

TALKING OPERA 2011

“Talking Opera,” the Guild’s educational programs related to the upcoming season, begins its tenth year on Monday, May 9, 2011, with a presentation by Charlotte Greenspan, musicologist and author of *Pick Yourself Up: Dorothy Fields and the American Musical*.

Five more programs will be offered in May and June, and for the first time, one of the programs will be held in the auditorium of the Fenimore Art Museum. All other programs will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 69 Fair Street in Cooperstown. These seminars begin at 7:00 pm and continue to be offered to the community free of charge, with refreshments and informal discussion before and after the program as part of the evening.

• Monday, May 16

An in-depth look at *Medea*, the legend and the music, with SUNY Oneonta Theatre and Music Department faculty.

• Monday, May 23

The many faces and facets of *Carmen*.

• Monday, June 6

David Angus: “The Glimmerglass Orchestra – the Music Director’s View.”

• **Monday, June 13**, at the Fenimore Art Museum
Dramaturg, editor, and librettist, Kelley Rourke: “Creating Operas,” a focus on the double bill’s *A Blizzard On Marblehead Neck* and *Later the Same Evening*. Following the program, the audience will have the opportunity to view the Fenimore’s exhibition “A Window Into Edward Hopper.”

• Friday, June 17

Francesca Zambello, Glimmerglass Festival Artistic & General Director, will tell us “How the Show Goes Together – a Director’s View of the 2011 Season.”

We look forward to seeing you at all of these very exciting programs and at the opera! If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-263-261 or abbykreh@frontiernet.net

ABBY KREH GIBSON

“EAT AND GREET”

The Guild will host the annual welcoming reception, known to one and all as “Eat and Greet,” on Sunday, June 26, beginning at 4:30 pm. Cast, orchestra, and production staffers will take a brief hiatus from rehearsal schedules and join Guild members in the Thaw Pavilion for this once-in-a-season opportunity to “eat and greet.” At possibly the longest buffet table in Otsego County, Guild members will present all forms of culinary delights.

Be there to join them, and more importantly bring your special something for the buffet table (enough to serve 20). Call Bill and Cynthia Goertemoeller, 607-432-5644, to let them know you’ll be there and what you’ll bring.

If you’ve not been to “eat and greet” before, it is a wonderful event and just the right note to get the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival off to a resounding start.

THERE WAS A YOUNG LADY...

Are limericks your thing? See page 3 for a chance to test your skill at writing about one or all of the events in the 2011 Festival, the Guild, or The Glimmerglass Festival.

GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2011, JULY 2 - AUGUST 23

BIZET/MEILHAC & HALÉVY
CARMEN

CHERUBINI/HOFFMANN
MEDEA

BERLIN/FIELDS
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

MUSTO/CAMPBELL
LATER THE SAME EVENING

&

TESORI/KUSHNER
A BLIZZARD ON MARBLEHEAD NECK

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglass.org

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Member of



NEW MEMBER

We welcome Nancy Tarr as a new member to the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The winter snows have finally melted here in upstate New York which reminds us that the 2011 Festival is just around the corner.

In late March, the Guild was treated to a preview of this summer’s productions when Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello, in spite of a recently sustained double fracture to her left foot, presented a lively talk on the historical background and literature of each of the works that we will be seeing on the Glimmerglass stage. The show, indeed, must go on. Brava, ‘Cesca, and thanks!



Also, as we come closer to the opening of the summer’s activities, I would like to remind everyone that the Guild’s support of the Company is closely dependant on the volunteer aid our membership is able to contribute. Your involvement is highly important to our commitment. If you would like to help, please contact either one of the committee chairmen or me.

The “Talking Opera” series, now in its tenth year, begins this month. In this issue of the newsletter Abby Kreh Gibson gives an overview of this year’s exciting series that has been put together by our Education Committee.

On Sunday, June 26, we will once again be hosting our Eat & Greet event – a chance for Guild members to mingle with Company and cast members while enjoying (and providing) a vast array of culinary delights. If you would like to help by preparing a dish, please contact the coordinators, Bill and Cynthia Goertemoeller.

Also, with the coming of spring our Grounds Committee is beginning to plan projects to help spruce up the planting beds and greenery around the opera house. If you would like to get involved with this effort, contact committee chair Jean Lyon.

ED BRODZINSKY

GUILD GALA ALERT

Reserve Tuesday, August 9, for the annual Glimmerglass Opera Guild gala at The Otesaga Resort Hotel. A superb gourmet dinner, silent auction, and entertainment are the features. For further information phone Dennis Banks, 607-432-5652.

LIMERICK CONTEST

The Education Committee is sponsoring a limerick contest to be held between May 9, 2011, and June 15, 2011. We are asking that you write a limerick about one or all of the events in the 2011 Festival, the Guild, or The Glimmerglass Festival. Anyone can enter, with the exception of the judges. It should be written in limerick form (AA, BB, A) and, be advised, the winning poem will reach an audience of both adults and children.

The limericks should be sent to: Limericks, Glimmerglass Opera Guild, P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326, and should be submitted before June 15, 2011. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address with your submission.

The winner will receive two tickets for an opera during the 2011 Festival, and the winning limerick will be announced at "Eat and Greet," on June 26, 2011. So remember:

Writing limericks can be great fun.
Why don't you try sending us one?
Just a word to the wise,
Two tickets for the prize,
Now, get busy. It's easily done.

R. F. VAN WORMER

FIRST NIGHT FUND

The Guild's First Night Fund Administrator, Bob Schlather, has announced the first Cast Party sponsorship for the 2011 Festival. Karin and Hans de Waal, who have given deeply and enthusiastically of their time to the company and Guild for many years, will sponsor the opening night cast party for *Carmen* on Saturday, July 2, in appreciation of all the volunteers who make the season possible. Our thanks to Karin and Hans for this special show of support.

If you would like to sponsor a cast party through the First Night Fund, please call Bob at 607-547-5253.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All current Guild members will have received by now their membership renewal notices for the coming year. Please send your dues and membership form promptly so that you will not miss out on any of the special Guild activities during the year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2011 FESTIVAL

Ushering

Greet the audience and make them feel at home at The Glimmerglass Festival. Contact House Manager Kerryanne Kennedy, 607-547-0700, ext. 261, or e-mail kkennedy@glimmerglass.org.

Changeover Meals

Help prepare and serve meals to Glimmerglass staff on days when there are two performances, days when there is very limited time for a lunch or supper. Call Fran Bliven, 607-432-1825, for details.

Picnic Hosts

Greet and give out picnic lunches or suppers to audience members who have reserved them. Call Don and Sue Drake, 607-264-3069, to let them know at which performances you can help.

Post-Performance Cast Parties

Join in the fun after the opening performance of each production and assist with set-up and serving at these parties in the Thaw Pavilion. With more than 200 in attendance at each party, this is also an excellent opportunity to greet and meet all those involved in the performance. Call Chris McNaughton, 607-547-2380, to let her know you can help.

Other Opportunities

Looking for other opportunities, call Rita Emanuel, 607-286-9288, or Martha Duke, 607-286-9109, and let her know you want to help.

MEET ME AT THE PAVILION

New in 2011, experience Glimmerglass for the price of a movie ticket. Come to the Thaw Pavilion for a series of special performances by members of the Young Artists Program, Deborah Voigt, baritones Rod Gilfry and Nathan Gunn, and acclaimed composer and pianist John Musto with soprano Amy Burton. View the 2011 calendar for dates and times. (Price: \$10/\$5 youths, 18 and younger.) Call 607-547-2255 for tickets.

MACLEOD OFF FOR HONG KONG

Michael MacLeod, former Glimmerglass General & Artistic Director, undertakes a new assignment on the other side of the world. On April 1 he became chief executive of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. Our best wishes to Michael as he starts his new adventure!

Glimmerglass

OPERA GUILD

News & Notes

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ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

The Irving Berlin musical, *Annie Get Your Gun*, is the third production in the 2011 Glimmerglass Festival opening on Saturday, July 16, for 14 performances through Sunday, August 21.

Dorothy Fields and her brother Herbert had the original idea for a musical about Annie Oakley, the sharpshooter and noted performer in wild west shows and vaudeville. In 1945 they proposed the idea to Rodgers & Hammerstein, who then had taken to producing shows as well as writing them. They were agreeable, and Jerome Kern signed on as composer. Dorothy and Herbert were to do book and lyrics. Tragically, Jerome Kern died before work began. Fortunately, Irving Berlin agreed to replace him and take care of both music and lyrics.

Ethel Merman signed as the lead, and the show opened in 1946 — a blockbuster success and Berlin's and the Fields's major achievement on Broadway. The long Broadway run led to a national company headed by Mary Martin and a London production with Dolores Gray as Annie. Then next a movie with Betty Hutton. Revivals followed, first in 1966 at the newly opened Lincoln Center, again with Ethel Merman as Annie. This production featured a new number, "An Old-Fashioned Wedding." In 1999 the Bernadette Peters production came along, with a completely new book by Peter Stone. Again it was a major success, with numerous show business stars succeeding Peters, notably Reba McEntire. A successful London production in 2009

featured Jane Horrocks in the lead, and a concert version at the Ravinia Festival in 2010 starred Patti LuPone. *Annie Get Your Gun* has proved itself as an enduring work for the American musical theater.



The Glimmerglass Festival is presenting the 1966 Lincoln Center version. Artist-in-Residence Deborah Voigt appears as Annie, accompanied by Rod Gilfry as Frank Butler, and Jake Gardner as Buffalo Bill Cody. Francesca Zambello directs, and Kristen Blodgett in her company debut conducts. Court Watson is designing sets and costumes, and Eric Sean Fogel is choreographer, both in their Glimmerglass debuts. Mark McCullough is responsible for lighting.

Designer Court Watson had these recent observations on the Glimmerglass Festival production: "Francesca and I were interested in exploring a time in American history when the real 'Wild West' was already gone, and we began to romanticize it in a fictionalized

glossy way. By the 1890s, there was a Transcontinental Railroad, and Cincinnati was a big city. We looked at the graphic style of the period, from travel posters selling the idea of the Great West as well as folk art and barn paintings. The idea of the sunburst [used in the backdrop] actually came from a photo of the rooster on the side of a barn in Ohio, near where Annie Oakley was really from. This graphic style is a romanticized version of the natural landscape in the same way that the musical romanticizes the West, but keeps it late enough that the real West is already gone."