

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Guild holds its annual membership meeting on Sunday, September 25, beginning at 3:00 pm at Lime Kiln in Cherry Valley. (The Board will hold a short meeting there at 2:00 pm.)

Lime Kiln, the principal residence for members of the Young Artists Program, is located on Route 166 at the south end of the village with its entrance adjacent to the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

At the meeting the Guild will review its activities for the past year and elect new members of the Guild Board. The Nominating Committee, Karin de Waal, chair, has submitted the following list of nominees for the class of 2013 (nominations from the floor will also be accepted):

Walter Ashley	Abby Kreh Gibson
Fran Bliven	Richard Johnson
Mary Brodzinsky	Mary Kuhn
Don Drake	Richard Redmond
Sue Drake	Carol Steigelman
Don Fenner	

Our principal speaker will be Eric Schnobrick, Artistic Events and Music Manager, with a report from The Glimmerglass Festival. Please bring your friends who may be interested in joining the Guild.

## NEW POST FOR DON MARRAZZO

Don Marrazzo, former Glimmerglass Director of Casting and Artistic Operations, has been named Executive Director of Astral Artists in Philadelphia, a non-profit organization that plays a vital role in the discovery and development of the nation's most gifted classical musicians. (Among the program's alumni is bass-baritone Eric Owens, who will be the 2012 Glimmerglass Artist in Residence.) Our best wishes to Don in his new post.

## VOLUNTEER RECEPTION

On Tuesday afternoon, August 16, following the matinee of *Medea*, The Glimmerglass Festival honored its volunteers with a reception in the Thaw Pavilion. The theme was "You make Glimmerglass Grow!" The placemats at the tables, with a handsome sketch of a tree and words of thanks repeated this theme. As guests left, they each took a small flowerpot and seeds, so they can continue growth over the fall and winter months when the Festival itself begins its own growth for a new season. Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello could not be present, but she sent her greetings to the group with a special videotaped message prepared for the occasion.

House Manager Kerryanne Kennedy presented the Usher of the Year award to Kathy Allen, acknowledging not only her lengthy service but also her calm demeanor when problems arise. Director of Public Relations Brittany Lesavoy presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Don and Sue Drake. Don and Sue have been Glimmerglass volunteers for many years, not only serving as ushers but in leadership roles in the Glimmerglass Opera Guild. Don was president 2006-2008.

## HONOR FOR JOHN CONKLIN

On June 24, 2011, the National Endowment for the Arts announced four recipients of its 2011 NEA Opera Honors. Included among the honorees is John Conklin, Glimmerglass Associate Artistic Director Emeritus. He presently serves as Artistic Advisor to Boston Lyric Opera. Now in its fourth year, the NEA Opera Honors is the highest award the nation bestows in opera. The other three award recipients for 2011 include mezzo soprano Risë Stevens, composer Robert Ward, and Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins. The 2011 NEA Opera Honorees will be celebrated with an awards ceremony in Washington on October 27. Our congratulations to John!

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**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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 Vice President ..... Thomas Simpson  
 Secretary ..... Karin de Waal  
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 Education ..... Abby Kreh Gibson  
 Fund-Raising..... Susan Huxtable  
 Grounds (ad hoc)..... Jean Lyon  
 Hospitality..... Christine McNaughton  
 Membership ..... Rita Emanuel  
 Volunteer Services ..... Martha Duke

**Board Members (at large)**

Ernest Adams	William Goertemoeller
Frances Bliven	Richard Johnson
Mary Brodzinsky	Mary Kuhn
Donald Drake	Corinne Plummer
Susan Drake	Richard Redmond
Mary Ellen Fenner	Carol Steigelman
Cynthia Goertemoeller	

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Felicia H. Blum	John Irvin
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*News & Notes* is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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Member of

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new and returning members to the Guild:

Susan Crosier Jones	Kate O'Handley
Joan P. Locke	Winifred Olsen
Reed and Linda Metzger	Dominick Reisen
Kevin O'Donnell	Marie-Andrée Weidemann

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As I write this column, the amazing 2011 Glimmerglass Festival is quickly coming to a close. In addition to the five wonderful operas which graced our stage this summer, there were a host of outstanding events – special concerts, the Meet Me at the Pavilion series, the Showtalk lectures, dinners, receptions, picnics, and the other wonderful events which made the Glimmerglass experience so memorable this year.

The excitement of the 2011 Festival has translated to new inspiration for the Guild as well. Not only have we had many new members join the Guild this year and made an extra effort to get more members involved in our volunteer activities, but our fund-raising activities over the past year have been highly successful, significantly increasing our monetary donations to the company.

In closing, I would just like to add a personal note. I will be leaving the president's chair as of the election of new Guild officers in October. This has been a wonderful two years for me as I've had the opportunity of working closely with so many talented and dedicated people within the Guild as well as in the company. Any success that I may have had during my presidency is thanks to the hard work and commitment of many, many people. A warm "thank you" to the other Guild officers, board members, and committee chairs as well as to the membership at large for helping to make this such an enjoyable and successful experience.

ED BRODZINSKY

**LIMERICK CONTEST**

The Guild received 49 entries for its first limerick contest. A committee, Richard Johnson, Thomas Simpson, and Robert Van Wormer, judged the entries and selected a limerick by Timothy Hoekman as the winner. Here is his limerick, which is his capsule description of the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival:

Cherubini, once out, is now in,  
 Bizet's *Carmen* will never wear thin,  
 Tesori and Musto  
 Are sung with great gusto,  
 And we all love our Irving Berlin!

Education Committee chair Abby Kreh Gibson announced the winner at the annual "eat and greet" on June 26, and Tim, principal coach for *Carmen* and with Glimmerglass since 1988, was present to receive his award of two tickets to a production in the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival.

## FESTIVAL FOLLOW-UP: FUN AND FOOD

Throughout the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival, Guild members furnished numerous enjoyable and well received services to the company. They began with the “eat and greet” party on Sunday, June 26, when cast, orchestra, and production staff—more than 300—took a couple of hours off to enjoy the many delights at the lengthy buffet table, with dishes prepared by more than 50 Guild members. Co-chairs Cynthia and Bill Goertemoeller reported the raves of the guests were endless as they reconfirmed that this humungous potluck dinner is their favorite reception of the season. “Never give up this home-cooked foods event!”

Chris McNaughton, Hospitality chair, recruited many Guild members to help set up, serve, smile, and clean up at the four opening performance receptions, with each event bringing more than 300 people to the Thaw Pavilion.

Don and Sue Drake report that more than 1,200 picnics were given out. They send special thanks to Angie Richards and Rosemary Sibbern for the information they gave to make a smooth leadership transition and also thank Martha Duke for her assistance. Six of the twenty-eight members who helped were first time picnic distributors.

Of more recent vintage are the change-over suppers, meals Guild members prepare for production staff, artists, and orchestra members on Saturdays or a day when there are two performances when staff members often have little time for a meal. In 2011 groups headed by Dennis Banks, Fran Bliven, Mary Brodzinsky, Mary Dunkle, Mary Kuhn, and Chris McNaughton furnished more than 600 meals to the hungry staffers.

Looking ahead to 2012, Guild members who would like to participate in these events next summer can check in now with Chris McNaughton, Hospitality chair, at 607-547-2380.

## DAVID ANGUS FAREWELL

Guild members assembled at the Thaw Pavilion on Thursday, August 18, to say their farewell to Music Director David Angus and to thank him for his services to The Glimmerglass Festival. We first became acquainted with him at his Glimmerglass debut, conducting *The Barber of Seville* in 2006, and he subsequently returned in 2008 to conduct Bellini’s *I Capuleti e I Montecchi*. Although we shall miss him at Glimmerglass, we are pleased to know he continues a few miles away as Music Director for Boston Lyric Opera.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

David Pittsinger sang the role of Zoroastro in Handel’s *Orlando* at Glimmerglass in 2003 and all six bass baritone roles in Britten’s *Death in Venice* in 2005. This summer he was back with his wife, the soprano Patricia Schuman, and their twelve-year-old twins, Maria and Richard. You would see a Pittsinger, and sometimes two, in each of the Festival performances, except *Carmen*. A family affair indeed!

David and Patricia created the roles of Eugene and Carlotta O’Neill in *A Blizzard On Marblehead Neck*. In addition, Patricia was Estelle in *Later the Same Evening*, and David was Creon in *Medea*. Maria and Richard played Annie’s young siblings in *Annie Get Your Gun*. How they managed all the rehearsals and performances is another story.

For the Pittsingers having the family together for two months is a rarity. They stayed in Cooperstown, and their yellow lab, Bartok, was with them as well. I said to them, it must seem like Valhalla. For those of us who saw them on the Glimmerglass stage this summer, it has been Valhalla for us as well.

ABBY KREH GIBSON

## GALA AND SILENT AUCTION

The Glimmerglass Opera Guild Gala on August 9 was the best ever. The beautiful dinner at the Otesaga was preceded by a very successful auction which alone netted \$11,396.

The silent auction committee, Nancy Irvin, Carol Steigelman, Nancy Tarr, Jennifer Brickley, and Susan Huxtable, want to extend a sincere thank you to the generous Guild donors and participants. Some of the 42 items for bid: a one-week stay in a London flat donated by Francesca Zambello, a cello and piano concert at the home of the Steigelmans, Steuben glassware, Zabar’s cheese chest, a two-night stay at the Four Seasons Hotel in Palm Beach, framed pictures, Glimmerglass Musikids, Dunkle’s Chutney.

A surprise item of a one-week stay in a Lisbon apartment was featured in a live auction, thanks to the generous gift of Dr. Christopher Tadjell and Lady Juliet Tadjell. The Lisbon apartment in the heart of the city was offered twice during the bidding! It was a great highlight to the evening at The Otesaga. The silent auction committee is grateful to all Guild members, the many guests, contributors, and participants who made this a wonderful evening for all.

SUSAN J. HUXTABLE

# Glimmerglass

OPERA GUILD

News & Notes

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## YOUNG ARTISTS SHINE AT GLIMMERGLASS

Throughout the 2011 Festival, Glimmerglass audiences took great pleasure from performances given by members of the highly regarded Young Artists Program. In addition to singing supporting roles in main stage offerings and taking 14 of the 18 principal roles in the Double Bill, these talented young singers brought their impressive voices and tireless energy to many other venues. The “Meet Me at the Pavilion” and “ShowTalk” series, Arias and Asides, Country Club dinner, and the Guild Gala showcased them to the delight of very appreciative audiences.

### “... let’s go on with the show!”

Three members of the Young Artists Program were front and center when they made unscheduled debuts in major roles. Baritone Aleksey Bogdanov, soprano Jessica Stavros, and tenor Jeffrey Gwaltney stepped into the spotlight on the Alice Busch Opera Theater stage when the principal singers they were covering became indisposed. Bogdanov brought his powerful baritone to the role of Escamillo for two performances of *Carmen*. Stavros and Gwaltney very successfully assumed two of the most challenging roles of the summer as the fianced Glauce and Jason in *Medea* and continued to perform them for the remainder of the season.

That these fine young artists so successfully stepped into these demanding leading roles on very short notice is a great tribute not only to their considerable talents but also to the excellent training by the Glimmerglass music and dramatic staffs and to Michael Heaston, Director of

the Young Artists Program, and his associates.

### Young Artists in a Glimmerglass First

Among the many firsts at Glimmerglass this summer, perhaps the most exciting took place on Friday afternoon, August 5, when members of the Young Artists Program sang all the roles in a scheduled matinee performance of *Carmen* on the main stage of the Alice Busch Opera Theater. J’nai Bridges, Dominick Rodriguez, Andrea Arias Martin, and Aleksey Bogdanov stepped from ensemble into the leading roles of Carmen, Don José, Micaela, and Escamillo for this performance while other members of the Young Artists Program continued in the supporting roles they had sung throughout the summer. Associate Conductor Zachary Schwartzman led the Glimmerglass Orchestra. At the Q&A following the performance, the singers spoke with great enthusiasm about bringing their own feelings and personality to the roles and of the thrill of performing with such accomplished colleagues. The exciting performance drew a long and spirited response from the very appreciative audience.

The Young Artists Program was established in 1988 to provide an artistically challenging environment for young performers. Since its inception, hundreds of young singers have benefited from the support and guidance of the company’s artistic leadership. Many have gone on to long and successful careers. The performances we saw this summer assure us that 2011’s roster of young singers is certain to follow in their footsteps.

THOMAS SIMPSON

## COOPERSTOWN COUNTRY CLUB INVITES GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

The Cooperstown Country Club invited members of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild to a fabulous evening on Thursday, July 28, as a benefit for the Guild. This event, at the Cooperstown Country Club, “An Enchanted Evening of Opera,” was arranged by Michael Heaston. It featured Lindsay Russell, soprano, and John David

Boehr, baritone. David Moody was the pianist. CCC and Glimmerglass Guild members greatly enjoyed the benefit which made over one thousand dollars for the Guild. We look forward to the fourth annual event at the CCC next year!

SUSAN J. HUXTABLE