

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA

Thursday, May 21, 2015 6:00 pm EVENINGS
WITH THE MAESTRO: Puccini's Last
Opera: Preview to *Turandot*

Friday, May 22, 2015 11:00 am MORNINGS
WITH THE MAESTRO

The opera is an emotional storm swirling around a femme fatale as magnetic as she is ruthless. It's the mind game of two implacable warriors, and it leads to collateral damage so shocking that Puccini himself struggled with the moral consequences.

Join Maestro Sforzini as he presents this informative preview to St. Petersburg Opera Company's highly-anticipated production of *Turandot*.

Evenings at 6:00 p.m. at the Music Gallery,
5990 Ulmerton Rd., Clearwater.

Mornings at 11:00 at Museum of Fine Arts,
255 Beach Dr., N St. Petersburg

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

Saturday, May 9: BELLA VOCE



St. Petersburg Opera's annual gala will be a celebration of ancient China, in honor of our upcoming production of *Turandot*. Opera Central will be lavishly decorated with exciting lighting effects, live plants and flowers, and stunning art. Kirk Ke Wang's large paintings will adorn the walls. Gourmet dinner, lion dancing, palace warriors, and a whole lot of fun. The entertainment will be planned by Maestro Mark Sforzini and will feature the cast of *Turandot*. Call 727-823-2040 or visit our website at www.stpeteopera.org for pricing and further information.

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

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, the same as Live from the Met is shown locally. 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.

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.

Compiled by Richard Davidson
Layout and printing by Nancy Preis



The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter
of
Pinellas Opera League

MAY 2015

Luncheon Meeting:

Wednesday, May 6, 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: Chowder, Salmon with dill sauce, parsley potatoes, peas with mushrooms, double chocolate cake

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by FRIDAY, MAY 1 and cancellations by Saturday MORNING, May 2. 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 they do not sell, please be prepared to take them home with you that day.

PROGRAM FOR MAY LUNCHEON:



St. Petersburg Opera and Maestro Mark Sforzini will present members of the cast of *Turandot*. Julia Ebner, the cover for the slave girl-Liu, and Jesse Stock, the cover for the Lord Chancellor Ping, will sing excerpts from Puccini's masterpiece and some other surprises. Julia has sung with Florida Grand Opera, Opera North, Green Mountain Opera Festival, Virginia Opera, The Santa Fe Opera, Syracuse Opera, The Tri-Cities Opera and others. Jesse was in SPO's production of *Pagliacci* and



has sung in the young artist programs at Knoxville Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera and recently appeared at Opera Fayetteville.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: Pinellas Opera League is partnering with the Pinellas County School Board and the St. Petersburg College Foundation to bring a classical music program to an elementary school.

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 is \$500.00. Help us reach our goal or better.

President Christina Alexander has won the "Peoples' Choice Scholarship Award of Excellence" from the Eastern Educational Research Association for the three minute thesis competition sponsored by the University of Queensland in Australia.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Marcia Lork, chairman of our Education Committee, is looking for volunteers to help her with opera classes she is taking into the schools. Please call Marcia at 727-596-3884. We also need a person to work at the table for our silent auction since Marcia is busy filling in for Christina while she is busy at the college.

OPERA DVDs: Because the Safety Harbor Library is not available to us on Sundays for the next few months, we will be showing our DVDs at different times and different days until June. The May showing will be *Mefistofele* by Arrigo Boito, starring Samuel Ramey with the chorus and orchestra of the San Francisco Opera. At the Safety Harbor Library on Saturday, May 16, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. (This is the third Saturday of the month.) 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

MEMBERSHIP: The new directories will be distributed at our May and June luncheon meetings. 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.

EASTER PARADE LUNCHEON: Our Easter parade was a huge success thanks to all those who wore their Easter bonnets with all the frills upon it. There were beautiful arrays of colors worn by all the participants. The soloist for the day, Alessandra Feliciano sang the Irving Berlin song "Easter Parade" as the members paraded around the room. The prize for the prettiest hat went to Patti Baldwin, who was in a yellow ensemble. The most creative prize went to Kathleen Masalski with her parasol. Be sure to check the video that Christina has made and Will, our webmaster, has put on our website of the parade and the tea house fund raiser.

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.



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.

LIVE FROM THE MET: Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 12:30 pm: *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Mascagni and *I Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo. Encore is Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 pm. Running time 3 hrs, 30 min. At the AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters, and at the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa. Tickets for seniors are \$23.

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.

COMING SOON:
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.