

The Festive Hemmings Celebration

By Susan Heard, Event Chair

The 2012 Peter Hemmings Award Dinner honored the Opera League's 14 Past-presidents for their part in making opera in Los Angeles a reality.

An overflow crowd celebrated under glittering chandeliers. League President **Diane Gray** and KUSC's **Rich Capparella** emceed an evening that included arias and scenes charmingly performed by members of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program. **Grant Gershon**, LA Opera's Resident Conductor and last year's Hemmings Honoree gave his congratulatory remarks.

General Director **Plácido Domingo** and Music Director **James Conlon** conveyed their warm video greetings.

The honorees were toasted with – what else? – the Brindisi from *La Traviata*, sung by our wonderful Young Artists.

Happily, all the ex-presidents were able to attend. As President #7 **David Barry** said, "It is obvious that past presidents of the Opera League are long lived, due to their love of opera." They were greeted at the cocktail reception with beautifully framed portraits of themselves, courtesy of photographer **Bruce Bisenz**. Co-founder and 2nd Opera League head **Lorraine Saunders** said "Bruce made us all look like... stars!" She added, "The program booklet is a treasure of information for future generations of Opera League volunteers."

Guests learned that before there was an Opera League, there was no resident opera company in Los Angeles. In 1981 the (then) Music Center Opera Association called Lorraine Saunders and Alice Coulombe and asked them to form a support

group. They agreed and called **Carol Henry**, who is the current LA Opera Board President. By 1985, **Peter Hemmings** was hired with two staff members, and he gained an Opera League of 800 members! By 1986, LA Opera had its first season of five operas with the continuing and invaluable aid of the Opera League and our volunteers.

Co-founder **Alice Coulombe**, the League's first president, said, "What a great celebration! I am so proud of the League and everything it has become!" Joan Thompson also thanked the

League for "making us feel so special. The pictures, the engraved frame and the bag were a wonderful take-home gift. It was definitely a night to remember." **Audrey Hanson** said she felt "honored and appreciated."

Dorothy Wait said, "It was terrific from beginning to end. I was proud to introduce [my children] as they bore witness to the Opera League and

its many accomplishments." **Anne Combs** appreciated, among other aspects of the evening, that there were opportunities for people to greet each other before and during the meal.

My thanks to the committee members and volunteers who made the thousand details of the evening come together so successfully: Beverley Clarkson, Kathy Crandall, Cheryl Dowden, Diane Gray, Peter Gray, Mirjana Mahnovski, Brita Millard, Anne Russell Sullivan and Thomas Shepard. Thanks also to League member Regi Merwin for her tireless work on the program booklet.



Photo: Robert Millard

The Past Presidents

a word from our president

Surprise! Enjoy this Peter Hemmings Event Special Edition of Bravo. On June 3, 2012 the Opera League celebrated and honored all 14 presidents emeriti, from the founders in 1981 to the successors who carried on, implemented and expanded their original vision. Everything that makes this organization so unique was reflected in that evening. Read more about that spectacular night by Hemmings Event Chair Susan Heard in this issue. I extend kudos to Susan and her extraordinary committee.

With our 30th year celebrations concluded we can look ahead to the new 2012-2013 season. But first, many thanks to all our volunteers who helped out at the past year's events: the first Opera League Cookbook, our Patron Dinner, AALAO events, Seminars, LAO's first Open House, and finally the Hemmings. Thanks also go to all the Boutique, Artist Services, Cast Dinner and Community Education volunteers who worked hard to support LA Opera and its programs.

This year's LA Opera season will be exciting as we look forward to watch Placido Domingo perform in a new role, see *Don Giovanni* go to hell, watch cherry blossoms bloom, listen to a magnificent Wagner chorus, watch *Cinderella* lose her glass slipper and witness *Tosca* leap to her death. For more information about the season, go to www.laopera.com.



Photo: Bruce Bisenz

Diane Gray, President

The League continues to provide much appreciated volunteer assistance to LA Opera. Last season we contributed about 25,000 volunteer hours from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

This past June, six of our directors retired from the board. I gratefully acknowledge their hard work and many hours spent enriching the Opera League: Janet Ciriello, Insider Preview Chair; Fred Dear, Dress Rehearsal and Gathering Chair; Fabiola Hensley, Boutique Manager, Patron Dinner Chair and all around cheerleader; Judith Moses, Boutique buyer/ manager; Amalia Shebby, Boutique Scheduler/ Manager; and Anne Russell Sullivan, Social Chair. All of these directors were also involved in many other projects and events during their time on the board.

I eagerly welcome our new directors: Marlene Chavez, Cheryl Dowden, Christine Hoffman, Yolla Kairouz, Helen Porter, Mary and Rod Riggs, Mimi Rotter, and Dick Wollmer. I know they will make great contributions to the League during their service on the Board.

We look forward to the many exciting and enjoyable opportunities for our members to grow in their knowledge and appreciation of opera in the upcoming season.

—Diane



Executive Committee

Diane Gray	President
Kathy Crandall	Vice President
Carol Donlan	Secretary
Robert Braun	Treasurer
Judy Lieb	Immediate Past President
Carol Donlan/Judy Lieb	Boutique Coordinators
Norm Cadman	Education Chair
Trevor Roper	Communications/Membership Chair
Charles Stern	Parliamentarian
Mirjana Mahnovski	Social Chair
Susan Heard	Behind the Scenes
Larry Verdugo	Education Chair
Norm Cadman	Volunteer Chair

Directors

Lorna Blancaflor	Asst. Hospitality/Sp.Events
Robert Braun	Patron Event
Norm Cadman	Volunteers/Asst. Educ.
Marlene Chavez	Asst. Overtures
Beverly Clarkson	AALAO/Co-Chair Dress
Cheryl Dowden	Asst. Sec./ Cast Dinner Scheduler
Ruth DePieri	Hotline/ Orientation Manuals
Bill Green	Asst. Membership
Marie Hadji	Overtures
Susan Heard	Fund Raising/Asst Special Events
Christine Hoffman	Asst. Comm/Finance/Com Ed
Yolla Kairouz	Volunteer Appreciation/Asst. Musicales
John Lacy	Finance Allocation Chair
Joe Lee	Korean Community Liaison
Mirjana Mahnovski	Insider Preview
Carmen Paz	Comm.Ed.Scheduler
Helen Porter	Patron-Sust./Asst.Mailings /Boutique
Mary Riggs	Boutique/Cast Dinners/Com Ed
Rod Riggs	Parking Czar/ Librarian/Cast Dinners
Mimi Rotter	Asst.Patron Dinner
Hirioko Seki-Blanco	Boutique Buyer
Thomas Shepard	Musicales/Master Class
Larry Verdugo	Community Ed. Chair
Jacque Lyne Wallace	Mailing/Hotline
Dick Wollmer	Comm Ed/Asst. Master Class

Consultants

Bob Bernard	Artist Services
Dr. W. Allan Edmiston	Seminars
Elle Gnuip	Boutique Scheduler
Brita Millard	Special Events
Regi Merwin	Bravo

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

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lverdugo@sbcglobal.net

Cast Dinners:

Cheryl Dowden

Phone: 323.255.0265

dowden8983@roadrunner.com

Opera Talk at Julianne's:

Carol Sholer

Phone: 818.243.1818

csholer1@att.net

Call Julianne'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)

Greetings Opera Leaguers!

By Anne Russell Sullivan

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I'm reporting on our Sherwin Sloan Seminars for this season. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 10 am, when our own Dr. Nino Sanikidze, vocal coach for the LAO Young Artists, and our beloved Dr. Simon Williams will guide us through an in-depth exploration of Verdi's *I due Foscari*. Based on a historical play, *The Two Foscari* by Lord Byron, the opera was first performed in London in 1847. Rarely mounted, our new production stars Maestro Plácido Domingo creating his 129th operatic role!

Nino will share her sparkling wit and musical expertise in an hour-long presentation and will accompany a vocalist (yet to be announced) with selections from the opera under discussion. Simon will charm us with his wonderful lecture, Dr. Allan Edmiston will moderate and Helga Kasimoff will provide her excellent Bleuthner piano.

Next up on Sunday November 11th 2012 at 10 am will be *Madama Butterfly*. Dr. Michael Hackett and Dr. Desirée Mays from Santa Fe will share the podium for another comprehensive seminar; more to come on that one in our next issue of *Bravo*.

Please also note on your calendars the remaining seminars of the 2012/2013 season. Continuing with the popular 10 am start time and opportunity to purchase lunch, Sunday, March 3 is the date for *The Flying Dutchman* and *Cinderella*. Then on Saturday, May 11, *Tosca*—plus a special surprise.

This new season will have its share of firsts. We are adding salad choices to our box lunch menu: This time around we will offer a tuna or turkey sandwich, a vegetarian tostada salad and a chicken Caesar salad or Asian chicken salad (please see invitation to check your choices.)

See you at the Seminars!

CAROL NEBLETT...THE SEQUEL!

By Thomas Shepard

OCTOBER 13, 2012 MUSICALE

From the leading opera houses of the world, to the teaching studios of Chapman University, and to the stage of the 2012 Tony-nominated Broadway musical, *Follies*, at the Ahmanson, back by popular demand, world-renowned soprano Carol Neblett, will return to us for the Fall 2012 Musicale.

When she was last with us in 2010, Ms. Neblett enchanted and entertained us with arias and fascinating, often humorous tales of her career as one of the leading sopranos of international opera. This time she promises us more of her delicious soprano voice accompanied by two of the young singers from her teaching studio and yet more tales (she's been saving the juiciest ones!!) of her life in the theatre that will keep you spellbound.

We are pleased and excited to announce that on at 2:00 pm on Saturday October 13, 2012 you are invited to an elegant, private gated estate on the West Side for an afternoon of opera, stories, refreshments, and wonderful company.

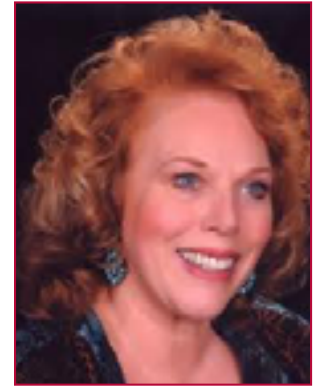


Photo: blogs.chapman.edu

Carol Neblett

The last three Musicales have been completely sold out and people turned away. This promises to be one of the most special afternoons of the League season, so plan on making your reservations now.

To assure your full enjoyment of this highly anticipated event we've contracted with a valet parking service to handle your parking for you. Please note, there will be a \$5.00 fee per person to be paid in cash at the door to help defray the costs of valet parking.

Reserve online at www.opera-league.org or by filling out and mailing in the form from *Bravo*.



Toasting the Past Presidents

Photo: Robert Millard

TO ED LIEB:
WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR TIRELESS TIME AND EFFORT
EDITING THE BRAVO.



Peter Hemmings



Alice Coulombe
1981-1984



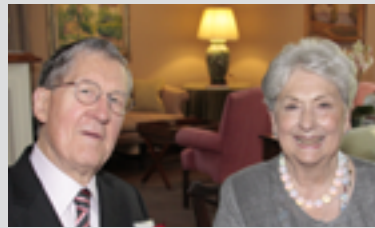
Lorraine Saunders
1984-1986



Judy Lieb
2009-2011



Anne Russell Sullivan, Kathy
Crandall and Brita Millard



David Barry and Alice Coulombe



Monica Weil and Paul Schrade



Dorothy Wait
2007-2009



Audrey Hanson and Family



Dorothy Wait and Family



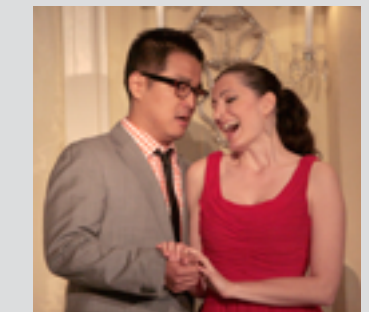
Gina Di Massa, Gloria Mullendore,
Eloise Cadman and Claire
Chambless



Beryl Sharpe, Joyce Nembhard and
Marian Spencer



Ernie Prokopovych, Heinz Schelbert,
Brita Millard, Diane Gray, Barbara
Schelbert, Anne Prokopovych



Museop Kim, Valentina Fleer

All photos of the Hemmings event
by Robert Millard.



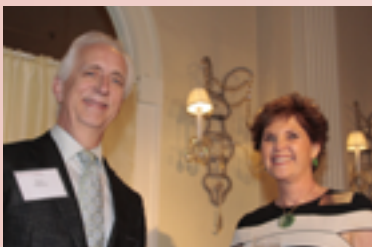
Rebecca Bowne
2005-2007



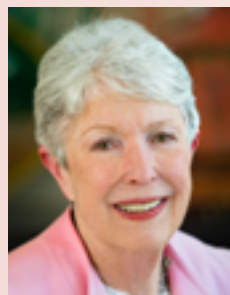
Cat Pollon and Bruce Bisenz



Judy and Ed Lieb, Janet Ciriello



Rich Capparella and Diane Gray



Monica Weil
2003-2005



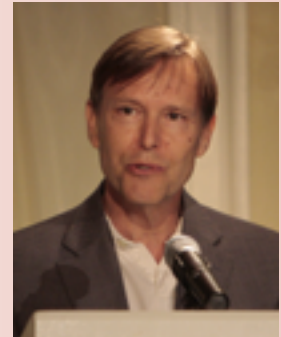
Audrey Hanson
2001-2003



Carol Henry
1986-1988



Joan Thompson
1988-1990



Grant Gershon



Kathy Crandall, Robert Braun



Monica Gutierrez Roper, John Welsh,
Susan Heard



Claire Chambless, Molly Siefert,
Toni Bird



Toni Bird
1990-1992



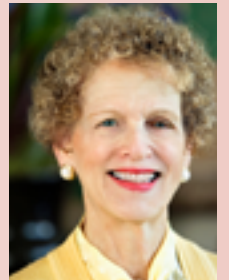
May Wang, Rebecca Bowne,
Tadea Pylko, Margie Mostue



Gary Murphy, Alice Coulombe, Peter Gray



Tracy Cox, Ben Bliss, Valentina Flier



Anne Combs
1992-1994



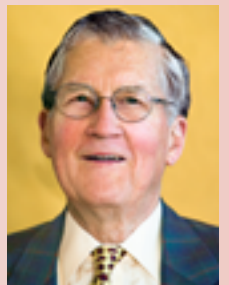
Monica Gutierrez Roper, Margie Mostue,
Regi Merwin, Barbara Merkle



Warner and Carol Henry, Toni Bird



Gene and Rita Mecherikoff and
Warren Schubert



David Barry
1994-1996

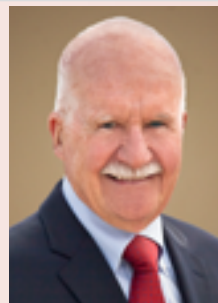
All the photos of the Past Presidents by Bruce Bisenz,
except Warren Schubert, by Sarab Szwajkos.



Melody and Warren Schubert



Molly Siefert
1999-2001



Warren Schubert
1996-1999



Beautiful roses and program booklets adorn tables

calendar

August

Hollywood Bowl

Saturday, August 19, 7:30 pm
Domingo and Dudamel - sold out

Opera for Educators

Saturday, August 25 8 am (*I due Foscari*)
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact: Larry Verdugo

September

Education

Opera for Educators
Saturday, September 8, 8 am (*Don Giovanni*)

Opera Wise

Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm
Friday, September 14, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm
Tuesday, September 18, 3 pm-6 pm
and 7:30 pm-10:30 pm

Opera Prep

Wednesday, September 12, 4:30 pm-10:30 pm
(*I due Foscari*)
Wednesday, September 19, 4:30 pm-10:30 pm
(*Don Giovanni*)
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact: Larry Verdugo

Cast Dinners

September 7, 5 pm (*I due Foscari*)
September 11, 4:30 pm (*Don Giovanni*)
September 18, 5 pm (*Don Giovanni*)
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact Cheryl Dowden

Seminar

Sunday, September 9, 10 am (*I due Foscari*)
See "invitations" page

Opera Talks at Long Beach

Saturday, September 29, 2 pm
(*Don Giovanni*)
Contact: John Spear

October

Opera Talks at Julienne's

Monday, October 1, 7 pm
Contact: Carol Sholer

Musicale

October 13, 2 pm
At a lovely home in Brentwood
See "invitations" page

Education

Opera 101
Saturday, October 13, 8 am
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact: Larry Verdugo

Opera Talks at Long Beach

Saturday, October 13, 2 pm
(*Madama Butterfly*)
Contact: John Spear

Special Events

Attend 3 Operas in San Francisco
October 18-21
See page 9

AALAO Program

Sunday, October 21 3 pm-6 pm
At a lovely home in Pasadena
Contact: Jacque Wallace,
babijacque@gmail.com
Invitation will be mailed.

Concert

Owens/Brugger concert
October 28, 5:30 pm
Segerstrom Concert Hall
See "invitations" page

November

Opera Talks at Juliennes

Monday, November 5, 7 pm
Contact: Carol Sholer

Education

Opera for Educators
Saturday, November 3, 8 am
(*Madama Butterfly*)

Senior Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 14, 8 am
(*Madama Butterfly*)

Opera Wise

Tuesday, November 13, 3-6 pm
and 7:30-10:30 pm

Opera Prep

Wednesday, November 14,
9:30 am-2:30 pm (*Madama Butterfly*)
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact: Larry Verdugo

Seminar

Sunday, November 11, 10 am
(*Madama Butterfly*)
See "invitations" page

Cast Dinner

Tuesday, November 13, 5 pm
(*Madama Butterfly*)
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 4th floor
Volunteers contact Cheryl Dowden

See page 2 for contact information.

Antelope Valley

Dr. Harald Krueger 661.728.0671
Call for information

Beverly Hills

Mimi Rotter 310.479.0259
Anne Russell Sullivan 323.697.9733
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Sunday, August 26, 10 am
10430 Wilshire Blvd, Unit 504, Los Angeles

Claremont

Patricia O'Donnell 909.447.5038
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Sunday, August 5, 2 pm-5 pm
530 West 11th Street, Claremont
Madama Butterfly
November 4, 2 pm-5pm

Hollywood/Hancock Park

Ifang (pronounced ee-fong) Hsieh
310.279.9927
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Sunday, August 26, 2012, 2 pm
817 Keniston Ave, Los Angeles, CA

Orange County

Sandy Persky 714.969.0589
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Sunday, August 19, 2 pm-5 pm
6132 Fernwood Dr, Huntington Beach

San Fernando Valley

Regi Merwin 818.400.2578
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Sunday, August 26, 2 pm
1700 No. Brighton St, Burbank

San Gabriel Valley

Michael Sholer 818.502.1988
Carmen Paz 818.515.0815
I due Foscari
Tuesday, August 21, 7 pm-9:30 pm
Don Giovanni
Wednesday, September 12, 7 pm-9:30 pm
5278 La Canada Blvd., La Canada

Santa Clarita

Ann Anderson, Ron Gordon 661.259.9619
Don Giovanni
Monday, September 17, 5 pm
(with a seasonal opening potluck)
25506 Longfellow Place, Stevenson Ranch

South Bay

Ifang Hsieh 310.279.9927
Call for information

Westside

Monika Whitaker 310.826.4743
Chuck or Alice Bragg 310.454.9662
I due Foscari and Don Giovanni
Monday, September 10, 7:15 pm-9:30 pm
585 Almar Avenue, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

invitations

Carol Neblett... the Sequel Fall Musicale

**Saturday, October 13,
2012 at 2 pm**

At a lovely home on the
Westside
(Location information will be
provided to you)

Advanced orders: \$35 (or a
voucher)
for members

Same day purchase at the door:
\$45

For orders sent by mail, please
include a self-addressed stamped
envelope.

Valet parking: \$5 per person to be
paid at door to help defray costs of
valet parking.

Your order must be received by
October 9.

First Seminar of the Season Verdi's *I due Foscari*

The Opera League Seminars are
dedicated to

Sherwin Sloan, founder of the Opera
League Seminars

Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 10 am

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand
Avenue

(Enter under the outside stairs on Grand; then
take the elevators to the 5th floor)

Speakers:

Dr. Nino Sanikidze and Dr. Simon Williams

Moderator: Dr. Allan Edmiston

Vocalist to be announced

A box lunch (sandwiches or salads): \$15

Advance orders: \$35 (or a voucher) for
members

Guests or same day purchase at door: \$45

Your order must be received by September 3.

Eric Owens/Janai Brugger with the Pacific Chorale Mendelssohn's Oratorio *Elijah*

**Sunday, October 28, 2012
at 5:30 pm**

At the Renée and Henry
Segerstrom Concert Hall at
Segerstrom Center for the Arts in
Orange County

Tickets in best available, prime
orchestra seats: \$70

Limited tickets available on a first-
come, first-served basis.

EVENT ORDER FORM

Musicale Tickets

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

Seminar Tickets

___ x Member (or voucher)@ \$35	\$ _____
___ x Non-member@ \$45	\$ _____
___ x Student member@ \$10	\$ _____
___ x Tuna or turkey sandwich@ \$15	\$ _____
___ x Veggie tostada salad@ \$15	\$ _____
___ x Chicken Caesar salad@ \$15	\$ _____
___ x Asian chicken salad@ \$15	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Concert Tickets

___ x Tickets@ \$70	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

You can order tickets for any Opera League event on 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, or 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, PO Box 49-1057, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9057.

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.

Patron Dinner

By Dr. Robert Braun, Event Chair

Our annual patron dinner on April 23rd, graciously hosted by Marilyn Zierling, was a stellar sell out. Amid Marilyn's breathtaking gardens, more than one hundred attendees were treated to an unforgettable evening. Stephen Carona serenaded the patrons with his melodious classical guitar while they enjoyed a delicious meal. Joshua Winograde, artistic administrator and director of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, hosted a lively conversation with opera stars Janai Brugger and Artur Rucinski and *La Bohème* Artistic Director Greg Fortner. The thematic centerpieces on each table highlighted the Opera League's dedication to the next thirty years of people helping people connect to the world of opera in Los Angeles. Bravo to Assistant Dorothy Wait and additional volunteers for their assistance.



Josh Winograde, Gregory Fortner, Janai Brugger, Diane Gray, Artur Rucinski, Robert Braun



Marilyn Zierling



135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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INVITATIONS ARE INCLUDED

- ★ A Special Fall Musicale
CAROL NEBLETT...THE SEQUEL
Saturday, October 13
 - ★ Seminar
Verdi's *I due Foscari*
Sunday, September 9
 - ★ Eric Owens/Janai Brugger with the
Pacific Chorale
Mendelssohn's Oratorio *Elijah*
Sunday, October 28
- See p. 7 for more information

Los Angeles Opera League Fall Weekend in San Francisco

ATTEND THREE OPERAS! OCTOBER 18- 21, 2012

You may attend Thursday - Saturday (October 18-20) or Friday - Sunday (October 19-21). Prices include tickets for operas, a welcome dinner on Friday evening; wine, cheese, and light snacks each evening; and a tax deductible contribution of \$100.

- **October 18:** *Moby Dick* (Heggie) 7:30 pm (Ben Heppner or Jay Hunter Morris and Stephen Costello)
- **October 19:** *The Capulets and the Montagues* (Bellini) 8:00 pm (Joyce DiDonato, Nicole Cabell)
- **October 20:** *Lohengrin* (Wagner) 8:00 pm (Brandon Jovanovich, Camilla Nylund)
- **October 21:** *Moby Dick* (Heggie) 2:00 pm (Ben Heppner or Jay Hunter Morris and Stephen Costello)

Tickets may be purchased at two different price levels. Further information about the operas can be seen at: sfopera.com Look under Season & Tickets. San Francisco anticipates a full sell out of tickets to subscribers. We are able to obtain tickets in Premium Orchestra/Dress Circle and Orchestra Ring/Balcony Circle. Seating is somewhat better for *Moby Dick* on Thursday, October 18 so I encourage you to sign up for that date if you can come for a Thursday performance. If you missed *Moby Dick* in San Diego, you will want to see this! It is surely Jake Heggie's best opera so far!

	October 18- 20	October 19 - 21
Premium Orchestra or Grand Tier	\$821	\$856
Orchestra Ring or Balcony	\$435	\$526
		(a few at \$476 – ask if interested)

ACCOMMODATIONS: This is an extremely busy weekend in San Francisco. San Francisco accommodations are filling up for another function. Make hotel reservations now if you are even thinking about coming on this trip! Call Kathy Crandall or Diane Gray right away for information on accommodations.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation will be on your own. Information will be provided on request.

Because San Francisco Opera anticipates this to be a sold out weekend, I cannot guarantee that I can hold ticket sales open too long.

Name(s): _____

Daytime/cell phone: _____ email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Premium Orchestra/Grand Tier

October 18- 20

Number of tickets	Total
@ \$821 _____	\$ _____
@ \$435 _____	\$ _____

Orchestra Ring/Balcony Circle

October 19 - 21

Number of tickets	Total
@ \$865 _____	\$ _____
@ \$526 _____	\$ _____

\$200 per participant is required with registration, with remainder payable by September 1, 2012. \$100 is non-refundable. Remainder of payments may be refunded until September 1, 2012. After that time, refunds will be issued based upon our ability to acquire rebates from venues or to find a replacement for you.

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, 626-888-4909 or at skimeup@gmail.com.

Please return form, with check made out to Opera League of Los Angeles, to: Kathy Crandall, 190 Arroyo Terrace, #308, Pasadena, CA 91103. Please indicate on bottom left "San Francisco Trip 2012."



Photo: Peter Gray

Diane Gray, Catherine Miller, Ashley Faatoalia, Dolores and Ben Kerr

Ashley Faatoalia Soloist at African-Americans for Los Angeles Opera Annual Membership Recital

By Shel Amega

An SRO crowd was treated to an afternoon of arias, spirituals, light jazz and songs by tenor Ashley Faatoalia, accompanied by pianist Catherine Miller at AALAO's Annual Membership Recital on June 17.

The event was held at the beautiful home of Ben and Delores Kerr in Hancock Park and was followed by a reception in their garden patio. Michael Melton served as the MC and Diane Gray greeted the audience. The Ekpo Trio provided chamber music.

Faatoalia recently placed second in the Western Regionals of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera Competition. Opera News has praised his voice for having "winning purity and variety of expression."

Miller is in her 15th season with LA Opera and also serves as a coach and pianist for the UCLA Opera Department.

VOLUNTEER EVENT

By Kathy Crandall, Event Chair

There were 165 volunteers qualified to be included in the Volunteer Celebration evening held on May 22, having put in at least 20 hours of volunteer time for the opera league. The 85 volunteers attending in Rehearsal Room 1, were feasted with hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wines and juices, and sundry goodies. A fascinating program was given by Lee Holdridge, composer of many movie scores such as *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Lee has been composing since he was ten years old and has done scores for many movies and television shows. Of particular interest for opera lovers, Lee has composed many of the in-school operas given by LA Opera at elementary and secondary schools throughout the area. And most importantly, Lee has composed a new opera in English, after a story by Isabel Allende, *Dulce Rosa*. It will be the first opera presented in the new program LA Opera Off Grand. *Dulce Rosa* will have its world premiere, with Maestro Domingo conducting, at the Broad Stage in May, 2013.

Volunteers were recognized for their hard work and huge number of hours, totaling over 25, 000 this year for LA Opera. Each volunteer received a gift of a sturdy shopping bag that folds up into a small pouch, weighing about an ounce, that can be carried in a pocket or purse. Those who were not present will receive theirs in the mail.

ERIC OWENS, JANAI BRUGGER HEADLINE PACIFIC CHORALE *ELIJAH* IN OCTOBER

Bass-baritone
Eric OwensSoprano Janai
Brugger

By Regi Merwin

Join the OLLA contingent for a rousing evening of oratorio at Orange County's Segerstrom Center. On Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 5:30 pm the Pacific Master Chorale will present Felix Mendelssohn's mighty *Elijah*. Bass-baritone Eric Owens will sing the title role, and 'our own' Janai Brugger will sing the soprano roles of the Widow and the Angel.

LA Opera audiences will remember Eric Owens as Grendel in 2006 as well as *Elijah* with the LA Master Chorale in 2009. In 2010 Mr. Owens was seen on the Met's HD Broadcasts as Alberich in the new *Ring* production and as Dr. Leslie Groves in Adams' *Dr. Atomic*. This year he will be Sharpless in our *Madama Butterfly*.

Ms. Brugger is a 2012 winner of both the Metropolitan Opera National Council and Operalia competitions. She is a graduate of LA Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist program. She was our Musetta in *La Bohème* this past season and earlier this year made her debut as Juliet at Palm Beach Opera.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA WEEKEND JUNE 13 - 17

By Kathy Crandall, Trip Leader

Ten avid opera lovers made the jaunt to San Francisco to enjoy a weekend of operas, featuring the rarely performed *Attila* (Verdi) and new and entrancing productions of *The Magic Flute* (Mozart) and *Nixon in China* (Adams). With forays to the Museum of Modern Art and the DeYoung Museum, dinner at Patina, shopping, and cheese, wine, and assorted munchies each evening before the operas, our hardy group was sated with culture and great company. Join us for another wonderful weekend of opera in October, seeing *Lohengrin* (Wagner), *Moby Dick* (Heggie) and *The Capulets and the Montegues* (Bellini) on October 17 - 21.