

Happy Birthday Dear Wolfgang

Mozart was born January 27, 1756, 250 years ago. As a tribute, his immortal opera buffa, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, will return to LA Opera's this spring and will be the focus of the third Opera League Seminar on Sat., March 18 from 10:00 am to 1:00pm in the 5th floor salon of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center.

If you missed Dr. Simon Williams at the *Parsifal* Symposium, this is your opportunity to hear this esteemed speaker. He is Professor and Chair of the Department of Dramatic Art at UCSB and has taught at universities on four continents. Among his extensive projects is co-editing European opera in the nineteenth century. For details about Dr. Williams, go to www.ucsb.edu.

Dr. Robert Winter, Professor—Performance Practice at UCLA, first became known to the general musical public for his nationally broadcast programs on American Public Radio on Mozart and Beethoven. To view this prolific scholar, author and lecturer's extensive biographical information, you can access it through www.ucla.edu.

Join the birthday celebration, along with moderator, Dr. Allan Edmiston, as we explore Mozart's sublime comedy of manners. And as usual, there will be coffee and pastries at the morning break. See

Insider Preview

Plácido Domingo shares his vision for LA Opera in the 2006 - 2007 season with Opera League members Sunday, January 15, a day before the news reaches the public. This delightful social event takes place at the historic Biltmore Bowl in the beautiful Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown LA. Following Mr. Domingo's announcement, Paul Floyd, Assistant Conductor at LA Opera, directs local artists in a selection of arias from next season's productions. The noon reception features appetizers and a no-host bar.

All current Opera League members are invited to Insider Preview in

appreciation of their support. Advance reservations and tickets are required with member tickets not transferable to nonmembers. Guests pay only \$20, applicable towards a year's membership at any level in the Opera League if guests join onsite January 15. New Associate Membership cost only a guest ticket plus \$20 that day! Membership entitles one to invitations and reduced admissions to Musicales, Seminars and Master Class; subscription to Bravo; volunteer opportunities and much more! Bring your friends and have them join at reduced rates.

Call 213-972-7220 for information.

Hemmings' Memorial Award Nominations

The Opera League is proud to announce the call for nominations for the Third Annual Hemmings' Memorial Award. The recipient will be honored at the League's Annual Event to be held later this year.

This award gives lasting recognition to the accomplishments of Peter Hemmings, the Founding General Director of LA Opera, by recognizing an individual's dedication to the development of opera in Los Angeles. Last year's honors were shared by Natalie Limonick and Carol and Warner Henry.

As a League member, please participate in the selection process by nominating a person you would like to receive the Award. Your nomination may be submitted to the Opera League by letter at: "Hemmings' Nomination", P.O. Box 1006, Montrose, CA 91021-1006 or by Email at: hemmingsaward@operaleague.org.

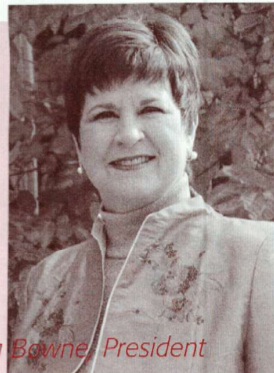
Nominations must be received by February 15, 2006. A selection Committee composed of individuals with a history of involvement in the promotion of opera in Los Angeles will make the final selection.

a word from our president

I send a very special thank you to over 300 donors, many listed on the opposite page, who helped the Opera League co-sponsor LA Opera's two admission-free student matinees of *Tosca*. If only one could bottle the exuberant enthusiasm expressed by the over 6,000 students applauding the cast and orchestra! Many of these young people will be our future opera audiences. Thanks also to the over 40 Opera League volunteers who assisted with these events. Deep appreciation also is extended to Lyla Forlani, LA Opera's Production Stage Manager, for the excellent tour backstage and into the pit as well as the "Behind the Scenes of *Tosca*" donor evenings. The Opera League presented LA Opera with checks for \$100,000 and \$50,000 to support the student matinees, with funds from this campaign, the Opera Boutique and member dues.

The Opera League added over 80 new memberships (representing over 120 individuals) from our "O La LA" campaign last September. Thank you to new friends for joining and to all the members who recruited you. We look forward to sharing an exciting 2006 and beyond with the entire membership of over 1,600 opera aficionados.

Announcements and invitations for many social and educational activities are noted in this issue. We know how to have a good time with opera! After the January "Insider Preview" at the Biltmore Bowl featuring Plácido Domingo, next up on the social calendar is the celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday. Regional Gatherings in nine locations are open to members and prospective members and showcase speakers on



Rebecca Bowne, President

Madama Butterfly and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. In February we have a Musicale with resident artists in an elegant Pasadena home. March highlights include the Seminar on *Le Nozze di Figaro*, "Backstage Magic" reception and program featuring Concertmaster Stuart Canin; and a Master Class at Zipper Hall with Barbara Bonney (Susanna in *Nozze*) who will coach local artists singing Mozart arias how to enhance stage technique and vocal quality. Plans are also underway for a special party to express appreciation for volunteers later this spring, so watch for invitations.

"Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." (Anonymous) This statement strongly applies to our board and all our volunteers. An important aspect of continued strength within the Opera League is recruitment of active volunteers and new board members. Please consider yourself or others for new nominations to the board, as outlined below. For new members or members newly considering volunteer opportunities, please join us for the Volunteer Orientation offered in February and March detailed on page 7. I promise you priceless rewards for your welcomed ideas and participation. See you at the opera!



Executive Committee

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Carol Sholer	Vice President & Social Chair
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Kathleen Leonard	Parliamentarian
Bob Holmes	Membership & Communications Chair
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Paula Radcliffe Dyke	Volunteers & Mailings
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Beverly Johnson	Seminars & Membership
Steve Kohn	Membership & Finance
Ed Lieb	Community/Education
Marcia McCormack	Fundraising/Events
Ernest Prokopovych	Nominating
Tadea Pylko	Boutique & Events
Dale Ross	Cast Dinners
Paula Settle	Boutique Manager
John Spear	Overtures
Stanley Stocks	Assistant Treasurer

Consulting Director

Dr. W. Allan Edmiston	Seminars
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24-hour League Message Line: 213-972-7220

Visit us at www.operaleague.org

Send mail to: PO Box 1006, Montrose, CA 91021-1006

Printer	Licher Direct Mail
Newsletter Design	Bacall:Creative

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

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

From January through March, 2006, the Opera League is accepting new board candidate nominations of League members in good standing (dues paid continuously at any membership level Student through Patron) for at least the 12 consecutive months prior to elections by the board in May.

Nominations are reviewed for eligibility and qualifications by the Nominating Committee in a confidential process in accordance with Opera League procedures. Selected candidates serve a three-year term from July 2006 through June 2009.

Once elected, board members must meet the following requirements:

- Attend League board meetings (generally third Monday of the month 4:30 to 6:30 PM at Music Center DCP)
- Hold League membership at Contributing level (\$175) or higher
- Participate and assist with League activities
- Chair or co-chair a major activity, as appointed by the president
- Subscribe to LA Opera for at least three performances each season
- Contribute to designated major League fund raising events

- Access email (at basic level) for communications among board

Written recommendation of name(s) for nomination, either self-made or by another member, are accepted by Nominating Committee Chair Ernie Prokopovych at iprokopovych@earthlink.net or to any current board member. Mailed nominations may be sent to Opera League Nominations, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Leave nominating questions for Ernie with your name and phone number at the Opera League 24-hour line at 213-972-7220

THANK YOU TOSCA SPONSORSHIP DONORS!

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Opera League of
Los Angeles

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Rowland

"Mario! Mario!"

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Bowne

Bonnie Brae
Donald & Marilyn
Conlan

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Ananth & Margaret
Natarajan

Richard Seaver
Mindy & Gene
Stein

Dorothy Thiele

"Vittoria! Vittoria!"

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Marge & David N.
Barry III

Susan Ebey
Olive Dibben
Kemp

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P. Parker

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"Questo è il bacio di Tosca!"

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Debra Dawson

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Dreifus

Paula R. & Richard

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Fisher by Barbara

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Cynthia Stafford

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Dr. Linda Swanson

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Natsuko Akiyama

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Alison & Charles C.

Lifland

calendar

january

Orchestra Dinner**

January 7 (Saturday) 4:30 – 7:30 pm
Madama Butterfly
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Opera Talks at Julienne's

January 9 (Monday) 7 pm
2649 Mission, San Marino
Speaker: Anne Marie Ketchum
Artistic Director of Verdi Chorus
Director of Opera, PCC
\$15 cash at door for refreshments

Education Program*

January 14 (Saturday) 8am – 4pm
Opera for Educators *Madama Butterfly*
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Long Beach Opera Ring League Dinner

January 14 (Saturday) 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Renaissance Hotel, Long Beach
\$31 by January 10
Call 213-972-7220

Insider Preview

January 15 (Sunday) Noon to 1:30 pm
Placido Domingo
announces 2006-2007 operas
Artist arias accompanied by Paul Floyd
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
Invitations mailed; reservations and tickets required
Free to current members; Guests \$20
Tickets are NOT transferable

Cast Dinner**

January 17 & 18 (Tuesday & Wednesday)
4:30 – 7:30 pm
Madama Butterfly
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

League Volunteer Tickets

January 18 (Wednesday)
Lecture 6:30, Performance 7:30 pm
Madama Butterfly Final Dress
Rehearsal
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Education Program*

January 26 & 27 (Thursday & Friday) 8 am – 1 pm
Student Matinee *The Prospector*
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Education Program*

January 28 (Saturday) 8:30 am – Noon
Saturday Mornings at the Opera
The Prospector
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

february

Opera Talks at Julienne's

February 6 (Monday) 7 pm
"What's Up Opera?"
Steve Kohn, Speakers' Bureau
2649 Mission, San Marino
\$15 cash at door for refreshments

Musicale

February 26 (Sunday) 2- 4 pm
Resident Artists Concert
Home of Jo & Shawn Libaw in Pasadena
Invitation on page 5

Volunteer Orientation

February 27 (Monday) 7 – 9 pm
4th Floor Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
New and "refresher" volunteers
Contact gelijah@msn.com to pre-register

march

Opera Talks at Julienne's

March 6 (Monday) 7 pm
Ed Shaff on "*Shakespeare and Opera*"
2649 Mission, San Marino
\$15 cash at door for refreshments

Education Program*

March 11 (Saturday) 8 am – 4 pm
Opera 101
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Volunteer Orientation

March 11 (Saturday) 1 - 3 pm
4th Floor Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

New and "refresher" volunteers
Contact gelijah@msn.com to pre-register

OPERA LEAGUE SEMINAR

Le Nozze di Figaro
March 18 (Saturday) 10 am
5th Floor Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
(new location)
See invitation on Page 5

Education Program*

March 18 (Saturday) 8:30 am – Noon
Saturday Mornings at the Opera
Figaro's American Adventure
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Cast Dinner**

March 19 & 20 (Sunday & Monday) 4:30 – 7:30 pm
Figaro
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Education Program*

March 25 (Saturday) 8am – 4pm
Opera for Educators - *Marriage of Figaro*
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Backstage Magic

March 28 (Tuesday) Time TBA
Concertmaster Stuart Canin
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
Invitations mailed to memberships
Regular, Contributing, Sustaining and Patron

Master Class with Barbara Bonney

March 31 (Friday)
Zipper Hall at Colburn School
Invitation on page 5

*Education Programs

Contact: Edward Lieb
ejglieb@earthlink.net

24-hour message line 213-972-7220

**Cast Dinners

Contact: Dale Ross
daleross1@worldnet.att.net

24-hour message line 213-972-7220

invitations

Please note that this is the ONLY invitation you will receive for these events.

San Gabriel Valley Musicale

in a beautiful Pasadena home

Sunday, February 26, 2006 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Tickets: \$35 or 1 Musicale Voucher for Members, \$45 for non-members, \$10 for Student Club Members
Seating is limited. *Reserve by February 17th.* Tickets and location returned in your self addressed envelope.

Marriage of Figaro Seminar

The Revolutionary Mozart

Saturday, March 18, 2006 – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

(Note new location. Parking is \$8.00 at Music Center)

5th Floor Banquet Hall, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

135 North Grand Avenue, Entrance just south of garage on Grand Avenue

Speakers:

Robert Winter, Ph. D.

Simon Williams, Ph. D.

Dr. W. Allan Edmiston, Moderator

Additionally supported by The Opera Guild of Southern California

Tickets: \$20.00 or 1 Seminar Voucher for Members, \$30 for non-members, \$5 for Student Club Members

Reservations should be received by March 10th

Barbara Bonney Master Class

Watch young artists hone their craft

Friday, March 31, 2006 at 7:00 pm

Zipper Hall, The Colburn School

200 South Grand Avenue

Tickets: \$40 for Members, \$50 for non-members, \$10 for Student Club Members

Reservations should be received by March 21st

Please complete the enclosed reply envelope

and mail your check (NO REFUNDS) and stamped self addressed envelope to:

the Opera League of Los Angeles, PO Box 1006, Montrose, CA 91021-1006

The \$10 surcharge for non-members will be credited if a membership is purchased at these events.

For Information call the League's 24 hour message line: (213) 972-7220

behind the scenes

As the primary volunteer support group for LA Opera, the Opera League is essential to LA Opera's success. Opera League volunteers, the heart and soul of our organization, enjoy an increasing number of opportunities to go behind the scenes and become part of the action.

Volunteer Workshops— Save the Date

Curtain going up (again)! Twice each year the Opera League conducts Workshops for volunteers when they hear from our president, Rebecca Bowne and ALL of the volunteer chairs directly. The sessions are developed in order to be sure new volunteers receive a full picture directly from the experts. It is also an opportunity to get to know board members and other volunteers in an informal setting as the panelists describe what volunteering for each of the available League activities is all about, and what will be expected from them as volunteers.

Although planned for new volunteers, it is also open to more experienced volunteers who want to explore different volunteer experiences, and who want to discuss what is involved in the assignments before making a choice. As programs have grown and changed over the years, they may feel in need of a change themselves, and need to find a renewed "thrill." If this sounds like YOU, this is your chance!

The workshops will both take place in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Monday, February 27, 2006 from 7-9 pm and again on Saturday, March 11, 2006 from 1-3 pm. Volunteers will be given a choice of one of the two dates to attend, and free parking will be arranged for them.

Invitations will be mailed in January for the 25 new volunteers enrolled since the October sessions. Any other volunteers interested in attending one of these sessions, should

Backstage Magic

Passion, intrigue and murder occur onstage, but what's happening backstage and in the orchestra pit? Did you ever wonder how Anna Netrebko as Juliette, in last season's *Roméo et Juliette*, changed so quickly from a nightdress into that fabulous ball gown? You would know the answers to all this and more if you attended Backstage Magic last year and saw a "quick change" before your eyes!

Backstage Magic is that special peek "behind the scenes" presented by LA Opera just for Opera League members. This year's event will be held during the evening of Tuesday, March 28. Hosted by LA Opera, the event begins with a wine and appetizer reception in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Then, Stuart Canin, LA Opera's Concertmaster and world renowned violinist, will share his insights on this 20th Anniversary opera season "from the pit perspective."

Invitations will be sent to all Regular and higher category members in February. It's not too late for you to join or upgrade your membership. Then you too can take that peek behind the scenes!

call Volunteer Coordinator Gerald Elijah at 213-927-7220 to request information on how to enroll in the session of your choice.

If you are an Opera League member, but not currently a volunteer, you may call the same number to request a Volunteer enrollment form. It's fun and rewarding to participate!

SHOPPING SPREE GUILT FREE

You can shop "guilt-free" in the Opera Boutique knowing that your purchases will bring another child to opera! With total Opera League volunteer staffing and use of the Grand Avenue side of the opera lobby during performances, our prices are lower than retail stores. All profits from the Boutique are donated to LA Opera for education programs. Arrive early or stop by at intermission and use your plastic, cash or check to purchase gifts yourself or any Diva or Maestro on your list. After all, this is the League's major fundraising project!

"*Madama Butterfly*" provides ample opportunities for new boutique items, including silk Geisha scarves and totes, butterfly-adorned Mary Frances and Todd Anthony designer purses, Jo Marz wine stopper/pourers and unique hair ornaments. Other items include peacock beaded stoles, opera capes and silk scarves, silk ties (bows too!), 3X opera glasses, opera-themed note cards, unique photo albums and LA Opera 20th Anniversary mugs.

Boutique managers Paula Settle, Rebecca Bowne, Tadea Phylko and Paula Radcliffe Dyke are aided in sales by Ed and Judy Lieb, Margi Mostue, Kirkland Jones, Stuart Bowne, Kimiyo Sasaki, Nina Haro, Lynn Frazier, Mary Ann MacDonald, Arlene Stone, Jaquelyne Kelly, Gregore Manley, Bill Vasher, Jane Gifford, Kathleen Leonard, Peter Lambert, Lenita McCallum, David Witherspoon, Fe Fertig, Dale Ross, Carmen Paz, Clair Chambless, Giovanna Cabaret, Alice Kresselman, Wendy van Harlem, Pauline Smith and Kathleen Leonard. Volunteers receive free parking, merchandise discounts and have an opportunity to purchase "Rush" tickets, when available. Call 213-972-7220 to volunteer!



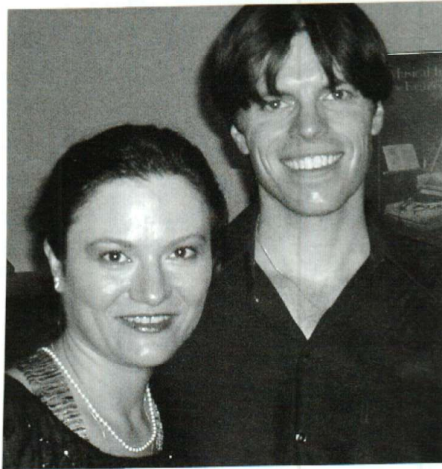
getting together

Senta Finds Her Dutchman

by Bob Bernard, Artist Services Chair

It was an evening in September of 2002. Committee member Stella Leontsini called me, asking for a bit of help with an Artist Services situation. Stella had taken Lado Ataneli, his wife Manana, and Mlada Khudoley for a driving tour about Los Angeles that day and was now preparing dinner for everyone.

The three Russians were out grocery shopping and Stella, unable to leave the dinner fixings to go and pick them up and transport them back to her home for the evening, needed someone to do the transport duties. The inclusion of a free dinner in the Volunteer opportunity package clinched the deal: I volunteered myself for the job.

*Mlada, having found her Dutchman*

Clearly, this was a task for Artist Services. Stella, Manana, and Mlada formed an ad hoc subcommittee and went into executive session at one end of the dinner table, settling on French as the language of mutually acceptable commonality. Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, Lado and I contented ourselves with "Please pass the potatoes" and other 'man-talk'.

I don't critique plans (especially verbal ones in French): I evaluate results, and, whatever the plan was, the results were good. At the end of the performance run, when it was time for our Committee to transport the artists to LAX, Mlada informed Barbara Donner, Manager of Artist Services, that our services wouldn't be needed: a friend would be driving her to the airport.

The friend proved to be Peter Fleming, a member of the Los Angeles Opera Men's Chorus.

Mlada returned to LAO in March as Senta in a revival of Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*. Before the performance run of the *Dutchman* was complete, Peter had gained some fluency in Russian, and Mlada's English had improved remark-

ably. Now they are married, and just this summer they produced a beautiful baby daughter named Elizabeth.

Last year on August 30, Mlada and Peter were the guest artists at Dr. Bill Teaford's monthly musicale in Rancho Palos Verdes, singing works of Italian, French, Norwegian, and, of course, Russian composers. As a special tribute to the Rev. Caster, who had married them two years ago and was in house, Mlada and Peter also included several Irish traditional songs, concluding with a duet of "Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral". Daughter Elizabeth, also in attendance, cried not at all, Peter explaining that she only fusses when errors in tonality are committed.

Dr. Bill, the evening's host, took special delight in emphasizing the fact that both Peter and their pianist, Cheryl Graue, are USC graduates. This gave Dr. Bill still one more occasion to trumpet his assertion that the dream of early University President Rufus von Klein-Smid had come true and that USC now had a University which its Football Team could be proud of.

And to think I neglected to record any Volunteer hours for that dinner three years ago!

Peter, with daughter Elizabeth*Mlada as Senta, awaiting her Dutchman
Photo: Robert Millard for LAO*

Lado was here to sing the title role in Nabucco, and Mlada was covering the role of Abigail, Nabucco's strong-willed daughter. As we relaxed over dinner, confidences were exchanged. Mlada lamented the fact that, in her blossoming international career as an opera singer, she had yet to meet a suitable young man with which to initiate a romantic relationship.



Winter Gathering Schedule

REGION	DATE	ADDRESS	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
Westside	Monday, Jan. 16	520 17th St., Santa Monica	7:30 – 10 pm	Dr. James Shumaker	310-829-1069
Santa Clarita	Wed., Jan. 25	24271 San Fernando, Snt. Cla.	7 – 9:30 pm	Olga Joseau	661-297-3086
Historic LA	Sunday, Feb. 26	362 Van Ness, Los Angeles	2:30 – 4:30 pm	Sandra Kohn	323-935-9943
San Gabriel Vly.	Tuesday, Feb. 28	5278 La Canada, La Canada	7 – 9:30 pm	Carmen Paz	818-765-2293
Claremont	Sunday, Mar. 5	967 Moody Place, Claremont	2 – 4:30 pm	Patricia O'Donnell	909-447-5038
Orange County	Sunday, Mar. 5	410 N. Angelina Dr., Placencia	2 – 4:30 pm	Clare Chambless	714-533-4186
San Fernando Vly.	Sunday, Mar. 5	4830 Brandenburg Pl., Tarzana	2 – 4:30 pm	Regi Merwin	818-953-8920
Ventura County	Sunday, Mar. 12	2114 Portola Ln., Westlake Village	2 – 4:30 pm	Lois Hamlish	805-495-8857
Antelope Valley	Sunday, Mar. 12	43422 25th St. W, Lancaster	2 – 4:30 pm	Dr. Harald Krueger	661-728-0671



Donor Jennifer Rowland, General Director Plácido Domingo, League President Rebecca Bowne and Director of Community Programs Stacey Brightman, Ph.D meet prior to the Tosca student matinee. photo credit: Amy Tierney/Lee Salem Photography

“Tosca was the first opera our then 8 year old daughter attended. She was completely transfixed from Mario’s first aria and I had to drag her out of the theater at the end of the performance. Thus began her great passion for opera. So it is with great pleasure that we support the admission-free student matinees of Tosca. I hope these performances will inspire many more young opera fans.”

—Jennifer W. Rowland



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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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INVITATIONS ARE INCLUDED

- ★ Musicale 2/26
- ★ Figaro Seminar 3/18
- ★ Bonney Master Class 3/31