

BEL CANTO

Newsletter of the Manatee Opera Guild

April 2022

<https://manateeoperaguild.org>

APRIL 20 GENERAL MEETING PALM AIRE CC, 10:30 A.M.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Tully, from the Sarasota Opera's costume warehouse will be on hand to talk about the extent of the collection, the new warehouse, and the costume rental business.

Please send your luncheon reservations with a check (made out to MOG) to:

Jean Roberts
222 12th St West
Apt 302
Bradenton, FL 34205
730-0135
jeanrob222@gmail.com

Menu

Caesar Salad with or without your choice of topping

Toppings: Grilled Chicken, Shrimp or Salmon *Crisp*

*Romaine Lettuce Tossed with Parmesan Cheese,
Croutons & Classic Caesar Dressing*

Dessert: Carrot cake

Please designate a topping, or it will be served without!

Reservations due by April 15.

Reservation for the Luncheon
April 20, 2022

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of reservations at \$25. _____

Checks made out to MOG, please.

Congratulations to you all! We have had a successful MOG year on every front.

Our special events — the November Concert on the Stage, and our Fashion Show were hugely successful. Our meetings were fun, the artists fantastic, and our Preludes speakers were informative and presented excellent introductions to the great Sarasota Opera season presentations. Thank you to Syble DiGirolamo and Elizabeth Aversa for making these possible.

We have said "hello" to seventeen new members, and we will honor them at our April meeting.

We now have a beautiful webpage, thanks to Maryanne Hazen, and we can keep up with all our events and members there :[HTTPS://MANATEEOPERAGUILD.ORG](https://MANATEEOPERAGUILD.ORG).

We have gifted the Sarasota Opera with \$20,000, and the Youth Opera with \$1,000 as well as honoring a Studio Artist, Levi Hamlin with our Helen Jepson Deller Award. Wasn't he so talented, humble and charming at our March meeting? It's a real pleasure to make a difference in a young artist's life.

Next season, we are looking forward to another banner year, and hopefully, we will be able to include a Stars of Tomorrow Concert to our lineup.

In order to have a successful year, we need you to renew your membership. We need every member to send in dues *now*. We have kept our dues low, so that everyone can have the benefit of our meetings. A MOG membership is the best ticket in town!

I wish you all a very happy summer — stay well, and stay cool. But before you leave for cooler climes, make your reservation for our April 20 meeting, and write a check to pay your dues.

Thank you,

Jeanne

MANATEE OPERA GUILD CALENDAR 2021-2022

Meetings

At Palm Aire Country Club
5601 Country Club Way, Sarasota, FL 34243

April 20, 10:30 a.m.

John Tully, will be at the meeting to talk about Sarasota Opera's fantastic **costume collection and warehouse**. Bring your questions!

Note: If you need assistance at Palm Aire getting from the parking lot to the main entrance, please let Jean Roberts know beforehand. She will contact Palm Aire to let them know that you will be coming.

Then, when you arrive, drive up to the golf cart area, just to the right of the main entrance. Make the employee there aware that you are going into the parking lot. The employee will follow you in the cart, and bring you back right up to the front door.

Board Meetings (All members are invited to attend)
At the home of Angela Korsmo. 319 36th Street NE

Second Tuesday
10 a.m.
April 12

TRIBUTES:

From Jean Roberts:

In honor of **Mary Zabin**, who has been so involved with and done so much for the Guild over the years. I wish her good health.

In honor of Maryanne Hazen, for creating and expanding a website for MOG. It is fantastic.

From Elizabeth Aversa:

To **Syble DiGirolamo** and all the **Models** and **Escorts** in the MOG Fashion Show. It was fun!!

From Syble DiGirolamo

Thank You to the "Hats Off to Opera" Fashion Show team. It took us all to make the event so successful.

Richard Russell and **Maestro DeRenzi**, thanks for providing our singer and pianist. They were a very special treat. And thanks for the fall tickets for the raffle basket.

Joey Frye, thanks for the hats.

June Seaton and Vicky Davis, thanks for the creative theme and setting up the room. **June Seaton**, thanks for making 190 hats on straws for our water glasses.

Angela Korsmo, Sheila Varady thanks for the basket and its goodies and for selling all those tickets.

Jean Roberts and Kristi Greenslade, thanks for checking in all 182 people.

Elizabeth Aversa and Sandy Rath, thanks for helping the store and all our models and making the fashion part of the show a delightful parade.

Jeanne Yeagle, thanks for the beautiful B&W event programs.

Barb Quinn, thanks for taking all those reservations, and keeping track of all those meal choices.

Maryanne Hazen, thanks for verifying and getting all our checks and cash deposited.

Rich DeGennaro and Rocco Aversa, thanks for the well-appointed escorting.

Models, thanks for looking so great and showing off all those beautiful fashions from Evelyn and Arthur. You were the show.

And finally, a sincere thank you to all for coming to the event, and for bringing all those wonderful friends.

Tributes

Tributes are a note of kindness and acknowledgement. As your own lives unfold this year and events of meaning arise, consider recognizing these with a MOG tribute. Fill out this form, and send to Syble DiGirolamo, 3509 Little Country Road, Parrish, 34219

Needed: Tribute Chair

Duties include receiving tributes from donors, notifying donor of donation, notifying recipient of tribute, reporting tributes to Bel Canto editor for inclusion in the newsletter, rendering monies collected to the Treasurer, attendance at Board meetings. Syble DiGirolamo is on hand to provide guidance and materials. Please call Syble if you are interested: 941-776-0994 or sybled@aol.com.

My gift of \$ _____ is given:
_____ In memory of _____
_____ In honor of _____
_____ On the occasion of _____
Please send an acknowledgement card to:

From: _____

Checks made out to MOG please

BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL

The Board of Directors of MOG proposes to **change** Bylaw Article VII: Committees to include Hospitality as a standing committee.

Section 1. The standing committees of the Manatee Opera Guild may include: Education, Finance, Membership, Newsletter, Nominating, Publicity, Scholarship, Petite Party Chair, **Hospitality**, and Tribute Fund.

and add Article IX:

Duties of the Standing Committees
Section 9: Hospitality Chair

Section 9. Hospitality Chair shall be responsible to secure a venue for General Membership Meetings, serve as liaison for that venue, choose menus, take reservations and collect monies for monthly luncheons, remit money collected to Treasurer.

Officers for 2022-2023

President: Richard DeGennaro
Vice-President: Jeanne Yeagle
Vice-President for Development (Events): Syble DiGirolamo
Secretary: Angela Korsmo
Treasurer: Maryanne Hazen
Assistant Treasurer: Carolyn Doyle

We will vote on the Bylaw change and the slate of officers at the April meeting.

Please welcome new member:

Carolyn Doyle
5624 Country Club Way
Sarasota, FL 34243
carolynd342@gmail.com

Thank you for joining the Manatee Opera Guild.

MUSICAL RESPONSES TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

It's rare for opera and symphony companies to become political. But the invasion of Ukraine has spurred the classical (and popular) music universe to voice its anguish and anger over this heinous act.

Opera houses and symphony orchestras have fired singers, conductors and others over their allegiance to Russia, or their refusal to condemn the invasion. The Metropolitan Opera has severed ties with Anna Netrebko, and the Munich Philharmonic fired its chief conductor Valery Gergiev.

Opera houses and symphony halls have draped the Ukrainian flag or shone blue and yellow lights on their facades. Programs have been cancelled. The San Francisco Opera postponed its Opera Aficionado session "Opera in Soviet Russia." They have begun their programs with the Ukrainian national anthem.

Classical musicians in Ukraine have shown the world the wonder and strength of music to draw attention to injustice. Singers from Odessa Opera joined together to sing "Va pensiero" on the street in front of the Odessa Opera House. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydZnTEAJClc> Since it was first performed in 1841, Verdi's chorus from the opera *Nabucco* has been a rallying cry for displaced people and people under siege. Ukrainian cellist Denys Karachevtsev casts a striking figure as he plays a somber Bach melody in a haunting musical tribute to his hometown of Kharkiv. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIGiPKI05zE>

Ricardo Muti, at the Chicago Symphony, expresses his feelings in this clip, made from the stage, before the orchestra's performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, 4th movement, "Ode to Joy." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b526O61co3k>

The Metropolitan Opera notably performed *A Concert for Ukraine*. It opened with the Ukrainian national anthem, sung by a young (just 24 years old) Ukrainian bass-baritone, Vladyslav Buialskyi who is in his second year with The Lindemann Young Artist Development Program there. <https://metoperafree.brightcove-services.com/?videoId=6300239750001>



SARASOTA OPERA 2022-2023 SEASON ANNOUNCED

The season launches in the fall with Domenico Cimarosa's *The Secret Marriage (Il matrimonio segreto)*. A social-climbing father wants his eldest daughter to marry an aristocrat—but there are complications. The comic opera is not often seen, and it will have five performances : Oct. 28 and 30, Nov. 8, 10 and 12, in its Sarasota Opera debut.

Sarasota Youth Opera will present Dean Burry's *The Secret World of Og*, last seen here in 2016, on Nov. 5 and 6. The story follows a group of siblings venturing into a dark subterranean world to rescue their baby brother and cat.

The 2023 Winter Opera Festival of four operas opens Feb. 18 with Puccini's popular tragedy *Madama Butterfly*. The tale of a young geisha who meets with heartbreak after being swept off her feet by an American Naval officer will receive 10 performances, Feb. 18, 21, 23, 26, and March 1, 4, 10, 15, 21 and 24.

Mozart's most famous opera, the comic/tragic masterpiece *Don Giovanni*, last seen in Sarasota in 2011, *Don Giovanni* tells the story of the infamous lover Don Juan, who leaves a trail of heartache in his wake, in eight performances, Feb. 25 and 28, and March 2, 5, 8, 12, 18 and 25.

Ernani, a Verdi opera not seen here since 1997 tells the story of the bandit Ernani who has lost his land, wealth and title, and faces competition in the pursuit of his true love, Elvira. Six performances, March 11, 14, 16, 18, 22 and 26.

Finally, Jules Massenet's *Thérèse* will close out the winter festival season, March 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25. It centers on a love triangle during the French Revolution, and it will be not only a Sarasota Opera debut, but a U.S. professional premiere. Five performances only.

Casting for the season will be announced at a later date, but in the meantime, for more information on the season visit sarasotaopera.org or call (941) 328-1300. Subscriptions will be available for renewal March 28, 2022; single tickets will go on sale online Aug. 1.

MOG EVENTS FROM MARCH



Fashion Show

Above, model Dottie Erikson with escorts Rocco Aversa and Richard DeGennaro. Right, model Carol Heckman. Below, Angela Korsmo and Sheila Varady (partially hidden) sell basket raffle tickets.



Helen Jepson Deller Awards

Tenor Levi Hamlin, winner of the Helen Jepson Deller Award sings at the Spring Fling Brunch.

Below, Mr. Hamlin gratefully accepts his award check from Treasurer Maryanne Hazen.



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 literature (newsletters, brochures, letters)

Setting up/cleaning up

Modeling at fashion show

Other talent _____

Membership Level:

- Single Regular** Membership \$40
- Single Sustaining** Membership \$50
- Couple Regular** Membership \$60
- Couple Sustaining** Membership \$70

Send your application with a check
made out to MOG to:

Jeanne Yeagle
1700 3rd Ave. West
Apt 111
Bradenton, FL 34205