

## ST. PETERSBURG OPERA



December 20 and 21: **SEASONAL SPARKLE !!**

Your one-stop entertainment choice to put you in a joyous mood. It's not just a collection of carols and Rudolph songs, but a celebration of great music, featuring our wonderful chorus and orchestra with a spectacular soloist, Alexandra LoBianco. Alexandra is a St. Pete native and is returning to sing Wagner, Verdi, and Bellini. Jenny Kim-Godfrey, the 2014 Opera Idol, will also be singing. The program also includes excerpts from the *Messiah* and the *Nutcracker*, and even some Hanukkah music with Susan Hellman Spatafora as the soloist.

On December 31, St. Petersburg Opera will be at St. Peter's Cathedral for **FIRST NIGHT** St. Petersburg, from 7:00 pm till 10:30 pm for two sets of opera arias and two sets of chamber music. Admission is free with a First Night badge. There is a large parking lot across from the church.

On January 16, St. Petersburg Opera will be hosting a concert and brunch to dedicate our magnificent rehearsal and performance hall, Preis Hall. The concert will include a Sextet for Piano and Winds commissioned by Nancy Preis and Marilyn Preis Hoyt in honor of their mother and composed by Mark Sforzini. It was this commission ten years ago which pulled Nancy into the world of opera. Further information about this event is on the SPO website or by telephone at 727-823-2040.

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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

## Pinellas Opera League

P.O. Box 763

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*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

St. Petersburg Opera Company is offering tickets including bus transportation to the Sunday matinees for their upcoming season with three more productions in 2016: *Abduction from the Seraglio*, *La Bohème*, and *South Pacific*. If you already have tickets for the Sunday matinees and would like to take advantage of the bus transportation you can order just the bus. Be advised that free parking around the Palladium is very limited this year so the bus may be a good alternative. Call Wayne Green at 727-470-9537 for forms.

**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:** Can you arrange these operas in chronological order? Aida, Faust, Fidelio and Tosca.

Look for the answer in the February newsletter.

Answer to the December quiz: *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss, Jr.

Do you have opera questions you would like to submit? Please send them to Herma at [hm4pol@gmail.com](mailto:hm4pol@gmail.com).

**HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

Compiled by Herma Moschner  
Layout and printing by Nancy Preis



## The Aria

The Monthly Newsletter  
of the  
Pinellas Opera League

**JANUARY 2016**

**Luncheon Meeting:  
Wednesday, January 6**

**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: Creamed broccoli soup, rolls, pecan-crusted chicken with peas and onions, red potatoes, warm caramel bread pudding**

**LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST be made by MONDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> and cancellations by Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 your items do not sell, please be prepared to take them home with you that day. We do not have storage available.

## PROGRAM FOR JANUARY LUNCHEON:



The January program will be presented by Christina Franco. A native of New York, and a graduate of Hofstra University, Christina now lives in St. Petersburg and studies with Stella Zambalis. Last March, she appeared in *Master Class*, a joint production of St. Petersburg Opera and A Simple Theatre. She's singing in the chorus for SPO for *Seasonal Sparkle*, *Abduction from the Seraglio*, and *La Bohème* and with Opera Tampa for *La Traviata* and *Don Giovanni*. Christina won the Opera Idol title in November, 2015 in both St. Petersburg and Sun City Center. She is also the mother of a 15 month old son.

**LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:** During the four years that Christina Alexander served as president of the POL, the league forged community relationships with the public library system that now includes a popular free opera video program available to the public. Thanks to the video donations by the league, the Seminole Community Library at SPC now has the distinction of having the largest opera video collection in the area. The POL hosted a master class at Ruth Eckerd Hall and participated in the Great American Teach-In and the Adopt-a-School program in the Pinellas county schools. Increases in revenues generated through fund raisers allowed the league to award a Pinellas Opera League Scholarship as a community partner with the St. Petersburg College Foundation. Also during Christina's tenure, the POL website has been updated and a POL Facebook page was inaugurated.

We wish Christina well in her new endeavor with the Education Department while working on her Doctorate in Humanities.

**MEMBERSHIP:** 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 Madeline Crotty, Paul and Louise Chapman and Charlotte Michaels for their generous **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POL**

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

As proposed by the nominating committee, the membership present at the December luncheon elected the following to serve on the Pinellas Opera League Board:

President – Richard Davidson  
Vice President -- Marcia Lork  
Treasurer-- Jennie Belsanti  
Recording Secretary -- Beverly Hand  
Corresponding Secretary -- Laurette Schmidt

Committee Chairpersons:  
Historian – Ursula Wignall  
Luncheon -- Kay Slade  
Membership -- Herma Moschner  
Publicity -- Ron Regan  
Reservations/Receptions – Nancy Jewitt  
Special Events -- Wayne Green  
Ways and Means – Laurette Schmidt

**OPERA DVD SHOWING:** There will be no DVD showing in December. Our next showing will be *I Puritani* starring Juan Diego Florez on SUNDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in Room A and B at the SAFETY HARBOR LIBRARY (diagonally across from the Safety Harbor Spa). There is parking in back of the library 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.

**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. At the "Great American Teach-In" on November 18, Vice President Marcia Lork spoke to six classes about opera at Pinellas Central Elementary – the adopted school of the POL – and lived to tell about it! Marcia hopes that in the future others will join her to enlighten children about the beauty of opera.

**LIVE FROM THE MET:** At AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar, Pinellas Park Regal Theaters and the Regal Citrus Park in Tampa. Ticket prices for seniors: depends on theater.  
Sat. Jan. 16, 12:55 pm: Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* – 2 hrs. 59 min.  
Sat. Jan. 30, 12:55 pm: Puccini's *Turandot* 3 hrs. 15 min.  
Encores at AMC Woodlands Square in Oldsmar and Pinellas Park Regal Theaters  
Wed. Jan. 20, 6:30 pm: Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*  
Wed. Feb. 3 at 6:30 pm: Puccini's *Turandot*

## 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)  
Dec. 29 -- "The Producers," the Mel Brooks musical  
Dec. 31 -- "Salute to Vienna," New Year's Concert  
Jan. 23 -- "42<sup>nd</sup> Street," musical comedy

At the Capitol Theater, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater: 727-712-2717  
Dec. 30 -- The TEN Tenors

The 2015-16 Broadway shows are on sale now with special package pricing. Also on sale is the "Adults at Leisure" and "World Stage" Series.

**FLORIDA OPERA FESTIVAL:** POL is pleased to be able to offer reduced price tickets to *Così fan Tutte*, *La Traviata* and *Don Giovanni*, presented by Opera Tampa under the direction of Daniel Lipton, Artistic Director. All performances are on Sundays at 2:00 P.M. as follows: *Così fan Tutte* on Sunday, Feb. 21 in Ferguson Hall, *La Traviata*, Sunday March 13 in Morsani Hall, and *Don Giovanni* Sunday, April 10 in Morsani Hall. The package price for all three operas including bus transportation is \$169.00 for Level A seating and \$149.00 for Level B seating. Single tickets are available at \$43.00 for Level A and \$33.00 for Level B. Level A seats for the last two operas are located in the mid-orchestra and for level B in the rear orchestra. For *Così fan Tutte* seats will be the best available. Single ticket prices do NOT include bus transportation. Bus transportation only is also available for \$15.00 per performance. Bus pick up will be at 12:30 pm at the Clearwater Mall in the Lowe's parking lot across from the garden center. Bus transportation will be provided when a minimum of 20 people are registered for each performance. For forms for the festival, check our website or get one from Wayne Green at the luncheon. Send forms and your check to Wayne Green at 1340 Bayshore Blvd. #407, Dunedin Fl. 34698.

**TARPON SPRINGS:** Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 pm Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" presented by the Florida Lyric Opera at the Heritage Museum, 100 Beekman Lane, Tarpon Springs. Ticket prices: Regular \$18.00; Members & Students \$15.00; Children \$6.00  
For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.tarponarts.org](http://www.tarponarts.org) or call 727.942.5605.