

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA NEWS:

We were thrilled to see Sara Peeples McNatt (Gilda in SPO's *Rigoletto*), Cherry Duke, Carmen in SPO's production, and Johanna Fincher (chorus in *Romeo and Juliette*) in *The Magic Flute*. We'll be looking forward to seeing Phoenix Gayles (Barbarina in *Marriage of Figaro*). Joseph Ryan (Monterone in *Rigoletto*) and Jessica Renfro (Cherubino in *Marriage of Figaro*) in *Carmen* at Opera Tampa.

Susan Hellman and Todd Donovan were fabulous in *Susannah* and along with the rest of the cast, gave three splendid performances, one of which was attended by the composer, Carlisle Floyd. We are making a DVD which will be available soon. It will be the ONLY professionally produced DVD of *Susannah* on the market.

Norma is coming up in early June, with Elizabeth de Trejo in the title role and Jennifer Feinstein as her friend and rival, Adalgisa. And right on the heels of this bel canto masterpiece, we're producing *West Side Story* June 27-July 6. In the meantime, we have four more Evenings with the Maestro and Mornings with the Maestro presentations.

Pinellas Opera League

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

President: Christina Alexander

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March 20 and March 21: Seven Most Unwise Moments in Opera. Thursday evening at the Music Gallery at 6:00 p.m., Friday morning at the Museum of Fine Arts at 11:00 a.m.

Christine has put a new advertisement for the Opera League on our website under LUNCHEON. Please check it out and tell your friends about it.

www.pinellasoperaleague.com

Compiled by Richard Davidson
Designed and printed by Nancy Preis



The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter
of
Pinellas Opera League

MARCH, 2014

Luncheon Meeting:

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Social time begins at 11:00 a.m., business meeting at 11:30 a.m., program at 11:45 a.m., and lunch is served at 12:30 p.m.

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

Menu: Salad, Rolls, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Stuffed Tomato, Zucchini, Mixed Berry Cobbler

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by Sunday, March 2, and cancellations by Monday, March 3. Contact Nancy @727-738-4007. Cost \$20.00 cash or check only made out to Pinellas Opera League, payable at the door. Please come after 10:30 a.m.

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

SILENT AUCTION: We will discontinue the silent auction for the next few months.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH

LUNCHEON: Back by popular demand. Paul Pitts has sung over 5,000 performances on television, video, and personal appearances on five continents. Paul was the soloist for the 60th anniversary television special celebrating Israel's 60 years of statehood, with Benjamin Netanyahu. This internationally televised event was broadcast to 200 countries with over 300 million viewers worldwide.



LUNCHEON SPONSORS: If you sponsor our luncheon, you get to sit at the performers' table and chat with the artists. Please contact Nancy Jewitt at 727-738-4007. Sponsorship money is used to help pay for the performers' meals.

DUES WERE DUE IN OCTOBER!
PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES to Ursula Wignall at the luncheon or mail to 2407 Flint Lock Dr., Clearwater, FL 33765-1726. Phone 727-796-7260. Dues for one year is \$25.00; family/couple \$40.00. The membership form is on our website-www.pinellasoperaleague.com. If you do not pay your dues, you will no longer receive your newsletter.

Welcome new members Elizabeth Hendrickson, and Carol MacIntyre .

ADVENTURES IN OPERA AND MUSIC: Lectures and performances have been put on hold for six months.

NEW VENUE: OPERA ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON: March 9, 2014 at the Safety Harbor Public Library, 101 2nd Street N, Safety Harbor, FL 34695; Meeting Room A. Telephone (727) 724-1525. *This is diagonally across the street from the Safety Harbor Spa.* There is parking in back of the library. Note that this is the SECOND Sunday of the month. The featured DVD is *Romeo et Juliette* by Charles Gounod. The library door opens at 1:00 p.m. and the video begins at 1:30 p.m. There is NO FEE at this venue.

OPERA TAMPA: Don't miss Bizet's *Car-men*, Friday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m. or Sunday March 16, 2014 at 2 p.m. POL scholarship winner Phoenix Gayles is appearing in the production as Frasquita. Sara Peeples McNatt was in *The Magic Flute* as the Second Boy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have 2 positions open on the board: Ways and Means and Publications.

OPERA VIDEO TAPES from the George Laurent collection will be on sale again in March for \$2.00, or whatever donation you want to give to the Opera League. The four boxes left will be brought to every luncheon until they are gone. We want to thank those who bought in February. If you know of any organization who would like these tapes, please let us know.

RUTH ECKERD HALL: Pre-opera lectures will no longer be given the night of the opera due to the reorganization going on at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Upcoming events presented by Ruth Eckerd Hall include the "Irish Tenors" Monday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. (this performance is at the Capitol Theater.) At Ruth Eckerd Hall: "Ten Tenors", Sunday, April 6, at 2:00 p.m., and "Wizard Of Oz" by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tues. April 15, Wed. April 16, Thurs. April 17, Fri. April 18, Sat. April 19, all programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

LIVE FROM THE MET— the next showings will be Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 12:00, for the showing of Borodin's *Prince Igor*, and on Saturday, March 15, at 12:55 for the showing of Massenet's *Werther*. The LIVE IN HD broadcasts are at the AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters, and Regal Citrus Park.

Pictures from the Christmas luncheon and February luncheon are on display on our website under LUNCHEONS and anyone interested in purchasing a picture from Dita Charlton, please contact her at 813-368-6828 or email-dita@deeglamour.