



**EDUCATION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
EVENTS**

The Education/Community Engagement Committee has been actively working to schedule events related to the exciting 2017 Glimmerglass Festival. The Guild's Talking Opera programs, in their 16th year, are offered to the public free of charge and focus on the company's productions. This year they will begin with Glimmerglass Festival's Music Director Joseph Colaneri discussing Donizetti's *The Siege of Calais* on Wednesday, May 31, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown.

Talking Opera will continue in June with programs featuring *Oklahoma!*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Xerxes*. More programs, highlighting the youth opera, *Robin Hood*, and the highly anticipated *Scalia/Ginsburg*, are planned for a later date.

We are again offering "A Day at the Festival" for middle and high school students from Otsego and surrounding counties. The program will begin the morning of Sunday, July 23, and continue through the *Oklahoma!* 1:30 pm performance.

A special program in July is also in the works. More information, including specific times, dates and locations of all programs, will be in the May newsletter.

ABBY KREH GIBSON, Chair

NEW MEMBER FOR GUILD BOARD

On January 25 the Guild Board voted to elect Winnie Olsen to its body, replacing Chris Bulson, who resigned. A Guild member for a number of years, Winnie will chair the Membership Committee. A warm welcome to Winnie

WHERE SHALL WE PUT THEM ALL?

At the annual "eat and greet" reception for the more than 300 Festival staff, Guild members may wonder: Do we have enough food? Where did they all come from? Where are they going to stay?

The Glimmerglass reputation attracts people from all parts of our nation and other countries. We know that they will have comfortable accommodations in our rural area due to the continuing efforts of Dianne Ciano, Glimmerglass Director of Housing & Transportation. Dianne has 13 years of experience at Glimmerglass, to which she adds elements of diligence, ingenuity, and diplomacy to accomplish her work.

To house staff members, Dianne and her crew can call on, first, several properties owned by the Festival: Malton Place, the former motel a mile or so north of the campus, has space for 64. Two former motels in Richfield Springs, Spring Park and Stony Brook, can house another 34. Lime Kiln, the YAP residence in Cherry Valley, accommodates 16 artists, with the remaining artists in this program residing in 10 leased satellite homes in Cherry Valley close to Lime Kiln. Then Glimmerglass rents approximately 75 additional properties for remaining staff. In 2016 the company furnished housing for 284; Dianne anticipates housing 332 in 2017.

This work is an ongoing operation. As your editor was interviewing Dianne in January, she was in the process of negotiating rental of a home in Schuyler Lake to accommodate eight artists.

With the distances between the campus and residences, having an automobile is essential. Here Dianne and her

(continued on page 4)



2017 GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL: JULY 7 – AUGUST 22, 2017

PORGY AND BESS

Gershwin/Heyward & Gershwin

OKLAHOMA!

Rodgers/Hammerstein II

XERXES

Handel/Minato & Stampiglia

THE SIEGE OF CALAIS

Donizetti/Cammarano

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
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 The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival.

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Member of



SAVE THE DATE

Cooperstown Country Club Dinner, Thursday July 6, 2017, includes a performance by Glimmerglass Young Artists, introduced by Francesca Zambello.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Although the month of March still is under the spell of winter, we start enjoying the beginning signs of spring that are now popping up—birds singing, longer days, and even some warmer temperatures. Can summer be far behind? We Guild members start looking forward to another glorious Glimmerglass Festival and to the role we play in it.

Our first role is to continue our membership in the Guild of Glimmerglass Festival. Membership renewal forms will soon arrive in your mail box, and I urge you to re-new your membership. There will be a line for additional contributions, and I hope you will consider making a generous contribution, in addition to your dues, to further the work of the Guild. This year we are also encouraging each member to recruit at least one new member to our organization. They will thank you for it, and so will we!

Guild committees are working to prepare for an active season of education, hospitality, fund-raising, and membership activities. This is a great time to make your own plans to be more involved in Guild activities. Contact any committee chair to offer your services and talents. Don’t forget to keep track of your volunteer hours to report them in October. These hours are reported to the company which then uses them in applying for grants. And, in appreciation for hours volunteered, the company gives complimentary tickets to Guild members, based on the number of hours worked. Another reason to volunteer is the more important satisfaction from helping our beloved Glimmerglass Festival!

In the last issue I brought up, and I hope countered, the reason some who aren’t “into” cooking have for not wanting to become a Guild volunteer—the belief that most Guild volunteer opportunities revolve around food. I have just returned from Florida where I came across the Venice Theater Guild, combatting the same misunderstanding with a catchphrase, “Not just lunch and punch: we make things happen!” This applies to Glimmerglass too!

All the best,
 JANET

OPERAS IN HD

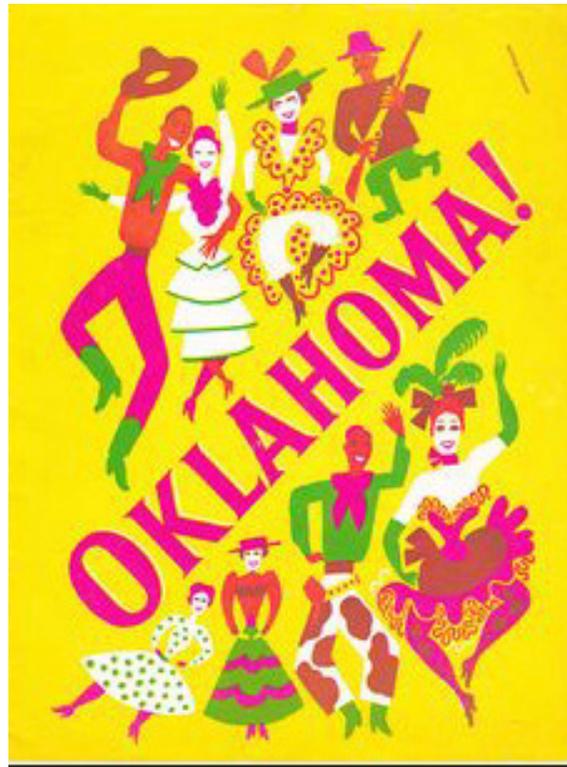
Please remember the Metropolitan Opera productions in HD at the Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center in Oneonta (607-431-2080) and at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica (315-797-0000). (It’s best to check ahead to make sure there has been no change in schedule.) See page 4 for two special programs.

OKLAHOMA!

The second production in the 2017 Glimmerglass Festival is *Oklahoma!*, music by Richard Rodgers and book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. It opens on Saturday, July 8, and will have 13 performances through Tuesday, August 22.

This new production is directed by Molly Smith, Artistic Director of Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. She directed *Oklahoma!* in a well-received production at that theater in 2011; and at Glimmerglass she will be joined by companions from that production: Parker Esse for choreography and Tony Award-winning Eugene Lee for sets. James Lowe (*Camelot*, 2013) is conductor, and veteran Robert Wierzel is in charge of lighting.

Vanessa Becerra (Musetta in the 2016 *Bohème*) will play Laurey, and baritone Jarrett Ott will be Curly. (He is playing a variety of roles this season, from Dandini in *La Cenerentola* in Syracuse to Zurga in *Pearl Fishers* in North Carolina.)



Oklahoma! is based on the 1931 play by Lynn Riggs, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, produced by the Theatre Guild. A decade later, the Guild sought to make a musical of that play. They were successful in nabbing Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II for that assignment. This was to be their first collaboration. With the title, *Away We Go!*, the musical had its try-outs in New Haven and Boston in early 1943.

The plot is seemingly slight: Will farm girl Laurey Williams go to the box social with cowboy Curly McClain or with hired hand Jud Fry? Some reactions were not favorable, including the wire reputedly sent to Walter Winchell by his secretary: “No legs, no jokes, no chance.” As does happen, miracles occurred in Boston, including a new title, *Oklahoma!* And it became a smash hit when it opened on Broadway in March 1943, the *Hamilton* of its decade.

This show ushered in the

golden age of Broadway musicals.

SO MUCH MORE AT THE FESTIVAL

In addition to the four mainstage productions, the 2017 Glimmerglass Festival has many more treats for its audiences. Here are just a few:

Scalia/Ginsburg, August 4 and 13 on the mainstage. This one-act comic opera by Derrick Wang features Young Artist Mary Beth Nelson as Justice Ginsburg and Glimmerglass Artist in Residence William Burden as Justice Scalia. (Justice Ginsburg will be present at the August 13 performance for a Q&A afterward.)

Stomping Grounds, August 1, 3, and 7, in the Pavilion. This hip-hopera, by Victor Simonson and Paige Hernandez, “is about defining home in the deepest sense.... Your grounds, my grounds: everything is sacred.”

Robin Hood, a new youth opera, by Ben Moore and Kelley Rourke (authors of the 2015 *Odyssey*), with eight performances, August 8-17, in the Cooperstown Theatre Barn, just south of Glimmerglass. This production features the Glimmerglass Youth Chorus and members of the Young Artists Program.

Gospel Concert: Comin' for to Carry Me Home, August 6, in the Pavilion. Host Solomon Howard (*Macbeth* and *Magic Flute*, 2015) leads this program of spirituals.

Klezmer Concert with Big Galut(e), August 8, in the Pavilion. Music from the Jewish Diaspora presented by the eclectic quintet Big Galut(e).

HONOR FOR FRANCES G. BLIVEN

Our congratulations to Guild member Fran Bliven on her being selected as one of 25 Otsego County residents for the Community Heroes in Portraiture project. Artist Janet Wentworth Erickson painted portraits of five of the honorees (including Fran), and they have recently been on display in the Project Space Gallery at SUNY Oneonta. Fran is a long-time member of the Guild as well as Festival usher. She has filled many posts in the Guild, is currently a member of the Board and major-domo for the change-over suppers for Festival staff.



Fran Bliven at the SUNY Oneonta Gallery

Photo by Harriett Johnson

AWARD TO THE KUHN

Congratulations to Guild members Paul and Mary Margaret Kuhn for winning the prestigious Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award! This award is given to those who perform exemplary service to a Lions Club, District, or community. The Kuhns are the third recipient of this award from the Cooperstown Lions Club. They are long-time members of the Guild, and Mary Margaret currently serves on the Board, manages our email messaging system, and is the Guild's liaison with Opera Volunteers International.

MET IN HD ADDED ATTRACTION

A special added attraction at the Met in HD Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center in Oneonta:

At the showings of *Idomeneo* (March 25) and *Eugene Onegin* (April 22) there will be pre-performance briefings at 12:00 noon by Guild members Abby Kreh Gibson and Tom Simpson.

THE GUILD OF
Glimmerglass
FESTIVAL

News & Notes

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WHERE SHALL WE PUT THEM ALL?

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department must take into account those who arrive at Glimmerglass without their own transportation. So Dianne also supervises a fleet of 17 autos, vans, and trucks. They are used to shuttle staff and also include vehicles used by other company departments.

Dianne and her staff are grateful to Guild members for leads on possible properties and also for gifts of furniture, blankets, and linens for the residences. In years past, Guild members have also graciously opened up their homes to incoming artists and staff for their Glimmerglass stay. As the company takes on the challenge of balancing the 2018 budget, it is turning to its strongest supporters to ask if they are willing to help financially by hosting seasonal employees next year. If you have the capacity to assist, or have any suggestions, please contact Dianne Ciano at 607-547-0700, ext. 221, or dciano@glimmerglass.org.

Opera News, August 2016, includes an informative article with more details about Dianne and her work at Glimmerglass.