

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA



Rossini's beloved comedy will open Friday, January 30 at 7:30 pm and continue Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 pm and Tuesday, February 3 at 7:30 pm.

Rosina will be sung by Elizabeth Pojanowski,

who has extensive credits in Seattle and Cincinnati. Gabriel Preisser will sing the role of Figaro, the rascalion factotum. Gabriel appeared with SPO in *Romeo et Juliette* as Mercutio. Blake Friedman will be making his SPO debut as Count Almaviva and Todd Donovan, the versatile and beloved baritone, will make his ninth appearance with SPO as Don Basilio.

The Palladium Theater, 253 Fifth Ave. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Tickets from \$22 to \$67. Bus transportation from Clearwater may be available for the Sunday matinee. Call 727-823-2040 for pricing and details.

"Figaro, Figaro, Figaro: Preview to Barber" is at Evenings with the Maestro on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6:00 pm at the Music Gallery, and repeated Friday morning at 11:00 am at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

Also, on Saturday, January 9, the cast of *The Barber of Seville* will present an evening of favorite Broadway numbers. These Broadway cabaret evenings are tons of fun, with table seating, refreshments, and a relaxed atmosphere. The show starts at 7:30 pm and is at Opera Central, 2145 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg.

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

Pinellas Opera League

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

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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

JANUARY, 2015

Luncheon Meeting:

Wednesday, January 7, 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: Creamed broccoli soup, rolls, pecan crusted chicken, peas with onions, roasted red potatoes, warm caramel bread pudding

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by FRIDAY, January 2 and cancellations by Saturday MORNING, January 3. 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.

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 JANUARY LUNCHEON:

Young apprentice singers from Opera Tampa will be performing.

POL FUNDRAISER: We still have few tickets left for our afternoon tea fundraiser on Sunday, January 11, from 1:00-3:00 pm at “Moffat’s Cup Of Tea” located at 355 Scotland St. Dunedin. Tickets are \$25.00. This includes cream tea, coffee, and delicious sweet and savory culinary offerings. Please continue to sign up for our tea at the January luncheon, or download an order form from the POL website. You may also call Wayne Green, our special events chairman, at 727-470-9537.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have one position open on the board: Ways and Means. We also need a substitute to stuff the newsletter for mailing at our monthly board meeting when our regular person can’t make it. 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. Marcia also has an opera puzzle for the students to do when she visits the classrooms.



CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Sforzini, executive and artistic director of St. Petersburg Opera, who was named one of the 30 Professionals of the Year: Risk Takers by Opera America. Opera America is the oldest publication in the music industry and reaches 15,000 performing arts organizations and 24,000 music professionals, worldwide. Maestro Sforzini was recognized for his bold move to leave his tenured position at The Florida Orchestra to found St. Petersburg Opera. He is now also the music director and conductor of the Tampa Bay Symphony. The Tampa Bay area can be very proud because it was the only metro area of its size to have two honorees. Michael Pastreich, President and CEO of The Florida Orchestra, was also recognized.

OPERA ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Will be showing a DVD of *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Gaetano Donizetti and starring Anna Netrebko on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at the Safety Harbor Library. The library is located at 101 2nd St. N, Safety Harbor (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa.) Phone 727-724-1525. There is free parking in back of the library. The library opens on Sunday at 1:00 pm and the DVD begins at 1:30 pm. Running time is 145 minutes. This is the second Sunday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP: A big THANK YOU to all who have already renewed your membership for 2015. Dues were due in October. 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. We welcome new member Spender Meyers from Opera Tampa and thank Laura Messing for her contribution to the Wagner Circle.

RUTH ECKERD HALL: For tickets and information 727-726-5243. The winter season begins Dec. 31, 8:00 p.m. with “Á Salute To Vienna” (The New Years Concert). On Jan. 11, the “Blue Suede Shoes” will be presented at 1:00 pm as a tribute to Elvis’s birthday. On Monday Jan. 19, at 1:00 pm “Barbara and Frank (The Concert Tour That Never Was)” will be presented. On Fri. Jan 23, at 8:00 p.m. “Abba: The Concert” will be presented. On Mon. Jan. 26, the world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra and on Fri. Jan. 30, Puccini’s opera *La Bohème*, presented by the Teatro Lirico d’Europa. “Dare To Dream” will be holding their auditions Jan, 7, 8, 12, with the finals March, 25, 2015 at the Capitol Theater.

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.

OPERA TAMPA: FLORIDA OPERA FESTIVAL: The deadline for ordering tickets through Wayne Green has been extended through our next luncheon on January 7. Be sure to attend the Florida Opera Festival. Three Sunday performances and one Saturday performance: festival 4 pack, \$195.00, and single tickets, \$45.00 and \$70.00. \$45.00 for “New Voices In Concert” \$70.00 for the remaining programs. Both include Level B seating, service fees, and free roundtrip bus transportation on a luxury motor coach. Submit your order form with check to Wayne Green or mail to Wayne at 1340 Bayshore Blvd. #407, Dunedin, FL 34698. Make checks payable to the Pinellas Opera League.

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2:00 pm.: “New Voices in Concert”

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2:00 pm: Verdi’s *Rigoletto*

Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00 pm: Marcello Giordani

Sunday, March 15, 2:00 pm: Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*.

Please advise if you need special assistance for seating on arrival at the Straz Center. Pickup 12:30 p.m. Clearwater Mall-Us 19 and Gulf-To-Bay (Lowe’s’ Garden Center parking lot) and 5:30 p.m. for the evening performance by Marcello Giordani.

OPERA AT THE DALI concert series is held on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Emerging opera artists give a 20 minute performances 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. The Dali/Picasso exhibit runs through February 18.

LIVE FROM THE MET- Saturday, January 17, at 12:15 pm, the operetta *The Merry Widow* by Lehar, starring Renee Fleming. Running time is 3hrs. Encore Wed. Jan. 21, at 6:30pm. On Saturday, January 31, at 12:15 *Le Contes d’Hoffmann* by Offenbach. Running time is 3 hrs, 45 min. Encore performance is Wed, Feb 4 at 6:30 at the AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters, and at the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa. Tickets for seniors are \$23.