

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Happy New Year to you all. The Education Committee met and has plans underway for the Talking Opera series in May-June 2012. As we continue our planning, we're looking forward to stimulating your interest in the upcoming Glimmerglass season and exploring with you, as always, some of the diverse aspects of opera and musical theater.

The Talking Opera series will have a presentation on *Aida* at the Fenimore Art Museum, and attendees will be invited to view the exhibit of *Aida* costumes on loan from the Metropolitan Opera. Francesca Zambello, Glimmerglass Festival Artistic & General Director, will give a presentation in June. We are also planning programs on early music instruments, on the American musical theater of the mid-to-late twentieth century, and a program on the music and life of Kurt Weill.

Dates will be the usual Mondays in May (7, 14, 21) and two dates in June, which will be scheduled as our presenters let us know their availability.

We hope many of you will attend, and we also extend an invitation to any of you who are interested in joining the committee. Please contact me at marybrodzinsky@mac.com, and we'll let you know meeting dates, times, and venues.

This year we'd like to try something new, a book group. Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a wonderful work, and its use as a basis for *Lost in the Stars* would seem to offer discussion topics of interest to many of us. Please contact me at the e-mail, address above, if this is something you might like to explore.

MARY BRODZINSKY

WEB SITE TASK FORCE

In an effort to bring the Guild's Internet presence up-to-date, we have formed a task force to look at how we might develop a web site that would allow us to have a home on the world wide web.

The task force met in early November for an initial organizational meeting where we discussed possible formats and content that would best meet the needs of the Guild. We also looked at the web sites of other guilds around the country to see how they have fashioned their sites.

We now have an outline for putting together our web site's content and have talked with web designers who will be submitting proposals to us shortly. As we move forward with our plans, we will continue to report here in the newsletter.

ED BRODZINSKY

FIRST NIGHT FUND 2012

Come aboard while there's still space! First Night Fund is beckoning. Be a sponsor for a Guild reception at an opening performance in 2012. What it is: an opportunity to provide a memorable evening for cast, stage crew, orchestra, and audience as they greet one another at "another openin' another show." What it requires: sponsorship calls for a gift of \$1,500, which is used to fund the expenses for the reception. (Several friends can get together to share the cost.)

Two opening performances remain for the fortunate bidder: *The Music Man* (July 14) and *Armide* (July 21). To get more information contact Corinne Plummer (607-965-6326) or fund administrator Bob Schlather (607-547-5253).

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*

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglass.org

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News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to 2012! January 1 is synonymous with change in our personal lives. So it is with organizations, as well. Recently, there have been changes in the Guild leadership that should be brought to your attention.

As Ed Brodzinsky faced the reality of stepping down after two very successful years as President of the Guild, he realized that he was too involved with the organization to leave it altogether. When asked what he saw himself doing with all his free time, he answered that he would like to oversee the establishment of a Guild web site. As head of the newly formed Web Site Task Force he is now doing just that.

Perhaps, more than anyone else, Abby Kreh Gibson, Chair of the Education Committee, has been the public face of the Guild. Many Guild members, including several Board members, became acquainted with the Guild through attendance at the outstanding programs that she brought to the community.

Recently, Abby decided to leave as the chair of the committee. Happily, she will continue to focus her considerable talents and energies in support of a wide range of Guild programs and activities.

Mary Brodzinsky, a valued and longtime member of the Guild and the Education Committee, will now chair the committee. She and the committee are already hard at work planning a series of interesting, informative, and entertaining events this year.

After many years as the Guild's representative to Opera Volunteers International, Walter Briggs has decided to step down. Board member Mary Margaret Kuhn has agreed to take on the responsibility of Guild liaison to this very important support organization.

Please join me in expressing thanks to these members for their considerable support of the Guild and its activities.

You will be pleased to know that at its November 2011 meeting the Guild Board voted to give an additional \$5,000 to the Glimmerglass Festival for 2011. This makes a total gift for the year of more than \$20,000.

I wish each of you a happy, healthy New Year filled with wonderful music.

THOMAS SIMPSON

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members
 to the Guild:
 Bill and Vi Elsey.

AIDA

By 1870, Giuseppe Verdi's place in operatic history had been assured. The composer of *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore*, *Don Carlos*, *Macbeth*, and more than 20 other works for the stage was the preeminent opera composer in Italy ... arguably, the world. Perhaps because Verdi felt he had nothing more to prove when asked to write an opera for the Cairo Opera House that year, he demurred. However, when told that the commission might then be offered to Charles Gounod or Richard Wagner, Verdi reconsidered and composed the work that has become synonymous with "grand" opera.

Aida – the name brings to mind images of massive sets, triumphal marches, hundreds of choristers, camels, pyramids, and all the excesses an opera company can command. Unfortunately, all too often the very personal story of love and conflict is overwhelmed by the spectacle. This summer's production promises to focus on the intimate relationships between the characters



Michelle Johnson

Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

American tenor Noah Stewart makes his Glimmerglass and role debuts as Radames, Aida's lover. He attended



Noah Stewart

unveil-ing an *Aida*, which audiences most likely missed midst the pageantry of other productions.

Texas native Michelle Johnson will make her Glimmerglass and role debuts in the title role. Grand Prize Winner of the 2011 Metropolitan National Council Auditions, Johnson is a member of the Met's

the Harlem School of the Arts and later, at the urging of his mentor, Leontyne Price, continued his musical studies at The Juilliard School. Stewart has sung with many regional companies in the United States and with the Metropolitan Opera. He will make his Covent Garden, London, debut in 2012.

Amneris, Aida's rival for Radames' affections, will be sung by Greek-American mezzo-soprano, Daveda Karanas. Ms. Karanas appeared in Francesca Zambello's production of Wagner's Ring Cycle in San Francisco earlier this year. When she arrives in Cooperstown, Karanas will have performed Amneris with Arizona Opera and Opera Vancouver.



Daveda Karanas.

Metropolitan Opera regular and Glimmerglass Artist in Residence Eric Owens will make his role debut as Aida's father, Amonasaro.

Aida will be staged by Glimmerglass Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello. Sets will be by founding member of Wingspace Theatrical Design Group Lee Savage. Popular fashion designer Bibhu Mohapatra will create the costumes. Lighting will be by Glimmerglass favorite Robert Wierzel. Nader Abbassi, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Cairo Opera Orchestra, will conduct.



Eric Owens

Aida will open the Glimmerglass season on July 7 and run through August 25. Of special interest will be a matinee performance on August 17.

For this one performance, all roles will be sung by members of the Company's highly acclaimed Young Artists Program, giving operagoers a unique opportunity to enjoy what promises to be a very exciting event while also showing support for the YAP program and these exceptionally talented young singers. Reduced price tickets for this performance go on sale in late January. Mark your calendars.

THOMAS SIMPSON



News & Notes
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TREASURER'S REPORT, 2011

Balance, Jan. 1, 2011: \$4,034.59

	Income	Expense
Membership	\$5,165.00	
Fund-Raisers		
First Night Fund	6,005.00	
Otesaga Gala	8,070.00	3,300.00
Otesaga Gala Auction	11,232.00	
Country Club Night	1,300.00	
Picnic Distribution	2,500.00	
Guild Projects		
Receptions	165.00	7,693.98
Dine-A-Rounds		245.00
Shields Music Intern	1,745.00	
In honor of T. Simpson	20.00	
Miscellaneous		
Bank error	.04	
Card sales	10.00	
Opera educ. seminars		350.64
Opera Volunteers Int.		145.00
Mailings (newsletter, postage)		1,731.02
Glimmerglass Opera		
Shields Music Intern		4,020.00
Gifts and Memorial		16,030.00
Totals	\$36,212.04	\$33,515.64

Balance, Jan. 1, 2012: \$6,730.99

DONALD FENNER, Treasurer

HOLIDAY PARTY

Guild members hosted Glimmerglass Festival staffers to a holiday party on Tuesday, December 20. The board room at the Woodcock Administration Building was cleared of its furniture, so Guild cooks could display their goodies for all to enjoy. Nearly 50 were present, the 12-month staffers at the Festival and Guild members.

President Tom Simpson greeted the group, acknowledging with thanks the small corps at the Festival throughout the year as the unit that gets each new Festival season up and running. Francesca Zambello gave her own greeting and thanked the Guild for its new \$5,000 gift. This was a happy occasion and one more indication that the Festival is not just a summer phenomenon but a year-long achievement.

JOHNNY JOHNSON'S COMING TO GLIMMERGLASS!

Newly arrived in the United States in the mid-1930s, a refugee from Nazi Germany, composer Kurt Weill was invited to write the music for a play with a text by Paul Green and to be produced by the Group Theatre. This was the anti-war musical, *Johnny Johnson*. The musical opened in November 1936 and has had several revivals on and off-Broadway since then.

A special added feature in the Glimmerglass 2012 Festival is a production of *Johnny Johnson*. The eminent actress, Estelle Parsons, will come to Glimmerglass to direct this production, and it will feature members of the Young Artists Program.

This event will give Glimmerglass audiences the opportunity to enjoy two works by Weill, one as he was newly arrived in the United States and the second, *Lost in the Stars*, 14 years later when he had become an established composer for the Broadway stage.