



HIGH NOTES—the Pikes Peak Opera League Newsletter
October to November, 2021

**Message from your PPOL Co-Presidents,
Fran Pilch and Susan Rae Jensen**



Fran Pilch



Susan Rae Jensen

Thanks to you all for your enthusiasm and support as we begin our PPOL 2021-2022 year. Our opening program in September at Gold Hill Mesa was at capacity, and our Fall Fest October 8 was a lovely evening with such an enthusiastic group of celebrants.

Our special thanks to Martile Rowland for her “Stories from the Opera Stage” for our September opening program as well as to Special Advisor to the Board, Stephanie Edwards, for hosting the program at Gold Hill Mesa, and Hospitality Director, Victoria Boswell, for providing the centerpieces.

More special thanks to Stephanie Brink for her brilliant program for our Fall Fest, *A Night in Spain*, on October 8, with the accompaniment of Dan Brink, her father. It made for a special evening indeed. Thanks to all the Board and members who provided the tapas and sangrias with the fantastic coordination by Victoria Boswell.

And thanks to our sponsor donors: the Tiemens Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Brookdale at Skyline, and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer.

Photos are featured on following pages.

Also, please note our upcoming programs featured in this newsletter: the November 3 program featuring our fall Career Advancement Award winner, Armando Contreras; the Young Voice Competition events on November 14 and 19; and our special holiday luncheon on December 1 at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club.

Hugs to you all and hope to see you soon,
Fran and Susan



Please support our friends at COPPeR, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, in celebrating October as Arts Month in our community and region. We were proud that our PPOL Fall Fest event could be part of this October celebration.

--As part of our participation, COPPeR is providing the \$500 first prize award for our Young Voice Competition that encourages aspiring young high school vocalists in our community and region. Many Thanks!!

In support and celebration of these regional vocal arts, please note some upcoming programs and events:

- Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble:** "The Naked Voice," on Friday, October 29 at 7:30 pm at St Mary's Cathedral, 22 West Kiowa. Upcoming holiday concert: Handel's *Messiah* with Parish House Baroque on Nov. 27 and *Wintersong* Dec. 10 and 11. Go to cvae.org
- Opera Colorado:** Puccini's *Tosca*, November 6-14, 2021 at the Ellie Caulkins Theatre in Denver, 14th St at Curtis. For tickets and more information go to: operacolorado.org
- Denver Philharmonic Orchestra:** concert version of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, November 4 & 6, in a collaboration with Central City Opera featuring our November Career Advancement Award winner, Armando Contreras, as well as Anna Christy and Matthew Plenk from the Metropolitan Opera. More info through Central City box office, 303-292-6700.
- Pikes Peak Center:** Tasha Cobb, renowned gospel singer, on October 15 at 7:30 pm. For more information and tickets: TicketOffice@broadmoorworldarena.com
- World Singing Day at the Olympic Museum:** October 16, 2-3:30 pm, Sponsored by Perfect Fit Wellness and the CS Children's Chorale. For more info go to: perfectfitwc@gmail.com
- Colorado Springs Chorale:** look for our friends at the Chorale's upcoming holiday concert, *Deck the Hall*, coming up on December 18, 2021 at ENT Center for the Arts. For further info go to: cschorale.org
- CS Children's Chorale:** see above about World Singing Day. Please note their upcoming holiday concert, *'Tis the Season*," on December 5 at 3 pm and Summit by Candlelight. Specific information will be listed closer to concerts on website, kidssing.org
- CS Fine Arts Center at CC:** Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, from Dec. 2-Jan. 9. For more information, go to fac.coloradocollege.edu

**Our November 3, 2021 PPOL Program featuring our fall Career Advancement Award winner,
Armando Contreras, baritone**

11:30 am-1 pm—please bring your own beverage &/or snack. Only small snack packs will be available.

Location: Otto Hall, Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave.

Program to begin at noon

The venue requests that all attendees wear masks indoors currently but health regulations may change.

Venue sponsors: Victoria and Fred Boswell Accompanist sponsors: Carol and Jim Montgomery

Career Advancement Award thanks to generous donations from the PPOL membership and Board.



Mexican- American baritone Armando Contreras is, "a baritone with gravitas and quickly making his mark in the opera world" praised by Schmoopera. This past season, Armando sang a lead role in the world premiere of *The Knock* with The Glimmerglass Festival. He also was the cover for Papageno in The Glimmerglass Festival's *The Magic Flute*. Armando sang the leading roles of Il Conte in *Le nozze di figaro* and Marcello in *La boheme* with Boulder Opera. He also performed two recitals featuring music from Latin America with Central City Opera and Loveland Opera Theatre. In the 2021/2022 season, Armando makes his debut with Salt Marsh Opera singing the role of Morales in *Carmen*. He will also make his Denver Philharmonic debut in *L'elisir d'amore* as Belcore on stage with Metropolitan Opera stars, Matthew Plenk and Anna Christy.

He was recently seen as John Proctor (*The Crucible*), Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) and Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*) in the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Scenes program and as the Imperial Commissioner in LOKC's *Madama Butterfly*. In the 2018/2019 season, Mr. Contreras sang the leading baritone role, Filippo, in the US premiere of Rossini's *La gazetta* with Pacific Opera Project. He also portrayed the role of Nardo in *La finta giardinera* with University of Missouri- Kansas City. Recent engagements in the 2017/2018 include Le Dancaire in *Carmen* with Central City Opera, the Herald in *Rigoletto* and Fiorello in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with LOKC, Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel* and L'horloge comtoise/ Le chat in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with UMKC. He also covered the role of Doug Hansen in Joby Talbot's *Everest* in the Lyric Opera of Kansas City premiere.

He received the Top Prize after completion of the Central City Young Artist Program. Other accolades include 2016 winner of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Concerto competition, 2016 winner of the Celestial Opera Young Artist Award, 2016 winner of the Brena Hazzard Vocal Competition, and 2016 winner of the Mu Phi Epsilon Music Competition. Armando has received degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Missouri-Kansas City studying with the Curtis Institute of Music faculty member, Vinson Cole. During school, Armando performed the roles of Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, John Brooke in *Little Women* and the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*. During his studies, Armando also participated in several training programs with The Glimmerglass Festival, Des Moines Metro Opera, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Central City Opera, and The Aspen Music Festival. For more information please visit his website at armandocontrerasbaritone.com and follow him on Instagram at [@armandomcontreras](https://www.instagram.com/armandomcontreras)



**The Pikes Peak Opera League Young Voice
Competition Events for November 2021**

--Master Class on November 14 at 3 PM

--Finalist Concert on November 19 at 7 PM

All Events will take place at UCCS Newman
Center, 4785 Clyde Rd. Please note change
of venue. This will not be at CC this year.



Amy Mushall will be conducting
the Young Voice Master Class.

Amy Mushall has devoted her
career to nurturing and
empowering singers. Her unique
style of functional vocal training
using Embodied Anatomy and the
principles of Alexander Technique
make her in-demand in Colorado as
a private teacher, choral clinician
and vocal coach. In addition to her
busy teaching schedule, Amy also
performs professionally in opera,
jazz, and musical theater. Amy
holds BM in Vocal Performance
from Western Michigan University,
is a member of NATS, and is
currently completing her Alexander
Technique Certification. Amy lives
in Colorado Springs with her two
kiddos and husband where they
enjoy hiking and camping.



*Please join us for the Pikes Peak Opera League annual
Holiday luncheon on December 1, 2021 at the
Cheyenne Mountain Country Club,
9 Lake Avenue, Colorado Springs.*

*11-11:30 AM—Social time with wine available
11:30 AM—Brief meeting followed by program featuring
Martile's Merry Singers
12:15 PM—Luncheon is served*

Luncheon Menu

*Starter: Cream of Brie and Mushroom Soup
Entrée Choices: Chicken Cordon Bleu with mustard beurre blanc
OR*

*Vegetarian option of Quinoa and vegetable stuffed pepper
Sides: Orzo and festive green beans with red peppers
Dessert: Cranberry Apple Cobbler with vanilla bean ice cream
Rolls with butter. Coffee and Decaf service*

*Reservations: \$40 pp. Members only accepted at this point.
Wine will be available for \$7 per glass by ticket purchase at event
(Exact amount greatly appreciated.)*

*Please mail your reservations with entrée choice and name by check to:
PPOL, PO Box 38478, Colorado Springs, 80937-8478
Checks only accepted with narrow cost margins for this event.
There is a venue capacity limit with wait list to be used once this is met.
The venue will follow all health regulations at the time.*

NO Reservations will be accepted after November 24 per venue request.

*Please detach information below and send in with check for your paid RSVP
(We are unable to process credit cards for this luncheon)*

Name: _____ Entrée Choice: _____ Cost: _____

Donation to scholarship funds: _____ Total Check amount: _____

Please be sure to add your contact information with Name and phone
number please if not on check. Thank you: _____



"Count Me In!"

Dear Members and Friends of the Pikes Peak Opera League,

The Coronavirus entered our lives, disrupted it, and continues to do so. But, being the determined individuals that we are, we took up the old slogan "we shall overcome" and responded with "Count Me In!" to support our local opera community. PPOL sponsored Outdoor Concerts and video performances by our local artists to help bridge the gap and we are prepared to do so again this year **with your help**.

Count Me In to help the Pikes Peak Opera League continue its legacy to

- . . . provide **grants, awards, scholarships**
- . . . donate to **Opera Theatre of the Rockies**
- . . . continue **high quality vocal programs** at meetings
- . . . provide **scholarships** to the Vocal Arts Festival
- . . . provide **Career Grants** for aspiring singers in opera and musical theater
- . . . assist our hard hit vocal arts community with **encouragement financial awards**
- . . . widen the reach of **our unique Young Voice Competition for high school** students

It is so **EASY** to participate . . .

Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience. **Your** donation whatever the size will make a difference.

Count Me In! : **Simply make a donation; whatever is right for your budget.**

The best part: Less than .05% goes for expenses. 99.5% goes to support PPOL's mission: to encourage local talent in our area, support Opera Theatre of the Rockies & Opera Goes to School. Second best part: your entire donation is tax deductible.

For your tax record: \$_____ was sent to PPOL on _____ and is 100% tax deductible.

Pikes Peak Opera League is a non-profit 501c (3) organization. Check # _____

Make check payable to PPOL

Mail to: Pikes Peak Opera League, P.O. Box 38478, Colorado Springs, CO 80937

or use Paypal on our website www.pikespeakoperaleague.org.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU



PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE 2021-22 HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

(listings in no particular order of giving)

Young Voice Competition Contributors:

Total Amount \$1150

First Place Award—COPPeR, as facilitated by
Catherine Creppon

Encouragement Award—Dr. Susan Rae Jensen

Finalist Scholarship Awards:

--Jim and Mary Waddle

--Fran Pilch

--Linda and Gordon Silver

--Colorado Association of Realtors Association,
as facilitated by Kathy Winnick

Other Sponsors/Donors:

--Becky and Jon Medved

--Helene Knapp

Cash Donations for Special Events/Programs/ Scholarship Fund

Total Amount: \$5075

The Tiemens Private Wealth Management Group
of Wells Fargo Advisors

Joan Agee

Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer

Brookdale at Skyline

Victoria and Fred Boswell

Mary McKinley

Allan and Gloria Wendt

Carol and Jim Montgomery

Judy Rogers

Colorado Association of Realtors Foundation, as
requested and facilitated by Kathy Winnick

Kathleen Fox Collins

****Cash Donation Baskets at programs with
donations from members**

Count Me In Contributors:

Total Amount \$1580.00

Sue Anselmi

Lesly and Michael Blend

Victoria Boswell

Nancy Daly

Helen Grybowski

Eva Hailbronner

Connie Joiner

Helene Knapp

Cory Lyons

Karen and Michael McDivitt

Mary McKinley

Margo Nelson

Fran Pilch

Mary Ann Siehr

Gordon and Linda Silver

Catherine Thompson

Tom Trainer and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen

Annabel Widney

In Kind Donations and Services

Total Amount \$ 7500

--Victoria Boswell

--Linda Silver

--Susan Rae Jensen

--Connie Joiner

--Catherine Thompson

--Stephanie Edwards

--Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher

--Fran Pilch

--Nicole deNaray

--Martile Rowland

--Nancy Daly

--Amalia Dobbins





PIKES PEAK OPERA LEAGUE 2021-22 HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

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(listings in no particular order of giving)

Virtuoso Society, Legacy Fund

Total Amount Contributed to date by specific donors \$59222.75

Current value of the invested Fund as of fiscal year end, August 31, 2021

\$96652.00

--Estate of Celia Rasor

--Estate of Collette Divine

--Allan and Gloria Wendt

--Ellen Alderson

--Lu Benning

--The Dr. Susan Rae Jensen Charitable Fund

--Plus 10% of net proceeds from each of our PPOL fundraising events goes into this account.

This fund is established as a Legacy Fund to provide even more scholarships in the future, at the Board's discretion, from dividends and interest.

Volunteer Hours of Service to PPOL

Total Hours: 7200

Victoria Boswell

Connie Joiner

Linda Silver

Fran Pilch

Nicole deNaray

Dr. Susan Rae Jensen

Amalia Dobbins

Sue Anselmi

Kate Johnson

Susan Loring

Susanne Wheeler

Catherine Thompson

Kathy Winnick

Nancy Daly

Helene Knapp

Robert Littrell

Allan Wendt

Judy Warren

Catherine Creppon

Mary Ann Siehr

Stephanie Edwards

Tom Trainer



Central City Opera's 90th season showcases *The Light in the Piazza*, *Die Fledermaus* and *Two Remain*

In 1932, two Colorado women revived the dilapidated Central City Opera House with a summer festival in the tiny Rocky Mountain town. Ninety years later, Anne Evans and Ida Kruse McFarlane's vision lives on as Central City Opera continues to produce outstanding live performances for audiences new and familiar. **Opening on July 2, the 2022** summer festival will include main stage productions of the classic operetta *Die Fledermaus* and the modern musical *The Light in the Piazza*. The 2018 Holocaust remembrance opera *Two Remain* rounds out the eclectic season.

Central City Opera 2022 Festival July 2, 2022 - July 31, 2022



Die Fledermaus



Two Remain



More Opportunities to hear and see opera from our friends at the Metropolitan Opera

Live in HD: *Boris Godunov*

René Pape (pictured) gives a gripping performance in one of opera's greatest bass roles, when Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*—a New York Times Critic's Pick—hits movie theaters on October 9. Conductor Sebastian Weigle leads an outstanding cast in Stephen Wadsworth's cinematic production, which this year presents Mussorgsky's masterpiece in its original 1869 version for the first time at the Met.



Live in HD: *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

On October 23, audiences around the world will have the chance to experience the opera that's taken New York City by storm, and that The New York Times has hailed as "a milestone work," as Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* appears on the big screen. Baritone Will Liverman gives a powerful performance in Blanchard's adaptation of the best-selling memoir by Charles M. Blow, starring alongside sopranos Angel Blue and Latonia Moore. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts James Robinson and Camille A. Brown's acclaimed staging, a New York Times Critic's Pick that "heralds a new era for the Met" (The Economist).



ARIA CODE

Tune in to the latest episode of our Aria Code podcast, created in collaboration with WQXR, to learn more about "*Va, pensiero*," the poignant chorus of the Hebrew slaves in Verdi's *Nabucco*. Available wherever you get podcasts.

MET OPERA RADIO

Met Opera Radio offers live performances from the Met stage as well as newly restored historic broadcasts, commercial-free, on SiriusXM channel 355.



*Photos from our
September 8, 2021
PPOL opening program*



Evelyn Kwaak, Linda Silver, and
Victoria Boswell



Connie Joiner (seated) and
Fran Pilch



Annabel Widney, Sue Anselmi,
and Susan Loring



New Members: Jim and Mary Waddle (on the left) and Tim and Karen O'Brien (on the right)



Judy Rogers, Elizabeth Bond, and
Trudy Fennewald



Catherine Creppon and
Robyn Hamilton



Joanie Huggins (seated) and
Kathy Winnick

*More photo memories from
September 8, 2021 PPOL opening program*

Robyn Sedgwick, Shirlee Doughty, Annabel
Widney, and Sue Anselmi



Fran Pilch, Silas Shaw, Judy Rogers, Elizabeth
Bond, Trudy Fennwald, and Susan Loring

Bill MacEnulty and Cherri Disque



Cory Lyons and Kay MacEnulty

Elizabeth Leslie

Eve Tilley, Cindy Crater, Rex
Kramer, and Sol Chavez



Deanna Lyons and Evelyn Kwaak

Susan Rae Jensen
and Tom Trainer

Gordon and Linda Silver



Stories from the Opera Stage--
The Program featuring the
reminiscences and actual live
performance audio clips from
our Opera Theatre of the
Rockies Artistic Director,
Martile Rowland. Brava!!



Fall Fest, A Night in Spain, October 8th



Part of the tremendous volunteer team in the kitchen: Nancy Daly, Victoria Boswell, Catherine Thompson, Connie Joiner, and Lu Benning



Claire Anderson, Trudy Fennewald, and Solveig Olsen
(Solveig is the new OTR Board President)



Our treasurer, Linda Silver, with Shirlee Doughy



Sol Chavez and Eve Tilley



Herman Tiemens with new member, Sally Linnenbrink



Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer



Fall Fest, A Night in Spain



Dianne and Doug Herzberg



Cherri Disque, Sue Anselmi, Mary McKinley,
and Annabel Widney



Charlie Warren and Lesly & Michael Blend



Catherine Creppon and Robyn Hamilton



Victoria Boswell with her Spanish friends,
Montse Edie and Montse Edie-Korleski



Hope and Joe Mena

More Fall Fest Memories—A Night in Spain
The outstanding program with Stephanie Brink, contralto, and Dan Brink, pianist

