

A SURE SIGN OF SPRING

The Education Committee of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild is looking forward to presenting the annual Talking Opera Series. We have four programs this season that will inform and delight you. The first three Talking Opera events will be at Christ Church, Cooperstown. The final event will be in the auditorium at the Fenimore Art Museum. Each event will start at 7:00 pm.

May 7: Francesca Zambello, Glimmerglass Festival's Artistic & General Director, will discuss the upcoming season from her perspective.

May 14: A group of Ithaca College music students, led by Associate Professor Nicholas Walker, will give a program on baroque period instruments, demonstrating and playing them. You'll be able to view, hear, and discuss various instruments, and listen to examples from the time of Jean-Baptiste Lully. Lully's *Armide* is the first French baroque opera to be presented at Glimmerglass.

May 21: Richard Johnson, co-editor of the Guild newsletter, has a particular interest in the American musical, through his own study, writing, and reviews. He comes to the series with his own take on the golden years of the Broadway musical.

June 4: Abby Kreh Gibson and Tom Simpson are the speakers for the final program: Verdi's *Aida*, its music, history, and performances through the years. Their talk will complement the Fenimore Art Museum's exhibit of *Aida* costumes from the Metropolitan Opera.

MARY BRODZINSKY



GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2012, JULY 7 - AUGUST 27



Verdi's *Aida* • Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* •
Lully's *Armide* • Kurt Weill
and Maxwell Anderson's *Lost in the Stars*

SECOND ANNUAL LIMERICK CONTEST

Did you submit a limerick last year, or just think about writing one? You now have another chance at winning two tickets to an opera, so start rhyming!

The rules are simple. The limericks should be suitable for all ages and relate directly to the 2012 Glimmerglass Festival. They should be submitted in an envelope with your name on it. Multiple entries are fine. (No author names on the limericks, please). Any one is eligible to participate except for the judges. You can bring your entries to any of the Talking Opera events, or mail them to the Guild at P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326, Attn: Limericks. Final date for entries is June 8. The winner will be announced at the Eat and Greet.

MARY BRODZINSKY

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Thanks to all fifty-four Guild members who reported volunteer hours for 2011. This was a record increase of 11 over the 2010 number of 43. These volunteers reported 3,841 hours of service to the company, or an increase of 358 over the previous year.

Early in the year, when the 2010 numbers were reviewed and showed an increase of 645 hours with no increase in number of volunteers, it was clear this trend could not be sustained, and we needed to "broaden our bench" of working Guild members. This has clearly happened, and strategies are being developed to continue this effort in 2012.

Special thanks go to Sue Drake for recruiting many new volunteers to host picnics. We hope they enjoyed this activity and will increase their connection to the company and to the Guild in the coming season. Also special thanks to Ed Brodzinsky. Under his two-year watch as President, volunteer hours increased 26% in 2009, and volunteers reporting increased 26% in 2010, an unmatched record.

MARTHA M. DUKE

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglass.org

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Member of

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Carol Lewis
 Jim and Marilyn Palik
 Josette Piacenti and Aram Kasparian

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Guild members:

The New Year is well underway. After a few false starts we are now writing 2012 on all our checks, and the blanks on our calendars are filling in. Now is a good time to add the following to your plans for 2012:

You won't want to miss any of this season's Talking Opera series. These informative and entertaining programs provide an excellent opportunity to learn, in depth, about this summer's productions. Be sure to read Mary Brodzinsky's article on page 1 for dates, times, and venues.

The annual "Eat and Greet" will be held on Monday, July 2, in the Thaw Pavilion. Guild members will host, and have an excellent chance to become acquainted with, this summer's casts, crews, and orchestra.

The four opening performance cast parties hosted by the Guild and underwritten by the First Night Fund will be July 7 (*Aida*), 14 (*The Music Man*), 21 (*Armide*), and 22 (*Lost in the Stars*).

This year, there will be a full complement of fund-raising events. Annual events include the Cooperstown Country Club evening on July 24 and the Guild Gala and Silent Auction at the Otesaga on August 7. Both evenings will feature performances by members of the Young Artists Program. To end the year with a celebration, we will welcome the winter holidays at a festive Holiday Dine-A-Round on a date to be announced.

New to the list of Guild-supported activities this year will be a very special event on the afternoon of August 17. On that day, members of the Young Artists Program will sing all the roles in a fully staged performance of *Aida* on the Alice Busch Opera Theater stage. Earlier this year, Francesca Zambello asked the Guild Board to consider promoting this performance, and the Board enthusiastically agreed. Within the next few weeks, Guild members will receive information about obtaining tickets to this one time only event and to the "Meet the Artists" reception following the performance. Mark your calendars now. It will be an afternoon you do not want to miss.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership. For those who have not, I urge to do so as soon as possible. You'll want to be a part of this exciting season.

TOM SIMPSON



THE MUSIC MAN

The second production in the 2012 Glimmerglass Festival is Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. It opens on Saturday evening, July 14, and will have 13 performances through August 24. Marcia Milgrom Dodge is director/choreographer, and John DeMain is conductor. Sets are by James Noone, with costumes by Leon Wiebers, lighting by Kevin Adams, and hair and makeup design by Anne Ford-Coates.

The Cast

The cast includes two performers returning from the 2011 *Annie Get Your Gun*: Klea Blackhurst as Mrs. Paroo and Jake Gardner as Mayor Shinn. Elizabeth Futral, in her Glimmerglass debut, is Marian the Librarian, and Dwayne Croft is the music man himself, Professor Harold Hill.

Dwayne Croft is a native of Hartwick, New York, and "grew up" at Glimmerglass. In the company's first year, 1975, he was a member of the onstage band in *La Bohème*, and in 1977 he was the shepherd boy in *Tosca*. In following years he appeared in *Madame Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *Falstaff*, *The Mighty Casey*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 1990 he was again in *La Bohème*, but now he was Marcello. We welcome him back to the Glimmerglass stage.



Meredith Willson

Meredith Willson (1902-1984), a native of Iowa, had a career that spanned classical and popular music. He was a performer (flute), conductor, and composer (two symphonies, numerous songs, as well as four musicals).

With training at the Damrosch Institute of Musical Arts in New York (later to become the Juilliard School), he first was with the John Philip Sousa band for three years and then with the New York Philharmonic (under Toscanini) for nearly six years. In the 1930s on the west coast he became a musical director for NBC radio. For the next several decades he had a productive career in this new medium. Willson was also a good writer and humorist, in time adding a comic note as a performer in the radio shows.

In the early 1950s Willson began work on a musical, with a working title, *The Silver Triangle*. This would later develop into *The Music Man*, which had a successful opening on Broadway in 1957 (winning the Tony for the best musical that year). When you read Willson's 1948 autobiography, *And There I Stood with My Piccolo*,

you will encounter numerous anecdotes and episodes from his boyhood that were translated to the stage for *The Music Man*. This musical gave a new direction to the career of its star, film actor

Robert Preston, and also served as another opportunity for audiences to enjoy Barbara Cook. The stage musical was made into a well-received film and has had several New York City revivals. A few years ago it was seen in a TV version with Matthew Broderick as the music man.

So this summer we shall go to River City, Iowa, where they got trouble with a capital T, that can only be solved by a boys' band. And Professor Harold Hill is there to lead it and to let everyone know about the wonderful sound of "seventy-six trombones."

RICHARD JOHNSON



*Seventy-six trombones led the big parade
With a hundred and ten cornets close at hand.
They were followed by rows and rows
Of the finest virtu-
Sos, the cream of ev'ry famous band.*

MEREDITH WILLSON



Glimmerglass

OPERA GUILD

News & Notes

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A NEW SPRINKLER SYSTEM

An opera is composed of numerous details, many of which performers and audience are not aware. But such details can be important. Veteran Guild members may remember an incident from the past: In 1987 the new Alice Busch Opera Theater had just opened, but in the following months Glimmerglass experienced major trials, by fire and water. First, in November 1987 a fire destroyed the company's offices on Main Street in Cooperstown. But more was to come. In February 1988 water became trapped in a sprinkler pipe in the balcony of the theater. It burst a fitting, and thousands of gallons of water poured into the auditorium and basement. The Opera Theater had suddenly become an ice palace, just as the company was trying to recover from the fire. It did recover, and the 1988 Festival proceeded without a hitch.

With that experience the company learned it must work constantly to ward off similar disasters. Andrea Lyons, Glimmerglass Director of Administration & Operations, describing a current project, reports "the sprinkler systems in the theater, scene shop, and Thaw Pavilion were originally comprised of black iron pipe (rather than galvanized pipe). Most of the piping in the sprinkler system is over 25 years old and corroded. The weakened pipes lead to small air leaks and if those leaks are not caught, the system trips and water will flow. To remedy this problem, the company replaced the black iron pipe with galvanized pipe and replaced the main valves for the sprinkler system. This will solve the existing problem with corrosion and (by using galvanized pipe) it will keep corrosion from returning. At this time the installation is almost complete, and the final tests will happen in the spring."

All of us are grateful to Carole and Dudley Johnson, of Cazenovia, who generously funded this project. Check the 2011 program book under "capital and legacy gifts," to see the Johnsons and read about the impetus that inspired them to help make The Glimmerglass Festival a meaningful experience for generations to come.

YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

Francesco Zambello, Artistic & General Director, has reported that the company received a record number of 900 applications for the 2012 Young Artists Program. Following auditions in New York, Houston, Cincinnati, and Chicago, Glimmerglass offered places to 21 young opera singers from across the United States. But that is not all. The 2012 program will also include 6 performers from South Africa, 4 from Canada, and 8 musical theater specialists. We look forward to greeting all of them this summer.

At the fall 2011 Guild membership meeting, Company Manager Richard Blanton reported that the audition application process now is very much enhanced, with applications, audition recordings, and photos all received electronically.

In addition to the participation of the Young Artists in the main stage productions, they will be seen in some special features, principally the performances of Kurt Weill's *Biography of a Common Man: Songs and Scenes from Johnny Johnson* in the Thaw Pavilion as well as in *Aida* on August 17. At that performance Young Artists, covering the principals, will take over their roles.

STAFF NEWS

We bid farewell to these former colleagues who have recently left Glimmerglass and wish them well in their new endeavors:

Jessica Boylan, Office Manager

Paul Griswold, Director of Finance

Diane Munson, Accounting Manager

Bridget Rigas, Associate Director for Development

