

WINE AND FOOD PAIRINGS, TOO

From Page 1

coaches to stagehands, lighting designers to choreographers, orchestra members to box office workers, it takes at least a village to put on the type of shows Central Kentucky audiences have come to expect.

Also new is Encore!, the annual spring fundraiser formerly called Prelude. Hosted by OperaLex's new sponsor, Keeneland, guests will receive a red-carpet welcome at the Sales Pavilion for an elegant evening of food, wine, spirits, and beer paired with encore performances from the stars of UKOT's recent productions.

A new, high-tech feature of Encore! will be electronic bidding for the silent auction where boutiques will feature unique experiences and one-of-a-kind items. Volunteers will also help guests enjoy the convenience of bidding at their seats.

The evening will conclude with a live auction led by Keeneland Director of Auctioneers Ryan Mahan followed by captivating performances from our UKOT stars.

A limited number of reserved Patron's Tables, with select wine and food pairings, sommelier-level service and gifts, are still available for \$2,000 for eight people and \$1,000 for four.

Individual tickets cost \$125. Tickets can be purchased on the OperaLex website at operalex.org or by mailing in the form found below.

Encore! continues to have the support of our Founding Sponsors, Liquor Barn, and Bryant's Rent-All.

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to support OperaLex and UKOT, and to experience what promises to be the event of the season.



Name/Company: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Patron's Table for 8 (\$2,000) Number of tables: _____

Patron's Table for 4 (\$1,000) Number of tables: _____

Single ticket (\$125) Number of tickets: _____

Guest names: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Card no. _____ Expires: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

Billing address (if different): _____

We have enclosed a check made out to OperaLex

Mail form to: OperaLex, Encore! tickets, P.O. Box 8463, Lexington, KY 40533-8463

Questions? 859-225-6209

So many *Giovanis*, which is best?

By Tedrin Blair Lindsay, PhD

After the beautifully sung performances of *Don Giovanni* by UK Opera Theatre back in March, I realized that I have never discussed the many wonderful recordings of Mozart's greatest masterpiece in this column. No doubt some of those timeless tunes are still ringing in your ears, so here are some options for deepening your love affair with the Don!

There are so many excellent recordings of this opera that you can hardly go wrong by just picking one, seriously. But of course, I do have favorites.

My overall first place is the 1991 traversal led by Riccardo Muti with the Vienna Philharmonic, who play the opera as if they own it. The leading roles of the Don and his sidekick Leporello are sung with relish by William Shimell and Samuel Ramey, but I love this recording so much because of the supporting roles. Carol Vaness is simply the best Donna Elvira I have ever heard, and Cheryl Studer as Donna Anna and Frank Lopardo as Don Ottavio are also superb. Susanne Mentzer is my favorite Zerlina ever, and her Masetto, Natale de Carolis, and the Commendatore, Jan-Hendrik Rootering, round out the world-class cast.

However, my favorite portrayal of *Don Giovanni* himself is that by Sherrill Milnes, who brings the right blend of swaggering testosterone and swooning poetry to this archetypal character. His Leporello in the 1977 recording is the sturdy Walter Berry, and the Commendatore is the redoubtable John Macurdy. I also like the elegance and gorgeous tone Anna Tomowa-Sintow brings to the role of Donna Anna. Peter Schreier and Teresa Zylis-Gara are somewhat bland as Ottavio and Elvira, and Edith Mathis as Zerlina is downright boring, though presenting a pretty, pearly tone at all times. Karl Böhm

is the conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic, again – perhaps they DO own it! Finally, if you want an older recording offering "Golden Age" singers, many still consider Cesare Siepi the greatest Don of all time. He is certainly insouciant and patrician in this 1955 recording, and his Leporello, the Italian bass Fernando Corena, is appealingly low-brow by contrast. Suzanne Danco is probably my favorite Donna Anna, because she really brings out the crazy in the character, with thrilling tone. Lisa della Casa and Anton Dermota are a distinguished Elvira and Ottavio respectively, and Hilde Gueden makes an especially appealing Zerlina. The conductor is Josef Krips, and the orchestra is, guess who? Drum roll, please ... the Vienna Philharmonic!



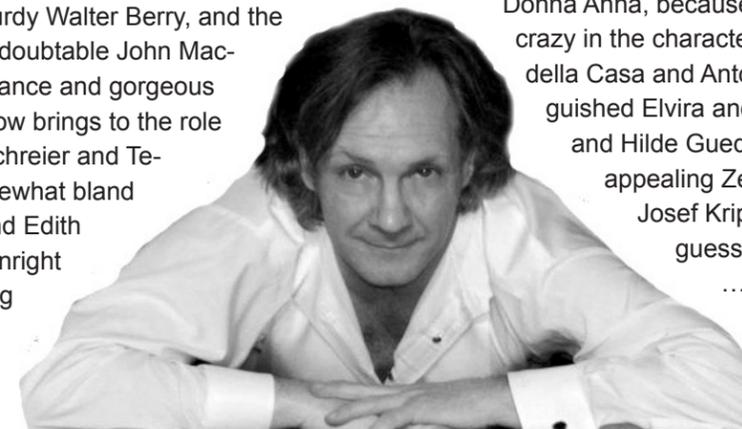
And the winner is.... Riccardo Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic!

Don Giovanni -- Tedrin's top recordings

Muti/Vienna (1991), EMI Classics 5-00850-2

Böhm/Vienna (1977) Deutsche Grammophon 00289-477-5655

Krips/Vienna (1955) Decca Legends 5365948



Dr. Lindsey is your guide to the opera.

And they're off!

UKOT graduates head to new opportunities

In recent years, we have heard that the stated objective of the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre and vocal music program is "to become one of the premiere training grounds for young singers in the country." We've watched the steady progress in that direction and are now seeing this goal realized. UK does some of the best and most innovative productions of any collegiate company anywhere. We can all be very proud.

Of course, one of the primary reasons for the high-level performances is the superior quality of students the UKOT attracts. Many of these young singers are incredibly talented. They come here and stay for a few years. They perform. We watch them, cheer for them, get to know them. Then they leave to seek their continued fortunes in new places, taking advantage of new opportunities. And we miss them.

This spring is no different than most, as some of our favorite performers and friends move on to other places. Here is a brief update of where some of these young people will be going as they conclude their studies:

Gabrielle Barker

Gabrielle Barker will remain in Lexington during the upcoming year, continuing to perform with UKOT. She will be Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* in the fall and the Doll in the spring production of *Tales of Hoffman*.

Robert Bosworth

Robert Bosworth is attending the Music Academy of the West this summer, and in the fall will begin a master's degree in accompanying at the Manhattan School of Music.

Jermaine Brown Jr.

Jermaine Brown Jr., who has spent the last semester doing a production of *Porgy and Bess* in Copenhagen, will move to New York City this fall to pursue his musical theater dreams.

Wanessa Campelo

Wanessa Campelo will take a rest in Brazil to visit family and friends before returning to Kentucky to sing with SOOP in the fall and in *The Tales of Hoffmann* in the spring in the role of Nicklausse.

Michelle Fulton

Michelle Fulton will work toward a master's degree in French at UK, after which she plans to pur-

sue advanced degrees in vocal performance.

Sarah Klopfenstein

Sarah Klopfenstein will perform in *Carmen* and *Madama Butterfly* this summer with Cincinnati Opera. She plans to continue auditioning while she maintains her private voice studio in Lexington and collaborates with ACE on projects.

Sarah Lawson

Sarah Lawson will take a physics course over the summer before starting work on her master's degree in speech-language pathology this fall at the University of Tennessee.

Daisha Togawa

Daisha Togawa will be moving with her husband to Oklahoma. She plans to perform and continue studying music.

Alyssa Pendleton

Alyssa Pendleton will be taking the coming year off from academic work and performance, then audition for graduate programs in the spring of 2015.

Markel Reed

Markel Reed is off to Chicago where he has a contract to sing with the chorus of the Chicago Lyric Opera.

Laikin Simons

Laikin Simons will be pursuing a master of musical arts degree in voice from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

Samuel Themer

Samuel Themer has been cast in the UKOT's Schmidt Opera Outreach Program (SOOP) show for the fall.

Matt Turner

Matt Turner will be a studio artist at Wolf Trap Opera Company this summer and is returning to UK as an alumnus to perform the title role of *Sweeney Todd* in the fall and Crespel in *Tales of Hoffmann*.

Dana Vogel

Dana Vogel will attend graduate school at UK this fall in communication sciences and disorders.

Jacob Waid

Jacob Waid will sing the role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* at The Prizery Community Arts Center in Virginia; perform in a new musical, *Half-Stitched*, in Ohio, and portray Shrek in the Broadway national tour of *Shrek*.

— Anne Taul



The special energy of *Grand Night* has thrilled audiences for over two decades.

It will be a grand show, night or day

First timer ready to join in for final song in Broadway revue

If ever there was a year for celebrating the end of winter, this is it. Fortunately, we have a perfect way to welcome warmer weather, flowers and flowering trees, and renewed energy after being cooped up for so long. The 22nd year of the UK Opera Theater's wonderful Broadway Revue, *It's a Grand Night for Singing*, is not to be missed!

I have not had the joy of seeing the first 21 *Grand Nights*, but after viewing several videos, I am excited. In the past, talented singers, dancers, and musicians have stirred the audience with everything from early rock 'n' roll through songs from *Les Misérables*. Every year, the costumes and sets are more sumptuous, and the performances maintain an extremely high standard. Even on video, the energy and excitement come through.

I could clearly see audiences responding to the energy. As a finale, we get to join in singing the "theme song." I can hardly wait. I love to sing in the shower

and when alone in my car, but my voice is so unlovely that, when I do sing in front of people, even my dearest family and friends are tempted to just put a bag over my head. I did sing along during a recent Queen tribute concert, but I doubt anyone heard me. As my teen-aged niece told her mother, "There were people head-banging to the music that were even older than Aunt Dorothy!"

I know that *It's a Grand Night* will capture a wide audience the same way. I will be there, ready to enjoy an upbeat experience that should kick off a wonderful summer. Look for me at the matinee on June 15, seated in row H, near the aisle, probably with a bag over my head.

— Dorothy Carter

Grand Night

What: *It's a Grand Night for Singing! 2014*

When: June 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. June 15 and 22 at 2:00 p. m.

Where: Singletary Center for the Arts, UK Campus

Cost: \$17 to \$45. Visit www.ukoperatheatre.org or call 859-257-4929

ALICE ON HER WAY TO OPERA LAND

Thousands of kids will hear, see, learn opera's magic

The Schmidt Opera Outreach Program, or SOOP, presented Jack and the Beanstalk to 39,240 enthralled children in 100 shows in 37 counties last fall. SOOP outreach director Courtney Turay gives us a peek at what's coming up for school children across Kentucky this fall.

This year's SOOP production is a show that I have had on my radar for a couple of years.

When I began my position with SOOP, I got in touch with Virginia Opera's very successful outreach program. They sent me a couple of scores and I always liked this one – *The Adventures of Alice in Opera Land* by Joe Walsh.

The story begins with Alice telling her mother she only likes rock music. Her mother challenges her on this, and tells Alice to go sit under her tree and think about it.

"Thank you for making the opera funny. I would like to be in an opera when I grow up."

Katie O.

Alice is transported to the magical forest where she meets characters from many beloved operas who teach her many things. Carmen teaches Alice what a maestro is. The Maestro teaches proper diction as they sing

Modern Major General. Cinderella teaches Alice about proper singing technique and how to sing in Italian. Papageno teaches her some German as they sing the famous duet from *The Magic Flute*. Alice also learns terms like forte, piano, legato, and staccato. By the end of the show Alice is convinced there is more to life than rock and roll!

I love this message because so often we get letters from children saying just that -- they never knew about opera and now they're hooked. We are opening their young eyes and minds to a beautiful art form and getting them to share in our excitement while teach-



ing them that opera can be for everyone. I also like this show because it teaches the children so much! They will walk away understanding musical terms and definitions in a new way, and will have an understanding and appreciation of all that goes into an opera.

The nuts and bolts

We are touring September 15 to November 27, with a full week each in Western Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky.

We are in need of sponsors, as always, to help schools and to underwrite other costs such as the new set we are building this year. The cost of a sponsorship is \$600 for one show and \$950 for two at the same school. The show is geared towards grades K-5.

We have a new SOOP director, Gregory Turay, who directed *Little Nemo in Slumberland*. Susan Dudley Wigglesworth will design costumes and Marc Schlackman will be production supervisor.

Our study guide will be online soon at ukoperatheatre.org/pages/opera-outreach/soop.shtml.

Don't miss our final dress rehearsal Saturday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. at the UK Medical Center Pavilion A Auditorium (same place as always). This will be broadcast to all patient rooms.

The performance is free and open to the public, so please come and bring children of any age.

For more information

Contact Courtney Turay at 402-6946 or uksoop@gmail.com.

"Thank you for making this the best day of our life! That is the first (opera) I have seen in 2nd grade. You rocked my ears off 'cause I loved the music!"
Brayden



A Grand Night in June!

Happenings

May

Encore!

Where: Sales Pavilion, Keeneland.

When: May 31, 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$125 and up. Visit www.operalex.org.

June

It's a Grand Night for Singing! 2014

Where: Singletary Center, UK Campus

When: June 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.

June 15 and 22 at 2 p.m.

Cost: \$17-45. Visit finearts.uky.edu/singletary-center or call 859-257-4629.

July

Tedrin Blair Lindsay Classical Piano Concert for the benefit of OperaLex

Where: Jacqueline Roberts' home, Lexington.

When: July 27, 3 p.m.

Cost: \$50. Contact Louise Shouse at 859-266-4574 or email her at LHS4574@aol.com.

September

The Adventures of Alice in Opera Land

Where: UK Medical Center Pavilion A Auditorium

When: Sept. 13, 2 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public. This is the final SOOP dress rehearsal.

Honoring Tom Getchell

Graduate scholarship fund reflects his desire to help students

During his all too brief tenure (2012-2013) as a board member and incoming president of the Lexington Opera Society (now OperaLex), Tom Getchell advocated for a scholarship fund for graduate students in the UK Opera Theatre program. When he learned from UKOT's Executive Director, Dr. Everett McCorvey, that the doctoral students who entered UKOT with full scholarships were funded for only three years and that many of them were forced to interrupt their studies in the fourth and final year to seek outside employment, Tom



Dr. Getchell

suggested that the scholarship funds be dedicated to assisting these students. In 2013, LOS raised more than \$14,000 for UKOT Scholarships at "Prelude to *It's a Grand Night for Singing*", its annual fundraising event (now renamed Encore!), and the board voted unanimously to create the Tom Getchell Scholarship Fund.

At the request of the board, the vocal music faculty established four criteria for DMA students to qualify for Getchell Scholarship funds:

- (1) Completion in a timely fashion of course requirements and qualifying exams for the doctoral degree (DMA);
- (2) Financial need;
- (3) Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA; and
- (4) Good citizenship (collegiality and participation in School of Music activities).

In December 2013, four UKOT DMA candidates were selected to receive Getchell Scholarship Funds: Manuel Castillo, Mark Kano, Iralda Rodrigues, and Diana Vetter. Vetter expressed the sentiment of all the recipients when she said the funds "will allow me to cut back on job hours in order to finish the work on my DMA in Vocal Performance in December 2014."

OperaLex will continue to raise funds for this scholarship program throughout the year. If you wish to contribute to this very worthwhile purpose, please send a check (made out to OperaLex and noted for the Getchell Scholarship Fund) to: OperaLex, P.O. Box 8463, Lexington KY 40533-8463.