

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA

COMING IN DECEMBER:



Your one-stop entertainment choice to put you in a joyous mood. It's not just a collection of carols and Rudolph songs, but a celebration of great music, featuring our wonderful chorus and orchestra with a spectacular soloist, Alexandra LoBianco. She just completed an engagement as Aida at Opera Colorado. The Denver Post had this to say: "Alexandra LoBianco, in the leading role, went for every note with verve, her voice ringing out clearly over the efforts of a talented co-cast and an orchestra that gave her competition in terms of volume and energy. She has an impressive and endlessly confident singing style, a likable and natural ease with difficult notes and phrasing." Alexandra is a St. Pete native and is returning to sing Wagner, Verdi, and Bellini. Jenny Kim Godfrey, the 2014 Opera Idol, will also appear.

In January, we will be preparing for our production of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* with an introduction at Evenings and Mornings with the Maestro. In the January edition, entitled "Harem Today, Gone Tomorrow" Maestro Sforzini will explore the plot and the musical devices with his trademark wit and our fabulous cast. EWTM is at 6:00 pm at the Music Gallery on Thursday, Jan. 21 and MWTM is at 11 am at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg on Friday, Jan. 22.

Our longtime box office manager, Anthony Carlson, has moved to Washington DC and while we will miss him, we are delighted to welcome our new Box Office Manager, Laurel Bennett. She'll give you the same excellent service that Anthony did!

Pinellas Opera League

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*Dedicated To Promoting a Greater Interest
In Opera and Musical Theater*

President: Christina Alexander

Vice President: Marcia Lork

Treasurer: Dot Naegle

Recording Secretary: Sarah Roberts

Corresponding Secretary: Alyse Siegrist

St. Petersburg Opera Company is offering tickets including bus transportation to the Sunday matinees for their upcoming season with three more productions in 2016: *Abduction from the Seraglio*, *La Boheme*, and *South Pacific*. If you already have tickets for the Sunday matinees and would like to take advantage of the bus transportation you can order just the bus. Be advised that free parking around the Palladium is very limited this year so the bus may be a good alternative. Call Wayne Green at 727-470-9537 for forms.

CHECK YOUR OPERA IQ: Name the operetta and its composer that is being performed at Lincoln Center during the December holiday season. Look for the answer in the January Newsletter.

Answer to the November quiz. Mozart, *Magic Flute*; Puccini, *Turandot*; Verdi *Otello*; Wagner, *Parsifal*.

Do you have opera questions you would like to submit? Please send them to Herma at hm4pol@gmail.com.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!

Compiled by Richard Davidson
Layout and printing by Nancy Preis



The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter
of
Pinellas Opera League

DECEMBER 2015

Luncheon Meeting:

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Social time begins at 11:00 am, business meeting at 11:30 am, program at 11:45 am, and lunch is served at 12:30 pm.

Dunedin Country Club, 1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin, FL 34698

Menu: Salad, Rolls, Flank Steak, Baked Potatoes, Cauliflower & Broccoli, Chocolate Sundae

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by Monday, November 30 and cancellations by Tuesday, December 1. Contact Nancy @727-738-4007. Please be sure to call in your reservations on time.

The price of the luncheons is \$22 for members and \$25 for non-members, payable in cash or check made out to Pinellas Opera League. Please have exact change if paying in cash.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 50/50 AT THE DOOR.

SILENT AUCTION- Please be sure to bring your jewelry, art objects, videos and pictures to donate to the auction. If your items do not sell, please be prepared to take them home with you that day. We do not have storage available.

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER LUNCHEON:



Opera Tampa is bringing tenor Russell Andrade and soprano Rachel Marino to perform. Russell is a graduate of Florida State University and the University of GA and has studied music composition. He has covered several roles at St. Petersburg Opera and was featured in Neapolitan Festival. He has recently performed with Tampa Oratorio Singers and was Don Jose in Hubbard Hall (NY) Opera's *Carmen*. Rachel Marino appeared as First Touriere/Mistress of the Novices



(Cover) (*Suor Angelica*) and Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*) with the Savannah Music Festival. Also in 2015, she performed excerpts in concert as Magda (*La Rondine*) with Florida Opera Theatre. In 2014, she covered Nedda (*I Pagliacci*) with St. Petersburg Opera and covered Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) with the Savannah Voice Festival. Earlier in 2014, she appeared as Dinah (*Trouble in Tahiti*) with Florida Opera Theatre, covered Mercédès (*Carmen*) and Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Opera Tampa, and Mrs. McLean (*Susannah*) with St. Petersburg Opera. Since becoming one of the Opera Tampa New Artists in 2011, Rachael has continued to work closely with Opera Tampa, appearing in concerts, outreach, and mainstage performances, most recently as The Page (*Rigoletto*). She is a member of St. Petersburg Opera's resident quartet, Operatini.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Dear members of the Pinellas Opera League; As I am nearing the end of my second term as President of Pinellas Opera League, it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as President for the past four years. I have enjoyed meeting and working with you during this time to make a positive impact in the community in the promotion of opera and musical theater. I am honored to have earned your trust during my tenure. Regretfully, I am not able to accept the nomination for President for another term because of increased work obligations and the acceptance of a fellowship in education. I will continue to be available in an advisory capacity. Thank you for your support of opera and of Pinellas Opera League's charitable outreach services. It is important that POL members attend the December luncheon in order to see the spectacular performances and to vote. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

With Warmest Regards,
Christina Alexander

OPERA DVDs: The DVD opera showing will resume again on Sunday, November 29 at 1:00 pm In Room A and B at the Safety Harbor Library with the DVD showing of the luscious and humorous comedy *Arabella* by Richard Strauss, starring Kiri Te Kanawa. Running time is 178 minutes. The library is located at 101 2nd St. N. Safety Harbor, FL (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa). There is parking in back of the library and admission is free. The library will open at 1:00 pm and the showing begins at 1:30 pm. There will be no DVD showing during December. Our next showing will be in January 9th when will screen *I Puritani* starring Juan Diego Florez. Running time 178 minutes. For information call Richard Davidson at 727-242-6486.

MEMBERSHIP: Since membership is based on the calendar year, **RENEWALS ARE DUE BY JANUARY.** Dues: Individual \$25.00 Couple \$40.00. Applications / renewal forms may be downloaded from our website-www.pinellasoperaleague.com and will also be available at the luncheon. Please send your applications and renewals to the address on the form or submit them to Herma at the luncheon. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY RENEWED FOR 2016.** **DONATIONS:** Many thanks to Donald Hamilton for his \$100.00 donation to the Puccini Circle.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

The nominating committee has proposed the following persons to serve on the Pinellas Opera League Board to be voted on at the December luncheon.

President –Richard Davidson
Vice President-Marcia Lork
Treasurer-Jennie Belsanti
Recording Secretary-Beverly Hand
Corresponding Secretary-Laurette Schmidt

Committee Chairpersons:
Membership and Publishing - Herma Moschner
Publicity-Ron Regan
Luncheon-Kay Slade
Historian –Ursula Wignall
Special Events-Wayne Green
Reservations/ Receptions-Nancy Jewitt

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED- We have 1 position open on the board: Ways and Means. We also need people to help Marcia with the "Great American Teach In" as well as volunteers to work on outreach programs in our schools and the community.

RUTH ECKERD HALL, CAPITOL THEATER AND NOW THE MURRAY THEATRE, TAMPA BAY'S NEWEST THEATER

At Ruth Eckerd Hall: Tickets 727-791-7400.

At The Capitol Theater, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater: 727-712-2717

Murray Theater: This state-of-the-art facility is the permanent home to the Marcia P. Hoffman school of the arts and host to local and national concerts, plays, movies, and dance performances and is housed on the Ruth Eckerd Hall Campus.

At Ruth Eckerd Hall The "Producers," the Mel Brooks musical, will be presented on Dec. 29th. The 2015 -16 Broadway shows are on sale now with special package pricing. Also on sale is the "Adults at Leisure" and "World Stage" Series. Coming on December 20th, "A Christmas Carol," Sunday, December 20, 2 and 7 P.M.

FLORIDA OPERA FESTIVAL– POL is pleased to be able to offer reduced price tickets to *Così fan Tutte*, *La Traviata* and *Don Giovanni*, presented by Opera Tampa under the direction of Daniel Lipton, Artistic Director. All performances are on Sundays at 2:00 P.M. as follows *Così fan Tutte* on Sunday, Feb. 21 in Ferguson Hall; *La Traviata*, Sunday March 13 at Morsani Hall; and *Don Giovanni* Sunday, April 10, in Morsani Hall. The package price for all three operas including bus transportation is \$169.00 for Level A seating and \$149.00 for Level B seating. Single tickets are available at \$43.00 for Level A and \$33.00 for Level B. Level A seats for the last two operas are located in the mid-orchestra and for level B in the rear orchestra. For *Così fan Tutte* seats will be the best available. Single tickets do not include the cost of the bus. Bus Transportation only is also available for \$15.00 per performance.

Bus pick up will be from the Lowe's parking lot across from the garden center at 12:30 P.M. Bus transportation will be provided when a minimum of 20 people are registered for each performance. For forms for the festival, check our website or get one from Wayne Green at the luncheon. Send forms and your check to Wayne Green at 1340 Bayshore Blvd. #407, Dunedin FL 34698

A NOTE FROM OUR ADOPTED SCHOOL Pinellas Central Elementary. I wanted to let you know how much the students enjoyed the presentation. They made it a point to let Dr. Walsh know that it was a lot of fun. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with our students. Thank you to Marcia Lork for a great job on her presentation to the school. I will keep you on our speaker's list for future presentations.

Sincerely, Luch Lancheros