUR DREAM OF THE GODS COME TRUE!!!



Carol Neblett

Photo: Publicity Photo

OUR ANNUAL "HEMMINGS AWARD" EVENT

By Monica Gutierrez-Roper

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 Grant Gershon. Grant joined LA Opera during the 2007/08 season as Associate Conductor / Chorus Master. In the 2008/09 season, he made his highly acclaimed LA Opera debut leading performances of Verdi's *La Traviata*. Grant is

now beginning his 10th season as music director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, where he has garnered tremendous critical acclaim during his tenure with the renowned chorus.

We will start with a champagne reception and 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.

This celebration will take place at the Los Angeles Athletic Club on Sunday, June 5, starting in the late afternoon.

After you receive your invitation in the mail, you may register for this event by mail, by phone, or on our website at www.operaleague.org.



Grant Gershon

Photo: LA Opera

a word from our president

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who planned and worked on this year's Season Preview, held on February 7 at the beautiful Millennium Biltmore Hotel. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Flora L. Thornton and her widower, Mr. Eric Small, joined us. Over 300 members enjoyed musical selections from the upcoming season performed by the Domingo-Thornton Young Artists. They were introduced by Joshua Winograde, LA Opera's Artistic Planning Director and Director of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist's Program. Christopher Koelsch, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of LA Opera also joined us. Maestro James Conlon took time out from rehearsal to thank the League for all we do for the company and talked about the upcoming season.

The League has many educational and interesting events planned for this spring. Be sure to join us for a Musicales with Carol Neblett on April 30 and don't miss our Casino Night on May 21, which will raise funds in honor of the 25 Anniversary of LA



Judy Lieb, President

Opera. Our Annual Hemmings Award Dinner is on June 5. This year we are honoring Grant Gershon, Associate Conductor and Chorus Master of the LA Opera and Music Director of the Los Angeles Mater Chorale. Check out the articles in this issue of Bravo and join us!

My term as President is coming to an end this June. I want to thank members of the League, Board members, and our marvelous volunteers for all the support and hard work they do during the year to help us support LA Opera.

You can contact any member of the Board or request more information via email at info@operaleague.org or leave a message on our 24-hour message line at 213.972.7220. Since we do not have paid staff, an Opera League volunteer will respond to your inquiry in a timely manner.

All the Best,

Judy



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Visit us at www.operaleague.org

Send mail to: PO Box 8266
Calabasas, CA 91372

Send e-mail to: info@operaleague.org
24-hour League Message Line: 213.972.7220

Gathering Heads Needed

Both the Hollywood/Hancock Park and Southeast regions are presently without a Gathering Head. Any member residing in either one of those geographical regions and interested in the opportunity of becoming a new regional Gathering Head, should contact either

Kathy Crandall, at skimeup@gmail.com
or Fred Dear, at fldear@sbcglobal.net

Editor	Diane Gray
Assistant Editor	Edward Lieb
Newsletter Design	Bacall:Creative
Printer	Licher Direct Mail

If you want to be eligible for last minute benefits and Opera League notices, please send your e-mail address to info@operaleague.org. We would love to have all members on our e-mail list! Send your "second member" addresses also!

“Casino Night” Fundraiser for LA Opera

By Dorothy Wait, event chair

To honor the momentous achievement of LA Opera’s 25th Anniversary please join us for a very special Casino Night Fundraiser on Saturday, May 21, at 6 pm, where you can “gamble” for prizes and fun. Check out the Sheraton of Los Angeles’ address: 711 S. Hope Street! When one thinks about all the risks LA Opera gambled on through the years culminating with last season’s “Ring”, the selection of a casino night seems a fitting way to pay tribute.

When you arrive, enjoy a glass of champagne as you attend the tutorial to acquaint or refresh yourself with blackjack, poker, craps, roulette, poker tournaments and others. (Instructions for the various games will also be available on the Opera League website.) You will receive “funny money” with your entrance fee to buy chips for gambling as well as two raffle tickets. There will also be a “silent auction” table.

Each sponsored table will be named for an opera. *Tapas* will be passed throughout the evening, and there will be a no host bar. You can even have a tarot card reading for an additional fee.

When the gambling concludes, chips will be cashed in for raffle tickets. The raffle drawing will take place, and silent auction winners will be announced. You will have an opportunity to win a week’s stay in a New York condo and opening night tickets for LA Opera and reception among

many other highly desirable prizes.

A mailed invitation will be forthcoming later. Please save the date for what promises to be a very special event.

We are grateful to our gaming table sponsors: Margi and David Barry, Alice and Joe Coulombe, Diane and Pete Gray, Joan Friedman and Robert Braun, Susan and Bruce Heard, Larry Kern, Brita Millard, Barbara and Armin Sadoff, Molly and Richard Siefert and Anne Russell Sullivan.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact me at dorothywait@roadrunner.com or call me at 818-760-1870.



Using the Opera League Web Site

In order to reduce mailing costs and achieve more timely communication with our membership, we are increasingly using electronic mail for communicating with our membership. You will also find that you can renew your membership and register for events very efficiently using the League website, www.operaleague.org.

Student Bus Transportation Fund Update

Last year, Arnold Bezuyen (Loge in our Ring Cycle) did a wonderful benefit concert for the League. The proceeds from this concert became the foundation for our “Student Bus Transportation Fund”. In addition, Board Member Ed Shaff donated the proceeds from the opening night gala of his one-man show, “Churchill”. Many members also made contributions when they sent

in their membership renewals, and the Board decided to add to the fund as well.

Due to major cuts in school budgets, this fund has been well used during the past season and has allowed several schools from diverse communities to send students to the “Opera Prep” program and the “Elementary Student Matinees”. In fact, 75% of the students

at the Elementary events were there because the League provided transportation funds! If you would like to support this League endeavor, you can include an extra contribution in your membership renewal, or send a check to the Opera League, marked “Bus Transportation Fund” in the memo line. The teachers and students thank you!

calendar

April

Opera Talks at Julienne's

Monday, April 4, 7 pm

Contact: Carol Sholer

Opera Talks in Long Beach

Saturday, April 9, 2-3 pm

At the El Dorado Library

Contact: John Spear

Cast Dinner

Thursday, April 28, 11 am

Cast dinner and staff luncheon

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor

Volunteers, contact: Cheryl Dowden

Musicale

Saturday, April 30, at 2 pm

At a home on the westside

See the "Invitation" on p. 5

Opera for Educators and Opera 101

Saturday, April 30, 8 am to 4 pm

(L'Allegro)

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor

Volunteers, contact: Wendy Van

Hearlem

May

Opera Talks at Julienne's

Monday, May 2, 7 pm

Contact: Carol Sholer

Opera Talks in Long Beach

Saturday, May 14, 2-3 pm

At the El Dorado Library

Contact: John Spear

Cast Dinner

Thursday, May 5, 3:30 pm (L'Allegro, cast and orchestra)

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor

Contact: Cheryl Dowden

"Casino Night" Fundraiser

Saturday, May 21, at 6 pm

Sheraton of Los Angeles

711 S. Hope Street

An invitation will be mailed

June

Annual "Hemmings' Award"

Sunday, June 5

At the Los Angeles Athletic Club

An invitation will be mailed

Opera Talks at Julienne's

Monday, June 6, 7 pm

Contact: Carol Sholer

Opera Talks in Long Beach

Saturday, June 11, 2-3 pm

At the El Dorado Library

Contact: John Spear

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Education:

Wendy Van Haerlem

Phone: 714.998.4815

email: vanhaerlem@pacbell.net

Cast Dinners:

Cheryl Dowden

Phone: 323.255.0265

email: dowden8983@

roadrunner.com

Opera Talk at Julienne's:

Carol Sholer

Phone: 818.243.1818

email: csholer1@earthlink.net

Call Julienne's at

626.441.2299, to make a res-

ervation, \$10, and to order a

"Light Supper Box", \$10.

Opera Talks at Long Beach

John Spear

Phone: 562-809-1331

email: john.spear@

earthlink.net

At the El Dorado Library,

2900 Studebaker Road

(between Willow and Spring)

Thanks to all of the Gathering Heads

By Fred Dear

As the 2010-11 season draws to a close, we wish to recognize the "Gathering Heads of the Opera League" for their continuing efforts in organizing and moderating numerous successful Gatherings that were held throughout the season. Congratulations to all of you for your dedication and hard work!

"Gatherings" are a longtime popular League tradition. They are informal meetings/social events held in homes of League members throughout Southern California and provide a friendly and congenial setting where members (and prospective new members) can socialize and hear interesting presentations about the current operas being presented by LA Opera.

Antelope Valley

Harald Kreuger

Beverly Hills

Anne Russell Sullivan and Mimi Rotter

Claremont

Patricia O'Donnell

Orange County

Sandy Persky and Dianna Penza

San Fernando Valley

Regi Merwin

San Gabriel Valley

Michael Sholer and Carmen Paz

Santa Clarita

Kathy Crandall

South Bay

Ifang Hsieh

Ventura County

Ann Randall

Westside

Chuck and Alice Bragg and Monika Whitaker



Gathering Heads Meeting

Photo: Ifang Hsieh

invitations

“Der Rosenkavalier” Opera League Fund Raiser (Pilot Program)

Join us for an opera experience on
Saturday, April 9, 2011

at the **San Diego Civic Theater** to see
Der Rosenkavalier

with **Andrew Greenan (Ochs) and Anja Harteros(Marschallin)**

Travel to San Diego on Amtrak, stay at the Westgate Hotel, attend the “Behind the Stage” tour. After the opera, meet the performers at an optional cast dinner.

Single occupancy \$510; Double occupancy per person \$410.
(This rate includes a \$100 tax deductible donation per person
to the Opera League of Los Angeles.)

“Cast Dinner”, an additional \$140.

For reservations, please send a check made out to **Brita Millard Pilot Program**,
PO Box 492330, Los Angeles, California 90049.

Please include your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address.

Need detailed information? Go to www.musicfortheeyes.wordpress.com

Any questions? Call Brita Millard at 310-877-6285
or email to bmillard_99@yahoo.com

Reservation deadline: March 26, 2011

Spring Musicale

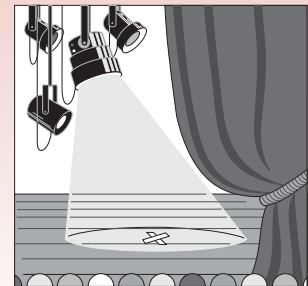
With **Carol Neblett**

**Saturday, April 30,
at 2:00 pm**

At a lovely home in the west side
(Location information will be
provided to you)

Advanced orders, \$35 (or a voucher)
for members, \$45 for guests
Same day purchase
at the door, \$45

Your order must be received
by April 26



EVENT ORDER FORM

Spring Musicale Tickets

___ x Member (or voucher) @ \$35	\$ ___
___ x Non-member @ \$45	\$ ___
___ x Student member @ \$10	\$ ___
Total	\$ ___

You can order tickets for any Opera League event using our web site, www.operaleague.org. Log in with your User Name and password, then click on the “Click Here” link for the tickets you want to order.

For orders by mail, use this form. Check the number of tickets you wish to order, then enclose your check, credit card info, or voucher(s) for the total amount. (Vouchers are valid for seminars, master classes, and musicales.) A confirmation of your order will be emailed to you.

Tickets to all League events will be held at the door. Sorry, no refunds! Mail this order form to: Opera League of LA, P.O. Box 8266, Calabasas, CA 91372.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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.

THE OPERA LEAGUE WISHES TO GIVE A SPECIAL “THANK YOU!” TO ALL OF OUR PATRON MEMBERS!

As of February 27, 2011

David N. and Margaret Barry
Frank E. Baxter
Donna Benjamin
Abraham and Annette Berman
Stuart and Rebecca Bowne
Bonnie Brae
Robert Braun, MD, and Joan
Friedman, PhD
Dora Breece
Norman and Eloise Cadman
Claire Chambless and Aime Nagel
Nicholas and Janet Ciriello
Don and Marilyn Conlan
Joseph and Alice Coulombe
Chris Coy
John and Barbara Dawson
Dan and Carol Donlan (and Elbert)
John C. and Leslie A. Dorman
W. Allan Edmiston, MD, and Patrick
Harrigan
Dr. Eric and June Furman
Bruce and Adele Gainsley

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Eddy and Eleanor Gnupe
Stuart R. Grant, MD
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San Diego Trip Fundraiser

By Brita Millard

Join fellow Opera League members on a fun-filled train trip to San Diego!

As an Opera League fundraiser, we have put together a wonderful trip to San Diego Opera on Saturday, April 9, to see *Der Rosenkavalier*. We have arranged amazing tickets in the Mezzanine (in the first elevated area).

The package includes your Opera Ticket, the Backstage Tour, a round-trip Amtrak ticket and hotel accommodation. The cost also includes a \$100 tax deductible donation per person to The Opera League of Los Angeles.

In addition to the performance, there will be a **Backstage Tour** to see what goes on behind the curtain. Twenty spaces have been reserved for this private tour prior to the performance.

An optional extra: a **Cast Party** where you can get up-close

and personal! The black tie Cast Party makes your trip to the opera an even more exciting experience. After the performance, in an intimate setting, a sumptuous dinner and open bar are provided where you'll have the opportunity to meet and talk with cast members, the conductor, board members and opera staff. This optional Cast Party is an additional \$140.

Accommodations: We have reserved rooms at the gorgeous Westgate Hotel and have secured a special discounted theatre rate for the evening of April 9. The Westgate (www.westgatehotel.com) is in immediate walking distance of the Civic Theatre.

Any questions? Call Brita Millard at 310-877-6285 or email her at bmillard_99@yahoo.com

For more information about this event, go to this web site: www.musicfortheeyes.wordpress.com

Opera Talks in Long Beach

By John Spear

On **Saturday, March 12, at 2 pm**, Opera Talks in Long Beach host, John Spear, will present his tribute to his favorite singer, “Oh my, how Jussi can sing!”

This popular series has now been combined with Los Angeles Opera Community Educators “Library Talks.” The talks are at the El Dorado Park Neighborhood Library in

Long Beach the **second** Saturday of every month, at 2:00 pm. This branch library is on Studebaker Road between Spring and Willow and is clearly marked. There is plenty of parking, and they have a large multi-purpose room that is ideal for video and audio.

Serving the Creative Capitol of the World

By Bob Bernard

Almost every fine arts entity we know of has been cutting back, reducing programming and, often, basically looking to survive. In pleasant contrast, our local FM radio station, Classical KUSC, has, in the past year, settled into new, more ample quarters, is expanding its outreach into the San Francisco Bay area, and is now preparing to host the world premiere of an opera in its new facilities.

KUSC has a well-developed symbiotic relationship between itself and both Los Angeles Opera and our Opera League. The station, besides providing a ready-reservoir of pre-performance speakers at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, beginning four years ago (with impetus from Program Hosts Gail Eichenthal and Brian Lauritzen), has systematically re-broadcast selected performances of LAO's season, and, has, for this season, expanded its live broadcasts to include the opening night of *Il Turco in Italia*, in addition to last September's openings of *Il Postino* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. As regular programming features, of course, we enjoy "The Opera Show with Duff Murphy" on Saturday mornings and "The Sunday Night Opera" with both Duff Murphy and Jim Svejda. Acting as a conservatore of recent LAO treasure, KUSC stores the scores of the opera company's Recovered Voices series.

A visit with KUSC president Brenda Barnes and resident staff late last year made possible a tour of KUSC's facilities, an introspective review of the past, an evaluation of current

calls for a fifteen-year lease for 14,000 sq. ft. of the 300,000 capacity Center, with options for two five-year extensions. The physical layout works well: The business offices, reception area, Board Room, etc. are on the main floor of the Center, with the On-Air Studio and Interview Studios located in a low-traffic region one floor down. A major feature/perk of the lease with AT&T is the use of its Center's 500-seat auditorium four times per year.



Photo: Brenda Barnes

The AT & T Center's 500-seat auditorium

Back in May of 2009, KUSC extended the reach of its programming to the central California coast by purchasing KESC-FM in Morro Bay, joining similar affiliates in Palm Springs, Thousand Oaks, and Santa Barbara. Now on the heels of our visit to the station, came the announcement that KUSC is purchasing KDFC, San Francisco's Classical Voice (for-profit) station. This latter move was justified by KUSC's success. Success is measured, not only in response to the station's periodic pledge drives, but in *pure listenership*, the prime consideration for rating not-for-profit radio stations. The latter, as is the case with so much of our modern society, is now measured by means of high technology. Radio stations now are ranked according to Arbitron ratings, a system that, since 2008, uses Portable People Meters (PPMs), mobile-phone-sized devices that consumers wear throughout the day, working by detecting identification codes that are embedded in the audio portion of transmissions. Each PPM, after detecting the (inaudible) codes that the consumer is exposed to, is plugged into its respective base station at the end of each day, where the collected codes are tabulated.

Beginning with the use of the Arbitron rating system, KUSC has resided consistently in the top five public radio stations in the country, often dueling with WQXR in New York for the top spot and even holding first place for a time last March. As a basis for us to see how our favorite programs pan out, Station



Photo: Brenda Barnes

Bob with Program Host, Kimberlea Daggy, in an Interview Studio on a 'Casual Friday' in December

activities, and an enlightening glimpse into both the near and intermediate plans for the station.

KUSC's most recent move to the AT&T Center at 11th and Hill promises to be a permanent one. The current arrangement

Continued on page 8

Serving the Creative Capitol of the World, continued from page 7

Manager Eric DeWeese has provided us with the following recent readout for the LA Metro (LA + Orange County) area:

- Total listener base = 711,900 (= 814,200, all KUSC stations + web stream)
- The Sunday Evening Opera = 36,950
- Duff Murphy's Saturday morning show (three-hour version) = 81,700
- Duff's show (one-hour version) = 53,600
- Met matinee broadcasts = 95,120

Looking ahead with respect to KUSC's future projects, it is gratifying when rhetoric becomes reality: One year ago, in the Spring 2010 issue of BRAVO, as an illustration of how a work moves along from original concept to libretto and finished product, we discussed the evolving opera *El Canguro*, and wondered, "which opera company would adopt" this dramatization of the Guatemalan baby adoption industry. Well, KUSC, responding to the compelling, topical nature of *El Canguro*, has decided to host the world premiere of this opera on Saturday, September 10, 2011, in its resident theater. The

performance will be concert-style, with two pianos, augmented by pre-recorded "voice-overs" that provide a soundscape evocative of the Mayan jungle. The necessary arrangements for this new venture are proceeding apace:

- The theater's acoustics are being re-vamped, making the venue suitable for this and future, live musical performances.
- Dr. David Anglin, Associate Director of Opera at CSULB, is coordinating the adaptation of the supertitle setup used at USC's Bing Theatre for use here.
- Resources required for filming this premiere are being gathered.

It has been a sixty-five-year odyssey for KUSC, beginning as a campus-based radio station and now consistently ranked in the top five public fine arts stations in the country, expanding its listenership across the length and breadth of our state, and, not only *servicing*, but now *functioning* as an active associate and an integral part of the 'Creative Capitol of the World'.



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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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INVITATION IS INCLUDED

★ Spring Musicale
with Carol Neblett
Sunday, April 30, 2011
See p.5 for more information