

Your Guide To Upcoming Opera League Events

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BRAVO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OPERA LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES

AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES CONLON

BY KATHY CRANDALL



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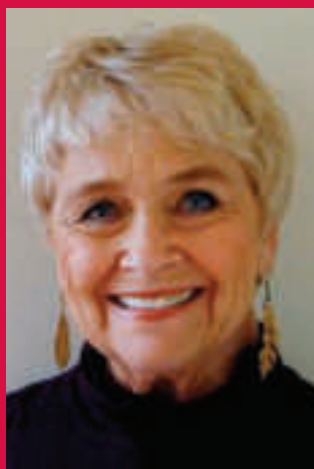
Spotlight on Volunteer
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September Seminar and
Master Class Sign-ups

Earlier this season, it was announced that Maestro James Conlon had signed a contract to remain as LA Opera's Richard Seaver Music Director for another five years. I asked Mr. Conlon to share some information about his formative years and his approach to music direction—information that has not necessarily been widely known.

Mr. Conlon developed intellectual pursuits at home, where his parents were broad-minded intellectuals who had great compassion for the less fortunate and who fostered pursuits of the mind among their children. He recalls discussions with his parents and four siblings about history, Shakespeare, social issues and the Bible as literature. He recalls being influenced by wide-ranging conversations between his father and his close friend Father Joseph Buckley. Father Buckley remained a good friend of Mr. Conlon's until his death.

From the President



Two years ago I had the glorious task of interviewing all fourteen of the Opera League past presidents who were honored at the Hemmings Awards dinner in 2012. It was an enlightening and humbling experience. I wondered then – and still more as I write this – if I am up to the task of following in their footsteps. They accomplished so much – without them, there

would not be an Opera League today. Following our 15th past president will be no easy task either.

Diane Gray achieved many things for the Opera League – the change to a full-color BRAVO under the work of Editor Susan Heard; the upgrade of the website through truly uncountable hours from Webmaster Bill Green; and the able guidance of Membership Chair Trevor Roper, who devoted numerous hours to the membership and “store” components. These achievements are an amazing legacy. Diane did a wonderful job fundraising to ensure that the Student Bus Transportation Fund will enable school children – operagoers of the future – to attend LA Opera dress rehearsals for years to come, regardless of public school funding cutbacks.

I hope you will enjoy the events we are planning this year. Last spring we emailed a survey to 500 members to help us plan League seminars. We asked which operas we should feature in seminars and when seminars should be held. As a result of the extraordinary 36% response rate, we will hold seminars on *Einstein on the Beach*, *Thais*, *Falstaff* and *Lucia de Lammermoor*. We also will plan special events to focus on *Billy Budd* and *The Magic Flute*. Finally, League members preferred Sunday afternoons and Saturday mornings (but not too early), and favored the lunch and social time. As we plan our activities, we will try to avoid conflicts with other musical events on days we select.

Our Einstein seminar speaker is the Executive and Artistic Director of UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP), Kristy Edmunds. She will tell us about this contemporary opera and how LA Opera and CAP partnered to bring it to Los Angeles. We follow that with the Master Class by renowned impresario Tito Capobianco. We hope to see you at these and other events. Photos and write-ups will be on the website soon after each event.

I am excited to report that we are making progress in partnering with LAO's Aria program to reach out to young professionals and bring them into our Opera League fold. You will hear shortly of our plans for a fall membership drive. I invite your thoughts on reaching out to other opera lovers in the LA basin.

We invite members who enjoy writing and have experience in word processing and text editing to help produce our BRAVO newsletter and maintain current content on our newly designed website. Volunteers will learn about League activities and events by conducting interviews and helping to write articles. If you have the time and skills, I would love to hear from you at president@operaleague.org.



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AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES CONLON

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Until he was 11, he had a peripheral awareness of music. His life changed when he went to his first opera, *La Traviata* and he “fell in love.” It was his friend Walter Mugdan who introduced him to opera. In 1961, Walter’s mother created the North Shore Opera Company in Queens, New York. Forced to attend productions, Walter insisted on front row seats for himself and his friend James, who quickly became hooked on the art form. He immersed himself in piano and violin lessons, and in the excitement backstage at the North Shore Opera Company. He soon found himself becoming alienated from many of his peers, who were far more interested in other things. He also learned of a remarkable public school, the Fiorello H. La Guardia High School of Music and Art in New York City, which he subsequently attended from 1965 to 1968.

Entry into this school transformed the young James Conlon. No longer was he an isolated outsider; instead he became part of a thriving art scene, which celebrated the very musical achievements he lauded. He and his brother Philip became engrossed in New York’s classical music life. They borrowed scores and recordings from the New York Public Library, making friends with ushers at the major New

“I eat, drink, and sleep music. It is in my mind, body, heart, and emotions. It doesn’t leave me alone, and I don’t want it to.”

York concert houses, and spending many hours in standing-room locations. In 1962, Mr. Conlon also saw *The Barber of Seville*, *Die Fledermaus* and *Don Giovanni*. The following year he sang in the children’s chorus of *La Bohème* and *Hansel and Gretel*, and he began attending the Metropolitan Opera. He became enamored of *The Flying Dutchman*, *Boris Godunov* and *Carmen*. He wanted to sing in all of them, but realized that the only way he could “do it all” was to conduct.

He studied piano, but had to play violin and sing in order to audition for the High School of Music and Art, since there was no conducting program per se; prospective students had to be performers. His hard-won piano skills

were quickly put to use at Music and Art as an accompanist. His interest in conducting caught the attention of Mildred Landecker, who taught conducting at the school. He has fond memories of Mrs. Landecker, who continues to attend LA Opera whenever she can. When he spots her at his pre-performance lectures, he invites her to take a seat in the front row and then gives her a big hug.

Editor Susan Heard and I visited the now 100-year-old Mrs. Landecker, who recalls James Conlon as one of her favorite students. We asked her what makes a great conductor: “One, they rehearse and rehearse and rehearse. Two, the right hand maintains the beat but the left hand cues the instrumentalists and indicates level of intensity. Both hands never do the same thing.” She notes that Mr. Conlon exemplifies these characteristics as a conductor.

Mr. Conlon defines his responsibility as encompassing the whole music performance. Everything about a production is the business of the conductor: he oversees the chorus, the music staff, the orchestra auditions, and sees his job as getting the best out of everyone in the orchestra. He rehearses singers individually.

Mr. Conlon enjoys working with young people and mentioned how delighted he was to conduct the Benjamin Britten opera *The Rape of Lucretia* with LA Opera’s Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artists and student musicians from The Colburn School.

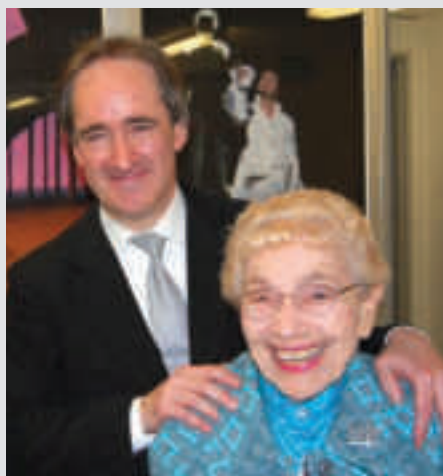
Interestingly, Mr. Conlon mentioned that his most important influence and mentor was James Levine, from whom, among many other things, he learned the immense value of rehearsing and performing constantly with one’s orchestra. If we judge by the level of performance and reputation of our extraordinary LA Opera Orchestra, this code of extensive rehearsal time results in breathtakingly beautiful performances.

Mr. Conlon also shared with us how important it is for him to make time for his family. James’ wife, soprano Jennifer Ringo, is also a freelance language and vocal diction coach who has taught at Bard College and often works with the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artists, as well as the USC Thornton School of Music. Luisa, their 24-year-old daughter, graduated from NYU in film and is working as a documentary filmmaker in Los Angeles. Parisian-born daughter Emma is finishing her senior year in high school at the Lycée Français in New York. Emma was a briefly a member of the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus, and sang in the children’s chorus at both LA Opera and the Metropolitan Opera.

When asked if he extended his contract because he likes living in Los Angeles, Mr. Conlon smiled and said he likes living at LA Opera. Then he added that he has found that he really likes living in Los Angeles as well. As he noted at the time of the announcement of his contract extension, “I enjoy working and living in Los Angeles on a daily basis in a way I could not have imagined prior to 2006. I am grateful to Plácido Domingo and to Board Chairman Marc Stern for the confidence they have shown in me, to Christopher Koelsch for his exceptional collaboration, and most of all, to the musicians of the orchestra, chorus and music staff for making every intense day so satisfying. Six wonderful years have passed in a flash, and I am so happy to know that five more lie ahead.”

We discussed the relationship of stage director and conductor. He emphasized that not just the conductor, but all performing artists must surrender their egos—to the music to transmit that music—that music has a life of its own. He believes in innovation as long as it doesn’t compromise the essence. The goal of the conductor clearly becomes always to give the audience the best possible musical experience through expressing the essence of the music. And Los Angeles and LA Opera are happy that Maestro Conlon is here to express that essence with each opera he conducts! 🌟

James Conlon and Mrs. Landecker; James Conlon with student musicians.



EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH: BRAINSTORM

BY BOB BERNARD

“Language is the barrier of the imagination.”

This quote is from Stage Director Robert Wilson, himself afflicted with a childhood learning disability (stuttering), who was moved to work early on with institutions serving the disadvantaged. In an institution for brain-damaged children, Wilson came upon fourteen-year-old Christopher Knowles, an autistic boy possessed of a preoccupation with mathematics, geometry, and arrangement of words and sounds (as opposed to their literal meaning). Mr. Wilson, building upon the artistic characteristics of this by-product of autism, used Christopher’s texts in six of the tableaux and for two of the entr’acte plays of *Einstein on the Beach*.

Another carry-over from Wilson’s childhood is his emotional isolation from his mother and his intellectual clash with his father, circumstances leading eventually to the autobiographical trait of his often staging a young boy placed far apart from others:

“What came to me as a revelation was the use of rhythm in developing an overall structure in music.”

This quote is from Composer Philip Glass, recalling the epiphanic moment that was to forever inspire his use of relentless, reiterative arpeggiation in his compositions. Mr. Glass, working from Wilson’s original drawings, employed this compositional practice, subordinating melody to a gradually changing rhythmic structure for *Einstein*.

We have had the opportunity to attend two of Glass’s operas, which reflect his compositional style. Recently, Long Beach Opera (LBO) produced *The Fall of the House*, effectively conveying the requisite existential dread of the story. In 2011, LBO’s *Akhnaten*, using state-of-the-art infrared technology, visually mimicked the quasi-repetitiousness of the score, projecting rows of time-variant hieroglyphic poses onto the Long Beach Terrace Theatre’s cyclorama.

Wilson and Glass, part of the avant-garde arts movement in the late 60’s in Manhattan’s Soho district, created *Einstein*, beginning in 1974. They settled upon the overall length (4 and ½ hours) and identified nine tableaux, each approximately twenty minutes in length and separated by connecting “knee plays,” so named because Wilson is fond of anatomical metaphors. With no formal intermissions, the audience is free to come and go at will.

They agreed that the subject would be the scientist Albert Einstein. Presuming audiences would have substantial prior knowledge regarding Einstein, no attempt was made to tell a story. Rather, a collection of widely disparate cultural references concurrent with either Einstein’s life or the time frame of the opera’s creation (the equal rights movement, atomic energy, the trial of Patty Hearst, some daffy ‘supermarket dialogue,’ a popular song and TV personalities of that day), were staged. As one example of this, the impetuous tongue-out-of-cheek photo of Einstein was memorialized.

Commissioned by France’s Avignon Festival, it opened there on July 25, 1976, toured six other European cities and concluded the premiere run at the Met, playing to two sold-out houses. Another major tour took place in 1992.

This tour’s cast includes three featured performers, twelve singers, the twelve dancers of the Lucinda Childs Dance Company, and the six-member Philip Glass Ensemble, conducted by Michael Riesman, Music Director. In October, Los Angeles will be the twelfth (and final) stop on the 2012-13 tour of this unique combination of expressionistic stagecraft and impressionistic music. 🌟

See an expanded version of this article and others by Bob Bernard in “Bob Bernard’s Corner” on the website - operaleague.org



CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES
OPERA LEAGUE VOLUNTEER

BOB BERNARD

BY ANNE RUSSELL SULLIVAN

Robert H. Bernard began his relationship with the Opera League in 1988. An independent aerospace engineer with a secret passion for opera, Bob has applied his organizational skills to managing League volunteer activities. He also used skills that he developed as a member of the Hughes Aircraft Toastmasters Club when he became a volunteer speaker.

Bob served as Regional Chair for the South Bay gatherings for five years. He often brought in singers like John Raitt and Jessica Rivera, who performed to large audiences at the South Bay gatherings. He recalls hosting 75 attendees on a stormy Sunday afternoon in preparation for Bach's *B minor Mass* (directed by Achim Freyer).

He was an inaugural member of LAO's Speakers Bureau (now Community Educators), and he has been fine-tuning his wonderful Opera Talks for well over a decade. Not one to be daunted by technology, Bob mastered the art of DVD creation and YouTube editing to add delightful visuals to talks.

Over the past seven years, working with former editor Ed Lieb and graphic designer Patricia Bacall, Bob has published 26 BRAVO articles. He had the opportunity for one-on-one repartee with such opera notables as Maestros Conlon and Nagano, composer Daniel Catán, and film director Brian Large. Bob has also written another 15 articles for *Inside Opera*. He estimates he has written approximately 60,000 words for our opera organization.

Bob is a former Board Member of the League, and is currently a consulting director to the Board. He serves as the popular chair of the League's Artist Services Committee, a position he has held for the past eleven years. He estimates that our Artists Services Committee has clocked more than 17,000 hours since he took command.

Members of this committee adore Bob's amusing and informative emails. His

quips and cartoons are delightful. He runs this important committee like clockwork, assuring the Company that arriving and departing performers and staff will be taken care of in the professional manner unique to Los Angeles Opera. While singers and staff are in Los Angeles, our volunteers drive them to medical appointments, golf games and shopping excursions. We are eager to handle all requests.

As Artist Services volunteers we are blessed to have Bob as our chief. He notifies us of our assignments with humor and grace. Our efforts are always rewarded with appropriately named and personalized DVDs. Some examples: La Cenerentola Award: Greeting an artist in or about the midnight hour; La Sonnambula Award: Transporting an artist to LAX before 8 am. We are feted, photographed and fed at our yearly Artist Services Party. It is a highlight of every season.

Bob has interests outside of opera. At Hughes Aircraft Company, he worked on Surveyor, the first unmanned lunar lander. He contributed his skills toward developing the first geosynchronous communications satellites. For over 20 years, he was a long-distance runner who completed 65 consecutive marathons.

Bob is the go-to guy for all opera trivia. His wealth of knowledge is amazing. His good cheer, patience and wit make him a treasure in our Opera League community. Bob is married to fellow Opera League member May Wang. They are an unstoppable duo at LAO. ✨



(Left to right): Rupert Hemmings, Stacy Brightman, and Gary Murphy

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

The Opera League of Los Angeles celebrated the dedication and commitment of our passionate volunteers with a special celebration held in their honor on May 23, 2013, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Many of the League's 250 stalwart volunteers attended and were recognized by event leaders for the 25,000+ cumulative volunteer hours the League tallied for the year. These volunteers came from Artist Services, the Boutique, Cast Dinners, Education, Lightwalking, the Mailing Committee, and the Speakers Bureau.

Special guests Gary Murphy, LAO Senior Director of Communications and Public Relations, and Stacy Brightman, LAO Senior Director of Education and Community Programs, thanked volunteers for their commitment and talked about the new and exciting developments in opera education for students and the community. Another highlight was an exclusive interview by League Board member Charles Stern with special guest Rupert Hemmings, LAO Senior Director of Production. Mr. Hemmings offered volunteers a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective on how the Opera Company selects an opera, and how performers are handpicked and coached during the tenure of a production in order to deliver an exciting performance for LA opera audiences.

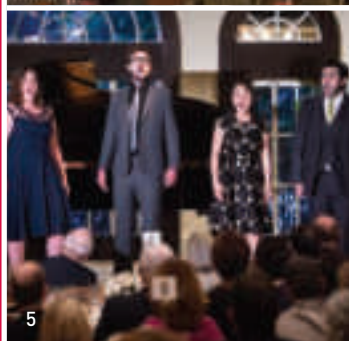
The Opera League of Los Angeles thanks its loyal and passionate volunteers for their commitment and service. The League looks forward to honoring volunteers again for their support during the 2013-2014 season.

- Yolla Kairouz



PETER HEMMINGS AWARD DINNER 2013

BY DIANE GRAY,
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



It is a factual statement: "A good time was had by all!"

The 2013 Peter Hemmings dinner honoring Eva and Marc Stern was an evening to remember. The Sterns were honored for their stellar contribution to LA Opera, the arts, education and cultural endeavors in Los Angeles and beyond. The intimate Grand Trianon room at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, adorned with French crystal chandeliers and pale roses, gave a sparkling and festive air to the night. Diane Gray, OLLA President, opened the evening and thanked those in the audience for raising an impressive \$68,000, most of which will go to the Student Transportation Bus Fund. Christopher Koelsch, President and CEO of LA Opera, and Carol Henry, who serves on LA Opera's board as Chair of the Executive Committee and was one of last year's honorees, lauded the Sterns for their inspiring leadership, generosity and innumerable contributions to our community.

Eva Stern thanked the League and praised us on our amazing commitment to music education, efforts which she had experienced first hand just weeks prior to this event. Marc, recovering from knee surgery, humorously blamed the LAO for his woes, as he had, over the years, spent so much time on his knees asking for money. He pointed out that surgery was needed on just one knee because he never had to beg for support from the Opera League.

LA Opera's Senior Director of Artistic Planning Josh Winograde introduced four members of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program: Joshua Guerrero, Hae Ji Chang, D'Ana Lombard and Benjamin Bliss, who sang favorite opera selections. Nino Sanikidze, head vocal coach of the Young Artist Program, delighted all by playing Gershwin's Prelude in E flat minor. The final musical selections were a surprise to all: Joshua Guerrero and Benjamin Bliss, a duo on guitars, sang a moving "More Than Words" and then launched into the Beatles "Blackbird." They ended with a spirited "Johnny B. Goode," with Marc Stern leading the applause. The jovial mood continued throughout the evening.

My heartfelt thanks go to the committee members and volunteers who made the thousand details of the evening come together so successfully: Marlene Chavez, Kathy Crandall, Fred Dear, Cheryl Dowden, Ken Garlock, Peter Gray, Marie Hadji, Steve and Karen Kohn, Mirjana Mahnovski, Brita Millard, Monica Gutierrez-Roper and Trevor Roper, Anne and Ernie Prokopovych, Thomas Shepard, Anne Russell Sullivan, and Dorothy Wait.

1. (Upper left) Marc and Eva Stern 2. Diane Gray, Carol and Warner Henry 3. Harald Krueger and Ines Ibrahim 4. Beverly Wilshire Grand Trianon Room 5. Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program members: D'Ana Lombard, Ben Bliss, Hae Ji Chang, Joshua Guerrero 6. Monica and Trevor Roper 7. Marie Hadji, Carol Ann Peterson, Guy Crawford, Susan Heard 8. William and Mary Lewis 9. Joan Newman 10. Christopher Koelsch and Diane Gray. Photos by Bruce Bisenz.

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AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR LOS ANGELES OPERA 2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RECITAL

BY SHELL AMEGA

Soprano Gertrude Bradley performed a repertoire of Italian arias and popular songs, ranging from Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini to Cole Porter and Duke Ellington, for a standing-room-only crowd at the African Americans for Los Angeles Opera (AALAO) Annual Membership Recital on June 16. The event took place at the beautiful Hancock Park home of Delores and Ben Kerr.

Ms. Bradley has appeared in many concerts, both nationally and around the world. Pianist Mary Au, a chamber musician and master teacher with worldwide experience, accompanied her. AALAO Board Member Michael Melton was the emcee. Opera League of Los Angeles (OLLA) President Kathy Crandall and OLLA Immediate Past President Diane Gray were introduced and greeted the audience. Jade James, a gifted young vocalist, performed several songs from *Hairspray*. The Ekpo Trio, a group of young Nigerian artists, who appeared courtesy of a Performance Grant from Mentors for Youth and Adults Worldwide, provided chamber music before the event and at the garden reception that followed.

AALAO was founded in 1994 with the mission to “Support the Music Center Opera Association and the Music Center Opera League Inc. through audience development, education, fund raising and ticket sales.” The organization has held more than ten annual events, and is dedicated to increasing the awareness of opera throughout the Los Angeles community.

“I feel very proud of the fact that we have been able to bring operatic music to our community.” –EVA GRANT

Eva Grant, one of the founding members, serves on the AALAO board. She was a board member of the Los Angeles Opera Company in 1992, and helped to establish OLLA. Ms. Grant and Alice Coulombe based AALAO on the model of the Hispanics for LA Opera. “I feel very proud of the fact that we have been able to bring operatic music to our community by inviting them to experience this type of music at home recitals,” says Ms. Grant. “I’m proud of the work that AALAO has done.”



(Top Left) Gertrude Bradley; (Top Right) Jade James and Victor Ekpo. (Group photo from left to right): Diane Gray, Ben Kerr, Eva Grant, Mary Au, Clarence Clarkson, Gertrude Bradley, Beverley Clarkson, Joel Graham, Beverly Johnson, Jacque Wallace, Mary H. Lewis, Michael Melton and Delores Kerr. Photos by Josh Brazile

Ms. Grant invited Michael Melton and others to join in founding AALAO. He recalls that, “We were excited because Los Angeles finally had a solid opera company. We wanted to support this company. We also wanted to make sure that African Americans were attending the performances and wanted to ensure that we saw African Americans performing on that stage.” He adds, “It has exceeded our dreams. Many of the people we presented through AALAO have signed with the Met.”

The next AALAO event will take place on Oct. 20, 2013, at the home of Alice and Joe Coulombe. It will feature India Carney, a talented UCLA vocal performance major who has been gaining acclaim as a vocalist and songwriter. Reserve your tickets early, as most events fill to capacity. For more information contact Beverley Clarkson at 323.293.3181. 🌸

LEAGUE WEBSITE UPGRADE IN PROCESS

Have you visited the Opera League website operaleague.org lately? If so, you may have noticed some changes. We are making upgrades and plan to finish by September.

What’s new and different? We’ve reformatted the home page for easier navigation to areas of interest to members—Events, Volunteer

Opportunities, Calendar, Membership account maintenance and renewals, Donations, etc. The Calendar contains an updated listing of League activities for the 2013-2014 Season, and individual events are also listed on relevant pages. For example, the Volunteer link takes you to a description of the various League volunteer activities, including the schedule, how to sign up for activities that interest you, and contact information. We also added “Bob Bernard’s Corner,” which features popular articles by this

prolific opera expert. Bob’s latest contribution is a fascinating article on *Einstein on the Beach* (see page 4).

Keep watching the website as it evolves into a more contemporary format with timely and useful content to help you find the information you are seeking. And if you have a mobile phone, point your browser to operaleague.org and you will find a new mobile version of our website!

– Bill Green, Webmaster

OLLA REGIONAL GATHERINGS

The Opera League Regional Gatherings provide a wonderful, free opportunity for OLLA members to learn about upcoming operas and OLLA events, and to meet fellow Opera League members. Gatherings are fun, casual and welcoming opportunities that enable the hosts to touch base with members, hear concerns, give reminders, distribute materials, draw in potential members and offer opera education. Speakers often are Community Educators from LA Opera's Speakers Bureau.

Carmen Paz and Michael Sholer co-host the **San Gabriel Valley** gatherings. It is a "fun-loving, interactive, lively group of opera friends who really enjoy each other's company," according to Michael. A potluck dinner accompanies each gathering at the La Cañada home of Barbara and Jack Dawson.

Anne Russell Sullivan and Mimi Rotter co-chair the **Beverly Hills** gatherings held in members' homes on Sunday mornings at 10:00. A potluck brunch is enjoyed after the lectures. We have often been treated to performances by singers from current opera productions, as well as speakers from the League roster.

Ann Anderson and Ron Gordon host the Monday night gatherings in the **Santa Clarita** Region. "We have to ring a bell to get them to stop socializing and come to the lecture. And they love the lectures, too. We even go as small groups to the Met HD operas at the movies."

San Fernando Valley's Hostess Regina Merwin says, "We have a loyal, vocal core group who have been coming forever. We cover two operas per gathering, and we love just sitting around talking and eating. Lately we've added a door prize drawing."

The **Westside** gathering is co-hosted by Monika Whitaker and Chuck Bragg. Last season's highlight was an appearance by Lee Holdridge, composer of LA Opera's new opera, *Dulce Rosa*, and his wife Elisa. Our speakers interviewed the Holdridges at the home of Joan Bram.

In **Orange County**, Sandy Persky hosts 25-30 dedicated regulars in different homes on selected Sunday afternoons. Two operas are showcased at each get together, as well as other operatic goings-on in the Orange County area.

Claremont leader Patricia O'Donnell, also the Head of the Opera League's Gathering Committee, says, "Our group has been meeting exclusively at Norm and Eloise Cadman's home. I try to have one gathering each season with a performance by our local operatic talent. On occasion, we include an additional guest speaker who has expertise in some aspect of production to compliment the opera speaker's presentation. We've also had a drawing for a small music-related door prize."

Ifang Hsieh resurrected the **Hollywood/Hancock Park** gatherings just this past year. Last season's meetings were held in the homes of Delores and Ben Kerr, and Anne Combs. The gatherings started with a fun Q&A session introducing the speaker, and concluded with a drawing for opera books—a delightful surprise for any opera lover!

All OLLA members are welcome to attend any gathering in any region. Just check the schedule in BRAVO. Be sure to RSVP and bring a potluck snack. —*Regina Merwin*

OLLA EXCURSION TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

This June newly elected President Kathy Crandall planned and escorted a group of 14 Opera League members to the San Francisco Opera, complete with opera tickets, hotel bookings, and additional activities.

The operas included *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Così fan tutte*, and *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*.

The singing by stars Matthew Polenzani, Nathan Gunn and Bill Burden, was exceptional. We had a chance to hear Natalie Dessay in one of her last performances before she takes an extended leave from opera singing. It also was a treat to hear our own James Cresswell, a former LA Opera young artist, in two of the operas.

Kathy invited our group to her room at the Inn at the Opera before each performance for conversation and munchies. We also had a delicious welcome dinner at the Patina Group buffet in the lower level of the War Memorial House, and a dessert at intermission.

During the day, we enjoyed a trip to the de Young Museum at Golden Gate Park, a stroll through the Japanese Tea Garden, and a visit to an art gallery owned by League member Monica Weil's cousin.

A great time was had by all! We are looking forward to Kathy's next venture into opera jaunts. For the more than 190 League members already signed up, that will be on Aug. 11 to attend *Aida* at the Hollywood Bowl. —*Nina Haro*

ACE PARTY RENTALS THANK-YOU LUNCH

What a wonderful party rental facility!


Ace Party Rentals of North Hollywood has been providing tables, chairs, and almost anything else we have needed to host events outside the Music Center for many years, all free of charge. We are so grateful to Bob Chapman and his staff for this generosity. In July, Opera League Board members, including President Kathy Crandall, Past President Diane Gray, Social Chair Robert Braun, and volunteer Fabiola Hensley, served Bob and his staff a lovely lunch to thank them and to celebrate our continued relationship. —*Diane Gray*


CALENDAR


SEPTEMBER

Cast Dinner (TIME IS WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)
Mon, Sept 16, 5:00pm *CARMEN*
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 2 & 3)

Seminar
Sun, Sept 22, Noon-4:00pm
5TH FLOOR, DCP: *EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH*

Opera for Educators 
Sat, Sept 7, 8:00-11:00am
CARMEN - **NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS**
Sat, Sept 28, 8:00-11:00am
EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH - **NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS**
SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION AND GAIN SALARY POINTS

Operawise 
CARMEN
Mon, Sept 16, 2:00-6:00pm
Mon, Sept 16, 6:30-10:30pm
Tue, Sept 17, 6:30-10:30pm
NEED 5 - 10 VOLUNTEERS EACH
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ATTEND A WORKING REHEARSAL AND OBSERVE THE COMPANY AT WORK


Opera Prep 
CARMEN
Thu, Sept 26, 4:30-10:30pm
NEED 10 VOLUNTEERS
LA OPERA HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT A DRESS REHEARSAL. VOLUNTEERS ACT AS HOSTS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, PROVIDE AN ADULT PRESENCE OR ASSIST, AND MAY WATCH THE SHOW.


Master Class
Fri, Sept 27, 7:00pm
4TH FLOOR, DCP
TITO CAPOBIANCO AND MEMBERS OF THE DOMINGO-COLBURN-STEIN YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM.

OCTOBER

African Americans for Los Angeles Opera
FALL RECITAL
Sun, Oct 20, 3:00pm
AT THE HOME OF ALICE AND JOE COULOMBE
QUESTIONS: BEVERLEY CLARKSON 323.293.3181


Opera Prep 
EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH
Thu, Oct 10, 3:00-10:30pm
NEED 20 VOLUNTEERS
LA OPERA HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT A DRESS REHEARSAL. VOLUNTEERS ACT AS HOSTS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, PROVIDE AN ADULT PRESENCE OR ASSIST, AND MAY WATCH THE SHOW.

Opera 101 #1 
Sat, Oct 12, 8:00-11:00am
NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS
TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OPERA FROM 16TH-CENTURY ITALY TO PRESENT DAY THROUGH PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS ON THE ART FORM, AND GAIN SALARY POINTS.


Opera for Educators 
Sat, Oct 26, 8:00-11:00am
FALSTAFF - **NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS**
SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION AND GAIN SALARY POINTS


NOVEMBER

Seminar
Sat, Nov 2, 10:00am-1:30pm
5TH FLOOR, DCP: *FALSTAFF*
9:30am OPERA LEAGUE ORIENTATION
FOR NEW MEMBERS LEARN HOW THINGS WORK AND HOW YOU CAN GET INTO THE ACTION!

Opera for Educators 
Sat, Nov 2, 8:00-11:00am
MAGIC FLUTE - **NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS**
SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION AND GAIN SALARY POINTS


Cast Dinner (TIMES ARE WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)
Tue, Nov 5, 5:00pm *FALLSTAFF*
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 2 & 3)
Fri, Nov 15, 5:00pm *MAGIC FLUTE*
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 2 & 3)


Operawise 
FALSTAFF
Tue, Nov 5, 2:00-6:00pm
Tue, Nov 5, 6:30-10:30pm
NEED 5 - 10 VOLUNTEERS EACH
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ATTEND A WORKING REHEARSAL AND OBSERVE THE COMPANY AT WORK

Opera Prep 
FALSTAFF
Thu, Nov 7, 4:30-10:30pm
NEED 20 VOLUNTEERS
AN EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND A SPECIAL SEMINAR AND DRESS REHEARSAL.


Backstage Magic
MAGIC FLUTE
Thu, Nov 14 (TIME / LOCATION TBD)
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: operaleague.org

Musicale
Sun, Nov 17, 2:00pm
AT THE HOME OF JANET & NICK CIRIELLO
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: operaleague.org

Operawise 
MAGIC FLUTE
Mon, Nov 18, 6:30-10:30pm
Tue, Nov 19, 6:30-10:30pm
NEED 5 - 10 VOLUNTEERS EACH
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ATTEND A WORKING REHEARSAL AND OBSERVE THE COMPANY AT WORK


Opera Prep 
MAGIC FLUTE
Wed, Nov 20, 4:30-10:30pm
NEED 20 VOLUNTEERS
AN EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND A SPECIAL SEMINAR AND DRESS REHEARSAL.


DECEMBER

Opera 101 #2 
Sat, Dec 7, 8:00-11:00am
NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS
TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OPERA FROM 16TH-CENTURY ITALY TO PRESENT DAY THROUGH PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS ON THE ART FORM, AND GAIN SALARY POINTS.

JANUARY

Annual Preview
Tues, Jan 14 3:30pm
5TH FLOOR DCP

Opera for Educators 
Sat, Jan 25, 8:00-11:00am
BILLY BUDD - **NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS**
SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION AND GAIN SALARY POINTS

Cathedral Project 
Sun, Jan 26, Noon-2:00pm
REHEARSAL #1
NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS
A COMMUNITY-BASED PERFORMANCE OF OPERA PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF LA OPERA AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF ANGELS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CAST DINNERS: **Julie Holland**
HOME: 213.617.1231 / CELL: 213.617.1233
castdinner@live.com

EDUCATION: **Larry Verdugo**
HOME: 626.796.8676 / CELL: 626.590.5697
larryverdugo@icloud.com

EDUCATION: NEW PROCEDURE FOR VOLUNTEER SIGN UP:
Sign on to the website: signnupgenius.com

- In the upper right hand corner, check "sign in"
- You will be prompted to enter your established sign-in info or to establish a new member sign in.
- Once you have an account, click on "Find a Sign Up"
- Under "Enter the email of the Sign Up List's Creator" type: operaleaguevolunteer@gmail.com and then click on Search to view the Active Sign Ups list of volunteer opportunities
- Click on the Event Title and Event Start End Date that you want. You will be directed to a new screen with information about the specific volunteer event and select a date that corresponds to the event that works for you (Opera Prep, Opera Wise, etc.). Check the appropriate date and submit.
- You will be prompted to request a confirmation. Please do so. Other info (phone number) will be requested.
- When you return to the sign-in for another event, you will see your name on the list of your previous entries.

GATHERINGS

Beverly Hills

Mimi Rotter 310.479.0259 *RSVP*
Anne Russell Sullivan 323.697.9733

Carmen and *Einstein on the Beach*

Sun, Sept 8, 10:00am
2816 Tilden Avenue, Los Angeles 90064
Host: Mimi Rotter
Falstaff and **Magic Flute**
Sun, Oct 7, 10:00am
1920 Hillsboro Drive
Los Angeles 90035
Host: Mary Lewis

Westside

Monika Whitaker 310.826.4743 *RSVP*
Chuck or Alice Bragg 310.454.9662 *RSVP*

Carmen and *Einstein on the Beach*

Mon, Sept 9, 7:15-9:45pm
425 North Kenter Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90049
Hosts: Linda and Ed Ornitz

Falstaff and **The Magic Flute**

Mon, Nov 4, 7:15 – 9:45pm
350 South Bristol Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90049
Host: Brigitta Troy

South Bay

Ifang (pronounced ee-fong) Hsieh
310.279.9927

Please call Ifang for further information.

San Fernando Valley

Regi Merwin 818.400.2578 *RSVP*

Carmen and *Einstein on the Beach*

Sun, Sept 8, 2:00-5:00pm
1700 N. Brighton Street, Burbank 91506
Host: Regi Merwin
Falstaff and **Magic Flute**

Sun, Oct 27, 2:00-5:00pm
11615 Canton Place, Studio City, CA 91605
Hosts: Beth and Alan Dymond

Orange County

Sandy Persky 714.969.0589
Please call Sandy for further information.

San Gabriel Valley

Michael Sholer 818.502.1988 *RSVP*
Carmen Paz 818.515.0815

Carmen

Mon, Sept 9, 7:00-9:00pm
Falstaff
Wed, Oct 2, 2013 7:00-9:00pm
The Magic Flute
Mon, Nov 18, 7:00-9:00pm

5278 La Cañada Boulevard, La Cañada 91011
Hosts: Barbara and Jack Dawson

Hollywood/Hancock Park

Ifang (pronounced ee-fong) Hsieh
310.279.9927 *RSVP*

Carmen

Sat, Sept 7, 2:00pm
123 S. McCadden Place
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Host: Marlene Chavez

Santa Clarita

Ann Anderson & Ron Gordon
661.259.9619 *RSVP*

Carmen

Mon, Sept 16, 6:30pm
Einstein on the Beach
Mon, Oct 7, 6:30pm
Falstaff
Mon, Nov 4, 6:30pm
Magic Flute
Mon, Nov 18, 6:30pm

25506 Longfellow Pl
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

Claremont

Patricia O'Donnell 909.447.5038 *RSVP*

Carmen and *Einstein on the Beach*

Sun, Sept 8, 2:00-5:00pm
Falstaff and **The Magic Flute**
Sun, Oct 13, 2:00-5:00pm

530 West 11th Street, Claremont 91711
Hosts: Eloise and Norm Cadman

OPERA TALKS

Opera Talks at Julienne's

Mondays at 7:00pm

JULIENNE'S FINE FOODS
2649 MISSION ST., SAN MARINO

Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, Feb 3

CONTACT: Carol Sholer, Csholer1@att.net
818.243.1818

**TO MAKE A RESERVATION (\$10) AND TO ORDER A
"LIGHT SUPPER BOX" (\$15)**

CONTACT: Julie@julienne.us or call
626.441.2299, ext. 20

Opera Talks at Long Beach

Saturdays 2:00-3:00pm

EL DORADO LIBRARY-2900 STUDEBAKER ROAD
(BETWEEN WILLOW AND SPRING)

**SEPT 14 CARMEN OCT 12 FALSTAFF
NOV 9 THE MAGIC FLUTE JAN 11 BILLY BUDD**

FEB 8 LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

SEE LEAGUE WEBSITE FOR DATES:

WWW.OPERALEAGUE.ORG

CONTACT: John Spear, John.spear@earthlink.net
714.699.9280

OPERA LEAGUE SEMINARS

Dedicated to Sherwin Sloan, Founder of the Opera League Seminar

Sat, Sept 22, Noon to 4:00pm

Einstein on the Beach

SPEAKER: **Kristy Edmunds**

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF UCLA'S CENTER FOR ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE

Sat, Nov 2, 10:00am to 1:30pm

Falstaff

SPEAKER: **Professor Michael Hackett**

CHAIR OF UCLA'S THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Introduction & orientation to the Opera League prior to seminar 9:30am

DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION 135 N. Grand Ave.

(Enter under the outside stairs on Grand, just north of Kendall's,
then take the elevator to the 5th Floor)

TICKETS:

Advance Orders **\$35** or a Member's Voucher

Guests **\$45**

Same-day purchase at the door **\$45**

Selection of box lunches available **\$15/person**

Place your ticket and lunch orders on the website at
operaleague.org - OR - Use attached order form.

*Deadline for submitting lunch orders: Einstein on the Beach Sept 17
Falstaff Oct 29*

**Bluthner piano provided by Helga Kasimoff
(Kasimoff-Bluthner Piano Co.)**

SPECIAL EVENT

MASTER CLASS

Noted Argentinian opera director Tito Capobianco will guide members of our new Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program through their paces. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our new Young Artists and to see a master director at work.

Join us on Fri, Sept 27 at 7:00pm on the 4th Floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.



SEPT 22 / NOV 2 SEMINAR ORDER FORM

Check the number of tickets you want to order, enclose your check or voucher(s) for the total amount. (Vouchers are valid for seminars, master classes, and musicales.) A confirmation of your order will be mailed to you. *Sorry, no refunds!*

	SEPT 22	NOV 2
_____ x Member @\$35	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Member (Vouchers)	\$ 0	\$ 0
_____ x Non-member @\$45	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Student member @\$10	\$ _____	\$ _____

_____ x Turkey Club Wrap Box Lunch @\$15	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Tuna Salad Sandwich Box Lunch @\$15	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Asian Chicken Salad Box Lunch @\$15	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad Box Lunch @\$15	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Tina's Taco Tostada (Vegetarian) Salad Box Lunch @\$15	\$ _____	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____ \$ _____

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

Enclose check made payable to **Opera League of Los Angeles** and mail with this form to:

**Opera League of Los Angeles
PO Box 49-1057
Los Angeles, CA 90049-9057**

For more information, call 213.972.7220, or send email to: info@operaleague.org

Tickets will be held for you at the door.

SEPT 27 MASTER CLASS ORDER FORM

Check the number of tickets you want to order and enclose your check or voucher(s) for the total amount. (Vouchers are valid for seminars, master classes, and musicales.) A confirmation of your order and details about the event location will be mailed to you. *Sorry, no refunds!*

_____ x Member @\$25	\$ _____
_____ x Member Voucher/s	\$ 0
_____ x Guest @\$35	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

Enclose check made payable to **Opera League of Los Angeles** and mail with this form to:

**Opera League of Los Angeles
PO Box 49-1057
Los Angeles, CA 90049-9057**

For more information, call 213.972.7220, or send email to: info@operaleague.org

Order tickets for Opera League events on our website: operaleague.org.

OPERA LEAGUE SEMINARS

Dedicated to Sherwin Sloan, Founder of the Opera League Seminar

Hello Opera Leaguers,

We have an exciting fall season ahead!

Our first seminar will be held on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 12:00-4:00 pm on the Fifth Floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. It will focus on *Einstein on the Beach*, which will run Oct. 11-13 at LA Opera. **Use this tear-off Seminar Order Form** or visit the Opera League website at operaleague.org to order your tickets and lunch.

Bringing *Einstein on the Beach* to Los Angeles has been a collaborative effort between the Center for the Art of Performance (CAP) UCLA and LA Opera. Our lecturer for this seminar is Kristy Edmunds, the Executive and Artistic Director of CAP UCLA. Edmunds worked closely with Robert Wilson, Phillip Glass, and Lucinda Childs. She has extensive knowledge of who they are, what they have done, and most excitingly, the significance of *Einstein on the Beach* when it was first performed and its significance now. Kristy will bring us into the world of the artists with both lecture and video. You won't want to miss this!

You also won't want to miss our *Falstaff* seminar on Sat, Nov 2. Seminar details are available on our website.

MASTER CLASS

Sept. 27, 2013

Our next Master Class will be held on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 pm on the Fourth Floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Noted Argentinian opera director Tito Capobianco will guide members of our new Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program through their paces.

The Loren L. Zachary Society for the Performing Arts honored Maestro Capobianco in 2012. He is best known as the General Manager of the New York City Opera in 1965. He also directed Beverly Sills in many outstanding productions. He was Artistic Director at Cincinnati Opera (1962 to 1965,) at the San Diego Opera, and at the Pittsburgh Opera (1983-2000), where his 17-year tenure was described as "armed with a towering personality, glittering charisma and determined artistic vision."

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our new Young Artists and to see a master director at work.

-ANNE RUSSELL SULLIVAN

Order tickets for the September and November Seminars and Master Class at operaleague.org.

Log in with your User Name and Password, then click on the "Click Here" link for the tickets you want to order. If you need a User Name and Password, send an email to webmaster@operaleague.org.

For orders by mail, complete, detach, and mail order form.

Tickets will be held for you at the door.

QUESTIONS? Call the Opera League 24-hour message line: 213.972.7220 or email OLLA at: info@operaleague.org.



135 North Grand Ave. | Los Angeles, CA 90012

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Opera League Seminar: *Einstein on the Beach*
Sun, Sept 22

Master Class
Fri, Sept 27

AALAO Fall Recital
Sun, Oct 20

Opera League Seminar: *Falstaff*
Sat, Nov 2

Backstage Magic: *Magic Flute*
Thu, Nov 14

Musicale
Sun, Nov 17

Annual Preview
Tue, Jan 14

AALAO Black History Month Seminar
Sun, Feb 9

Opera League Seminar: *Lucia di Lammeemoor*
Sun, Feb 23

Opera League Seminar: *Thais*
Sun, May 4

AALAO Father's Day Recital
Sun, Jun 15



Photos by Ed Lieb

PATRON DINNER

Our annual dinner to thank Opera League patrons was held June 8 at the home of Lynda and Dick Patton. More than 80 attendees enjoyed the Patton's beautiful gardens during an unforgettable Mexican fiesta. Tables were decorated with colorful plants; festive, multicolored manteles; and Mexican-themed magnet souvenir gifts.

Before dinner, our patrons were treated to a tequila tasting, pomegranate margaritas, and homemade corn and flour quesadillas. A talented group of young musicians and singers from the Plaza de la Raza Youth Mariachi Ensemble serenaded the patrons.

I was delighted to chair the event, and thank co-chair Mimi Rotter and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event so successful. A special thank you to Bob Chapman, owner of Ace Party Rents, who donated the rental equipment.
-Robert Braun