

## January and February Seminars

By Anne Russell Sullivan

Greeting Opera Leaguers! Once again I must thank you for your continued support of our Opera League Seminars. Our October 23rd “Romeo and Juliet” Seminar was a stunning success. Over 100 members attended, and our wonderful “regulars,” Michael Hackett and Simon Williams, captivated us with audio/visual clips, insightful analysis, and delicious sidebars into the glittering worlds of Shakespeare and Gounod. Our own lovely young artist Janai Brugger sang Juliet’s arias, accompanied by LA Opera’s exquisite coach, Nino Sanikidze. (For all of you who attended the *Roméo et Juliette* dress rehearsal—yes, Janai sang Juliette! We do know talent here when we hear it!) The day before our Seminar, Janai won the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions for the Western Region. This means she will be representing the best of the West in NYC in March. Our blessings and good wishes go with her to the Big Apple.

So what is in store for the rest of the season? Mark your calendars, people! Our next Seminar will be on **Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 10:00 am**. It will explore all things Italian as we dive into the world of Verdi’s *Simon Boccanegra*. Maestro Domingo made the title role his own in 2010. He first sang this baritone role in 2009 in Berlin, but went on to Milan and the Met and a European tour that took him to London, Madrid and beyond. Finally our Maestro is coming home and we are absolutely delighted. Our production is coming from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and will be conducted by our own Maestro James Conlon. We can all anticipate some wonderful pre-opera lectures, and you will not want to miss our “Simon Boccanegra Day”.



Photo: Edward Lieb

William Simon and Michael Hackett  
at our last Seminar

We have invited world-renowned scholar Dr. Nancy Dersofi to guide us through the intricate backstage politics of 14th Century Genoa. She is a Harvard grad, Professor Emerita from Bryn Mawr, who has made her career specializing in Italian Literature. There is no one better to introduce us to this steamy, corrupt tragedy of lovers lost, daughters found, and rulers poisoned. As always, box lunches will be available, young artists will be singing, and the festivities will conclude with more than enough time for you to get to your afternoon events.

You will also need to mark your calendars for our following Seminar: **Saturday, February**

**18, 2012 at 1:00 pm**. This one celebrates the light hearted opera of Benjamin Britten, *Albert Herring*, a comedy to be sure, with quite a bit to say about mid-20th Century English society.

We are fortunate to be able to present the fabulous Santa Fe production of this delightful confection. The scrumptious young tenor, Alek Shrader, became the darling of the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions Video “Audition” when he learned the fabulous aria “Ah! mes amis” from Donizetti’s *La Fille du Régiment* in three days to perform it on the Met stage replete with all of those high Cs—every one of them true and perfect! Alek will be our quintessential Albert. Desiree Mays, coming to us direct from Santa Fe, will share all of her wonderful experiences with Alek and that exquisite production. Simon Williams will be back to remind us of all things Britten.

Please send in your reservations forthwith. We really need to know that you are coming, but you can walk in at the last minute if you choose. We just want you there!

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## OPERA LEAGUE PREVIEW, 2012

By Janet Ciriello

On **Thursday, February 9, 2012**, the Opera League will host the annual Preview announcing the LA Opera’s season 2012-2013. This year the Preview will take place in the Eva and Marc Stern Grand Hall at the Music Center.

Plácido Domingo, Edythe and Eli Broad General Director, and James Conlon, Richard Seaver Music Director, will talk about the upcoming season and to inspire enthusiasm for our company’s new challenges. Our Domingo-Thornton Young Artists will perform various selections from next season’s operas with an introduction by

Joshua Winograde. This will be followed by refreshments.

We can all look forward to an afternoon of information, music and treats with other opera lovers and Los Angeles Opera League supporters. This event is a part of your membership in the League. Associate members are allowed 1 ticket to this event, all other levels 2 tickets.

Invitations for this annual festive event will be mailed in early January to all League members. You will also be able to respond to the invitation at the Opera League website, [www.operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org).

See you then!

## a word from our president

Dear Opera League Members,

There's a chill in the air and my heart is still beating fast from experiencing LA Opera's *Roméo et Juliette* performed several weeks ago, sung by a stellar cast, conducted by our own Plácido Domingo and played by our unparalleled orchestra. We now have a break to celebrate the coming holidays and gear up for the next delicious morsels offered by LAO: *Simon Boccanegra*, *Albert Herring* and the Puccini favorite, *La Bohème*.

Ah, but what about our next season? Come to our Preview on February 9th. And, SURPRISE, we are welcoming back both Plácido Domingo and James Conlon, who will open our window to the 2012-2013 Season! Read more about the event in this Bravo edition. Sign up on the website!

There are many upcoming events in our calendar. Aside from the Preview, we hope you will enjoy the Master Class, Gatherings, Talks in San Marino and Long Beach, Backstage Magic, and Seminars. Did you know that AALAO will also be holding a Seminar in February?

Since LAO will be in rehearsal for the upcoming operas, there is always an opportunity, as a member of Opera League, to participate and show off your culinary skills at our Cast Dinners. Experience part of a rehearsal while feeding the cast!

We have currently added to our website a Donation Page for members



**Diane Gray, President**

and friends to make contributions to the Opera League of Los Angeles for any and all occasions: in memory of a loved one or personal friend, birthday, wedding, new baby, or whatever the occasion may be. Since it's now the end of the year, it may be a perfect opportunity for you to make that contribution, and the Opera League would certainly welcome it. Just indicate the event, and we will follow-up with a card to the friend or family, as long as you provide us with the address for posting. Thank you so much for your generosity in support of the League. And let's not forget that our Cookbook, "The Well-Plated Aria", is still available for purchase on our website.

I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season filled with joy, love, and gratitude. My wholehearted thanks to all our Board Members and volunteers that made this year's events so successful. Your hard work never goes unappreciated. To our dedicated members I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your membership and support. We can all look forward to an exciting 2012 season to round out our 30th year. May you and your loved ones enjoy a year of good health and above all, "peace".

Diane



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24-hour League Message Line: 213.972.7220

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Hemmings Awards will be held in June, so please save this date:  
**Sunday, June 3, 2012.**

The Hemmings Award was created to honor the leadership of Peter Hemmings, the first general manager of the LA Opera from 1984 to 2000. Since 2004, the Opera League has recognized past recipients for their valuable contributions to the development of opera in the greater Los Angeles area. We are honored to be able to recognize all fourteen of the League's Presidents Emeriti this year. Look for more details in the next Bravo.

Editor	Diane Gray
Assistant Editors	Edward Lieb, Janet Ciriello
Newsletter Design	Bacall:Creative
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# FALL MUSICALE ROCKS!

By Thomas Shepard

On November 13th, the League held its annual autumn musicale at the San Marino home of Mrs. Stevie Bruce. It was without a doubt one of the finest days of the Autumn, clear and crisp out poolside where drinks were being served prior to the beginning of the event. Inside, the sixty-plus attendees wandered among exquisite rooms filled with art and artifacts collected by the hostess and her husband, a film maker and anthropologist, on their fascinating

travels throughout the world. It was the perfect setting for the incomparably exquisite musical performance provided by conductor/LA Opera coach Jeremy Frank and the tremendously talented dramatic soprano Erin Wood who rocked the room with Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Puccini, and a glorious Liebestod from *Tristan and Isolde*. Watch for this performer, whose singing equals that of the best of our young dramatic sopranos today, and whose personality and charm outshine most.

Our Opera Buffa Bingo Game provided a break between the two sets of demanding arias and provided the chance for the audience to test their opera IQ and win prizes of CD's.

We are deeply grateful to all the efforts of so many who went to make the day so successful and would like to extend a special thanks to our lovely hostess, Mrs. Bruce. Look for the next Musicale in the Spring of 2012.

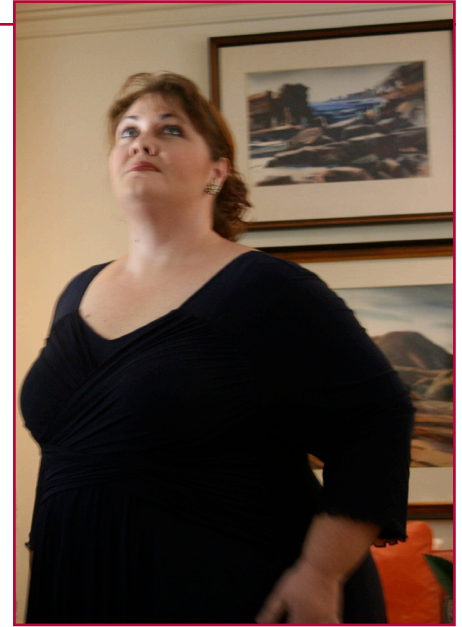


Photo: Edward Lieb

Soprano Erin Wood

One of the things that make our Musicales special for our members is the thrill of being invited into one of the many fabulous homes that dot the different neighborhoods of Los Angeles. If you would consider hosting, please contact Thomas Shepard, Musicale Chair at 323-953-0027.



Jeremy Frank, Erin Wood, Thomas Shepard

## 2012 Master Class

By Thomas Shepard

The Opera League's Master Class is one of the most intimate behind-the-scenes views that a lover of opera will ever have into the world of the singer. The format is simple: a master teacher gives a real-time voice lesson to young professionals.

We are proud to announce that Scottish soprano Janis Kelly, who will be portraying the indomitable Lady Billows in LA Opera's production of *Albert Herring*, will be maestra for the League's 2012 Master Class. It's your chance to get up close with this fabulous star and the Domingo Thornton Young Artists and delve into what lies behind those beautiful voices

you so love to hear onstage. Be sure to set the date, **Wednesday, February 29th, 2012 at 7 pm**, at the Music Center. You won't want to miss what is one of the most exciting programs of the year. You can register online at [www.operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org), or if you don't email, fill out the form in this Bravo and send it to the address listed.



Photo: Edward Lieb

Dolora Zajick speaking to us at our Master Class in November, 2010

## c a l e n d a r

## January

**Opera Talks in Long Beach**

Saturday, January 14, at 2 pm (Simon Boccanegra)

At the El Dorado Library  
Contact: John Spear

**Seminar: Simon Boccanegra**

Sunday, January 29, at 10 am

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5th floor  
See the "Invitations" page.

**Opera for Educators**

Saturday, January 28 (Simon Boccanegra)

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
Volunteers, contact: Larry Verdugo

## February

**San Diego Opera Trip**

Sunday, February 5

Salome at San Diego Opera  
See the details on the insert

**Opera Talks at Julienne's**

Monday, February 6, at 7 pm

Contact: Carol Sholer

**Season Preview**

Thursday, February 9

At the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
Invitations will be mailed in January.

**Opera for Educators**

Saturday, February 11 (Albert Herring)

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
Volunteers, contact: Larry Verdugo

**Seminar: Albert Herring**

Saturday, February 18, at 1 pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5th floor  
See the "Invitations" page.

**AALAO Seminar**

Sunday, February 26

Contact: Beverly Clarkson 323.293.3131

**Master Class**

Wednesday, February 29, at 7 pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor  
See the "Invitations" page.

**Cast Dinners**

Friday, February 3, 4:30 pm (Simon Boccanegra)

Sunday, February 5, 4:30 pm (Simon Boccanegra)

Monday, February 6, 5 pm (Simon Boccanegra)

Thursday, February 16, 4:30 pm

(Albert Herring)

Saturday, February 18, 5 pm (Albert Herring)

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th fl  
Volunteers, contact: Cheryl Dowden

## March

**Opera 101**

Saturday, March 3

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th fl  
Volunteers, contact: Larry Verdugo

**Opera Talks at Julienne's**

Monday, March 5, at 7 pm

Contact: Carol Sholer

**Opera Talks in Long Beach**

Saturday, March 10, at 2 pm (Behind the Scenes in Opera)

At the El Dorado Library  
Contact: John Spear

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

*Education:***Larry Verdugo**

Home phone: 626-796-8676

Cell phone: 626-590-5697

lverdugo@sbcglobal.net

*Cast Dinners:***Cheryl Dowden**

Phone: 323.255.0265

dowden8983@roadrunner.com

*Opera Talk at Julienne's:***Carol Sholer**

Phone: 818.243.1818

csholer1@att.net

Call Julienne's at 626.441.2299,  
to make a reservation, \$10, and to  
order a "Light Supper Box", \$10.

*Opera Talks at Long Beach***John Spear**

Phone: 714-899-9960

john.spear@earthlink.net

At the El Dorado Library,  
2900 Studebaker Road  
(between Willow and Spring)

**Antelope Valley**

Dr. Harald Krueger 661.728.0671  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Please call Dr. Krueger for additional information

**Beverly Hills**

Mimi Rotter 310.479.0259  
Anne Russell Sullivan 323.697.9733  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, January 22, 10 am  
2816 Tilden Avenue, Los Angeles

**Claremont**

Patricia O'Donnell 909.447.5038  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, February 5, 2-5 pm  
530 West 11th Street, Claremont

**Hollywood/Hancock Park**

No Gatherings scheduled for these operas  
You are encouraged to attend another location

**Orange County**

Sandy Persky 714.969.0589  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, January 15, 2-5:00 pm  
408 Angelina, Placentia

**San Fernando Valley**

Regi Merwin 818.400.2578  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, January 22, 2:30-5:30 pm  
4050 Woodcliff Road, Sherman Oaks

**San Gabriel Valley**

Michael Sholer 818.502.1988  
**Simon Boccanegra**  
Tuesday, January 17, 7-9:30 pm  
**Albert Herring**  
Monday, February 13, 7-9:30 pm  
5278 La Canada Blvd., La Canada

**Santa Clarita**

Ann Anderson 661.259.9619  
**Simon Boccanegra**  
Monday, February 6, 7 pm  
**Albert Herring**  
Monday, February 20, 7 pm  
25506 Longfellow Place, Stevenson Ranch

**South Bay**

Ifang Hsieh 310.279.9927  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, February 5, 2 pm  
1437 East Oak Avenue, El Segundo

**Southeast**

No Gatherings Scheduled for these operas  
You are encouraged to attend another location

**Ventura County**

Ann Randall 805.445.8250  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Sunday, January 22, 2 pm  
520 San Clemente Way, Camarillo

**Westside**

Monika Whitaker 310.826.4743  
Chuck or Alice Bragg 310.454.9662  
**Simon Boccanegra and Albert Herring**  
Monday, February 6, 7:15-9:45 pm  
12345 Deerbrook Lane, Los Angeles

# invitations

## Opera League Seminar (January)

### Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*

Our League Seminars are dedicated to Sherwin Sloane, founder of the Opera League Seminars

**Sunday, January 29, 10 am**

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion,  
135 North Grand Avenue

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

Speaker: Dr. Nancy Dersofi

Moderator: Dr. Allan Edmiston

With Domingo-Thornton Young Artist singer, Tracy Cox, accompanied by Nino Sanikidze

Blüthner piano provided by Helga Kasimoff (Kasimoff-Blüthner Piano Co.)

A box lunch (vegetarian or meat or fish) will be available for \$15

Advance orders, \$35 (or a voucher) for members, \$45 for guests or same day purchase at the door.

Your order must be received by January 24

## Opera League Seminar (February)

### Britten's *Albert Herring*

Our League Seminars are dedicated to Sherwin Sloane, founder of the Opera League Seminars

**Saturday, February 18, 1 pm**

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
135 North Grand Avenue

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

Speakers: Desiree Mays and Simon Williams

Moderator: Dr. Allan Edmiston

With a Domingo-Thornton Young Artist singer accompanied by Victoria Kirsch  
Blüthner piano provided by Helga Kasimoff (Kasimoff-Blüthner Piano Co.)

A box lunch (vegetarian or meat or fish) will be available for \$15

Advance orders, \$35 (or a voucher) for members, \$45 for guests or same day purchase at the door.

Your order must be received by February 14

## Master Class with Janis Kelly

Ms. Kelly will coach a small group of Domingo-Thornton Young Artists

**Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 7 pm**

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
135 North Grand Avenue

(Enter at the Artist's Entrance on Grand, then take the elevator to the 4th floor)

Advance orders, \$25 (or a voucher) for members, \$35 for guests  
Same day purchase at the door, \$35

Your order must be received by February 24

### EVENT ORDER FORM

#### January Seminar Reservations

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

#### February Seminar Reservations

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

#### Master Class Reservations

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

You can make reservations for any Opera League event on our web site, [www.operaleague.org](http://www.operaleague.org). Log in with your User Name and Password, then click on the "Click Here" link for the event you want.

For reservations by mail, use this form. Check the number of reservations you wish, then enclose your check, or credit card info, or voucher(s) for the total amount. (Vouchers are valid for seminars, master classes, and musicales.) Mail this order form to: Opera League of LA, PO Box 49-1057, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

Reservations for all Opera League events will be held at the door. Sorry, no refunds!

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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).

## LA Opera Open House and Concert

By Norm Cadman and Diane Gray

For the first time ever, friends and fans were invited for an Open House on November 5, 2011, to celebrate LA Opera's 25th Anniversary. We hope you were among the more than 6000 guests who eagerly roamed the five floors of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. All events were offered free of charge.

The occasion was a huge success for the Company, and a glorious day for the League too, grateful for the opportunity to put our face before the public. Visitors were greeted and informed by the volunteers at our Welcome Table in the Main Lobby.

A rallying round of 53 hardworking League volunteers staffed many of the events around the Pavilion. One of the gems was the DCP/LAO Historic Picture Gallery, with fascinating photographic memories of the early days of LAO. Seasoned volunteers were present to inform the public and included some of the League's glitterati, *Grandes Dames* from among the Presidents Emeritae.

The Boutique was in full flower, and down the hall was our recently acquired Boutique Opera Shop selling CDs, DVDs, and books. Altogether, those volunteers numbered 28! The day featured a series of behind-the-scenes tours and activities throughout the theater, many designed specifically for families with young children.

After leading Young Artists performances, Maestri Domingo and Conlon autographed not only their CDs and DVDs, but also copies of *A Well-Plated Aria*, the Opera League's stunning



Photo: Robert Millard

Rosita Sy, Kathy Crandall, and Susan Heard holding the Opera League cookbook.

new 30th Anniversary cookbook. And why not? Maestro Domingo wrote the Foreword and provided his recipes for heart-healthy *sopa de elote* and other delicacies. Have you gotten your copies? They make wonderful gifts! Wouldn't you like to know Maestro Conlon's favorite drink or his grandmother's cake recipe? And who wouldn't enjoy Anna Netrebko's borscht? (What? This a commercial? Unabashedly!)

The Open House coincided with the final weekend of OPERA America's National Opera week, where opera companies across the country hosted diverse and exciting activities to showcase the world of opera. The day could not have succeeded without us, and we were warmly thanked by the Company.



## OPERA LEAGUE BOUTIQUE NEWS

By Judy Lieb

The Opera League Boutique is the major fundraising activity of the League. This fall, Larry Rappaport, a long time member of the League, retired, so the Opera Shop is no longer in operation. The Boutique has taken over the selling of CDs, DVDs and selected librettos as well as our usual inventory. LA Opera has also requested that we provide CDs for sale during artist signings. With our new responsibilities we can always use more volunteers. If you have an interest, please email [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org) or leave a message on our hotline, 213.972.7220.

# Benvenuto, Roberto Cani!

By Bob Bernard

We welcome Roberto Cani, the newly-appointed concertmaster of LA Opera's orchestra.

Following the retirement of Concertmaster Stuart Canin after the conclusion of the Wagner Ring cycles in June 2010, LA Opera engaged the services of a series of guest concertmasters for the 2010 – 2011 season. Mr. Cani, employed for the production of *Il Turco in Italia*, was soon after that designated the first "Stuart Canin Concertmaster," a chair established in perpetuity by Carol Colburn Høgel.

A native of Milan, Mr. Cani studied with Miroslav Roussin, Viktor Tretiakov, Abraham Shtern, Pavel Vernikov, and here, twenty years ago, at USC with Alice Schoenfeld. His recollections of Ms. Schoenfeld, remarkably still teaching as a nonagenarian Emerita Professor of Strings and Harp, reflect the blend of affection and reverence always shown by pupils towards USC's Schoenfeld sisters. His memory of her admonition to "maintain respect for his fellow musicians" remains vivid.

Mr. Cani's first love (as a performer) was to solo, doing so with the Moscow Philharmonic, the Orchestra of La Scala, the Belgrade Orchestra, and the Zagreb Orchestra. Even after establishing a residence in Los Angeles, he has time-shared his talents with Europe, first summering as a member of the faculty at Italy's Positano Music Festival and, for the last three years, taking a like position with one of the Prague summer music festivals in the Czech Republic.

Along with many other LA-based musicians, Mr. Cani has worked steadily in the recording of film scores, contributing to an estimated two hundred films. As this movie work has diminished with the growth of synthesized music and non-union foreign competition, Mr. Cani's involvement with chamber music has grown. Recently he joined with pianist Robert Thies and cellist Andrew Shulman, forming the Los Angeles Piano Trio, playing some Mozart [K 542] and Tchaikovsky [Op. 50] as part of the current season of the South Bay Chamber Music Society [SBCMS].

Of longer tenure is the New Hollywood String Quartet, formed in 2001 and christened (no doubt) to evoke reverential memories of its half-century antecedent and its recordings of the romantic works of Dvorák and Kodály. Mr. Cani joined this quartet in 2003, and he, along with Shulman, Robert Brophy (viola), and Rafael Rishik (violin), performed the Beethoven String Quartet [Op. 135] earlier this December, again for the

SBCMS. They were joined by guest cellist John Walz for the Schubert Cello Quintet in C.

Rehearsals for these chamber music groups are usually severely limited to a session some days in advance of the performance and then a brief re-hashing session early on the day of the concert. In contrast, Mr. Cani went over with us the standard rehearsal procedure that LA Opera typically uses for sessions that involve orchestra members:

- Orchestra Read-Throughs (3)
- Sitzprobe [a seated rehearsal where the singers sing with the orchestra]
- Orchestra Technical Rehearsals (2)
- Final Dress Rehearsal

As a rule, this entire rehearsal period extends over a period of two to three weeks, with the lengthier exceptions applying, of course, to Wagner operas.

An imperative (and obvious) concern for world-class musicians such as Mr. Cani is the procuring of a specific, high-quality instrument for regular use. Very often, a period of trial and error ensues: Linda Wang, a friend and fellow violinist, opines, "It is easier to find a faithful spouse than to locate and secure the use of a suitable instrument."

The Los Angeles area is blessed to have a handful of residents possessed with both the wherewithal to own products of the famed Italian artisans from centuries past and the philanthropic bent to offer these gems for short, intermediate, and (even) long-term loan arrangements to elite musicians. Often, similar loan arrangements can be made with well-endowed fine arts organizations, both here and abroad.

Over the past decade, Mr. Cani has played on a 1735 Guarneri del Gesu, a 1714 Stradivari, and a Francesco Rugeri instrument. His memory of the Stradivari is that of its mature, warm sound; the Guarneri, he recalls, as being very powerful, deep, and comfortable to play; and the Rugeri to be sweet and perfect for chamber music. His primary instrument remains a Pietro Guarneri of Venice, on loan from the Canale Foundation in Italy.

Below, we see Mr. Cani at work: first, consulting with Maestro Domingo regarding tempi during the final dress rehearsal of *Roméo et Juliette*; and on page 8, going over the prescribed bowing with Associate Principal Bassist Frances Liu-Wu prior to one of the regular performances.

Coming soon to LA Opera will be

*Continued on page 8*



Roberto Cani

Photo: Robert Millard for LA Opera



With Maestro Domingo

Photo: Robert Millard for LA Opera

*Benvenuto, Roberto Cani!, continued from page 7*

Britten's *Albert Herring*, a chamber opera which has notoriously difficult instrumental parts. With a numerical balance of thirteen operatic characters and thirteen instruments, sometimes an individual instrument will be allocated to a single character in a scene, but always, the ever-changing grouping of instruments allocated to the succession of arias, recitatives, children's songs, duets, and ensembles will offer us a unique and ever-varying aural experience.

Abounding with beguilingly lovely melodies in this kaleidoscope of musical quotes, parodies, and styles, it is with this opera that we shall benefit from and enjoy both the virtuosic artistry and the ensemble-related leadership of LA Opera Concertmaster Roberto Cani.



Photo: Bob Bernard

*With Associate Principal Bass Frances Liu-Wu*



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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**INVITATIONS ARE INCLUDED**

- ★ Opera League Seminar (January)  
Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*  
Sunday, January 29
  - ★ Opera League Seminar (February)  
Britten's *Albert Herring*  
Saturday, February 18
  - ★ Master Class with Janis Kelly  
Wednesday, February 29
- See p.5 for more information

# Los Angeles Opera League Magical Weekend in San Francisco

By Kathy Crandall

We have made arrangements to attend three operas in San Francisco during June 14–17, 2012, with an optional welcome dinner at Inn at the Opera on Friday, June 15.

You may attend the Thursday–Saturday operas (June 14–16), or the Friday–Sunday operas (June 15–17). And of course, you may stay extra days in San Francisco at our special rates!

**The dates of the performances are:**

**Thursday, June 14: *Nixon in China* (Adams) 7:30 pm (Brian Mulligan, Maria Kanyova, and Hye Jung Lee)**

**Friday, June 15: *Attila* (Verdi) 8:00 pm (Ferruccio Furlanetto, Lucrezia Garcia, Quinn Kelsey, Samuel Ramey)**

**Saturday, June 16: *Magic Flute* (Mozart) 8:00 pm (Alek Shrader, Heidi Stober, Nathan Gunn, Kristinn Sigmundsson, Albina Shagimuratova)**

**Sunday, June 17: *Nixon in China* (Adams) 2:00 pm (same cast as Thursday)**

**Tickets**

Each of the ticket prices includes a tax deductible contribution of \$100 to the Opera League. See the sign-up info below for the different price levels.

For further information (or should you wish to purchase less than a full complement of the three operas) please contact Kathy Crandall at 661-645-8693, 661-480-9661 or at skimeup@gmail.com

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

Daytime/cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your choices below. Choices in some sections may be limited, so please indicate second and third choices (rank by listing 1, 2, and 3 after each selection (1 being your most preferred).

		<b>June 14-16</b>	<b>June 15-17</b>	
	Rank	Number Attending	Number Attending	TOTAL
Premium Orchestra	_____	_____ x \$743	_____ x \$771	\$ _____
Orchestra	_____	_____ x \$579	_____ x \$615	\$ _____
Orchestra Ring	_____	_____ x \$369	_____ x \$388	\$ _____
Welcome dinner (optional)		_____ x \$55	_____ x \$55	\$ _____
			<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Choice of meals for each participant: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my name, phone number and email address to be included on mailings to other participants, for purposes of room sharing and transportation arrangements. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Make your check out to the Opera League of Los Angeles. Please indicate on the bottom left of the envelope, “San Francisco Trip 2012”.

Return this form and your check to: Kathy Crandall, 190 Arroyo Terrace, #308, Pasadena, CA 91103

# Los Angeles Opera League 2012 Fundraiser Event



**Strauss's *Salome***  
 Sunday, February 5, 2012  
 San Diego Opera

San Diego Civic Theater – 3rd and B Streets, Downtown San Diego

By Brita Millard

Give a gift for the Holidays and experience the stunning opener of the 2012 International Season at the San Diego Opera—the decadent, sensuous, and deadly... *Salome*.

Remember Salome's request for the head of John the Baptist as a reward for performing the "Dance of the Seven Veils" for her lecherous stepfather, Herod? This chillingly erotic story still has the power to shock audiences more than 100 years after its opening performance. Come and see the opera *Salome* brought to life by the seductive music of Richard Strauss.

Salome will be sung by last opera season's Turandot, Lise Lindstrom, with the role of the noble John the Baptist sung by Greer Grimsley. Allan Glassman and soprano Irina Mishura round out the cast.

This one-day trip starts at 8:30 am, at Union Station. We'll ride the Amtrak train in Business Class (refreshments will be

served) and arrive in San Diego around 11:15 am. We will continue to the famous Westgate Hotel – just a few minutes away from the Opera House – for lunch. At 1 pm we'll attend the pre-performance lecture on *Salome*.

The running time of the opera is approximately 1-3/4 hours with no intermission. We will return to Los Angeles after the performance, but it is also possible to return with a later train.

The package is listed at \$360 per person. This includes the round-trip business class Amtrak ticket, a taxi to the Westgate Hotel, lunch in a fabulous surrounding, the opera ticket (Mezzanine), and a \$50 tax-deductible donation to the Opera League.

Any questions? Please call Brita Millard at 310-877-6285 or email to [bmillard\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:bmillard_99@yahoo.com).

We are looking forward to you joining us at this exciting event!

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

Daytime/cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) x \$360 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out for the full amount to the Opera League of Los Angeles.

Return this form and your check to:

Brita Millard, Opera League Special Events, P.O. Box 492330, Los Angeles, CA 90049