

## ST. PETERSBURG OPERA

April is a busy month for St. Petersburg Opera as we are busy holding auditions for next season and preparing our season brochure. But, there are still opportunities to join us for some fun:

**EVENINGS AND MORNINGS WITH THE MAESTRO:** First Entrance and Final Exit: Where Did I Go Wrong?

Many opera characters start out so promisingly—they enter with a flourish, full of enthusiasm and love and then end up in Big Trouble, or dying. Join Maestro Mark Sforzini as we contrast these characters opening music and closing music.

EWTM is at 6:00 pm at the Music Gallery, 5990 Ulmerton Rd. on Thursday, April 21 and MWTM is at 11 am at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg on Friday, April 22. Tickets at 727-823-2040 or at the door.

**COLLEGE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS VOCAL COMPETITION:** April 9 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Opera Central, 2145 First Ave. S, St. Petersburg. Sponsored by the St. Petersburg Opera Guild. **FREE**

**TAMPA BAY SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERTS:** Dances, Dreams, and the Danube

On the Beautiful Blue Danube - Johann Strauss  
Young Artist Winner Mina Mijovic:  
Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major - Franz Liszt  
Swan Lake Suite - Tchaikovsky

**SYMPHONIC CHAT:** Tickets at the door \$15  
Thursday, April 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Opera Central

**CONCERTS:** Tickets available at the door \$20

- Sunday, April 24, 4:00 p.m. St. Petersburg College Arts Auditorium, Clearwater
- Tuesday, April, 26, 8:00 p.m. Palladium Theater, St. Petersburg
- Sunday, May 1, 4:00 p.m. Ferguson Hall, Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa

Compiled by Herma Moschner  
Layout and printing by Nancy Preis

## Pinellas Opera League

P.O. Box 4855

Clearwater, FL 33758

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

President: Richard Davidson

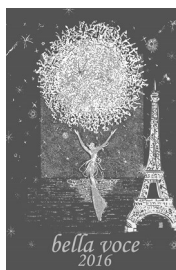
Vice President: Marcia Lork

Treasurer: Jennie Belsanti

Recording Secretary: Beverly Hand

Corresponding Secretary: Laurette Schmitt

### COMING IN MAY:



Bella Voce, St. Petersburg Opera's spectacular gala

**OPERA AROUND THE WORLD** will transport you to the locations of our 10th season operas

VIP tickets \$300 (limited to 100) 5:30pm

General Admission \$175 7:00pm

**Saturday, May 7, 2015**

Opera Central, 2145 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dinner, Silent and Live Auctions

Diverse musical entertainment presented by Maestro Mark Sforzini and international opera stars

### CHECK YOUR OPERA IQ:

Name an opera in which the action takes place on Easter Sunday.

Answers to the March Quiz: Identify the opera and the character who sings the aria:

"O patria mia" sung by Aida in *Aida*

"My soul is sad" sung by Boris Godunoff in *Boris Godunoff*

"L'amour est un oiseau rebelle" sung by Carmen in *Carmen*

"Mi tradi quell' alma ingrata" sung by Elvira in *Don Giovanni*

Do you have opera questions you would like to submit? Please send them to Herma at [hm4pol@gmail.com](mailto:hm4pol@gmail.com).



## The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter  
of the  
Pinellas Opera League

**APRIL 2016**

**Luncheon Meeting:  
Wednesday, April 6**

Dunedin Country Club, 1050 Palm Blvd.,  
Dunedin, FL 34698

11:00 am: Social time

11:30 am: Business meeting

11:45 am: Music program

12:30 pm: Lunch is served

**Menu:** Onion soup, rolls, chicken cordon bleu, stuffed tomato-zucchini, warm mixed berry cobbler

**LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and MUST be made AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE but no later than MONDAY, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> and cancellations by Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

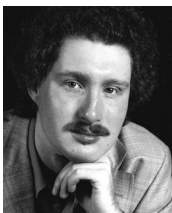
**PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR 50/50 AT THE DOOR and in the SILENT AUCTION.** Donations to the auction of jewelry, art objects, videos, pictures, etc. would be very much appreciated. If your items do not sell, please be prepared to take them home with you that day since we do not have storage facilities available.

Spring is in the air and the POL invites you to join the **SPRING HAT PARADE AT THE APRIL LUNCHEON** to welcome it with that special chapeau befitting the occasion!

## PROGRAM FOR APRIL LUNCHEON:



**MICHELLE SMITH-SUND** is a dramatic soprano who has been studying opera locally with the incomparable Stella Zambalis and formerly in New York City with Lorraine Nubar of the Julliard School and Pierre Valet of the Metropolitan Opera. Her operatic credits include: Musetta in Puccini's *La Boheme*, Angelina in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, Gertrude in Humperdinck's *Hansel und Gretel*, Brünnhilde in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Margherita/Elena-Helen of Troy in Boito's *Mephistopheles*, Isolde in Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, Leonora in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Antonia in Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* and most recently as Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth*. Michelle has also participated in numerous opera festivals and master classes in New York City and Central Florida as well as the Tampa Bay area.



**CONSTANTINE GRAME** studied music with his father, Theodore Grame, and holds an Advanced Certificate in Piano from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London. He is Artistic Director of the New Century Opera and Music Director of the Gilbert and Sullivan Players (Clearwater). In recent years he has served as stage and musical director for thirteen operas and all four operas of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. His edition of the original Herbert/MacDonough text of *Babes in Toyland* has been recognized as the most authoritative version available today, and Mr. Grame is currently preparing the first printed orchestral score and parts from the original manuscripts. As piano accompanist he has accompanied such distinguished artists as Sherrill Milnes, Maria Zouves, Stella Zambalis, Carole Cook, and Enrico di Giuseppe. He has appeared as tenor soloist in such works as *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *The Mikado*. He is an accompanist and voice coach and serves on the faculty of the Marcia P. Hoffman Institute for the Performing Arts (Ruth Eckerd Hall). He serves as organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Petersburg. His own opera, *The Spoiler*, premiered in Tarpon Springs in 2004 and was revived there in 2008 and 2012. In 2014—in recognition of his lifelong dedication to the works for Richard Wagner—he attended the Bayreuth Wagner Festival as part of the Stipendiaten Programme, becoming one of very few Americans accorded this honor.

**POL OPERA DVD SHOWING:** Our next showing will be Dvorak's *Rusalka* starring Renée Fleming on SUNDAY, APRIL 10 at 1:30 pm in Room A and B at the SAFETY HARBOR LIBRARY (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa) at 101 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N. Parking is available and admission is FREE. The library will open at 1:00 pm and the showing begins at 1:30 pm. Running time 3 hours. For information call Richard Davidson at 727-242-6486.

**LIVE FROM THE MET:** Pinellas Park Regal Theaters and the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa, Miller Auditorium at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg and at Sundial 19 & IMAX in St. Petersburg. Ticket prices vary by theater.

Sat. April 2 at 1:00 pm: Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, 3 hrs. 18 min.

Sat. April 16 at 1:00 pm: Donizetti's *Robert Devereux*, 3 hrs. 05 min.

Sat. April 30 at 1:00 pm: Strauss' *Electra*, 1 hr. 45 min. Encores at AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar and Pinellas Park Regal Theaters at 6:30 pm on the Wednesday following the original broadcast (April 6, April 20 and May 4 respectively)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please note the NEW P.O. BOX ADDRESS FOR THE POL:

P.O. Box 4855, Clearwater, FL 33758.

In order to ensure that you will receive all POL mailings and notifications, PLEASE NOTIFY US PROMPTLY OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS.

Since POL membership is based on the calendar year, RENEWALS WERE DUE by JANUARY. Dues: Individual \$25.00, couple \$40.00. Application/renewal forms may be downloaded from the POL website--[www.pinellasoperaleague.com](http://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 RENEWED** for 2016 and a WARM WELCOME TO Angelika Garrett, Phyllis Johnston, Mario and Kathy Laurenti and Doina Wignall!

**RUTH ECKERD HALL, CAPITOL THEATER AND THE MURRAY THEATRE, TAMPA BAY'S NEW-EST THEATRE :**

Tickets 727-791-7400 or [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com)

**FLORIDA OPERA FESTIVAL:** At the Straz Center MOZART'S *DON GIOVANNI* on FRIDAY, APRIL 8 at 8 pm; SUNDAY, APRIL 10 at 2 pm in Morsani Hall ; OPEN REHEARSALS 6:30-8:30 PM in Rehearsal Hall, Tickets \$10, limited to 26 tickets per date. *Don Giovanni:* Tues., March 22; Thurs., March 24; Tues., March 29; Thurs., March 31 Tickets: 813.229.7827 or [operatampa.org](http://operatampa.org)

**CHECK THE POL WEBSITE**

[www.pinellasoperaleague.com](http://www.pinellasoperaleague.com)--under "Local Opera" for other programs being offered at our area venues: Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera Tampa, and Sarasota Opera.

**TARPON SPRINGS:**

For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.tarponarts.org](http://www.tarponarts.org) or call 727.942.5605.

**MATINEE OPERA PLAYERS** (Artistic Director Mario Laurenti):

Sun. April 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm: Local talents perform selected arias and well-known show tunes at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pinellas Park 33781. Admission is FREE.

**OPERA AT THE DALI:** Emerging opera artists give FREE 20-minute performances on the spiral staircase at the museum on THURSDAYS at 6:00 pm. For information on who will be singing call 727-823-3767. The Dali Museum is located at 1 Dali Blvd. (Bayshore Dr.) SE and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, St. Petersburg, FL.

**A SUGGESTION FROM VICE PRESIDENT**

**MARCIA LORK:** Should you need a ride to POL events, you might wish to contact the following:

Uber at [www.uber.com](http://www.uber.com) (sign up on-line with a credit card; no tip necessary)  
Care Ride (Clearwater) 727.866.1193  
Neighborly Care Network 727.888.0231