

NEW OFFICERS

Because of the untimely death in November of our beloved President, Ann Haggerty, the board has appointed Myrna Fleckles, who was the newly elected Vice President, to be President for the 2008 term. Olga Nespole has been appointed Vice President for 2008 and Elliot Swanson has been appointed Treasurer. The other officers are those elected by the membership in November: Corresponding Secretary, Nina Gherardi; Recording Secretary, Margaret Boddy; and Parliamentarian, Gerry Pighini.

The Board is deeply saddened by Ann's death, but determined to carry on with the same enthusiasm and passion that she demonstrated as our leader.

The following obituary was printed in the Los Gatos Weekly Times and in the Saratoga News.



Elizabeth Ann Haggerty, a longtime resident of Los Gatos and a teacher at Saratoga High School, died

on Nov. 23 of metastasized breast cancer. She was 63.

She was born on March 8, 1944, in Grass Valley, and spent her childhood in nearby Nevada City. She moved with her family to San Francisco, where she attended George Washington High School, graduating in 1962. She graduated from UC-Berkeley in 1967, having spent her junior year in France, and received her teaching credential from San Jose State University the following year.

Mrs. Haggerty was a resident of Los Gatos for most of her adult life, and she taught French and Spanish at Saratoga High School. During her early teaching years, she earned a master's degree and went on to become the chairwoman of the foreign language department. She ended her career in the Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District Office as director of educational services. After her 2002 retirement, she continued to teach as a tutor, meeting most of her students in the Los Gatos Public Library.

She had a passion for opera and served as president of the San José Opera Guild, where she had recently been re-elected to a second term. She was a longtime subscriber to the San Francisco Opera and with her husband, Tim, made frequent trips to Santa Fe and New York as well as to opera companies abroad.

Mrs. Haggerty is survived by her husband Tim, her father Robert Wilson of Palo Alto and her sister Susan Wilson of Palo Alto. Her mother, Gladys Wilson, died in 2006.

The funeral [was] private. Contributions in her memory may be made to the San José Opera Guild, P.O. Box 33025, Los Gatos, CA 95031-3025.

Her family is grateful for the kind, generous and respectful care provided by the staff on the oncology floor of Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose.

OPERA GUILD TO HOST VOCAL COMPETITION

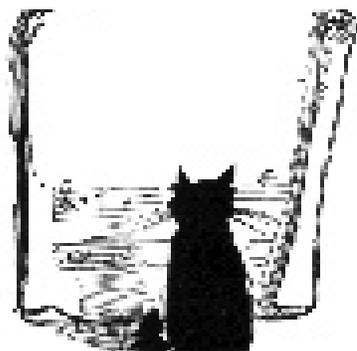
The Guild will once again host its Vocal Competition at San Jose State University on Sunday, April 20, at 1 PM, in the Concert Hall of the School of Music. Singers from all the South Bay colleges are invited to participate, and each participant is required to perform three operatic arias. A monetary prize of \$1000 will be shared among as many as three winners.

Following the competition, while the judges deliberate, refreshments will be served in a classroom in the Music building. Anyone who attends the competition is invited to attend the reception and await the judges' decision. Two of the judges this year are Debra Lambert and Marc Jacobs.

Lea Frey and Margaret Boddy are co-chairs of the event, and Erie Mills is the SJSU coordinator.

Parking is available at the 7th Street Garage (7th Street and San Salvador) and a shuttle to and from the music building will be provided for those who need it. Please RSVP by April 10 your attendance and your need for the shuttle service, by contacting Erie Mills at (408) 924-4658 or hinotes@pacbell.net

There is no charge for the event, but a donation may be made to help cover the expenses of the reception. This is a wonderful way to hear some of the college singers in the south bay, and we encourage all those who love opera to attend. It would be great to have a huge audience for the event.



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ON THE SILVER SCREEN

Beginning next month, SF Opera will send six complete operas per year into movie theaters for worldwide distribution and viewing. The initial Digital Access Integrated Cinema Program will feature four showings each of six operas from last season: *La Rondine*, *Samson and Delilah*, *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni*, *Appomattox*, and *Madama Butterfly*.

This venture marks the first time that any opera company will utilize the Hollywood feature-film quality digital cinema format, ensuring premium picture and sound quality. San Francisco Opera will be the first opera company in the world to use technology at this level. General Director David Gockley thanked the unions, Federations and Guilds of Musicians involved for their cooperation in bringing this landmark agreement to fruition.

Gockley commented, "What you may not know is that my very first opera experience was actually in a movie theater--hearing Mario Lanza sing in the film, *The Great Caruso*. It was a defining moment in my life and I knew, at that point, that I absolutely must see a live opera. I'm hoping our showings across the country will build similarly passionate new audiences."

The dates for the first four operas are:
March 8 to 11 *La Rondine*;
March 29 to April 1 *Samson and Delilah*;
April 12 to 15 *Don Giovanni*;
April 19 to 22 *Madama Butterfly*.

Dates for the remaining operas and the theaters which will be showing all six operas will be announced soon.

THE RICHARD TUCKER GALA

by Olga Nespole

The first week in November, 2007, was particularly exciting for my husband and me. Having again received an invitation to The Richard Tucker Gala to be held in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, we headed for New York City. To date, the Richard Tucker Foundation has awarded over \$2,000,000 to aspiring young singers, and the Gala is their primary fund-raising affair.

The program began with a stirring rendition of Wagner's "Entrance of the Guests" from *Tannhäuser*, performed by the New York Choral Society and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, conducted by Asher Fisch. This set the tone for the following twelve singers and their choice of songs. Among the many highlights were René Fleming and Joyce DiDonato singing "Ah, guarda sorella" from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Maria Guleghina's "Pace, pace, mio Dio" from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* and Brandon Jovanovich's "Morgenlich leuchtend" from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. He was the 2007 Richard Tucker award winner and received a grant of \$30,000. Bryn Terfel and the others in the cast were also superb.

Two days prior to this performance, we attended a performance of Verdi's *Aida*. This production, which included six white horses, truly took the audience to ancient Egypt. The old traditional sets were amazing, as was the singing of Olga Borodina as Amneris, Franco Farina as Radames and Angela Brown as Aida. Mark Delevan, a former Merolini, was also in the cast as Amonasro. He will be performing this season with the San Francisco Opera in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*. This was really a memorable operatic experience for us.

Pair those two evenings with a Broadway show, wonderful meals and great weather, not to mention the shopping, and you know why it is always exciting to take a bite out of the Big Apple.

Phyllis Q. Edwards

Dr. Phyllis Edwards, San José Opera Guild Director Emeritus died on Dec. 25, 2007 at the age of 91.

Phyllis was a retired physician who went to medical school in the 1930s when women were not numerous in that profession. She became a renowned expert on tuberculosis and wrote many articles plus a text book which was still in use until recently. She rarely spoke of these accomplishments, and after her retirement she seemed to close that chapter of her life to which she had devoted herself completely.

It was at this point that she recognized her enjoyment of opera. She wasn't sure how she came to love opera. She thought it may have been the fact that her mother insisted that Phyllis and her siblings be quiet while mother listened to the Saturday afternoon opera broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera. She eventually attended her first SJOG lecture. As was her way, she jumped right in and proceeded to make herself a vital part of the group. She soon joined the board and became president from 1988-1990. She became active with the Amici di Merola, a San Francisco group which supports the training of young singers from all over the world.

She was generous with her time and financial support of Opera San José and San Francisco Opera. She may be best remembered by the young singers she mentored when they were in need. She was a no-nonsense person who never hesitated to express her opinion. She will be missed.



CAREER UPDATES

San Francisco Opera's production of *Macbeth* last fall featured **Thomas Hampson**, an alumnus of the Merola Opera Program, in the title role. A recipient of Merola's Distinguished Alumni Award, he refers to his participation in this Program in an interview with Niels Swinkels. "In my day, and still to this day, Merola is one of the great training programs in the world. It has both the validity of tradition and the quality of instruction, and that is powerful. It has always been the hallmark and high mark of this ." He also expressed his love of San Francisco by noting, "...if I could find a way to run my life from San Francisco, I would probably live here." His next US performance will be as Don Carlo at The Metropolitan Opera, in Verdi's *Ernani* this March.

Two more Merola alumni were featured in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* this fall in San Francisco. **William Burden** appeared as Tom Rakewell, a role he has performed with Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Bavarian State Opera. His upcoming engagements include Pelleas at Berlin's Linden Opera, Nadir at the Florida Grand Opera, and Vere in *Billy Budd* at the Santa Fe Opera. **Catherine Cook**, a former Adler Fellow, appeared in *The Rake's Progress* as Mother Goose.

Stepping in to sing as Speaker (as cover for Eric Jordan) in this fall's San Francisco Opera production of *The Magic Flute*, was **Philip Skinner**. A graduate of the Merola Opera Program and a former Adler Fellow, **Philip** has appeared with San Francisco Opera in more than thirty-five roles.

Another Merola alumna, **Laura Claycomb**, continues to be busy. She will be performing at the Palais Garnier with the Paris Opera this March. **Laura** will perform the role of Anne Truelove in a new Luc Bondy Production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. This new production will premier on March 3, 2008, and will continue with performances on March 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 19, 22, and 24.

Last December, a gala celebration of the 30th anniversary of West Valley College's Masterworks Chorale brought two Opera San José alumni to Sarato-

ga. **Eilana Lappalainen** and **Stephen Guggenheim** performed in this benefit for the Saratoga's community college music program. **Eilana** attended West Valley, and "...seeing and hearing (her) return to her roots at the height of her career was what made for the extraordinary occasion at the school's theatre." Colin Seymour wrote this for The Mercury News following the performance. He went on to note the duet from *Madama Butterfly* with the two OSJ alumni, "seemed like they had rehearsed it for weeks...the vocals were what made the duet the most stupendous part of the evening."

OSJ alumnus **Scott Bearden** continues to win competitions. **Scott** was named the first prize winner of the Second Annual Chester Ludgin Memorial American Verdi Baritone Competition in New York City. He was honored with the First Prize out of a field of over 60 applicants. The ten finalists were judged by a prestigious panel including Placido Domingo, conductor Julius Rudel, singer Mignon Dunn, and Ken Benson, VP of Columbia Artists Management. Previously, **Scott** received the Audience Favorite Award at the inaugural Irene Dalis Vocal Competition in June, 2007. Beginning in February, **Scott** will be performing the title role in Opera San José's production of *Rigoletto*.

Thomas Truhitte, another OSJ alumnus, will be appearing as Merlot in an interpretation of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. The production, titled *The Tristan Project*, features the Los Angeles Philharmonic and images of video artist Bill Viola. It is a presentation that weaves visual imagery with musical expression. *The Tristan Project* will be performed in April in Los Angeles at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and again at Lincoln Center in New York in May.

OSJ alumnus **Jason Detwiler** will be featured as a soloist in Faure's *Requiem*, with the Santa Cruz Chamber Orchestra in April. He will have just completed performing as Onegin, in *Eugene Onegin*, with the Virginia Opera (February 8 through March 2). In late April, **Jason** will travel to Syracuse, New York to perform as Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium*, and Sil-

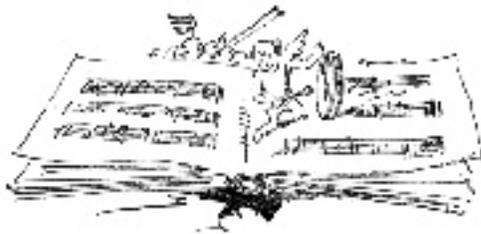
CALENDAR

vio in *I Pagliacci*, with the Syracuse Opera. Last summer, **Jason** won Second Place and \$2,000 in the AudComps at the Classical Singer Convention in San Francisco, where current OSJ artist, **Rochelle Bard** won First Place, \$5,000 and Audience Choice award, and OSJ alumnus **Lori Decter** was designated a Certified Singer.

In March, Maestro Michael Morgan and the Sacramento Philharmonic will perform Richard Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder*, featuring OSJ's alumna, **Talise Trevigne**, as soloist. She recently debuted as vocal soloist in the world premiere of Dance Theatre of Harlem's *St. Louis Woman - a Blues Ballet* at Lincoln Center Festival. **Talise** will repeat this role at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

The Mikado will be performed by Opera a la Carte in the Lincoln Theater in Yountville beginning February 8. **Jesse Merlin**, OSJ alumnus, will be performing in this Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. This company, now over 30 years old, is touring with *The Mikado* through Nebraska, Kansas, and southern California.

Alumnus of both Merola and OSJ, **Kirk Eichelberger** will take on the cover responsibilities in two operas in March for the Metropolitan Opera. He will cover the role of Steersman in *Tristan und Isolde*, and Jago in *Ernani*. In late March and early April, **Kirk** will sing Gambler 3 in *The Gambler* at the Met.



FEBRUARY 3

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present tenor Philippe Castagner and Ken Noda, piano, in a Schwabacher Debut Recital at 5:30 p.m. in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake St. at Arguello, San Francisco. Tickets \$20 single, \$60 subscription. Information: (415) 864-3330.

FEBRUARY 7

WEST BAY OPERA GUILD will present a preview of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at 8 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto. Admission, free.

FEBRUARY 9-24

OPERA SAN JOSÉ performs Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the California Theatre, 345 S. First St., San Jose at 8 p.m. Feb. 9, 12, 15, 17, 21, 23; 3 p.m. Feb. 10, 24. Free previews one hour before each performance except opening night. Tickets \$66-\$88. Information: (408) 437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

FEBRUARY 15-17; 22-24

WEST BAY OPERA will present Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. Tickets \$50 general, \$20 youth/students. Information: (650) 424-9999 or www.wbopera.org.

FEBRUARY 16

The METROPOLITAN OPERA presents a live simulcast of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* at 10 a.m. at movie theaters at Santana Row and other venues throughout the Bay Area, with an encore performance at noon Feb. 17. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 senior, \$15 child available at the theatre box office or online. Information: www.FathomEvents.com or www.metopera.org.

FEBRUARY 21

The PHANTOMS OF THE OPERA GUILD will meet at 5:30 for a happy hour, 6 p.m. dinner at a downtown restaurant prior to attending a performance of *Rigoletto* at the California Theatre. Information, (408) 356-7651. Single persons interested in attending the opera with a group are welcome.

CALENDAR, CONTINUED

FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 8, 9 & 15

POCKET OPERA performs Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* at 2 p.m. in the Florence Gould theater at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. at Clement St., San Francisco. Tickets, \$34-\$37 general, \$31-34 seniors, \$20 youth/students. Information, (415) 972-8934.

FEBRUARY 24

The SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present baritone Lucas Meachem. in a Schwabacher Debut Recital at 5:30 p.m. in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake St., at Arguello, San Francisco. Tickets \$20 single, \$60 subscription. Information: (415) 864-3330.

MARCH 14, 16, 21, 22

SAN FRANCISCO LYRIC OPERA will present Puccini's *La Bohème* at 7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday in the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, San Francisco. Tickets \$32 general, \$18 students, under 12 free. Information: (415) 345-7575.

MARCH 15

The METROPOLITAN OPERA presents a live simulcast of Britten's *Peter Grimes* at 10:30 a.m. at movie theaters at Santana Row and other venues throughout the Bay Area, with an encore performance at noon March 16. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 senior, \$15 child, available at the theatre box office or online. Information: www.FathomEvents.com or www.metopera.org.

MARCH 22

The METROPOLITAN OPERA presents a live simulcast of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at 9:30 a.m. at movie theaters at Santana Row and other venues throughout the Bay Area, with an encore performance at noon March 23. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 senior, \$15 child, available at the theatre box office or online. Information: www.FathomEvents.com or www.metopera.org.

APRIL 5

The METROPOLITAN OPERA will present a live simulcast of Puccini's *La Bohème* at 10:30 a.m. at movie theaters at Santana Row and other venues throughout the Bay Area, with an encore performance at noon April 6. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 senior, \$15 child, available at the theatre box office or online. Information: www.FathomEvents.com or www.metopera.org.

APRIL 6

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER presents mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack. in a Schwabacher Debut Recital at 5:30 p.m. in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake St. at Arguello, San Francisco. Tickets \$20 single, \$60 subscription. Information: (415) 864-3330.

APRIL 5, 12

POCKET OPERA will perform Handel's *Xerxes* at 2 p.m. in the Florence Gould Theater at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. at Clement St., Lincoln Park, San Francisco. Tickets, \$34-\$37 general, \$31-34 seniors, \$20 youth/students. Information: (415) 972-8934.

APRIL 20, 26, 27

POCKET OPERA will stage Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at 2 p.m. in the Florence Gould Theater at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. at Clement St., Lincoln Park, San Francisco. Tickets \$34-\$37 general, \$31-34 seniors, \$20 youth/students. Information: (415) 972-8934.

APRIL 20

The SAN JOSÉ OPERA GUILD presents a vocal competition of South Bay college students at 1 p.m., Sunday, April 20 in the Concert Hall at the School of Music at San José State University. Free. Reception and announcement of prize winners to follow. Donations accepted for the reception. Information: (408) 924-4658 or hinotes@pacbell.net

CALENDAR, CONTINUED

APRIL 19 – MAY 4

OPERA SAN JOSÉ performs Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at The California Theatre, 345 S. First St., San Jose at 8 p.m. April 19, 22, 25, May 1, 3; 3 p.m. April 20, May 4. Free previews 1 hour before each performance except opening night. Tickets \$66- \$88. Information: (408) 437-4450 or www.operasj.org.

APRIL 26

The METROPOLITAN OPERA will present a live simulcast of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment* at 10:30 a.m. at movie theaters at Santana Row and other venues throughout the Bay Area, with an encore performance at noon April 27. Tickets \$22 adult, \$20 senior, \$15 child, available at the theatre box office or online. Information: www.FathomEvents.com or www.metopera.org.

APRIL 27

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER will present soprano Heidi Melton and John Parr, piano, in a Schwabacher Debut Recital at 5:30 p.m in Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake St. at Arguello, San Francisco. Tickets \$20 single, \$60 subscription. Information: (415)864-3330.

MAY 1

The PHANTOMS OF THE OPERA GUILD will meet at 5:30 for a happy hour, 6 p.m. dinner at a downtown restaurant prior to attending a performance of *The Magic Flute* at the California Theatre. Information: (408) 356 -7651. Single persons interested in attending the opera with a group are welcome.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
SJOPERAGUILD.ORG

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday
April 20

VOCAL COMPETITION

AT SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Meet the Winners

See the story on page 2

Publisher

San José Opera Guild

President

Myrna Fleckles

Editor

Argo Gherardi

Publicity

Phylis Whitney

Career Updates

Susan English

Calendar

Elaine Veloz

SJOG Newsletter is published four times a year in Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. by:

San José Opera Guild

P.O. Box 33025

Los Gatos, CA 95031-3025

San José Opera Guild
c/o Argo Gherardi
P.O.Box 33025
Los Gatos, CA 95031-3025

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Saratoga, CA
Permit No. 5

Address Service Requested

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

Established in 1947, the San José Opera Guild was formed to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the operatic arts and to provide both volunteer and financial support to opera.

The Guild incorporated in September 1958 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of California. The original purpose of the Guild has not changed over the years since its founding. Financial support of promising young artists in the community is a high priority for the Guild, which helps sponsor singers each year at Opera San José, and the Merola Opera Program, as well as other opera groups.

Throughout the year, the Guild sponsors lectures and previews at three different venues to coincide with the San Francisco Opera and Opera San José's seasons.

Name _____

Name of Family Member _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Memberships: Family \$60
 Single \$45
 Organization \$75
 Donation \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Please send check payable to:
San José Opera Guild
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 33025
Los Gatos, CA 95031-33025

San José Opera Guild is a nonprofit organization.
Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law.
Does your company have a matching grant program?
Visit our website at www.sjoperaguild.org