

FROM THE ARTISTIC & GENERAL DIRECTOR

Dear Guild members,

This season marks the 40th anniversary of Glimmerglass and also an anniversary of one of the pillars of the Festival's support system—you. As I always say, the Guild is the backbone of this company and has allowed us to grow creatively as well as in our relationships with each other. It should come as no surprise, then, when I say that this anniversary is not just a recognition of the four decades amassed by the Festival, it's a celebration of the people who made those years as successful as they were. I can't wait to see where this next season will take us, but I know that with the Guild's time and talents, it's bound to be one to be remembered.

FRANCESCA

GUILD GALA, AUGUST 4

There are still some tickets available for our annual Gala Evening at The Otesaga. However, we've seen this event sell out year after year, and none of us want you to miss this wonderful evening. Members of the Young Artists Program will perform following our elegant dinner by Executive Chef Jim Perillo.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will circulate on the verandah overlooking Lake Otsego during the auction action. Based on the experience of past years, everyone there can expect active bidding. Thanks to our generous donors, the assortment of auction items is sought after each year. If you have a special auction item you might like to share please contact: susanjhuxtable@aol.com.

Please contact Dr. Dennis Banks at 607-432-5652 or dennis.banks@oneonta.edu for reservations. Look forward to seeing you on August 4 at this festive occasion, which some have been kind enough to call "the best party in town." Remember, the bidding starts at 6:00 pm!

SUSAN J. HUXTABLE

AUGUST 16 FOUNDERS DINNER

On Sunday evening, August 16, the Guild will host a special dinner to honor its members with 25 or more years of Guild service, including members who laid the foundation of the Guild. Special guest of honor Paul Kellogg, Glimmerglass Festival Artistic Director Emeritus, will share in our celebrations and remembrances.

All Guild members and the public are invited to join us in celebrating these dedicated volunteers at the Guild's Founders Dinner to be held in the Pavilion immediately following the 40th Anniversary Concert, which features performances by guest artists and Young Artists celebrating Glimmerglass's four-decade milestone. Our special event will begin at 6:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner planned especially for us by The Horned Dorset.

Dinner reservations are required by August 1 at a cost of \$50 per person. Please make checks payable to the Glimmerglass Opera Guild and mail to Guild Board member Corinne Plummer at P.O. Box 90, Fly Creek, NY 13337. For questions, contact Corinne at 607-965-6326 or plummercm@oecblue.com. (Please purchase tickets to the 40th Anniversary Concert separately and directly from the Festival box office at 607-547-2255.) Guests of honor should contact Board member Rita Emanuel, our Honoree Liaison, at 607-286-9288 for complimentary concert tickets and dinner reservations.

Come to the Founders Dinner and express your appreciation of this greatest generation of volunteers. To be honored: Ann and Anthony Aviles, Frances Bliven, Patricia Carrier, Jim and Joanne Darcy Crum, Joan Desens, Martha Dodge, Elizabeth and Gary Dunbar, Mary Dunkle, Gwendolyn Ermlich, Anne and

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★ GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 40: JULY 10 – AUGUST 23, 2015 ★

MOZART
The Magic Flute



VERDI
Macbeth



VIVALDI
Cato in Utica



BERNSTEIN
Candide

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

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Member of



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

While planning the Guild's 2015 season and particularly the 40th anniversary celebrations, I've had the great pleasure of meeting with many of the volunteers who were involved with the company in its early years—actually, virtually everyone who worked with the company in those years was a volunteer. They recall working together to build and paint sets in their garages, sewing costumes from hand-me-down tablecloths and linens, and the perils of applying make-up to friends and neighbors who were members of the chorus in those years before the YAP program began.

These stories of life backstage and the recollections of after-performance parties and musical afternoons spent raising funds to support the fledgling company brought smiles of remembrance to the faces of the storytellers and more than a few laughs at some private memory, and evoked in me a slightly bittersweet regret that I was not there to participate in the struggles and achievements now so happily remembered.

Throughout these conversations and without exception, these volunteers spoke affectionately of the close-knit family that worked together through the early years. Flash forward to an evening this spring; the place, the social hour following one of the Guild's popular Talking Opera events. As I watched the large crowd enjoying the snacks prepared by members, I eavesdropped on several conversations. There was excited talk about the program just presented and about the upcoming season; people cheerfully greeted friends not seen since the fall, checking calendars, planning how and when they would participate in the summer's events. Sign-up sheets for the Eat & Greet, picnic distribution, bus trip, and change-over suppers were filling up. Tickets for the Piano Benefit Concert were being purchased, and all around were smiles and laughter. At one point, a member came up to me, took my hand and said, "It's like a big happy family, isn't it? That's why we're here." So much has changed since 1975 ... and so little.

To all those associated with The Glimmerglass Festival, now and in the past, we, the 270 members of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild, extend our most heartfelt and sincere congratulations on this, your 40th anniversary.

TOM

WELCOME TO ELI

We welcome a new member to The Glimmerglass Festival family: Eli Harmon Smith, born on June 1. Our congratulations to his parents, Brittany Lesavoy and Jake Smith.

CATO IN UTICA

Fans of Baroque opera have reason to rejoice this summer—Vivaldi is coming to Glimmerglass! This season Glimmerglass will present its first-ever production of an opera by Antonio Vivaldi, *Cato in Utica*. Although known primarily for his instrumental works, most notably “The Four Seasons,” Vivaldi’s operatic output was prodigious, totaling more than 40 works.

Vivaldi set dramatist Pietro Metastasio’s libretto for *Cato* to music in 1737. The story centers on the struggle between Cato, a hero and defender of the Roman Republic, and the dictator Julius Caesar. The plot quickly grows complex as friendships and alliances are made and crumble, and plots of revenge surface. The compelling score features all that lovers of Baroque look for in opera: recitatives move the story forward; bravura arias reveal each character’s innermost thoughts and emotions; there are elegant vocal lines, moments of dazzling coloratura and, of course, a countertenor or two.

An outstanding company of Baroque specialists has been assembled to bring Vivaldi’s masterwork to Glimmerglass. Chicago native Thomas Michael Allen will sing Cato. Mr. Allen has performed extensively throughout Europe in both Baroque and contemporary roles. Audiences in Berlin, Paris, Geneva, Brussels, and Stuttgart have heard the tenor in operas ranging from Handel to Berg. He will travel to Cooperstown from Berlin where he appears in Monteverdi’s *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria* this spring.

Mezzo-soprano Sarah Mesko (Emilia) has sung numerous roles with Washington National Opera and will appear there next season as Carmen. This season she joined the Metropolitan Opera covering the trouser role of Malcolm in Rossini’s *La Donna del Lago*, a role she sang recently with Santa Fe Opera. Ms. Mesko has

appeared with Houston Grand Opera, the Bach Society of Houston, and in Paris in Lully’s *Armide*.

Countertenor John Holiday will sing Caesar. Mr. Holiday is quickly establishing himself as a singer to watch in the opera world. He “seduced audiences and critics alike” with his recent portrayal of the Sorceress in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* with Los Angeles Opera. Last summer he appeared as Cesare in Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* at Wolf Trap. Prior to his arrival at Glimmerglass this summer, he made his debut with Spoleto USA. All other roles will be sung by members of the company’s renowned Young Artists Program.

Tazewell Thompson returns to direct *Cato*. Among his many memorable productions at Glimmerglass are *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Death in Venice*, *The Tender Land*, and, most recently, the unforgettable, heartbreaking *Lost in the Stars*.

Cato will be conducted by Ryan Brown. Mr. Brown is Founder, Conductor, and Artistic Director of Opera Lafayette in Washington, D.C., a group specializing in performances and recordings of operas of the Baroque period. He has gained an international reputation for his role in the revival of significant works from 18th and 19th centuries.

Glimmerglass Associate Artistic Director Emeritus John Conklin will design the sets, and Robert Wiertzel will design the lighting. The production will be sung in Italian with projected titles by Glimmerglass Dramaturg Kelley Rourke.

Vivaldi’s *Cato in Utica*, an opera Director Thompson hails as “sublime,” opens on July 18.

THOMAS SIMPSON

PIANO FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS!

On June 13, over 100 Guild members and friends attended the premiere event of the Guild’s campaign to raise funds for the purchase of a baby grand piano, our gift to the Company in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

In a special benefit concert at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, Guild member Dr. Bruce Harris and colleagues, tenor Quinn Bernegger (also a Guild member) and organist John Cannon, presented a program of music by Schubert, Bach, Gerald Finzi, and Henri Mulet. The performances were greeted with enthusiastic applause

and cheers by the very appreciative audience. Following the program, the performers joined their admirers at a champagne and dessert reception.

We are most grateful to Dr. Harris, Mr. Bernegger, and Mr. Cannon for donating their time and exceptional talents in support of this worthwhile cause. Thanks also to Guild members Chris Weiss, Rita Emanuel, John Anagnost, Abby Kreh Gibson, Janet Potter, Sandy Peevers, and Richard Redmond for making this special evening a reality.

THE PIANO FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

FOUNDERS DINNER

(continued from page 1)

Gerald Evans, Donna and David Farquhar, Donald and Mary Ellen Fenner, Marilyn and Peter Gould, Bruce and Mona Harris, Erika Hall, Corinne Hillman, Susan Huxtable, Janet Irvin, Susan Crozier Jones, Katharine Lloyd, William McColl, Barbara Mulhern, Charles Pannaci, Dorothy and Henry Phillips, Janice Pope, Ruth Redjives, Carol Robbins, Robert and Karen Schlather, Lona and George Smith, Dr. David and Karin Svahn, Sarah-May Tims, Donna Veeder, and Nancy Waller.

The Guild thanks William Eichinger First President - Investment Officer, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, for his generous sponsorship of this event.

CORINNE PLUMMER

OVI AWARD TO GUILD

The Glimmerglass Opera Guild received one of seven Projects of Special Merit Awards on May 8 at the Washington, D.C., conference of Opera Volunteers International (OVI). The award to Glimmerglass honored its outreach programs conducted in conjunction with the Metropolitan Opera's HD Series at the Foothills Performing Arts Center. I accepted the award on behalf of our Guild. Each person accepting the award had an opportunity to describe the project. In addition to these awards, there were four Partners in Excellence Awards. This is the award that our own Don and Sue Drake received in 2014.



The OVI website says the Projects of Special Merit program gives guilds a way to celebrate a successful project, to share it with the opera volunteer community, and to receive recognition for an idea well conceived and executed. OVI invites application for annual review of projects that were volunteer created and implemented in support of their opera companies.

My thanks to Christine Bulson, who accompanied me, and helped spread the Glimmerglass Opera Guild's story.

JANET POTTER

Glimmerglass
OPERA GUILD

News & Notes

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YAP MAGIC FLUTE

Make sure you have your tickets for the Friday, August 14, Young Artists matinee of *The Magic Flute*. Bring your neighbors, bring your friends to the performance and the Guild reception following. What better way to introduce them to the wonders of The Glimmerglass Festival?

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Nancy K. Bender	Sandra Manley
Quinn Bernegger	Cynthia F. Staley
Nancy C. Lee	Grace N. Thayer

Dr. Thomas and Christine Brasitus
Frank Farmer and Frank Kolbert

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION

The Glimmerglass Festival will honor its volunteers with a reception on Tuesday, August 18, following the matinee of *The Magic Flute*. The company will then present its annual usher and volunteer of the year awards.