

Your Guide To Upcoming Opera League Events

ISSUE 38  
WINTER 2015

# BRAVO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OPERA LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Wigs & Wardrobes:  
Unbound

Interview with  
Joann Turovsky

Spotlight on Board  
Member Bill Green

## MARILYN ZIERING

BY STEVE KOHN

Marilyn Ziering is a giant.

Not the kind you find climbing up a beanstalk. She is rather petite in stature. Not the kind who plays baseball, although she admits to being a fan of that team, despite the fact that they deserted her hometown of New York. But, in the interest of fair play, Marilyn also roots for the Red Sox because one of her sons has a connection to that team.

Marilyn Ziering is a giant because of her attitude towards life and the contributions she has made to her business, her family and to the many social and philanthropic causes that she supports.

Photo by Steve Cohn



# From the President



I'm so proud that the Opera League made its annual donation of \$75,000 to support LA Opera's Education and Community Engagement program. Senior Director of Development Patricia McLeod accepted the League's check from me in the photo below.



We have exciting programs in the upcoming months. The Opera League has a new Meetup group (see [meetup.com/Opera-League-of-Los-Angeles-Meetup](http://meetup.com/Opera-League-of-Los-Angeles-Meetup)). This is where we can post Opera League events and list potential get-togethers of interest. Our first hosted Meetup will be Opera League night at *jFigaro 90210!* If you are planning to attend, join us on January 16 when many League members will be there. For tickets and seating with other League members, call: 213.972.3636.

Next comes our January 18 seminar on *The Ghosts of Versailles* and the Beaumarchais Operas. Maestro Conlon will be our speaker. This is not to be missed! There will be a light reception prior to the talk and a "surprise singer" afterward. We have another special event at UCLA on January 25, featuring the documentary on the making of the CD, *Great Voices Sing John Denver*, arranged by composer Lee Holdridge and produced by Milt and Rosemary Okun, Elisa Justice and Ken Shapiro. The album features Plácido Domingo, his son Plácido, Jr., Patricia Racette, Rod Gilfry, Dolora Zajick, and other well-known opera figures. See more details in this BRAVO. And don't miss the Annual Preview on January 27 to learn about LA Opera's next season, and enjoy a light supper!

Watch for information on future events, including: AALAO Black History Month event, a master class, Backstage Magic, the Patron Sustaining event, the Patron Dinner, a seminar on *Hercules vs. Vampires*, the Volunteer Appreciation event, a spring musicale, and AALAO Father's Day recital.

On March 1, we will present Marilyn Ziering with the 2015 Peter Hemmings Award. I hope you are planning to attend. Marilyn is one of the most generous philanthropists in Los Angeles and a wonderful supporter of LA Opera. She is also a gracious and down-to-earth human being. We are grateful to have her support of the League. Last year, our donors supported the Peter Hemmings Award dinner with generous contributions that allowed us to fully underwrite Opera Camp. We hope that you will open your hearts for this worthy cause again this year.

I look forward to seeing you at many of these special events!

PRESIDENT

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Kathy Crandall** President/Chair Volunteer Appreciation Event  
**Marlene Chavez** Vice President/Chair Hemmings  
**Gayle Kirschbaum** Secretary/Parliamentarian  
**Yolla Kairouz** Treasurer/Chair Finance/Audit & Tax Returns  
**Diane Gray** Immediate Past President/Chair Annual Preview  
**Bill Green** Chair Communications/Webmaster  
**Steve Kohn** Chair Strategic Planning/Behind the Scenes  
**Trevor Roper** Chair Membership/Asst. Chair Communications  
**Mimi Rotter** Shop at the Opera Coordinator/Membership Outreach  
**Robert Braun** Chair Social/Patron Event  
**Larry Verdugo** Chair Education & Community Engagement  
**Susan Heard** BRAVO Editor

## DIRECTORS

<b>Lorna Blancaflor</b> Asst. Hospitality/Special Events	<b>Mary H. Lewis</b> Membership Outreach
<b>Beverley Clarkson</b> AALAO Rep./Co-Chair Dress Rehearsal Tickets/Asst. Secretary	<b>Mirjana Mahnovski</b> Chair Seminars Shop at the Opera Manager
<b>Ruth DePieri</b> Hotline	<b>Regina Merwin</b> Membership Outreach Special Designs/Meetup
<b>Cheryl Dowden</b> Shop at the Opera Scheduler	<b>Brita Millard</b> Fundraising/Special Events
<b>Marie Hadji</b> Chair Overtures	<b>Sean Muhlstein</b> Facebook/Website
<b>Fred Heiser</b> ARIA Liaison	<b>Beverly Phillips</b> Asst. Editor BRAVO Asst. Chair Annual Preview
<b>Diane Henderson</b> Asst. Chair Cast Dinners	<b>Helen Porter</b> Chair Volunteer/New Members
<b>Julie Holland</b> Chair Cast Dinners	<b>Anne Russell Sullivan</b> Chair Musicales & Master Class
<b>Ifang Hsieh</b> Chair Gatherings/Co-Chair Dress Rehearsal Tickets/Chair Pasadena Showcase House	<b>Jacque Lyne Wallace</b> Chair Mailing/Hotline
<b>Tom Lady</b> Asst. Editor BRAVO Asst. Chair Communications	<b>Dick Wollmer</b> Chair Overtures Asst. Chair Master Class
<b>Tanya Len</b> Asst. Membership	

## CONSULTING DIRECTORS

**Nina Haro** Chair Artist Services  
**Dr. W. Allan Edmiston** Seminar Programming  
Opera Docs Coordinator  
**Lynne Mitchell** Chair Light Walking  
**Margi Mostue, Mary Riggs** Shop at the Opera Consultants

## VISIT US AT [operaleague.org](http://operaleague.org)

Send email to: [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org)  
Send mail to: Opera League of Los Angeles  
PO Box 49-1057  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-9057  
24-hour League Message Line: 213.972.7220

**Editor:** Susan Heard  
**Asst. Editors:** Tom Lady, Beverly Phillips  
**Photographers:** Volunteers Needed  
**Proofreaders:** Diane Eisenman, Nina Haro, Bruce Heard, John Welch  
**Newsletter Design:** Studio Fuse, Inc.  
**Printer:** Licher Direct Mail

## MARILYN ZIERING

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Born and raised in New York, Marilyn fondly remembers her father, an amateur tenor, who studied with the same teacher as Jan Peerce. She has a picture of her father, Peerce and the music teacher together. She can sing the famous aria from *La Juive* by Fromental Halévy, which she remembers her father singing. Interestingly, she learned it in English.

Her home was filled with classical music, which has always been a love of hers. "Music brings light into my life. Everything is better when I hear music. I forget my problems. Music warms my heart."

Marilyn's husband of blessed memory, Sigi, met her at a resort in the Catskill Mountains in New York. They fell in love, married and had a magical journey for 47 years. They both went to Syracuse University. Sigi eventually earned a Ph.D in physics and Marilyn earned a Master's Degree in audiology.

In the early 1960s the young couple moved to Los Angeles and later had four children (two boys, two girls).

The Zierings founded Diagnostic Products Corporation, a company that manufactured more than 400 kinds of immunodiagnostic kits used to diagnose various illnesses. Marilyn proudly recalls that she was the company's first sales person. She "pitched" over the phone and when the company had a booth at a medical conference, Marilyn would invite young chemists to introduce them to the "newest and best" immunodiagnostic test products at the convention.

The company grew into a multi-million dollar corporation with more than 3,000 domestic and international employees. Marilyn became Vice President of Marketing and Sigi was

Chairman of the Board. In 2006 the company was purchased by Siemens Corporation, giving Marilyn the opportunity to devote full-time to her family and to charitable work.

The Ziering children all grew into fine adults, going on to careers of their own. They were taught early in life that they must be aware of their background, and, as adults, they have become active in causes that support the environment, reflect their Jewish heritage and foster social responsibility.

Marilyn remains the catalyst for many efforts of her own. She and Sigi were long time leaders of many philanthropic causes in Los Angeles and in Israel. The impetus for that activity stems from their modest beginnings and family's history. Her support of LA Opera's "Recovered Voices" project is one of those philanthropic causes.

**"Music brings light into my life. Everything is better when I hear music. I forget my problems. Music warms my heart."**

Marilyn met James Conlon eight years ago for lunch at the Four Seasons Hotel. He spoke about the music composed by artists during the Nazi regime that was deemed "degenerate" and therefore banned from being performed. Some of the composers murdered in the Nazi concentration camps never experienced the joy of hearing their music performed. Some were more fortunate and were able to flee to Israel or the United States.

When James finished speaking, Marilyn could barely breathe. She thought she knew all about the Holocaust. Her late husband was a survivor and through his silence, she experienced the horrors that he witnessed. Maestro Conlon had a dream to right a great injustice and to bring back the music of these composers. She shared his mission. Her thought was that in bringing back the music that was lost, we would in a way keep the memory of those composers alive and, in doing so, undo the inhuman wrong of the Nazi Third Reich.

We all benefit from Marilyn's generosity and it is thanks to her and James Conlon that we are all able to hear and see some of this great music as LA Opera continues to produce new stagings of these works.

When asked what her favorite operas and composers are, Marilyn pauses. She certainly loves *La Juive*, because of her remembrance of her father. She loves Mozart, particularly our recent *Magic Flute*. Marilyn also loves Verdi, Britten and of course, Puccini and many others.

Asked about her connection to the Opera League, Marilyn quickly comments that she appreciates all that is done by us for LA Opera. In her words, the work done by the Opera League is "phenomenal."

Marilyn is surrounded by her family in Southern California. Her four children, her nine grandchildren and great friends fill her life with joy. We are grateful that we are the beneficiaries of her warmth, her charm and her great philanthropy.

She truly is a giant, in so many ways. 🌟

# SAVE THE DATE!

**We invite you to join us in honoring Marilyn at the 2015 Peter Hemmings Award Dinner on Sunday, March 1, at the California Club. Maestro James Conlon will present the award to Marilyn. Fundraising efforts will benefit LA Opera's Opera Camp, a two-week summer day camp for children.**

Please contact the Opera League to request an invitation: 213.972.7220 OR [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org).

# WIGS AND WARDROBES: UNBOUND

AN INTERVIEW WITH LA OPERA'S DARREN JINX AND JANINE ALLEN  
BY TOM LADY



## DARREN JINX, WIGMASTER

***“The plastic wrap is wrapped around someone’s head. Put tape on top of the wrap to give it rigidity. Draw in the hairline on the cap shape. This is transferred to a canvas block, and padding gets shoved up underneath to create an exact copy of their head....”***

Ah yes, to be a Wigmaster.

Wigmaster is one of those rarified job titles everyone wishes they had.

As the Wigmaster for Los Angeles Opera, the Jersey-born, Virginia-raised Darren Jinx operates under this mandate: Make sure the hair fits. The paradox of that simple statement is that it requires a superlative level of artistic acumen, patient-as-a-saint hands, and a razor-sharp eye.

To wit: Darren, who joined LAO in the spring of 2003, is providing a demo of how to thread human hair using the wig worn by John Holiday in *Dido & Aeneas*. “Take one hair and wet it with warm water. Take a tiny needle with a ridiculously small barb on the end. Go under a hexagonal bar of the lace (you have six directions you can go), grab a hair, pull it through and pull the ends back through the loop of the hair. ...It must be very light and airy. It becomes a Zen thing.”

The core staff is Darren, Associate Wigmaster Samantha Wooten and Crew Foreman Brandy Strona. Beyond that, depending on the production, Darren brings in senior wig and makeup artists. For *Dido/Bluebeard* he had three seniors literally lending their hands.

In the hallway just outside the wig office is a massive floor-to-ceiling wardrobe cabinet that opens up to reveal shelf upon shelf of wigs on mannequin heads galore. “Most wigs are rotated from our stock, but sometimes wigs will travel

with a show such as *Cenerentola*.” Mind you, these are only the wigs we can see. There’s a lot more where these beauties came from. Pointing in the other direction, Darren says, “Behind the mirrors in that room over there are about 800 wigs and hairpieces in bags. They’re all categorized as to who used it last.”

Even though *Figaro Unbound* is still months away, Darren is already getting hair-y about it, especially *The Ghosts of Versailles*. Indicating more wigs on a shelf, he says, “These are all waiting to become *Ghosts* wigs. White synthetic hair was chosen with designer Linda Cho because of the sheen and extra quality to match the satiny things. We’ll be misting it down with white hair color to give it a matted edge like you would have seen with powdering on the 18th century wigs. These dancer wigs will also get airbrushed.”

Next time you take in an opera at the Chandler, pay close attention to the hair. Dollars to doughnuts to hairlines, Darren had a hand in it.

## JANINE ALLEN, HEAD OF WARDROBE

**We’ve all heard of the Ice Follies, right? But have you ever actually met one of the ice skaters who were part of it?**

Now you have. Meet Janine Allen, twenty-two-year veteran of LA Opera and an Ice Follies alumna. Even as this Burbank native was touring the world with the Follies, her passion for all the threading and needling that puts the “fab!” in fabrics was blossoming. Janine inherited this passion from her mother, who was once the dresser and wardrobe mistress for Lily Tomlin. At one point her mother worked

for Chilean soprano Verónica Villarroel who, as it happens, just played the title character in this season’s *Florenca en el Amazonas*. Indeed, once Janine landed in her current position, she hired Mom to work for her before Mom decided to hang up the scissors for good.

So what exactly does it mean to be Head of Wardrobe? “Head of Wardrobe means once the costumes arrive here, they’re under my jurisdiction,” Janine says. “My dressers and I are there for every fitting. We put the costumes on the performers, make sure they can be put on and taken off quickly and easily. We press and iron the costumes and make sure everything’s on an even keel. Before each show, we go through every costume and pair of shoes. Is it functional? Will

it work on stage? If it won’t work for me, it won’t work for the show.”

Janine’s core team includes six dressers plus two assistants. Similar to Darren, though, most operas require more help. For *Florenca*, Janine brought in an additional nine dressers. For *The Ghosts of Versailles*, which includes 31 principals with a dancer double for every performer, Team Janine is taking on a good two dozen dressers. And while that’s welcome news, what remains uncertain is whether they’ll have enough rooms backstage to accommodate that small scissor-wielding army. Janine thrives in these kinds of situations. What’s more, she loves the subject matter. “I love *Figaro*!” she gushes. “I love the costumes and everything.” 🌟

# IN THE PIT

## INTERVIEW WITH JOANN TUROVSKY, PRINCIPAL HAPIST OF THE LA OPERA ORCHESTRA

By DIANE EISENMAN

Los Angeles Opera is fortunate to have one of the most versatile and gifted harpists around. Both a performer and a teacher, JoAnn Turovsky shares her gifts with us as a member of the orchestra, and encourages her students to express their love of music through playing and performing. She takes nothing for granted. “I am so grateful for the opportunities I have. I wake up every day and say that.”



Photo by Brady Steel

### WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was born in Los Angeles and have lived here all of my life except for two years earning a graduate degree at the University of Arizona.

### WHEN DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT? HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE HARP?

My father was a violinist who loved the harp. So I always knew I would play the harp, and started lessons when I was seven. Being immersed in the music program at USC and playing in the orchestra was very inspirational.

### WHERE DID YOU STUDY MUSIC?

After I worked on my undergraduate degree at USC, I went on to the University of Arizona to earn my graduate degree and had a teaching fellowship, thus developing my interest in teaching as well as performing.

### WHAT ABOUT THE HARP MAKES IT FUN TO PLAY AND ALSO DIFFICULT TO PLAY?

**FUN**—I really like the big, warm, resonant sound of the harp, and physically embracing it, I enjoy its pleasing sonority. As the sound vibrates in my body, I experience it on many different levels. **DIFFICULT**—The harp is subject to losing its tuning with even the slightest change in the environment. I keep one exclusively at LA Opera for all performances there. Also, the harp has seven pedals, which I cannot see when I play. These pedals are used constantly to access the equivalent of the black keys on a keyboard.

### WHICH COMPOSERS ARE THE MOST DEMANDING ON THE HARP?

Strauss and Wagner both explore tonality requiring many rapid pedal changes. The “Fire Music” at the end of *Die Walküre* has two pedal changes per beat.

### WHAT OPERAS DO YOU ESPECIALLY ENJOY PLAYING?

I’m an unashamed romantic! I love Puccini, and I really loved playing *Thais* as well.

### IN ADDITION TO THE LA OPERA ORCHESTRA, WHAT OTHER MUSICAL ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY?

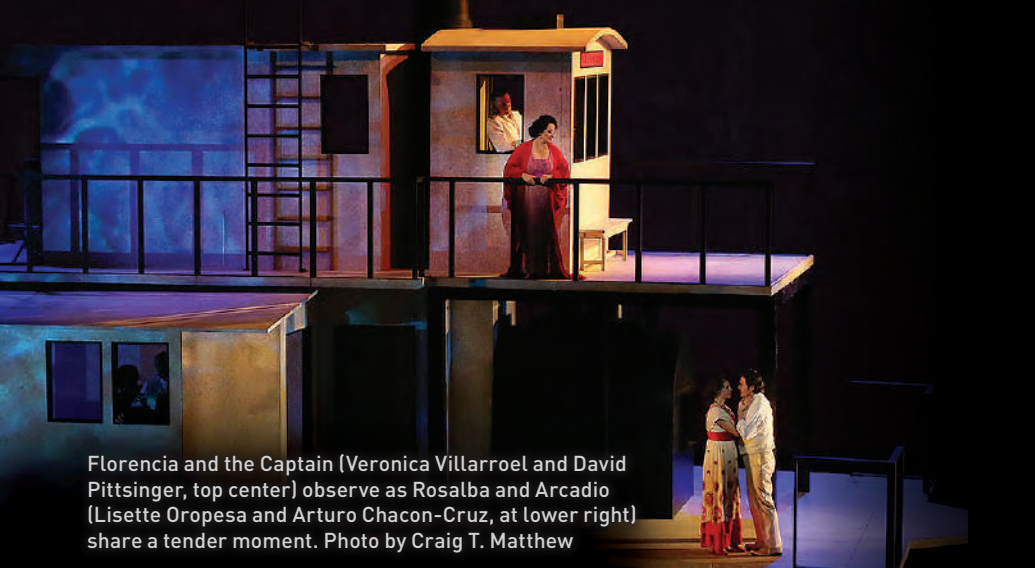
I play in several orchestras: LA Chamber Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, Pasadena Symphony, as well as for motion pictures, the most recent being *Frozen*. I also enjoy occasional smaller chamber groups. In addition, I teach students at the Colburn School and at USC. I feel very fortunate to be both a performer and a teacher.

### IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT OPERA LEAGUE MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU AND YOUR ROLE IN THE LAO ORCHESTRA?

I am so inspired to be playing with James Conlon. He is always in command of the scores, knows so many languages, and has no ego invested. He’s all about the love of music. It doesn’t get better.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR ASPIRING HAPISTS WHO WISH TO BUILD A CAREER AROUND THIS UNIQUE INSTRUMENT?

Be flexible, have your technique in order, and be responsive to the needs and opportunities that come your way. Be creative, and put together a patchwork of performance and teaching venues to build your career. Most of all, keep the joy of music! 🌟



Florencia and the Captain (Veronica Villarroel and David Pittsinger, top center) observe as Rosalba and Arcadio (Lisette Oropesa and Arturo Chacon-Cruz, at lower right) share a tender moment. Photo by Craig T. Matthew

# SEMINAR ON FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS

*“Music is the sound of time as it passes.”*

—Daniel Catán, composer of *Florencia en el Amazonas*

On Sunday, November 16, a sold-out crowd attended an Opera League seminar on Daniel Catán’s *Florencia en el Amazonas* held on the fifth floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Nino Sanikidze, head of LAO’s Young Artist program, led LA Opera Orchestra oboist Leslie Reed and bassoonist William May in a performance of Henri Brod’s Trio No.1 for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon (Op.5). It provided a delightful soundtrack as the room settled and appetites were whetted for the Amazonian arias.

The format of this seminar centered on a three-person panel that included Daniel Catán’s widow Andrea Puente Catán, author and radio host Martin Perlich, and William Tourant, professor emeritus of music from Cal State Northridge.

Andrea Catán, a harpist and music professor, started the afternoon with an excerpt from *Florencia*. She then described how LA Opera and the Opera League helped Daniel when he was not yet well-known in the US. “LA Opera was Daniel’s home...he was happiest here,” she said.

Martin Perlich and William Tourant guided us through the plot and explained how the music carried it. Professor Tourant played the final chord and emphasized how it demonstrates that for the characters, the opera and everything in it—the river, the insects, the vegetation—continues on into the future.

The seminar ended with a performance by Spanish mezzo Nancy Fabiola Herrera, who will be singing the role of Paula in LAO’s production. She performed Paula’s aria from Act II whose beauty, Professor Tourant claimed, “is meant to bring someone back from the dead.” 🌟

## THE RIVER ROLLS ON

By BOB BERNARD

**Maestro Daniel Catán stepped before the curtain to introduce the student matinee of *Florencia en el Amazonas* in 1997. Speaking in Spanish, he succinctly prepared the audience of East LA high school students for this, their very first fine arts experience.**

Funded by the 11th-hour gift of an anonymous Opera League member, no opportunity had been available for classroom preparation. Nevertheless, Catán’s words, coupled with the students’ intuitive good sense, produced a perfect-for-the-occasion audience response. The only anxious moment came during the curtain calls, when Rod Gilfry, buffed up and bare chested for his role as the river god Rio Lobo, drew what could only be described as an “animal lust” reaction from the teenyboppers in the balcony. Rod wisely remained backstage afterwards until these future sorority girls were secured in their buses.

Two years later, *Florencia* became the first opera for Andrea Puente, who was beginning her tenure as Principal Harp Chair with Mexico City’s Orquesta del Teatro de Bellas Artes. Ms. Puente met Daniel Catán when she was a student at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City. In due time, Daniel and Andrea married and joined our community, Andrea earning a Masters of Music from CSULA and Daniel teaching composition, music appreciation and music history at Santa Clarita’s College of the Canyons.

An “alternate channel” compositional diversion came about with Daniel’s 2004 opera *Salsipuedes*. The offbeat libretto evoked thoughts of Mel Brooks’ “Springtime for Hitler,” and the Caribbean rhythms prompted Daniel and Andrea to study drumming. Following that, the opera *Il Postino* evolved, deepened through the composer’s friendship with Plácido Domingo as Daniel’s focus gradually shifted from the postman Mario to that of the poet Neruda.

With Daniel’s passing in 2011, many things were left undone, and many new action items emerged. Andrea has completed compiling a volume of her husband’s essays. *Meet John Doe*, Daniel’s unfinished opera, is now, with the collaboration of Maestro Eduardo Diazmuñoz, and composers Michaela Eremiášová and Jairo Duarte-López, completed and scheduled for workshoping at Cincinnati Opera, beginning in late January. Looking ahead to revitalizing the Daniel Catán Foundation, an entity founded by Andrea and Daniel’s three children, Andrea has begun pursuing a master’s in Fundraising Management at the Heyman Center of Philanthropy at NYU.

*Florencia en el Amazonas*, a metaphor for life itself, has framed much of the adult life of Andrea Puente Catán. Beginning with that performance with Mexico City’s Orquesta del Teatro de Bellas Artes and continuing to this day, Andrea draws from her knowledge as a teacher, her expertise as a performer, and her dedication as a fine arts advocate, enriching our community.

Andrea, our neighbor and fellow opera buff: ¡Muchas gracias! 🌟

Photo by Susan Heard



Andrea Puente Catán with author and radio host Martin Perlich (L), and William Tourant, professor emeritus of music from Cal State Northridge (R).

# JOSHUA GUERRERO: A SINGER'S VOYAGE

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS



Photo courtesy of LA Opera

**Backstage the anxiety was palpable. Forty hopefuls waited to audition for the first round of Operalia. “Listen, Guerrero,” whispered Christopher Allen, “we’ve had to fight difficult backgrounds to make it this far. Go show them why you deserve to be here.” Joshua centered himself, prayed and waited for that intense joy that only singing could release. It brought him to second place and the CulturArte prize in the International Competition.**

His journey is not a traditional one. Born in Las Vegas, he lived in Los Angeles with his mother when his parents separated and he spent summers with his father in Las Vegas. “Mom had to work and study for a degree. Consequently, my sisters and I were often lonely. Music was our companion and we listened to all kinds.”

At 14 Joshua went to live with his dad. “Through our involvement in the church, I felt a calling for the bigger questions of life. I studied theology in Florida for four years and, although I helped start a church in Las Vegas, I came to realize that this calling was not for me.”

Instead, Joshua became a gondolier at the Venetian Hotel. “I mimicked some Pavarotti arias, worked there for two years and was sent to Macau to train new gondoliers. I explored other types of music, set up a recording studio, developed shows and fell in love with crooning. We practiced singing - no lessons, just singing. Great!” he smiled.

# FIVE YOUNG ARTISTS MET SUCCESS

By SEAN MUHLSTEIN

**Five first-year members of LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program (YAP) were successful candidates at the Western Region Auditions held in Los Angeles on Saturday, November 8. The auditions are conducted under the auspices of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. This was the 58th anniversary of the Western Region Auditions, which includes the districts of Arizona, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. Former League President Molly Siefert chairs the Western Region.**

"Two years later, I came to LA and built a clientele within the lounge circuit. However, I knew I needed formal training and studied for a year with Joann Zajac. I entered the Palm Springs Opera Guild Competition where I met Mona Lands, who suggested I try to get into UCLA. I battled with myself over this. I had a singing career plus social work helping developmentally disabled adults. UCLA liked me but I balked at the prospect of debt. Instead, I audited courses and became involved in opera workshops. Afterwards, I started studying with Vladimir and Olga Chernov who invited me to Austria to study for two summers." **Everyone** encouraged Joshua to audition for LAO.

**"We practiced singing—no lessons, just singing. Great!"**

"Although it was a huge gamble for the opera, I was accepted into the Young Artist Program. Vocal Instructor Dr. Stephen King helped me change some of my bad habits and helped with building a reliable technique. In the first year I stayed there till 11pm trying to learn the basics. It was hard," he admitted, "but it's finally paying off, thanks to Nino Sanikidze, Jeremy Frank, Christopher Allen and Joshua Winograde."

Joshua's third-year plan is to study, audition and find an agent. "I need to be seen and heard as much as possible because the coming season may be a slow one for work, now that I will be on my own. I need to save up and be patient because if I'm offered a contract, it will more than likely be for 2016.

"I treasure times with family, especially since a career in the opera world can be a lonely one. I want to be successful enough to take loved ones with me around the world as I work. Anything is possible. I believe in success stories."

**See Operalia winner Joshua Guerrero as Theseus in *Hercules vs. Vampires*.** ☀



**BASS-BARITONE NICHOLAS BROWNLEE** won first place and will compete in the Metropolitan Opera's Semi-Finals in New York City on March 15. Nicholas earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of South Alabama. Nicholas will sing in two upcoming LAO productions. He will be part of the Ensemble in LAO's *The Ghosts of Versailles* and sing the role of Lycos in *Hercules vs. Vampires*.



**TENOR BRENTON RYAN** won second place. In 2012, he was a fellow at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. Brenton sang the roles of Gaston in *La Traviata* and the Spirit/Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas*, and will appear as Leon in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, and Kyros and Peasant Man in *Hercules vs. Vampires*.



**SOPRANO SO YOUNG PARK** won third place. A native of Seoul, South Korea, So Young earned her M.A. at the New England Conservatory. She will be seen as a Gossip in *The Ghosts of Versailles* this season.



**MEZZO-SOPRANO LACEY JO BENTER** received a Special Encouragement Award. She earned her Masters of Music from the Juilliard School. Lacey Jo will be seen this season as one of the Ghosts Quartet in *The Ghosts of Versailles* and as Persephone in *Hercules vs. Vampires*.



**SOPRANO VANESSA BECERRA** received an Encouragement Award. She received her M.A. from The Boston Conservatory. Vanessa was last seen as Annina in *La Traviata* and will be seen as a Gossip in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, as Barbarina in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and in three roles in *Hercules vs. Vampires*: Medea, Hesperide, and City Woman.

Recent LA Opera YAP members who have competed in the Western Region Auditions include Janai Brugger, Tracy Cox and Amanda Woodbury. Both Janai and Amanda went on to win the Met Grand Finals. Other Western Region Audition winners of note include Amber Wagner, Michelle DeYoung, Sondra Radvanovsky, Deborah Voigt and Thomas Hampson. ☀

# THERE'S AN OPERA BRUIN IN SPACE

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LEAGUE'S BILL GREEN

By TOM LADY

**"I grew up in a household full of opera. My parents and grandparents had an opera collection on vinyl, and we listened to the Saturday morning broadcasts. In elementary school, we took a field trip to the Shrine auditorium to see *La Bohème*. I just loved this stuff."**

"The PBS station in L.A. did live broadcasts of the Ranger and Surveyor missions from JPL— the first close-up images of the moon. I just loved this stuff."

If you never thought you'd meet someone who could nurse dual passions for both Verdi and the Viking missions, clearly you haven't met Bill Green. Born in New Jersey, he was still a tyke when the family moved to America's Suburb, the San Fernando Valley.

While a student at Van Nuys High, Bill met a cute gal at North Hollywood High named Barbara. Bill and Barbara survived their high school rivalry, went to UCLA together and got married soon afterward. Today they have enough kids and grandkids to almost fill the International Space Station.

Armed with a graduate degree in engineering and after a few years in the aerospace industry, Bill landed at the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and became head of its Image Processing Laboratory.

Back on Earth, the City of Angels got its own resident opera company. At first, Bill and Barb trekked to the Chandler maybe once a year. "And then I saw an ad in the program to join something called the Opera League. It included a membership form. So I filled it out and mailed it."

At first they were casual members, attending the occasional seminar and odd musicale. A year after joining, Bill got a postcard in the mail



Photo by Barbara Green

inviting League members to be trained as opera speakers. Bill applied and has been speaking since 2007.

Bill spends up to forty hours to research and prepare a one-hour talk. "It takes me so long because I try to speak on operas I don't know anything about. I want to learn about them too." Among his favorite operas are those by Daniel Catán. Bill has fond memories of Catán speaking at League events before the world premiere of *Il Postino* in 2010. He recalls a speaker's meeting when "Catán sat with us for over an hour and we got to ask him anything. We got insight into how Daniel was making changes as he saw the opera come to life...It was absolutely fascinating." This season Bill gave talks on *Florencia en el Amazonas*.

When not preparing a talk, Bill is the operaleague.org webmaster. After joining the League board in 2008, he became the Overtures chair. He then became Membership chair and teamed up with then board member Ed Shaff, who completed the first iteration of the League site to manage the membership database. Bill redesigned the site in 2013, adding new content, timely articles and interviews, and improving online signups for events and membership renewals.

I couldn't end the interview without a Bruin question or two. How's Bruin football looking in 2014? "Great!" Favorite Bruin memory? "My favorite Bruin memory lasts for eight years. The eight years in a row during the nineties when we beat USC. I still have the shirt to prove it!" 🌟

# ARIA: LA OPERA'S HOTTEST PARTY

By SEAN MUHLSTEIN

The Saturday night performance of *Dido & Aeneas* and *Bluebeard's Castle* was letting out for the night, but for members of ARIA the party was just getting started. Over 160 young professionals drove, carpoled, or shuttled to "The Must," a trendy wine bar on the east side of downtown Los Angeles. There they ate from the never-ending buffet, drank at an open bar featuring appropriately themed cocktails named "The Trojan" and "The Seventh Door," and mingled with the performers from the show. It was just another typical night for ARIA.

Regular gatherings such as these are part of LA Opera's ongoing commitment to foster a community of young professionals aged 21-35. Membership is free, and the tickets for the after-parties are extremely nominal. The à la carte nature of the group reduces the various barriers to entry that would deter opera-curious, but intimidated, young professionals. For those diehard ARIA fans, full-season packages are available to all performances coinciding with



party nights. With an active presence on Facebook and Instagram, ARIA fans can remain connected over the course of a season.

Future events include a party on February 21 for *The Ghosts of Versailles* and one on April 4 for *The Marriage of Figaro*. ARIA intends to offer a full slate of events for next season as they continue to develop lifelong relationships with the next generation of opera lovers. 🌟

## SPECIAL EVENT CO-SPONSORED BY ARIA AND THE OPERA LEAGUE

### *Great Voices Sing John Denver*

Sunday, January 25, 2015

1pm to 5pm

James Bridges Theater at UCLA

1409 Melnitz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024

**Watch this wonderful musical documentary film before it opens in theaters. Learn about the making of it from the producers.**

Produced by Milt and Rosemary Okun, Elisa Justice and Ken Shapiro, and directed by Ken Shapiro, with music arranged by Lee Holdridge.

The album features Plácido Domingo, his son Plácido, Jr., Patricia Racette, Rod Gilfry, Dolora Zajick, and other well-known opera stars.

Our speakers will be Elisa Justice, Lee Holdridge and Ken Shapiro. They will be interviewed by Michael Hackett, Chair of the Theater Department at UCLA.

Tickets available at [operaleague.org](http://operaleague.org). Invitations can be requested by calling 213.972.7220 or sending an email to [info@operaleague.org](mailto:info@operaleague.org).

**Tickets \$25**

**Register at the Opera League website: [operaleague.org](http://operaleague.org)**

***Join Us!***

# PATRICK BLACKWELL:

FEATURED SOLOIST AT AFRICAN-AMERICANS FOR LOS ANGELES OPERA'S FALL RECITAL

By SHELL AMEGA

More than 60 opera enthusiasts enjoyed an afternoon of arias, spirituals and art songs by artist Patrick Blackwell at the African-Americans for Los Angeles Opera's (AALAO) Fall Recital at the home of Alice and Joe Coulombe. Pianist Catherine Miller accompanied Blackwell. Among the engaging pieces sung by the bass-baritone were: "Where 'er You Walk" by George Fredrick Handel, "La Calunia" from *The Barber of Seville*, "Come Dal Ciel Precipita" from *Macbeth*, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," and "Ol' Man River" from *Show Boat*.

AALAO Board Member Delores Kerr served as the MC and Alice Coulombe, former League president and a founding member of both AALAO and the League, welcomed the audience to her home that was graced with vibrant paintings by husband Joe Coulombe. Opera League President Kathy Crandall also greeted the guests.

Patrick Blackwell made his LA Opera debut in 2014 as Lieutenant Ratcliffe in *Billy Budd*. He gained accolades for portraying Porgy in a full-scale production in St. Louis and on tour throughout Europe. Other recent appearances include Tom in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with New Orleans Opera and Joe in *Show Boat* with Fresno Grand Opera and with Rockwell Productions in Vancouver. He made an important international debut with the Munich Philharmonic conducted by Maestro Lorin Maazel. Also of note was his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in Anthony Davis' *Amistad* creating the role of Burnah in this highly acclaimed world premiere.

Miller is in her 17th season as a pianist for LA Opera and has worked on over 70 operas in a variety of positions. She also serves as a coach and pianist for the UCLA Opera Department.

AALAO is dedicated to increasing the awareness of opera throughout Los Angeles. The next event, the AALAO Annual Black History Month Recital, featuring noted Negro Spiritual Historian Victoria Burnett, will be held on February 8, 2015 at the home of Beverley and Clarence Clarkson. The cost is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For more information, please contact Jacque Lyne Wallace 424.245.4659. Make checks payable to **The Opera League of Los Angeles/AALAO** and mail c/o Ben Kerr at 817 Keniston Ave., LA 90005. 🌸

# MEET MARCIA DE VERE

## A NEW LEAGUE MEMBER

By SUSAN HEARD

**The Opera League was delighted to welcome new member and volunteer, Marcia De Vere earlier this year.**



Photo by Susan Heard

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Marcia started her musical studies when she was 15 and enjoyed singing classical music and zarzuela in her high school glee club. She also belonged to the Pepita Embil Opera and Zarzuela Company in Mexico.

Marcia moved to El Paso in 2009 to attend the Conservatory, where she continued her study of zarzuela and opera. Hoping to expand her education, she moved to Los Angeles in December 2013 and enrolled in the music program at Santa Monica College. She also Skypes with a voice teacher in Madrid.

Through attending Opera League events, including seminars, gatherings, master classes and musicales, Marcia admits that she has learned more about opera and enjoys meeting others with the same passion.

If you haven't yet met this upbeat, positive young lady at one of those events, you may find her volunteering for the Opera League. She is a worker! She volunteers as a light walker, at cast dinners, and at the Shop at the Opera. She can often be seen helping the staff in LAO'S Public Relations and Sales and Marketing offices. Her joy is working at and in support of LA Opera.

Marcia's passion for opera started when she heard her grandfather's recordings of Verdi's *Nabucco*, Gounod's *Faust*, and operas by Tchaikovsky and Wagner. Today her favorites are Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Verdi's *La Traviata*, which she enjoyed at LA Opera.

Marcia is an only child, but her mother and other family members visit her in Los Angeles. She says that she is not lonely when her family is not here "because my second family is the Opera League and the LA Opera community." 🌸



# THE SHOP AT THE OPERA

By STEVE KOHN

## New name. New location. New displays. New merchandise.

But the same caring and wonderful volunteer staff, with a few new faces, ready to give opera-goers terrific deals. Under the leadership of Mimi Rotter and head buyer Mary Riggs, we offer beautiful merchandise, including costume jewelry, scarves, jackets and wonderful special interest goods.

Our head media buyer, Margi Mostue, has brought together new and fine-quality used CDs and DVDs. All are certainly worth exploring and our volunteers are on hand to help you.

We invite you to browse around the shop during the two hours before each performance. If you haven't found what you want before the performance then why not visit during all intermissions and even after the opera.

So, come and say hello to our friendly volunteers, and, better still, join us. We cannot promise you a salary but you will earn a discount on items you buy when you volunteer.

All the profits from the sales are slated for the Los Angeles Opera Education and Community Engagement programs.

See you at the Opera Shop! ✨

TOP LEFT: Liam Bonner as *Aeneas* stopped for a photo with Opera Shop volunteers Nina Haro (left) and Janet Lauparecht (right). TOP RIGHT: (left to right) Shop volunteers Terri Stern, Karen Kohn, Steve Kohn, Alma Guzman, Stella Leontsini.

# SAN DIEGO OPERA TRIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

In response to popular demand, we will take a trip to the San Diego Opera for Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Join us to enjoy a wonderful opera and a great cast singing at San Diego for the first time: **Ildebrando D'Arcangelo** as Don Giovanni, **Alex Esposito** as Leporello, **Myrtò Papatnasiu** as Donna Elvira and **Paul Appelby** as Don Ottavio.

This one-day trip includes: bus fare inclusive of tip, snacks on the bus, a 3-course lunch at the famous Westgate Hotel, including tip and a glass of wine, the opera ticket, and an intermission reception. This also includes a \$25 donation to the Opera League. Choose from 2 categories of Opera tickets: Cat I: \$345 or Cat II \$395.

We hope you will join us for an exciting day.

Mail your reservation to Brita Millard, PO Box 492330, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Please make out your check to: **Opera League of Los Angeles – Pilot Program.**

*Pompous, lustful and masochistic, Don Giovanni is the ultimate bad boy, but is he more? This intense opera stuns as Giovanni stalks his latest conquest, a beautiful young bride. But he cannot escape his past sins—the daughter of the nobleman he brutally murdered and a woman he carelessly left at the altar—or the ones who try valiantly to bring him to justice. In a shocking conclusion, we find out that the living are not the only ones who can seek vengeance.* ✨

# LEAGUE'S FALL MUSICALE

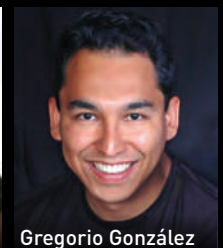
A sold-out crowd of Opera League members gathered at the home of former League President Anne Combs on Nov. 23 to enjoy the Fall Musicale. Soprano Shana Blake Hill, baritone Gregorio González, soprano Suzanna Guzmán and pianist Victoria Kirsch performed music dedicated to the life and music of their friend, composer Daniel Catán.

Special thanks go to League member Nina Haro, whose restaurant, La Cabana, provided the delicious food.

The event was a special follow-up to the League's seminar on *Florencia en el Amazonas*, with music and special memories of Daniel Catán. ✨



Shana Blake Hill



Gregorio González



Victoria Kirsch

# CALENDAR

## JANUARY

### Cathedral Project Rehearsal

Sun, Jan 11, 12:00-2:00pm

EAST LOS ANGELES PERFORMING ACADEMY  
4211 DOZIER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90063

NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS WILL ASSIST WITH ROOM SET-UP, SIGN-IN AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO PARTICIPANTS.

### Opera for Educators

THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

Sat, Jan 17, 8:00-11:00am

NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS

### Seminar

BEAUMARCHAIS OPERAS AND THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

Sun, Jan 18, 12:00-2:00pm

(LIGHT RECEPTION AT 11:15AM)

DCP, 5TH FLOOR

### Special Event

Sun, Jan 25, 1:00-5:00pm

JAMES BRIDGES THEATER UCLA - \$25 ADMISSION  
SHOWING OF DOCUMENTARY ON THE MAKING OF THE GREAT VOICES SING JOHN DENVER CD WITH PANEL INCLUDING LEE AND ELISA HOLDRIDGE

### Annual Preview

Tues, Jan 27

DCP, 5TH FLOOR

### Cast Dinner

(TIME IS WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)  
Sat, Jan 31, 4:30pm THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES  
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 1 & 2)

### Saturday Mornings at the Opera

Sat, Jan 31, 8:30-11:30am

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

## FEBRUARY

### Cast Dinner

(TIME IS WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)  
Sun, Feb 1, 5:00pm THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES  
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 1 & 2)

### Elementary Student Matinee

Mon, Feb 2, 8:30am-1:00pm

Tue, Feb 3, 8:30am-1:00pm

NEED 15 VOLUNTEERS EACH

PROVIDE WELCOME, SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE

### Operawise

THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

Tue, Feb 3, 2:00-6:00pm

Tue, Feb 3, 6:30-10:30pm

Wed, Feb 4, 6:30-10:30pm

NEED 7 VOLUNTEERS EACH

### Opera Prep

THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

Thu, Feb 5, 4:30-10:30pm

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

### Opera for Educators

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Sat, Feb 7, 8:00-11:00am

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Sat, Feb 21, 8:00-11:00am

NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS EACH

### AALAO Black History Month Seminar

Sun, Feb 8, 3:00-6:00pm

AT THE HOME OF BEVERLEY AND CLARENCE CLARKSON

QUESTIONS: BEVERLEY CLARKSON 323.293.3181

### San Diego Opera Trip

DON GIOVANNI

Sun, Feb 22

CONTACT: BRITA MILLARD, britamillard@me.com

### Cast Dinner

(TIME IS WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)  
Mon, Feb 23, 5:00pm THE BARBER OF SEVILLE  
(REHEARSAL ROOMS 1 & 2)

### Operawise

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Sun, Feb 22, 6:30-10:30pm

Mon, Feb 23, 2:00-6:00pm

Mon, Feb 23, 6:30-10:30pm

NEED 7 VOLUNTEERS EACH

## MARCH

### Peter Hemmings Award Dinner

Sun, Mar 1, 6:00pm

CALIFORNIA CLUB

### Cathedral Project

NOAH'S FLOOD

Fri, Mar 6, 7:30pm

Sat, Mar 7, 7:30pm

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF ANGELS

### Opera Prep

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Wed, Mar 11, 4:30-10:30pm

Sat, Mar 14, 4:30-10:30pm

NEED 7 VOLUNTEERS

### Cast Dinner

(TIME IS WHEN TO DELIVER FOOD)  
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Fri, Mar 13, 4:30pm

Sun, Mar 15, 5:00pm

Mon, Mar 16, 5:00pm

(REHEARSAL ROOMS 1 & 2)

### Opera 101

Sat, Mar 14, 8:00-11:00am

NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS

### Operawise

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Sun, Mar 15, 6:30-10:30pm

Mon, Mar 16, 2:00-6:00pm

Mon, Mar 16, 6:30-10:30pm

NEED 7 VOLUNTEERS EACH

### Opera Prep

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Wed, Mar 18, 11:00-5:00pm

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

### Senior Center Dress Rehearsal

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Wed, Mar 18, 11:00am-5:00pm

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AND DIRECT SENIOR CITIZENS

### Master Class

RYAN MCKINNY

Tue, Mar 31, 7:00pm

(RECEPTION 6:30)

DCP

## APRIL

### Opera for Educators

HERCULES VS. VAMPIRES

Sat, Apr 11, 8:00-11:00am

NEED 5 VOLUNTEERS

### Seminar

HERCULES VS. VAMPIRES

Sun, Apr 19, 12:00-3:00pm

SPEAKER AT 12:00PM, COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH AT 1:15PM

WATCH WORKING REHEARSAL AT 2:00PM

### Pasadena Showcase House

Sun, Apr 19-Sun, May 17

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

QUESTIONS: IFANG HSIEH 310.279.9927

### Opera Prep

HERCULES VS. VAMPIRES

Wed, Apr 22, 4:30-10:30pm

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

### Saturday Mornings at the Opera

Sat, Apr 25, 8:30-11:30am

NEED 12 VOLUNTEERS

## MAY

### Opera 101

Sat, May 16, 8:00-11:00am

NEED 3 VOLUNTEERS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

CAST DINNERS: Julie Holland

HOME: 213.617.1232 / CELL: 213.617.1233

castdinner@live.com

EDUCATION: Larry Verdugo

CELL: 626.590.5697

larryverdugo@icloud.com

EDUCATION: PROCEDURE TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER EVENTS:

- Sign on to the website: [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)
- Create an account as directed
- Click on the heading "Find a Sign Up"
- In the space provided enter the following e-mail address:

[operaleaguevolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:operaleaguevolunteer@gmail.com)  
Password: volunteers

- A list of events will be displayed. Check on those in which you are interested and a corresponding date. Submit. You will be asked to request a reminder. Please do so. Return to the first screen for subsequent requests.
- Sign Ups will become available July 2015

## EDUCATION EVENTS

### Opera for Educators

Sessions for teachers to advance their education on the operas of the season and gain salary points. Volunteers check in participants and provide information.

### Operawise

College students and teachers attend a working rehearsal and observe the company at work. Volunteers chaperone and provide information.

### Opera Prep

High school students attend a dress rehearsal and a special seminar that promotes careers in the arts.

### Opera 101

Volunteers will host and provide direction to teachers and sign-in participants.

### Saturday Mornings at the Opera

Elementary age children attend opera and art workshops. Volunteers assist with art workshops and supervision.

# GATHERINGS

## Beverly Hills

Mimi Rotter 310.479.0259 *RSVP*  
Anne Russell Sullivan 323.697.9733

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Sun, Jan 11, 10:00am  
10430 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Host: Ruth Lavine

### *The Barber of Seville*

Sun, Feb 22, 10:00am  
10530 Edgeley Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Host: Rosalie Kornblau

### *The Marriage of Figaro*

Sun, Mar 8, 10:00am  
Location TBA

## Hollywood/Hancock Park

Marlene Chavez 323.934.5777 *RSVP*

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Sun, Jan 11, 2:00pm  
123 South McCadden Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Host: Marlene Chavez

## Orange County

Lorna Blancaflor 562.259.7426  
Susan Fractman 949.903.5456 *RSVP*

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Sun, Jan 11, 2:00pm  
19 Bella Rosa  
Irvine, CA 92602  
Host: Bev Spring

### *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*

Sun, Feb 22, 2:00pm  
410 North Angelina  
Placentia, CA 92870  
Hosts: Sylvia and Gordon Traub

## San Fernando Valley

Regi Merwin 818.400.2578 *RSVP*

### *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville*

Sun, Mar 15, 2:00pm  
1700 North Brighton Street  
Burbank, CA 91506  
Host: Regi Merwin

## San Gabriel Valley

Michael Sholer 818.502.1988 *RSVP*

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Mon, Jan 26, 7:00 pm

### *The Barber of Seville*

Mon, Feb 16, 7:00 pm

### *The Marriage of Figaro*

Mon, Mar 9, 7:00 pm

5278 La Cañada Boulevard  
La Cañada, CA 91011

Hosts: Barbara and Jack Dawson

## Santa Clarita

Ann Anderson and Ron Gordon  
661.259.9619 *RSVP*

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Mon, Feb 2, 6:30pm

### *The Barber of Seville*

Mon, Feb 23, 6:30pm

### *The Marriage of Figaro*

Mon, Mar 16, 6:30pm

### *Hercules vs. Vampires*

Mon, Apr 20, 6:30pm

25506 Longfellow Place  
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

Hosts: Ann Anderson and Ron Gordon

## South Bay

Ifang (ee-fong) Hsieh 310.279.9927 *RSVP*  
Adam Parker 310.929.7944

### *The Ghosts of Versailles*

Jan 25, 2:00pm

28 Aurora Drive

Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Hosts: Lenita & David Witherspoon

## Westside

Monika Whitaker 310.826.4743 *RSVP*  
Alice and Chuck Bragg 310.454.9662

### *The Barber of Seville*

and *The Marriage of Figaro*

Mon, Feb 23, 7:00pm

350 South Bristol Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90049

Host: Brigitta Troy

VISIT THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR CURRENT  
INFORMATION: OPERALEAGUE.ORG

# WINTER SEMINARS

*Dedicated to Sherwin Sloan, Founder of the Opera League Seminar*

## HERCULES vs. VAMPIRES

### Sunday, April 19, 2015, Noon to 3:00+

Noon: Lecture by Composer/Librettist Patrick Morganelli  
1-2pm: Complimentary Luncheon  
2pm: Watch Young Artist Program Singers Rehearse

Buckle your seatbelts! *Hercules vs. Vampires* combines opera and midcentury pop culture, synchronizing live music with cult fantasy film *Hercules in the Haunted World*, a 1961 sword-and-sandal epic. When the actors projected on the silver screen open their mouths to speak, the audience will hear their lines sung by our cast of singers from the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program, accompanied by a 26-piece orchestra.

Directed by the great Italian filmmaker Mario Bava, the film in glorious early 1960s Technicolor is action-packed and wildly operatic in scope. The film follows Hercules on a heroic journey to rescue his beloved from a fiendish mastermind of terror. Fresh and full of fun, an atmospheric new operatic score by **L.A.-based composer Patrick Morganelli** provides the perfect accompaniment to Bava's gorgeously gaudy world.

**DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION** 135 N. Grand Ave.  
(Enter Artists Entrance and take elevator to 4th Floor)

## James Conlon Seminar: Beaumarchais Operas and *The Ghosts of Versailles*

### Sunday, January 18, 2015, Noon to 2pm

Light Reception at 11:15am

Maestro Conlon will conduct all three operas of the Figaro Trilogy based on the Beaumarchais Plays (*Marriage of Figaro*, *Barber of Seville* and *The Ghosts of Versailles*.) He will introduce us to the 17th century world of playwright Beaumarchais and the 20th Century world of composer Josh Corigliano who composed *The Ghosts of Versailles*.

Come learn why history is turned on its head as love attempts to alter the course of destiny in this extravagantly scaled and gloriously tuneful opera!

**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**

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

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

## JAN 18 / APRIL 19 SEMINAR ORDER FORM

Check the number of tickets you want, 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 sent to you. *Sorry, no refunds!*

	JAN 18	APRIL 19
_____ x Member @\$35	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Member (Voucher)	\$ 0	\$ 0
_____ x Non-member @\$45	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____ x Student member @\$10	\$ _____	\$ _____

## 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**  
OR order tickets on the League website: [operaleague.org/events](http://operaleague.org/events).

# OPERA TALKS

## Opera Talks at Julianne's

**1st Monday at 7:00pm**

JULIENNE'S FINE FOODS

2649 MISSION ST., SAN MARINO

**Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1**

CONTACT: Carol Sholer, **Csholer1@att.net**  
818.243.1818

**TO MAKE A RESERVATION (\$10)**

**TO ORDER A "LIGHT SUPPER BOX" (\$15)**

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

## Opera Talks at Long Beach

**2nd Saturday from 2:00-3:00pm**

EL DORADO LIBRARY-2900 STUDEBAKER ROAD

(BETWEEN WILLOW AND SPRING)

**Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11**

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

## OPERA LEAGUE MEMBERSHIPS

There is an opera league membership for everyone! Join one of our six levels to enjoy our more than 60 activities per year, have fun and experience opera *Behind the Scenes*. Visit our website: [operaleague.org](http://operaleague.org) and click on *Membership* to learn about the great benefits. Regular memberships and above are for two people.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP	\$20
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	\$45
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP	\$75
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP	\$175
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP	\$300
PATRON MEMBERSHIP	\$500

## OPERA LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

The Opera League of Los Angeles, founded in 1981, is dedicated to supporting LA Opera and to stimulating interest and participation in opera in the Southern California community.



135 North Grand Ave. | Los Angeles, CA 90012

### DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Seminar: Beaumarchais Operas and *The Ghost of Versailles***  
Jan 18

**Special Event**  
Jan 25

**Annual Preview**  
Jan 27

**AAAO Black History Month Seminar**  
Feb 8

**San Diego Opera Trip**  
Feb 22

**Peter Hemmings Award Dinner**  
Mar 1

**Cathedral Project: *Noah's Flood***  
Mar 6 & 7

**Master Class**  
Mar 31

**Seminar: *Hercules vs. Vampires***  
April 19

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pasadena, CA  
Permit #740

# PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN

## A Fun and Important Volunteer Opportunity

Want to have fun and help raise funds for the League and LA Opera's Education and Community Engagement Programs? Volunteer at the Pasadena Showcase House from April 19 to May 17.

Opera League volunteers can help staff this event. In exchange, the League will receive funds to support its Student Transportation Fund that provides bus transportation for students to attend various LA Opera Educational programs at the Music Center. In addition to giving directions, helping with crowd control, and helping keep visitors and the house safe, League volunteers will have an opportunity to get an insider's view of what various designers have done to remodel the rooms, and also will earn League volunteer hour credit.

Showcase volunteers will be required to attend a training session and tour the house and gardens. Volunteers commit to staff two four-hour sessions.

The Pasadena Showcase House of Design is one of the oldest, largest and most successful house and garden tours in the nation. More than 90 volunteers work nearly full-time to stage the event. Proceeds support various charitable organizations in the community, including LA Opera's Education and Community Engagement Programs.

**Contact Ifang Hsieh for further information and to volunteer: perhaps\_paganini@yahoo.com OR 310.279.9927.**