

High Notes
Pikes Peak Opera League
Spring Newsletter
April-June, 2020

"Team work makes the Dream work!"



**A Message from your President,
Dr. Susan Rae Jensen**

Springtime greetings! Hopefully it will not be the usual "springtime in the Rockies." There will be programs in each of our spring months with our May luncheon at the Pinery and our Songs for a Summer Night Event in June. Please check out all of these upcoming programs and events in this newsletter as well as on our webpage: pikespeakoperaleague.org

Thank you to all who shared the Met in HD experience with us to see "Porgy and Bess" on February 1st with a special reception afterwards at the home of Tom Trainer and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen. We celebrated the Met stage debut of past PPOL and Opera Theatre of the Rockies' performer, Brittany Renee Robinson. Photos are posted later in this newsletter.

Our March 4 program "Singing into Spring" at the Palliative Care Center featured soprano, Solveig Olsen, accompanied by Dan Brink, in a wonderful program created just for PPOL. This was complimented by the lovely champagne tea with thanks to the Board who provided all the food and to Elizabeth Leslie and Mary Koepp for assisting with organizational details. Also, thanks to PPOL ad sponsor, Meeker Music for providing us with an electronic keyboard. The champagne was underwritten by Dr. Susan Rae Jensen.

The winter special event to fundraise for our PPOL scholarship funds was on February 28 at the Patty Jewett Clubhouse with the program, "Starlight Lounge: Claire's Celestial Songbook," featuring Claire Elizabeth Anderson accompanied by Jana Lee Ross. She was joined by "surprise" vocalist and PPOL favorite, Lila Mori. Thanks to you all to make this another sell out event. Thanks to Claire, Jana Lee, and Lila for a night of nostalgic melodies and to Patty Jewett for providing the venue, food, and setting. Thank you to Victoria Boswell for coordinating with Patsy Candies to provide the special chocolate treats. Thanks to our sponsors: the Tiemens Foundation and the Wells Fargo private bank, Tom Trainer and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen. All proceeds from this event will go towards our contribution to the Vocal Arts Scholarship Fund in order to assist deserving young vocalists to be able to participate in OTR's Vocal Arts Festival this summer at Colorado College.

Spring and Summer PPOL Programs and Special Events

On April 1 (this is not an April Fools' joke, we promise): our **annual Career Advancement Awards concert** will be held at the MacLaren School, 1702 N Murray Blvd, Colorado Springs. Please gather from 4-4:15 in their auditorium with a brief meeting at 4:15 followed by the award winners' concert. A reception of light refreshments will be served after the concert. There will be no food or drink available before the concert.

--The winners will be announced late March after Martile Rowland's recommendations to the PPOL Board, with the Board to vote March 25.

--As in past years, the information to PPOL members will be sent in email with their Bios and headshots.

This concert is always exciting to get to hear these young professional vocalists as they begin their careers—"where the stars first shine."

On May 6, the annual PPOL spring luncheon will be held at The Pinery at the Hill, 775 W. Bijou in Colorado Springs. This is always a lovely venue and the luncheon menu has been created just for us by the chef. The cost is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. A cash bar will be available. There will be a social hour at 11 am, brief meeting and program at 11:30 followed by luncheon around 12:15 pm. Please see the next page for more information and for reservations for this luncheon. (There will be no mailing for this.) The program will feature Opera Theatre of the Rockies' Artistic Director, Martile Rowland, offering insights into the Vocal Arts Festival this summer at Colorado College with the highlight being the presentation of the opera, *The Crucible*, to complete the festival in July.

Songs for a Summer Night special event will be returning on June 24, 5-8 pm. The venue will be Gold Hill Mesa, 142 S Raven Mine Dr. in Colorado Springs and the program will feature past Young Voice winners as well as a Career Advancement Award winner for a "spectrum" of evolving young vocalists. The evening will feature food, wine, and song with wine tickets available for purchase at the event. Donations will be requested at the event, with all proceeds to our Scholarship Fund. We will be celebrating the start of the Vocal Arts Festival. Invite and performer Bios are on page 4-5.

A special summer opportunity for PPOL in collaboration with KCME, the Conservatory, & El Pomar: Celebration buses to Central City Opera for the matinees on July 8 for *Carousel* & July 19 for *Rigoletto*. Besides transport, included will be a light brunch snack on the bus, catered lunch at Teller House with "Short Works," a 30 min. apprentice program and pre-opera talk included, as well as "Mix and Mingle" with the artists post the opera with drink ticket included and snacks/wine on the return bus. This package is \$85 for each bus trip and ticket availability at 20% off in any level. Next week you can book online at centralcityopera.org or call box office 303-292-6700 & mention Colorado Springs bus July 8 and/or July 19. Jennifer DiDominici, a PPOL favorite, will be in *Carousel*.

--See pages 6 & 7.





*The Pikes Peak Opera League's spring luncheon will be May 6, 2020
from 11am-2 pm at The Pinery at the Hill,
775 W. Bijou Street, Colorado Springs.*

11 am—social time

11:30 am—brief meeting followed by the program with Martile Rowland presenting
insights into this summer's Vocal Arts Festival and July opera.

12:15 pm—luncheon to be served

Luncheon Menu

Crème of broccoli soup

Entrée apple and white cheddar salad with chicken

Assorted rolls and butter

Chef's special dessert selections

Cost is \$35 per member, \$45 for non member. A cash bar will be available.

Reservations must be made at a PPOL program or mailed with check to PPOL, PO Box 38478,
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478. Credit cards cannot be used for this reservation.

Reservations MUST be received NO LATER than April 30th at request of venue.

Detach below and send in with your reservation details and check

	M for Member/ N for Non member	Amount
Name(s): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



*Pikes Peak Opera League presents Songs for a Summer Night
on June 24, 2020, 5-8 pm, at Gold Hill Mesa, 142 Raven Mine Dr.*

*Please join us for a lovely summer evening of food, wine, and song.
The program will feature past PPOL Young Voice scholarship winners,
Lauren Welker and Rachel Winnick, with PPOL Career
Advancement Award winner, Chistiana Denaé McMullen.*

*Donations to the PPOL scholarship funds will be requested at the event,
but if you are unable to come and would like to make a donation, please
send your check to PPOL at PO Box 38478, Colorado Springs, Co. 80937-8478
Wine tickets will be available for purchase at the reception table.
Guests are most welcome!*

*All proceeds from this event will go for our PPOL donation to the Vocal
Arts Festival Scholarship Fund, so please consider giving generously.*

*Event Sponsors: Gold Hill Mesa, the Tiemens Foundation and the Wells
Fargo Private Bank, and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer.*

Bios for our PPOL June 24 Event



Lauren Welker, first place PPOL Young Voice scholarship winner, 2019

Lauren is a senior at Vista Ridge High School. She is a student of Kathy Klamm and was a finalist also in the Schmidt Competition. In addition to being a vocalist, she plays the harp. Lauren is currently auditioning at colleges to pursue a vocal, choral education degree.



Rachel Winnick, second place PPOL Young Voice scholarship winner, 2018

Rachel currently attends the Lamont School of Music at DU as a Jazz Studies and Commercial Music major. She has participated in the chorus of Opera Theatre of the Rockies' *The Mikado* and she has performed in the Glen Eyre Madrigal Singers program. Enrolling in the jazz studies program, she has added a challenging element to her musical experience and collaboration with other musicians. She hopes to continue to expand her musical knowledge with more opportunities to grow as a performer throughout her training and post graduate career.



Bios continued, June 24 Event

2019 PPOL Career Advancement Award Winner:

Soprano **Christiana Danaé McMullen** holds both a Performance Certificate and a Master of Music degree from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, receiving the prestigious Newman Fellowship. While a student at Lamont, Christiana made her debut in three principal roles: as Susanna in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Adele in Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, and Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. She was chosen to reprise the role in *Così fan tutte* with the York Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lawrence Golan in York, PA. Before arriving at Lamont, Christiana completed her undergraduate degree in Voice Performance and Biblical Studies at Gordon College in New England where she played the role of Yum-Yum in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Over the past 3 years as a Denver resident, Christiana has been a featured soloist with Boulder Symphony Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Boulder Concert Band, The Spirituals Project, and The Bennie Williams Spiritual Voices. With Opera Theatre of the Rockies, she has starred in a variety of opera scenes along with making her debut under the company as Suor Genoveffa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. In March of 2019, Christiana was selected as a finalist in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition and the following month, she was awarded the Pikes Peak Opera League Career Advancement Award. Currently, Christiana is a Central City Opera Touring Artist for Education and Community Engagement in the show, *Mozart & Co*. In addition, she is an adjunct music faculty member at the Community College of Aurora. Christiana enjoys leading worship with her husband at their local church. She is a student of Martile Rowland.



Join Central City Opera and the Pikes Peak Opera League for the

COLORADO SPRINGS PARTY BUS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 | 9:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Step right up to see Rodgers & Hammerstein's ***Carousel***
and leave the driving to us!

BUS TRIP PACKAGE PRICE:

\$85 PER PERSON

*Tickets for the matinee performance of *Carousel* are not included in this price. They are available for separate purchase for a special 20% off discount.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip bus transportation from the Colorado Springs Conservatory to Central City (bus leaves at 10am)
- Bus ride hosted by Robert Bruce, KCME On-Air Host/ Program Director
- Light brunch on the bus with lunch at Teller House in Canon City
- Snacks, bottled water and wine or champagne
- Ticket for Short Works pre-show performance
- Access to Opera Notes pre-show talk
- Free drink for post-performance Mix & Mingle with the performers

LEARN MORE & PURCHASE TICKETS:

Call the Box Office at 303.292.6700 for the best available seat options or visit CentralCityOpera.org and use code **SOCOBUS2020** at checkout.

Purchase deadline for the Colorado Springs Party Bus Package and matinee performance of *Carousel* is June 30, 2020. Limited tickets are available.

CENTRAL CITY OPERA



Join Central City Opera and the Pikes Peak Opera League for the

COLORADO SPRINGS PARTY BUS

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020 | 9:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Come to see Verdi's *Rigoletto*
and leave the driving to us!

BUS TRIP PACKAGE PRICE:
\$85 PER PERSON

*Tickets for the matinee performance of *Rigoletto* not included in this price. They are available for separate purchase for a special 20% off discount.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip bus transportation from the Colorado Springs Conservatory to Central City (bus leaves at 10am)
- Bus ride hosted by Robert Bruce, KCME On-Air Host/ Program Director
- Light brunch on the bus with lunch at Teller House in Central City
- Snacks, bottled water and wine or champagne
- Ticket for Short Works pre-show performance
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Purchase deadline for the Colorado Springs Party Bus Package and matinee performance of *Rigoletto* is June 30, 2020.

Limited tickets are available.

CENTRAL CITY OPERA



Other places to hear opera, musical theater, and the vocal arts

Colorado Springs Chorale—May 11, Armed Forces Day Concert with the USAF Academy Band, 7 pm at the Pikes Peak Center; May 16 & 17, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* at the Pikes Peak Center; May 31, Normandy send off concert at 3 pm at First United Methodist Church. For more information go to: cschorale.org

Opera Colorado—May 2, 5, 8, and 10, *Tosca* at Ellie Caulkins Opera House in Denver. Also on May 17, Artist in Residence Celebration and May 30, Spring Tea. For more information go to: operacolorado.org

Denver Center for the Arts—March 25-April 12, *Mean Girls*; April 10-May 10, *Choir Boy*; May 13-June 14, *The Lion King*; June 9-28, *The Book of Mormon*. For more information go to: dcpa.org

Colorado College—April 3 & 4, opera/musical scenes, 7:30 pm, Packard.

Opera Theatre of the Rockies—coming in July will be the summer Vocal Arts Festival at Colorado College with multiple scenes concerts and the production of *The Crucible*. For more information go to: operatheatreoftherockies.org

ENT Center for the Arts at UCCS: April 25 and 26, *Voices of Light: The Passion of Joan of Arc* with Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. For more information go to: csphilharmonic.org

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale—April 1, joint concert with Jitro Czech Girls Choir; April 22, In Harmony Festival; May 9, X-Vox: Generations Joined in Song Festival; May 18, Applause!; May 31, Rhythmscapes. For locations and info: kidssing.org

Arvada Center—April 10-May 3, *Something Rotten!* Info @ arvadacenter.org

Central City Opera—July 4-Aug 2, presentations of *Carousel* and *Rigoletto*. For more information: centralcityopera.org—there will be Colorado Springs buses for two matinees on 7/8 & 7/19, info. on pg. 2, 6, & 7.

Santa Fe Opera—July 2-Aug 29, summer season with following operas: *The Barber of Seville*, *The Magic Flute*, *Rusalka*, *M. Butterfly*, & *Tristan and Isolde*. For more information go to: santafeopera.org

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale—July 12-Aug 7, performances of *Roaring 20's*, *East Meets West*, *The Jew and the Gentile*, and *Salute to American Music*. For more information go to: desertchorale.org

The Met in HD—April 11, *Tosca*; May 9, *Maria Stuarda*. Theaters in Colorado Springs: Tinseltown, Cinemark Carefree Circle, and Interquest Stadium 14. For more information go to: metopera.org or to the specific theater's website. The Metropolitan Opera also is broadcast on Sirius and radio with schedules on their websites.





Message from the PPOL Finance Team
IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION REGARDING DONATIONS TO THE PPOL

One may always make a charitable donation to the Pikes Peak Opera League Virtuoso Society, Legacy Fund or the Pikes Peak Opera League (PPOL) by simply writing a check and using "Schedule A Itemized Deductions" to report your donation to the IRS. However, if you are now required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a tax-deferred retirement account, such as an IRA, and your tax deductions are no longer large enough to use Schedule A (the Standard deduction is now larger than your Schedule A deductions), you may want to consider the use of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to make deductions to a qualified charity such as the PPOL Virtuoso Society.

If you were born prior to July 1, 1949 (reaching age 70½ prior to January 1, 2020) IRS rules state that you must take a Required Minimum Distribution each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts (this tax rule was amended in December 2020 to allow those persons reaching age 70 ½ in the year 2020 or later, to wait until they are 72 to take the RMD.)

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA, payable to a qualified charity (ask your charities to which you intend to donate for their tax code and if they are considered a qualified charity by the IRS.) Amounts distributed by a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution for the year (up to \$100,000) and can be excluded from your taxable income. The amount of money donated using a QCD will not only reduce your tax payment but may also drop your taxable income into a lower tax bracket.

The Pikes Peak Opera League is a qualified charity and accepts donations through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. However, we cannot give tax or legal advice and recommend donors consult their tax professional before making a gift. For information or to make a gift of a QCD to the Pikes Peak Opera League call Allan Wendt, Designated Agent for the Virtuoso Society, Legacy Fund (his phone number is in the PPOL Directory) or e-mail PPOL at www.pikespeakoperaleague.org

OTHER GIFTING INFORMATION

Also, you can always help by underwriting a PPOL program or a special event through a targeted donation for that program or event to assist with covering costs. Your sponsorship will be acknowledged as you desire. If interested, please contact the PPOL President, Dr. Susan Rae Jensen.

Pikes Peak Opera League is committed to planning for the future and with this in mind, has created a legacy fund, the Virtuoso Society Legacy Fund. The intent is to use dividends and interest for future scholarships and educational outreach, once the fund reaches \$100,000. You can participate by contributing directly into this fund or including PPOL in your estate planning. For further information contact the PPOL President, Dr. Susan Rae Jensen, or the fund advisor, Allan Wendt. Please let us know of your intent to be included in the Virtuoso Society, as we are creating a recognition celebration list.

-- Furthermore, after each PPOL fundraising event, 10% of the net proceeds are channeled into this Fund and not used in the PPOL operating budget.

Some highlights from membership



Nasit Ari and Libby Rittenberg
at the Chorale Mardi Gras night



Dr. Susan Rae Jensen & Tom
Trainer before the Itzhak
Perlman concert & receptions



Anne Young with the Gov.
--Beaux Arts Ball in Denver



Mary McKinley with nephew, Craig Irvin, baritone

Mary McKinley shares excerpts from the **January Opera News** feature on her nephew, Craig Irvin: The Iowa baritone is a powerful singer and incisive actor. This month at Utah Opera, baritone Craig Irvin will sing Lieutenant Horstmayer in *Silent Night* for the eighth time since creating the role at Minnesota Opera in 2011. Still, that's nothing compared to one of his first breaks as Gaston in a thirty minute version of *Beauty and the Beast* at Disney World after the end of his contract with Orlando Opera. Other roles Irvin has found rewarding include Mandryka in Strauss's *Arabella* in Minnesota in 2013 and Macbeth with Loft Opera in 2016. In April, he sang Valentin in Gounod's *Faust* at Opera Omaha, where he stole the show with his brawny physicality and raw emotion. His singing technique is solid, but he's also an affecting actor. He even pops into improv classes at Second City when he's in Toronto in order to hone his craft.

"I have to have an artistic outlet," he says. Once, when he had a long break in his schedule, he started writing poetry and enjoyed going to poetry readings. He does Standup on open mic nights when he travels as he feels it makes him a better performer. Once a member of the Ryan Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Irvin got his undergraduate degree at Simpson College, close to his hometown of Waukee, Iowa. He currently lives in Des Moines. "Being a professional opera singer and living in Des Moines is like being a professional surfer and living in Des Moines." He lives with his wife and three children near his brothers and parents and credits his family unit for helping immeasurably when he's traveling for opera roles.

--Mary has more photos and stories which she will happily share with you.



*A Few Photos from the February 1st Reception
Reception hosts, Dr. Susan Rae Jensen & Tom Trainer*



Sue Anselmi with daughter,
Kate Johnson



Susan Loring, Robert Littrell, Mary
McKinley, Martile Rowland, and
Trudy Fennewald



Connie Joiner (on the right)
with daughter, Catherine



Linda Cummings, Judy Warren,
and Diane Hoover



Robyn Hamilton, Ros Block,
and Ingrid Littrell



Susanne Wheeler, Evelyn Kwaak,
Robyn Sedgwick, and Charles Warren



Eve Tilley and Sol Chavez



Ellen Alderson and Lineah Davey



Photos from the February 28 Special Event



Claire Anderson with Mom,
Diana, before the show



Kathy Winnick, Linda Silver,
Nancy Daly, & Connie Joiner



Susan Loring and
Trudy Fennwald



Fran Folsom, Mary Mc
Kinley, & Terri Pederson



Lesly and Dr. Michael
Blend with Deanna Lyons



Phyllis MacDougall &
Nicole deNaray



Sue Anselmi &
Annabel Widney



Don and Gwen Jenkins
with Martile Rowland



Brad and Colleen
Peterson



Linda Johnson and
Kim Gunderson



Cheri Disque, Sol
Chavez, & Eve Tilley



Mark Dempsey and
Connie Raub



Victoria Boswell and
Safron Neusaenger



Robyn & Christopher Sedgwick



Kathy and Bill Winnick



Mike and Jan Webber



More Photos from February 28 event



Holly Bedell, Helene Knapp (seated) with Judy Rogers, Judy & Charles Warren



Dr. Susan Rae Jensen & Tom Trainer



Elizabeth Hoover, Anne Young, Herman Tiemens, and Jaqueline Sanderson

THE PROGRAM



Claire Elizabeth Anderson, vocals, & Jana Lee Ross, piano



Guest "cameo" vocalist, Lila Mori, with Claire



Launching young singer McKenna



Jason Riberdy with his daughter, McKenna



*The March 4th Champagne Tea
--more memories and new friends*



Greeters: Connie Joiner, Victoria Boswell, and Kathy Winnick



Scott Loring with daughter, Courtney



Dianne and Doug Herzberg



Program vocalist, Solveig Olsen,
with Mom, Patricia Olsen



"Singing into Spring" with
Solveig Olsen



Performance: Solveig with
accompanist, Dan Brink

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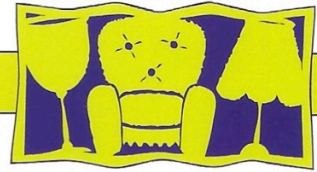
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