

NEW! BUS TRANSPORTATION TO ST. PETERSBURG OPERA

In response to requests, we have arranged for bus transportation to SPO's production of *Norma* on Sunday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m. and to *West Side Story* on Sunday, July 6 at 2:00 p.m. The bus will leave from the Lowe's parking lot, garden center at Clearwater Mall (same as the Opera Tampa bus stop) and take you directly to the Palladium and return. With transportation, the prices are Tier A: \$72, Tier B: \$59 and Tier C: \$47. Adding just the bus to an existing ticket is \$17. Nancy Preis will have ticket order forms at the June meeting and can sell you tickets at that time, or you can call Anthony at 727-823-2040. **DO NOT CALL THE PALLADIUM** for this offer. It is available only from St. Petersburg Opera.

Norma is the story of a Druid princess in love with a Roman general. They have two children before he falls for Norma's friend, Adalgisa. Bellini wrote the ultimate bel canto opera in *Norma*, and it has been a favorite role for many great sopranos such as Maria Callas, Joan Sutherland, and Beverly Sills, among many others. St. Petersburg Opera's *Norma* will be Elizabeth de Trejo, who has sung several roles at Opera Tampa.

West Side Story, Leonard Bernstein's most popular score, revisits the Romeo and Juliet story. Tony and Maria are from rival gangs but fall in love, with tragic consequences. Gilad Paz will sing Tony, with Stefanie Izzo as Maria. Both have sung with SPO before and sound great together. They are both graduates of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, NY where they were classmates.

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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Preview to West Side Story at Evenings and Mornings with the Maestro: June 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Music Gallery, Clearwater and June 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. Tickets for these popular programs are only \$15 for seniors and are available on our website, www.stpeteopera.org and by telephone at 727-823-2040.

Season ticket brochures are now available. Renew your seats early to make sure you don't miss a moment of great opera! Next season will include *Neapolitan Festival/Pagliacci*, *Seasonal Sparkle*, *Barber of Seville*, *Turandot*, and *Putting it Together*.

The AMC Cobb Theater at the Westfield Countryside Mall is occasionally showing operas live from the Royal Theater in London, similar to Live from the Met. 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.

HAVE A WONDERFUL, HEALTHY, AND SAFE SUMMER

Compiled by Richard Davidson
Designed and printed by Nancy Preis



The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter
of
Pinellas Opera League

JUNE, 2014

Luncheon Meeting: This is our last luncheon for this season. We begin again on October 1.

Wednesday, June 4, 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: Lemon Soup, Rolls, Chicken Crepes, Mixed Vegetables, and Coconut Pie.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by FRIDAY, May 30, and cancellations by Saturday MORNING, May 31. Contact Nancy @727-738-4007. Cost \$20.00 cash or check only made out to Pinellas Opera League, payable at the door. This is a new procedure instituted by the club. Nancy will call in the reservations to the club on Saturday evening.

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

SILENT AUCTION: The silent auction will resume in the fall. Thanks to all those who have donated items so that we can make money for the club.



PROGRAM FOR JUNE LUNCHEON:

The program will be presented by St. Petersburg Opera and will feature baritone Luis Gonzalez from New York. Luis has been in several St. Petersburg Opera productions including *Romeo and Juliet* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Also appearing will be Anais Mejias from Puerto Rico, who is an Emerging Artist for *West Side Story*. They will be accompanied by Brent Douglas.

NEW PRICING FOR LUNCHEONS:

By a vote of the membership at the May luncheon, beginning in October, the price of our luncheons will be \$22.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Please pay at the door with exact cash or a check made out to the Pinellas Opera League.

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.

What a nice treat: Kay Slade gave everyone a pink carnation at the door of the May Luncheon. It was her way of celebrating Mothers' Day. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have 1 position open on the Board: Ways and Means. Marcia Lork, chairman of our Education Committee, is looking for volunteers to help with the Great American Teach-in held in the fall and with the opera classes she is taking into the schools in the fall.

OPERA ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Thank you to Eric and Merle Hertz, Dot Naegle, Kay Greenman, and Paul Chapman for assisting us in running the "Opera on a Sunday Afternoon." DVD showings will resume in the fall 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. Check your October newsletter for times.

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 not receive the newsletter by mail, but it is always available on our website.

We welcome new member Herma Moschner.

RUTH ECKERD HALL: For tickets and information call 727-726-5243

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.

Check our website under Local Opera for other programs being offered at our area venues for Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, St. Petersburg Opera and Opera Tampa. We have also posted pictures from the April luncheon and Stars on Parade.

TRANSITIONS: Webmaster Margareta Jacobs will be leaving her position as of May 15 and Will Warner will be our new webmaster. Margareta has been our webmaster since Michael Blauner moved to Cleveland several years ago. She has done an excellent job keeping our website up to date and setting up pictures and videos. We will miss her.

Will Warner and his wife arrived in the Tampa area three years ago. Will has his bachelors degree from St. Johns College and a masters degree in computer science from UCSB. He also has a masters degree in eastern classical literature from St. Johns. Will has been writing software for a long time and building web applications for two years. He took a few opera classes in college and his favorite operas are *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. We welcome Will to his new position with the Pinellas Opera League.

Ursula Wignall, our present membership chairman, will be leaving her position this fall. We thank Ursula for her devoted service and the time and energy she has spent for the past 13 years on the board: 12 years as Special Events Chairman and the last 3 years as Membership Chairman. Her work is greatly appreciated and will be greatly missed.

LIVE FROM THE MET HD BROADCASTS: We thank Nancy Jewitt, POL board member, Dr. John Rippon, past board member of Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Michael MacDonald for assisting at our table at "Live from the MET" on Saturday afternoons. John and Michael are not POL members and yet are helping us out. Michael is arranging the synopsis that we hand out to those attending and John and Nancy are distributing POL materials. Broadcasts resume in October.