BEL CANTO

Newsletter of the Manatee Opera Guild November 2026
https://manateeoperaguild.org

OCTOBER MEETING

Palm Aire Country Club
Friday, November 20, 2026
10:00: coffee and conversation
10:30: meeting, followed by
singers from Sarasota Opera
11:45: optional lunch

Menu:

Pasta Primavera with Grilled Shrimp: Linguine with garlic and olive oil and Assorted Grilled Vegetables.

Vegan Choice: Pasta Primavera as above, without shrimp.

Dessert: Creme Brule - Gluten- Free

You are welcome to stay for lunch but you *must* RSVP with Cathy Knobel, 787 Benjamin Franklin Drive #8, Sarasota, FL 34236 or knobelwd@aol.com

Please do so by November 14, 2026.

Be sure to tell her your menu choice and how you will be paying for your lunch. Checks are to be made out to MOG for $35.

Reservations are due on November 14

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, MOG members and friends,



Our members have gathered several times over the past weeks, and it's been a pleasure to be together on these occasions.

Thanks to Marilyn Carminio, education chair, and so many of our members who helped with the collaborative MOG-SOG lecture and *Hansel & Gretel* themed brunch on October 23rd at the opera house. The event brought out over 70 attendees with 36 of them MOG members. Maestro Anthony Barrese's lecture on Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel* was both entertaining and educational. The impact of Richard Wagner on Humperdinck, along with the Richard Strauss connection, suggested a network of musicians who managed to communicate somehow without benefit of e-mail, texting, or telephone! We never tire of learning how something as intricate as an opera can come together to entertain and inspire its audience. *Hansel and Gretel* runs through November 14th and tickets are still available.

While you're procuring your tickets for *Hansel & Gretel,* don't forget the Youth Opera offering on November 7th and November 8th. Tickets are available for both performances of *Rootabaga Country*, so get your tickets. As you heard from Martha Collins last month, it's perfect for children and grandchildren alike, and you will be amazed at the talent in our Sarasota Youth Opera. You will not be disappointed!

Our monthly membership meeting on October 29th at Palm Aire Country Club was an occasion to welcome several studio artists who performed with Jesse Martin's accompaniment. Those at the meeting enjoyed favorite selections from *Rusalka, Carmen, Tales of Hoffman, Don Giovanni, Romeo & Juliet*, and *The Magic Flute*. We were also pleased to hear Baritone Riley Findley who was MOG's Helen Jepson Dellera Award winner last spring.

Upcoming MOG events include the now sold-out November 11th On Stage Party "A Classy, Brassy Evening," and our November membership meeting scheduled for November 20th.

After that, we'll enjoy Thanksgiving and the advent of the holiday season.

Manatee Opera Guild has long enjoyed a reputation for delivering fun, friendships, as well as support for Sarasota Opera. As you compile your gift list for the upcoming holiday season, consider giving the gift of an opera experience to an interested, or simply curious, friend, neighbor, or colleague. Guild membership, tickets to opera, or lunch as a guest at a MOG membership meeting would make welcome gifts, especially for those of us who don't really need more "stuff."

More upcoming events, opera ideas, and news next month. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the opera!

Elizabeth Aversa , MOG President



Membership meetings this year will generally be held on **Thursday,** with two exceptions: November 20 (Friday) and December 7 (Monday).

Meetings are held at 10:30 at Palm Aire Country Club, 5601 Country Club Way, Sarasota 34202. Coffee and conversation begin at 10. Meetings are followed by an optional lunch. Details are available in this publication at the beginning of the month, and on our website https://manateeoperaguild.org

- Friday, November 20
- Monday, December 7
- Thursday, January 21
- Thursday, February 18
- Thursday, March 18 (at Westminster Manor)
- Thursday, April 15

Preludes (Multimedia educational talks on the upcoming Sarasota Opera presentations)

Preludes are held on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. at Westminster Manor auditorium, 1700 21st Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205. A continental breakfast is available at 9:30.

- ***La traviata*** December 4
- ***H.M.S. Pinafore*** January 22
- ***Ariadne auf Naxos*** February 5
- ***Jenùfa*** February 26

Special Events

OnStage Concert
Wednesday, November 11, 5 – 8 p.m. at the Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

MOG Holiday Party (for MOG members only and their spouses)Sunday, December 20, 3 – 5 p.m. at the home of Maryanne Hazen, 3637 Wilderness Blvd. West, Parrish, FL. 34219

Opera Movie Special – La rondine

Friday, January 8, 2 p.m. at Westminster Manor auditorium, 1700 21st Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205

Afternoon Tea and Concert

Monday, January 25, 2 – 4 p.m., at the Kiwanis Ballroom, Manatee Performing Arts Center, 502 3rd Avenue, Bradenton, FL 34205

Fashion Show and Luncheon

Wednesday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Lakewood Ranch Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

TRIBUTES

Linda Buchhart wishes everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

The Manatee Opera Guild book club held its first meeting on October 20. We enjoyed a lively conversation about Caitlin Vincent's recent book ***Opera Wars: Inside the World of Opera and the Battles for Its Future***, which concerns the artistic and economic challenges to opera's future. Thanks to our hostess Janice Sladzinski who welcomed us in her lovely home.







From our October Meeting





Coming in December



MANATEE OPERA GUILD

Annual Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Member □ Renewing Member □

I (we) can help the Manatee Opera Guild in these ways (please check all appropriate boxes)

Literature design □
Event planning □
Fundraising □
Greeting □
Developing membership □
Photography □
Writing □
Hosting parties □
Hospitality □
Publicity □
Refreshments □
Serving on the Board □
Soliciting advertising and gifts □
Telephoning □
Editing (newsletters, brochures, letters) □
Setting up/cleaning up □
Modeling at fashion show □
Other talent □

Membership Level:
□ Single Regular Membership $45
□ Single Sustaining Membership $55
□ Couple Regular Membership $65
□ Couple Sustaining Membership $75

Send application and payment to:
Make checks payable to **Manatee Opera Guild or MOG**

Rich DeGennaro
4932 Mahogany Run
Sarasota, FL 34241
215-740-9017
richdege@me.com