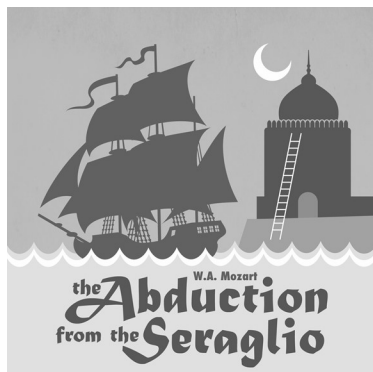


## ST. PETERSBURG OPERA



When his girl-friend and her maid are kidnapped and sequestered in a Turkish harem (seraglio), Belmonte, a young nobleman, must rescue them. With the help of his servant Pedrillo (who's in love with the maid), they take on

the Pasha and his servant, Osmin, with hilarious results.

Mozart wrote dazzling vocal lines and St. Petersburg Opera has hired singers who can deliver! Alexandra Batsios, as Konstanze, received rave reviews for her performance at Opera North. "She coaxes from Mozart's high, trilling notes — which could be, in other hands, nothing more than technical proficiency — an emotional depth and carefully considered phrasing." (Valley News) David Salsbery Fry, our Osmin, was recently featured on the cover of Classical Singer and has been hailed for his "sweet, plangent bass-baritone that could dip low for important notes" and his three octave range.

In the January edition of Evenings and Mornings with the Maestro, entitled "Harem Today, Gone Tomorrow" Maestro Sforzini will explore the plot and the musical devices of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with his trademark wit and our fabulous cast. EWTM is at 6:00 pm at the Music Gallery on Thursday, Jan. 21 and MWTM is at 11 am at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg on Friday, Jan. 22.

*Abduction* performances are February 5, 7, and 9. Get your tickets now to be "On the Bus" for the Sunday matinee. You can call Wayne Green for forms, or call direct to the SPO Box Office at 727-823-2040

Bus and show tickets are discounted for POL members and are available for \$75, \$62, and \$50. Bus only is \$20. Pickup location is the Lowe's parking lot as for Opera Tampa.

## Pinellas Opera League

P.O. Box 4855

Clearwater, FL 33758

[www.pinellasoperaleague.com](http://www.pinellasoperaleague.com)

[pinellasoperaleague@gmail.com](mailto:pinellasoperaleague@gmail.com)

*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 Schmidt

**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.

### CHECK YOUR OPERA IQ:

Which cities would you be in if you attended a performance at these opera houses? La Scala, the Metropolitan, Palais Garnier, Covent Garden, Teatro Real, Cuvilliés Theatre, Century Theatre

Answer to the January quiz: The operas in chronological order are: *Fidelio* (1805), *Faust* (1859), *Aida* (1871) and *Tosca* (1900)

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

FEBRUARY 2016

**Luncheon Meeting:  
Wednesday, February 3**

**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: Salad, rolls, lasagna, strawberry  
shortcake**

**LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND MUST be made by MONDAY, February 1 and cancellations by Tuesday, February 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 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.**

## PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON:



The February program will be presented by Michelle Rego. Michelle is a lyric soprano, keyboardist, choral conductor, and flautist, holding degrees in music from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music and the University of Notre Dame. She has been a performing artist with St. Petersburg Opera Company for the past 10 years, culminating with her roles as Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium* (2013) La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi* (2011) and her lead role as the Baker's Wife in the 2009 SPO production of *Into the Woods*. Michelle has been a lead soprano in the SPO Chorus for over 7 years, as well as chorus mistress for the SPO Children's Choir. She concertizes throughout the country, having appeared with the Florida Orchestra, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Symphony, the Tampa Bay Symphony, Florida Pro Musica, and other prestigious ensembles. She serves as the Director of Music at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Grace Church in St. Petersburg, Florida

**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 ARE 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 ALREADY RENEWED** for 2016 and to Violet Fernandez and Rano and Bobbie Mueller for their GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POL

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers to help Marcia Lork with the "Great American Teach-In" and to participate in outreach programs in our schools and the community.

**POL OPERA DVD SHOWING:** Our next showing will be "Maria Stuarda" by Donizetti, a David McVicar production starring Joyce DiDonato, on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 at 1:30 pm in Room A and B at the SAFETY HARBOR LIBRARY (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa). 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 2 hrs. 30 min. For information call Richard Davidson at 727-242-6486.

**LIVE FROM THE MET:** At AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters and the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa.

Ticket prices vary by theater.

Sat. Jan. 30 at 1:00 pm: Puccini's *Turandot*, 3 hrs. 15 min.

No showings in February.

Sat. Mar. 5 at 1:00 pm: Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, 3 hrs. 8 min.

Encores at AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar and Pinellas Park Regal Theaters

Wed. Feb. 3 at 7:30 pm: Puccini's *Turandot*, 3 hrs. 15 min.

Wed. Mar. 9 at 7:30 pm: Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, 3 hrs. 8 min.

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

Sun. Feb. 28 at 3 pm: Local talents will perform selected arias and well-known show tunes at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pinellas Park, FL.

All performances are FREE and donations are gratefully accepted.

**TARPON SPRINGS:**

Sat. Feb. 20 at 7:30 pm: Opera Tune Up. Giuseppe Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Heritage Museum, 100 Beekman Lane. A preview event hosted by Maestro Constantine Grame with singing and a variety of interesting information about the composer, history, libretto, and more for the March 11, 13, and 16 production of *Macbeth* by the New Century Opera at the Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine Street.

Thurs. Feb. 25 at 7:00 pm: Chamber Orchestra Kremlin at the Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine Street

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

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

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

Feb. 6 – "Annie," the musical by T. Meehan, C. Strouse and M. Charnin

Feb. 16, 20, 21 – "The Book of Mormon," recipient of 9 Tony Awards

Feb. 22 -- Neil Berg's "108 Years of Broadway"

Feb. 23 – "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Feb. 27 – "Cinderella" by the Moscow Festival Ballet

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

Feb. 21 – The Florida Orchestra performs Beethoven

**FLORIDA OPERA FESTIVAL:** POL is pleased to announce the availability of reduced price tickets for the upcoming 2016 season. All performances are on SUNDAYS at 2:00 P.M. as follows:

*Così fan Tutte* -- Feb. 21 in Ferguson Hall

*La Traviata* -- March 13 in Morsani Hall

*Don Giovanni* -- April 10 in Morsani Hall.

The season package price for all three operas, including bus transportation, is \$169.00 for Level A seating (mid-orchestra) and \$149.00 for Level B seating (rear orchestra). For *Così fan Tutte* seats will be the best available.

Single performance tickets are also available at \$43.00 for Level A and \$33.00 for Level B seating but do not include the cost of the bus. For single performance purchases, bus transportation will have to be ordered separately at \$15.00 per performance.

Bus pick up is again at 12:30 P.M. in the Clearwater Mall (Gulf to Bay Blvd. at Hwy 19) in the parking lot in front of the Lowe's Garden Center. Order forms are available on the POL webpage and at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon. Season package subscriptions are due by JANUARY 31. Send order forms and your check made payable to "Pinellas Opera League" to Wayne Green at 1340 Bayshore Blvd. #407, Dunedin FL 34698.

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.