

“EAT AND GREET”

Once again the Glimmerglass Opera Guild hosts all the Festival staffers—cast, orchestra, production staff—with its annual welcoming reception on Monday, July 2, beginning at 4:00 pm. At this party, known to one and all as “eat and greet,” Guild members furnish a superb buffet supper for all during a brief hiatus from rehearsals.

Be there to join the festivities, and most important bring your special something for the buffet table (enough to serve 20). Call Bill or Cynthia Goertemoeller, 607-432-5644, to let them know you’ll be there and what you’ll bring. (Try to arrive by 3:30 pm to add your sumptuous dish to the buffet table.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2012 FESTIVAL

Ushering

Greet the audience and make them feel at home at the Glimmerglass Festival. Contact House Manager Ernie Adams (eadams@glimmerglass.org) if you wish to participate. Ushers who volunteered in 2011 will receive letters from Ernie after May 1.

Changeover meals

Help prepare and serve meals to Glimmerglass staff on days when there are two performances and little time for a lunch or supper. Call Fran Bliven, 607-432-1985, for details.

Picnic Hosts

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

Post-Performance Cast Parties

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

Armide

The year was 1686. Albany, New York, received its city charter; George Frideric Handel celebrated his first birthday; Louis XIV, the Sun King, sat resplendently on the throne of France; and Jean-Baptiste

Lully, Master of Music to the Royal Family of France, presented perhaps his finest work, the opera *Armide*.

Lully composed this *tragédie en musique* midst the splendor of the king’s court at Versailles. King Louis’ passion for music and dance and his interest in stagecraft and brilliant technical effects—together with the richness of the royal purse—gave Lully almost limitless opportunities to satisfy the king’s theatrical preoccupations.

The opera tells of the Muslim sorceress and warrior princess Armide and the struggle between human emotion and political obligation. Armide has sworn to kill her enemy, the Christian knight Renaud. However, upon seeing Renaud for the first time, Armide’s hatred quickly turns to love. Sorcery and potions, knights and shepherds, demons and zephyrs—operatic conventions so popular with French audiences of the time—weave in and out of the plot as Armide confronts her conflicting passions.

This summer, the Glimmerglass Festival will present Lully’s masterpiece in a co-production with Opera Atelier, Toronto. This production respects many of the traditional performance practices of the late seventeenth century incorporating period instruments and French Baroque dance. Sixteen members of the Opera Atelier

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

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Member of

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

To receive e-mail notices of current happenings in the Guild, please send your e-mail address to Mary Margaret Kuhn at: glimmerglassoperaguild@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Guild members:

As I write this, the cold winds, rain, snow, and sleet of late April swirl outside my window, and the warm summer evenings of music which await us at The Glimmerglass Festival seem very far away indeed. We needn't wait for the performance season to begin, however, to enjoy Festival-related activities for the Guild's season is underway. By the time you receive this newsletter, our popular Talking Opera series will have begun. I hope you have attended the programs already presented, and I look forward to seeing you at those scheduled for later dates.

Planning for our highly anticipated annual events, the "Eat and Greet," opening performance cast parties, Guild Gala and Silent Auction, Country Club evening, changeover dinners, and the Holiday Dine-A-Round is also underway as well as preparations for several new initiatives, not the least of which is our promotional activity for the Young Artists' performance of *Aida* on August 17. Also, watch for news of the Guild's new web site which we hope to have on-line within a few months.

Of course, none of these programs or activities could exist without you, the Guild members. We thank those of you who have renewed your support for 2012 and encourage those who have not to do so without delay. Doing so will insure that you continue to be informed of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and benefits of membership such as this excellent, informative newsletter, attendance at selected dress rehearsals, and discounts at the company gift shop. In addition, the 2012 Guild Directory will go to print soon, and you will want to be included.

We also extend an invitation to readers who do not yet belong to the Guild to become members. Membership provides an excellent opportunity to develop new friendships while engaging in activities that benefit The Glimmerglass Festival. Even if you are unable to volunteer your time, your name on our membership roster and, of course, your financial consideration will help us expand the Guild's contribution to the success of the Festival we so enthusiastically support. So, please join us. You will find a membership application on page 4 of this newsletter.

Even as the snow falls, the Festival has begun for Guild members, and summer doesn't seem so far away, after all.

Best to you all,
 TOM SIMPSON

AIDA WITH THE YOUNG ARTISTS

Dear Members of the Guild:

I am delighted that the Guild has agreed to help sponsor the Young Artists cover performance of *Aida* this coming August. I am especially proud to make this performance a regular and integral part of our season.

The reason I have added this performance is because it enables a singer to study a role that may one day serve as a cornerstone of his or her repertory and is one of the major benefits offered by the Glimmerglass Young Artists Program. Young Artists coach the role intensively with a member of the music staff and observe staging rehearsals of the regular cast. Every role in our season has a “cover”—someone prepared to go on to replace the singer in the event of an emergency or illness. In 2011, for the first time, *Carmen* covers were given an opportunity to perform in a fully-staged production, with orchestra, before a paying audience—a huge leap forward for these emerging young artists.

In 2012, the Festival will once again feature Young Artist covers on the main stage for *Aida* on Friday, August 17. This special performance represents an exciting opportunity not only for the artists, but for those in the audience. Representatives of other companies visiting Glimmerglass get a rounded view of these young performers, one far more valuable than a 10-minute audition. In addition, these performances of standard repertory opera are offered at a special, family-friendly price, fulfilling the Glimmerglass mandate to make our work as accessible as possible. This idea was integral to my planning for the program so it would give these singers a major credit on their resumes. It has paid off as many were able to secure jobs from this single performance last season.

This new level of involvement with the company means the Guild has a chance to enhance its already substantial support in a highly visible and specific way, and I want to extend my personal gratitude to you all. I so look forward to seeing each of you this spring and summer in Cooperstown at our various events.

Warmly,
'Cesca

priests
priestesses
ministers
captains
soldiers
officials
Ethiopians
slaves
prisoners
Egyptians
chorus

We are looking forward to the special performance of *Aida* on August 17 at 1:30 pm, immediately followed by a “Meet the Artists” reception in the Thaw Pavilion. The performance is open to the public, and ticket prices have been greatly reduced to encourage attendance by our regular audiences as well as those new to opera.

You may already have tickets for regularly scheduled performances of *Aida*, but the unique nature of this event and the chance to meet these wonderful young artists will certainly warrant a second *Aida* in your summer.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for those under 18 accompanied by an adult. Since the ticket price for all areas of the theater are the same, choice seating is on a first come, first served basis. Tickets for the reception are \$10 and limited to the capacity of the Thaw Pavilion.

As Francesca Zambello said, this performance represents “an exciting opportunity not only for the artists, but for those in the audience.”

Join the excitement. Call the Glimmerglass ticket office today at 607-547-2255. Please use the code GOG 12 to show your support of the Guild, the company, and, most importantly, of these uniquely talented Young Artists on this very special afternoon.



Aida, Aida, Aida,
I insist.
G. VERDI

Glimmerglass

OPERA GUILD

News & Notes
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ARMIDE

(continued from page 1)

Corps de Ballet will perform the many courtly dances written for the opera. The entire production reflects the theatricality which defined opera in the Sun King's Court.

When *Armide* opened in Toronto last month, reviewers praised the "unending flow of melody, exquisite choral passages and bounteous opportunities for visual spectacle." Critics found the settings "reminiscent of illuminated manuscripts," the dancing, a crucial component of French Baroque opera, "terpsichorean magic" and the costumes, "lavish" and "brilliant." One reviewer summed up the evening noting "one's breath is literally taken away by the combined artistry on display."

Peggy Kriha Dye sings the role of Armide. A critic wrote of her performance, "her voice soars in conquest, throbs in desire and melts in resignation." Canadian tenor Colin Ainsworth, Renaud, returns to Glimmerglass where he was last seen in another French role, Jean in Massenet's *Le Portrait de Manon*. Reviewers of his performance in *Armide* found him "sweet-toned" and "sublime."

Conductor David Fallis, director Marshall Pynkowski, set designer Gerard Gauci, costumer Dora Rust D'Eye, lighting designer Bonnie Beecher, and choreographer Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg will recreate their "enchanted spectacle" for Glimmerglass. Between the Toronto and Glimmerglass engagements, the production will be presented at the Opera Royal de Versailles.

Armide, the first French Baroque opera to be presented at Glimmerglass, premieres July 21.

TOM SIMPSON

MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

Show your support for The Glimmerglass Festival! Make new friends while you keep the old. Join the Glimmerglass Opera Guild today and enjoy the Opera all year long. While you learn more about opera, you will also find ways to be of service to our world-class opera!

Name _____

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Annual dues:

Individual \$30

Couple \$40

Student \$15

Please make checks payable to Glimmerglass Opera Guild and return with this form to:

Glimmerglass Opera Guild

ATTN: Membership

P.O. Box 191

Cooperstown, NY 13326

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Guild:

Louise Bayer

Lucinda Levene

Molly and Mike Richtsmeier

Theodore and Jackie Rosky

Suzanne Rudy

Lizabeth and Paul Uhrig