

Bel Canto

Newsletter of the Manatee Opera Guild

January 2025

<https://manateeoperaguild.org>

Membership Meeting

THURSDAY JANUARY 16,
2024 PALM AIRE COUNTRY
CLUB

Coffee and Conversation at 10 a.m.

Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Sarasota Opera Singers at 11 a.m.

Followed by an optional luncheon

Please note this meeting is on Thursday.

Luncheon Menu

Beef Tips Bordelaise -- Beef Tenderloin, Pearl Onions,
English Peas, Burgundy Demi Over Egg Noodles

OR

Wild Mushroom Ravioli with Vodka Sauce

Dessert: Key Lime Pie

**To make reservations for lunch, please call,
write or email Kathy Knobel at:**

787 Ben Franklin Drive #8

Sarasota, FL 34236

knobelwd@aol.com

941-706-2490 or 941-666-3253 (cell)

Luncheon is \$35 per person. Please indicate
your choice of entrée when making your
reservation.

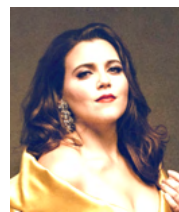
**Reservations must be received by January
10.**

Happy New Year! Now is the time of year when we make resolutions, and a good one to make is to support Sarasota Opera with our presence at the theater, and to support our guild by coming to all our events, and bringing your friends. Unlike exercising more or dieting, this is not a difficult resolution to keep!

Coming up soon are the showing of *Ghosts of Versailles*, an opera buffo composed by John Corigliano in the 1980's. It will be shown on January 2, at 2 p.m. (can't get any sooner than that!) at the Westminster Manor facility at 1700 21st Avenue West. At the beginning of February, we look forward to the exciting *Stars of Tomorrow* on the 9th at 1:30 in a new venue for us, the Manatee High School for the Arts on Haben Boulevard in Palmetto. Please bring friends!

For the second year in a row, our December picnic moved indoors due to a windy and chilly day, but it was warmed by our coma camaraderie, some superb singing, and the joy of the opera staff when we presented a Christmas present of \$10,000!

Ashley Milanese presented a stunning array of arias. Her talent is remarkable, and it was matched by a friendly and charming personality.



Lauded for her "soaring lyric soprano capable of heart-stopping soft effects" (Philadelphia Magazine), Italian-American Ashley Milanese is quickly emerging as an exciting young presence in the operatic world with appearances at The Metropolitan Opera, Sarasota Opera, Teatro Regio Torino, Komische Oper Berlin, Opera Philadelphia, Mostly Mozart Festival, New Orleans Opera, Ljubljana Festival, Adelaide Music Festival, and more.

In 2023-2024, Ms. Milanese made her **Sarasota Opera** debut as the title role in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. In the 2024-2025 season, she will join the Metropolitan Opera covering Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* as well as return to Sarasota Opera for their winter festival as Nedda in Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*.

PRELUDES:

Coffee and conversation at 9:30, speaker at 10 to 11:30 Westminster Manor Auditorium.

January 17, Elizabeth Aversa



Membership Meetings

Thursday January 16, Wednesday February 19 (Sweetheart Luncheon), Friday March 14 (Spring Fling, Deane Allyn and HJD Awards), Wednesday April 16 (New Member Recognition)



Manatee Opera Guild Presents

The Annual Fashion Show

A Celebration of Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Fashions by A Tu

Attire: Patterns in Black and White



February 21: *Stiffelio*
Stephanie Sundine



Sarasota Opera

Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci

February 15, 7:30PM*, February 20, 7:30PM,
February 23, 1:30PM, February 26, 7:30PM,
March 1, 1:30PM, March 7, 7:30PM, March 11, 7:30PM,
March 19, 1:30PM, March 22, 7:30PM, March 29,
1:30PM

Two operas, two betrayed husbands, two tragic ends. In *Cavalleria rusticana* the calm of a Sicilian Easter morning is broken by a betrayed lover who sets off a chain of events ending in violent tragedy. In true theatrical tradition *Pagliacci*'s clown tries to go on the show, but his real -life humiliation and despair lead to a grim climax. The violent passions and raw emotions of these two works changed the direction of Italian opera forever.

Barbiere di Siviglia

February 22, 7:30PM*, February 25, 7:30PM,
February 27, 7:30PM, March 2, 1:30PM, March 5,
7:30PM
March 9, 1:30PM, March 14, 7:30PM, March 21, 7:30PM
March 27, 1:30PM, March 29, 7:30PM

Determined to win the heart of the beautiful Rosina, Count Almaviva enlists the help of Figaro, the barber of Seville, to steal her away from her guardian, Dr. Bartolo. Hilarious complications ensue to some of opera's most delightful music. *The Barber of Seville* is one of the most beloved comedic works in the operatic repertory

Marriage of Figaro

March 8, 7:00PM*, March 13, 7:00PM, March 16,
1:30PM, March 19, 7:00PM, March 22, 1:30PM,
March 25, 7:00PM, March 28, 7:00PM

Continuing the story of *The Barber of Seville*, Count Almaviva's eye has now wandered and his current objective is Susanna, Figaro's fiancée. The distressed couple, along with Rosina (now the Countess Almaviva) conspire to reveal the count's lechery, despite the many obstacles thrown in their way. Mozart's musical genius, along with Lorenzo DaPonte's witty libretto make *The Marriage of Figaro* one of opera's masterpiece.

Stiffelio

March 15, 7:30PM*, March 18, 7:30PM
March 20, 7:30PM, March 23, 1:30PM
March 26, 7:30PM, March 30, 1:30PM

A Protestant minister returns from a mission abroad to be confronted by his wife's infidelity. *Stiffelio* faces his wife's transgression, battling his all-too-human emotions with his religious faith. Written just before *Rigoletto*, this long-neglected, emotionally charged work is now recognized as an important work by Verdi.

*Opening Night performances are preceded by an optional dinner.

Special Events



Sarasota Opera Gala: A Night in Seville Honoring Les and Carol Brualdi

Friday, January 31, 2025^[SEP] Reception at 6 PM^[SEP] The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Moonlight & Melodies: Mozart's Viennese Feast

A festive event transporting guests to Mozart's Vienna.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30 PM
Sarasota Opera House Courtyard
\$225 Per Person | Limited Seating

Salute to the Stars

Be surrounded by the celebration and sounds of Sarasota Opera's most outstanding Apprentice and Studio Artists being honored. Enjoy a gourmet lunch with performances by the awardees. Awards are presented through the generosity of visionary individuals as well as the Sarasota and Manatee Opera Guilds.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 11:30 AM
Sarasota Yacht Club
Per Person Levels \$85 and \$150 12 PM, Program
and Performances by Award Winners
12:30 PM, Luncheon