

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA



St. Petersburg Opera presents Puccini's *Turandot* on June 5, 7, and 9 at the Palladium Theater.

Three riddles separate ordinary men from marriage to Princess Turandot, but the penalty for answering incorrectly is death. A mysterious foreign prince answers the riddles correctly, but magnanimously offers Turandot a chance to back out of the wedding if she can guess his true identity by morning. No one in the kingdom will sleep while she tries to learn his name. Set in China, Puccini's final opera will fill your heart with sumptuously powerful music performed by our international cast and splendid chorus and professional orchestra. Sung in Italian with English translations displayed above the stage.

We are working on organizing transportation for POL members and guests for the Sunday matinee (June 7). IF we get 14 participants, we can get a real bus.

Tickets for all SPO events can be obtained by calling 727-823-2040 or by visiting the SPO website, www.stpeteopera.org

SPO proudly announces that its TENTH season will include productions of *Carmen*, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, *La bohème*, *South Pacific*, and *Seasonal Sparkle*. Season ticket brochure are in the mail. If you did not receive one, please call our office and we'll be happy to send one out to you.

Check our website under local opera for other programs being offered at our area venues for Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera Tampa, and Sarasota Opera.

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

Have a safe, healthy and wonderful summer.
See you Wednesday, October 7th when our new season begins.

Compiled by Richard Davidson
Layout and printing by Nancy Preis



The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter
of
Pinellas Opera League

JUNE 2015

Luncheon Meeting:

Wednesday, June 3, 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: Lemon Soup, Rolls, Chicken Crepes, Mixed Vegetables, Coconut Pie

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by FRIDAY, MAY 28 and cancellations by Saturday MORNING, May 29. 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- - Kathleen Mullerheim, our Ways And Means Chairman is running the silent auction at the June luncheon. Please be sure to bring your jewelry, art objects, videos and pictures to donate to the auction. If they do not sell, please be prepared to take them home with you that day.

PROGRAM FOR MAY LUNCHEON:

ALEKSANDRA RITUMS



A native of Clearwater, now in Largo, Aleks holds a degree from the University of Florida (piano minor); and studied voice with the late Alfred Calamoneri. She is currently studying with Marc Taslit. She has appeared in SPO's

production of *Susannah* as Mrs. Gleaton and was in the chorus of *Tosca*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Norma*, *Pagliacci*, and *Turandot*. She was *Opera Idol 2012* and was featured in *Seasonal Sparkle 2013*. Aleks will present a program of opera arias and Broadway show tunes.

ADOPT A CLASSROOM: The Pinellas Opera League has formed a partnership with the Pinellas County School Board and has adopted the music class at Central Elementary. POL has made the initial donation of \$150.00, (up to \$500.00 yearly) to sponsor classical music themed art work

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: The Pinellas Opera League has set up a \$500.00 scholarship to benefit students of the opera workshop as a community partner with the St. Petersburg College Foundation.

THE MARY JO BELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: The goal of the fund, which is now at \$500, is to advance the careers of aspiring opera students. Mary Jo was one of the major founders of the Pinellas Opera League and worked tirelessly to build the League, initiating many new programs. She started the first children's opera in the area with the production of *The Barber of St. Pete* in collaboration with St. Petersburg Opera at the Largo Cultural Center. The cast included children from different schools and was attended by camp children and their parents. Mary Jo also was the founder of "Adventures In Opera", a monthly program which ran for many years bringing in performing artists and speakers on opera topics. She set up the partnership between POL and Ruth Eckerd Hall so that we could use the board room for our monthly meetings. Please continue to remember Mary Jo by making donations to her fund.

OPERA DVDs: Showings of opera DVDs will resume in October at the Safety Harbor Library. The library is located at 101 2nd St. N, Safety Harbor (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa.) There is free parking in back of the library and admission is FREE. For information, call Richard Davidson at 727-242-6486 or 727-415-6145,

MEMBERSHIP: The new directories were distributed at our May meeting and will be available at the June meeting. If you are not there to get a directory, one will be mailed to your address on record. Please submit your application/renewal form along with your payment to Herma Moschner at the luncheon or send it to Herma at 910 S. Keystone Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756, phone-727-437-7508. Dues for one year are \$25.00; family/couple \$40.00. The membership form is also on our website. Please be sure to notify Herma of any changes in your address, phone number or email address.

PUBLICATIONS: New member Ron Regan has joined our board as Chairman of the Publications Committee. Ron has set us up on Facebook with the goal of increasing membership. Ron has also worked with other organizations posting pictures and events on Facebook which he will do for us. He also has a contact on WMNF (88.5 FM) who will be willing to provide a 30 second radio spot publicizing us. Like us on Facebook.



EDUCATION: On Friday, April 10, Marcia Lork, our Vice President and Education Chairman visited our newly adopted Central Elementary School in Clearwater to whom we have recently given a \$150 grant with the purpose to promote opera and classical music. Marcia had been invited to speak at the "YMCA After School Program" for one hour to students of ages 5 through 12 at the school. In telling about her experience Marcia writes "Gingerbread cookies and opera were a big hit." She began with a question and answer period finding out the students' knowledge of opera and classical music followed by showing a Disney cartoon "Willie The Operatic Whale." Marcia showed them a German doll dressed in traditional costume and then presented the last act of the 2008 Met modern production of *Hansel and Gretel*. She then passed out the gingerbread cookies to end the program.

RUTH ECKERD HALL / CAPITOL THEATER: At Ruth Eckerd Hall: Tickets 727-791-7400.

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

The Pinellas Opera League will again have tables for the new opera season next year to hand out materials publicizing our events. Check our website under local opera for other programs being offered at our area venues for Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera Tampa, and Sarasota Opera.

LIVE FROM THE MET: HD broadcasts of eleven operas for next season will begin in October. This year, Eckerd College will be a new venue for the broadcasts. Also at the AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters, and at the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa. Tickets for seniors are \$23. We hope to see you there.

OPERA AT THE DALI concert series is held on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Emerging opera artists give a 20 minute performance on the spiral staircase at the museum, FREE. The Dali Museum is at 1 Dali Blvd. (Bayshore Dr.) SE and 5th Ave SE, St. Petersburg, FL. Call 727-823-3767 for the weekly opera performers singing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Marcia Lork is looking for volunteers to help her with opera classes she is taking into the schools. Please call Marcia at 727-596-3884.

MATINEE OPERA PLAYERS: The Matinee Opera Players give four to six performances each year. They do not perform an entire opera; rather, they perform arias from well-known operas and a few well-known tunes. The entire cast consists of volunteers and the performances are free but donations are greatly appreciated. The next performance is Sunday, June 14, at 3:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave., Pinellas Park.

The AMC Cobb Theater at the Westfield Countryside Mall is occasionally showing operas live from the Royal Theater in London. Check the Cobb Theater for listings as well as show times on your internet. Address 2700 US 19 N. Clearwater, FL. 33761; 727-683-0009.