

Opera Guild

NEWSLETTER – July '22

Welcome everyone to the new fiscal year of the Guild.

I am honored & humbled to serve you this 2022-23 year as president. This newsletter is a first to highlight several aspects of our organization keeping us all regularly informed of new members, events & guild tidbits.

IMPORTANT

Please remember to renew your membership ASAP. Pay online at operaguildofcharlotte.org. Contact any board member for membership form to mail in.

NEW BOARD

Pauline Chinnis, president paulinechinnis@hotmail.com

Isabelle Griesmyer – Vice-pres igriesmyer@gmail.com

Toni Burke – treasurer toni_burke@hotmail.com

Gwen Reichbach – secretary gwenreichbach@hotmail.com

Ynez Olshausen – corresponding secretary ynezo@aol.com



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - I, **Pauline Chinnis** am Charlotte born & bred. Born into a musical family I began singing at an early age but went on to NCSU to major in math & computer science where I met her husband Bill of nearly 38 years. I sang in various music organizations till joining the opera Carolina chorus in 2003. I crossed over to join the guild in 2019 & couldn't be happier. Now as your president I hope to work together with you supporting Opera Carolina & having lots of fun!

NEW MEMBERS (since early spring)

Janet Taylor Anita Flo
Debbie Berry Emily Fultz
Pat & Bob McKinley Faye Harris-Friday
Stacey, Mike & Mikey Polito
Nance Brand & William Freeman
Sara & Nicholas Dockery (rejoin)
Sarah Dockery Bliss

***** 23 new members since this time last year - WAHOO

EVENTS

- past is our Instillation lunch Jun 8
- no guild board meeting in July

Opera Guild

NEWSLETTER – Aug '22

Welcome everyone as summer begins to come to a close (not the heat, however). Many will have stories to share of summer travels. I look forward to seeing you & making new friendships with new members.

THANK YOU for the prompt renewal of dues. Some of you have heard from our “telephone lady” Barbara Scott for a reminder. An order for permanent nametags goes in this week for all who have paid dues. Our directory will go to print Sept 1.

- EVENTS** – 1. **Opera Carolina’s Summer workshop recital** Aug 12,
7pm Tate Hall CPCC 1206 Elizabeth Ave
**please come & support these young singer
2. **Guild monthly board meeting** Aug 23, 10am
Trio Restaurant
10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)
3. **Opera Carolina chorus & Guild season opener** – FUN, SUN & FOOD
Pauline & Bill Chinnis’ lake house – Sep 11, 2pm
642 Lake View Shores Loop, Mooresville
**Please bring a dish to share.

IN MEMORY – **Patricia Rourke** passed Jul 17. She was well loved & an avid guild member from 2003-2019. Details of her passing maybe found the at McEwen Funeral Home website dignitymemorial.com

NEW MEMBERS

Anita Flo, 704-345-3985 Deborah Aitken 704-431-8594
Emily Fultz, 704-657-2721
Huang (Ying) Chaoying 817-210-5377 (Conrad Pogorzelski’s partner)
***Please call & welcome them.

UNDERWRITERS – New this year, we are encouraging guild folks to underwrite our events: enrichments, holiday party, fundraisers. In addition to helping with the costs, all underwriters will be recognized in the directory. Please min \$100. Call me with any questions.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT – **Barbara Scott** along with her husband Terri has been a long standing guild member since 1985. She is nearly Charlotte native but a full-blooded UNC Tarheel. Her house gleams of Carolina blue in every corner. She met & married Terry 46 years ago & they began a love of opera in Charlotte right from the start. Not many years later she was “invited” to become a guild member. Here began many lifelong friendships which are still dear to her today. When Barbara’s not calling you about your late dues she’s either at her beloved church

Dilworth United Methodist or being grandma to her sons precious two children. We are blessed to have Barbara as a friend & guild member.

Immensely grateful,

Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624

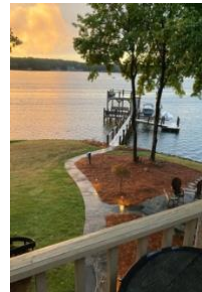
Opera Guild

NEWSLETTER – Sep '22

Fall is upon us & I smell pumpkin spice all around. Our board is brewing activities & our membership has nearly all renewed. Thank you to all who made that possible. The recital & reception was a success for our young singers & all who attended. Thank you for all who helped make that event successful. A second recital will be in May.

EVENTS –

1. **Opera Carolina chorus & Guild season opener** – Pauline & Bill Chinnis' lake house – Sep 11, 2pm
642 Lake View Shores Loop, Mooresville
****Please bring a dish to share.**



2. *****VERY IMPORTANT MEETING*****
Fall General Guild meeting Sept 25, 4-6pm
Receive your Guild directory & permanent name tag
All are encouraged to attend!
Hosted by Bill & Mary Staton
2431 Hart Mill Court, Charlotte

You should have received an email invite.
A reminder will go out. Reservations NECESSARY.



If you've lost the email, contact Mary at

Mtstaton@aol.com

3. Guild monthly board meeting **Sep 27, 10am**
Trio Restaurant
10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)
4. **Pre-Opera Enrichment Oct 6, 5:30-7:30**
Home of Opera Carolina board Chairperson Julie Bernard
7103 Summerhill Ridge Dr., Charlotte
RSVP **necessary**: ricketwill@att.net Rick Atwill
5. **Opera Feast – Sat Nov 12**
Ukrainian Dinner by Leslie Paliyenko lesliepali@windstream.net

OPERA FEAST – Fundraising is looking for someone to host an event (dinner, brunch, tea) in March for our Opera Feasts fundraisers. Two dinners are already planned. Contact chairperson Kristine at kristinaesq@cs.com

NEW MEMBERS – Carolyn Keith, carolynkeith1234@gmail.com 858-335-3757

UNDERWRITERS – New this year, we are encouraging guild folks to underwrite our events: enrichments, holiday party, fundraisers. In addition to helping with the costs, all underwriters will be recognized in the directory. Please min \$100. Call me with any questions.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - **Jill Hazel** born in Tucson, AZ was married to Dwaine 56 years. Because of job & life changes they moved many times, finally settling in Charlotte in the early 90's.

Never doubt that she is fully qualified for any job. She raised children & fostered & adopted 3 more. With a quiver of grands blessed with over 7 great grandchildren. Jill spent her career years in public relations & most notably helped found the Opera League (guild).

She has poured herself like many others into Charlotte Opera president twice, treasurer, secretary & nearly every position. her willingness to help we all are eternally grateful.

Thank you Jill!!



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For this &

Immensely grateful,

Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President

Opera Guild

NEWSLETTER – Oct '22

Our first opera is nearly upon us. Puccini's **Tosca** is sure to be an exciting season opener. Mixed with the cooler autumn nights, hot cider & colorful mums, let us prepare ourselves to support Opera Carolina.

Thank you to all who came to our Fall general meeting, our hospitality committee for filling our stomachs with delectables & mostly **Mary & Bill Staton** for opening their home.

IMPORTANT...

1. Because of the high cost of the opera shuttle for show transportation We are experimenting with UBER XL for an affordable ride to a show uptown. For the **Thursday nite show only Oct 13**, please RSVP to Paulinechinnis@hotmail.com by **Oct 10**.
An UBER XL leaving from South Park area can carry 6 passengers for \$16-20 round trip.

2. Name tags & directories will be distributed at the Oct 6 enrichment. Those not received will be mailed or hand delivered (thank you Bob Gaines).

3. We will continue to offer copies of our "Opera Guild



History" for \$10.

4. Are you called to **fundraising**?

This committee is monumental to our purpose of raising funds to support Opera Carolina. We have our

chairs **Tatyana**

Thulien

& **Kristine Yankovsky** but need more hands on deck to complete our 2 major Events: Feb 10 Wine & Cheese & May 6 Derby Party.

Text me (Pauline) if you feel to join us.

EVENTS:

Pre-Opera Enrichment Oct 6, 5:30-7:30

Home of Opera Carolina board Chairperson
Julie Bernard, 7103 Summerhill Ridge Dr.,
RSVP necessary: Check your email evite or call me.

Puccini's Tosca at Opera Carolina

Oct 13, 15 & 16, 2022

Guild monthly board meeting **Oct 25, 10am**

Trio Restaurant 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)

Opera Feast – Sat Nov 12 – Sold out!

Ukrainian Dinner by Leslie Paliyenko



NEW MEMBER – Theresa Nardi 704-763-9520 t.nardi@att.net Welcome Theresa!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT - Say the name **Penny Hewett** & you think of food being delivered with love. Penny loves Opera Carolina & Opera Guild almost as much as her childhood sweetheart Ron of 58 years. They moved to the in the early 70's & raised 3 children & now have 7 grans. She the Opera Guild in 1993 & she soon thereafter managed 2 years as president. Penny has a heart to serve & does it church Providence Baptist. We are beyond grateful for her participation in our guild. Thank you Penny!



much as her
Charlotte area
& Ron joined
successful
plentiful in her
regular

Immensely grateful,

Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624

Opera Guild of Charlotte

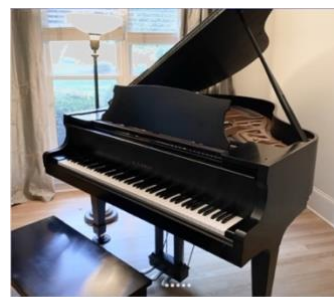


NEWSLETTER – Nov '22

Fall is a busy time for Opera Carolina & Opera Guild. The first production Tosca has come & gone, as well as our first enrichment for which we thank the Bernard's & the use of their home. We've had several past & present members pass on so please take time to hug your loved one & reach out to folks you haven't seen in a while. The Guild family love & loyalty run deep.

INFORMATION:

Guild member **Emily Fultz** is selling her dad's grand piano & offering the guild **10%**. Contact her at 704-657-2721.



Kawai KG2D 5'10" Professional Grand Piano & Bench. Serial # 1391907. Year 1983. Length 175 cm \$13,800

EVENTS:

- ***Christmas Holiday Party***
Friday Dec 9, 6-9 pm
7506 Stonecroft Park Dr, Charlotte
Evite to go out soon.
- ***Enrichment for "Porgy & Bess"***
Jan 11, 2023, 5:30-7:30p.
Opera Carolina Office
1600 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte
- ***Met Opera Laffont Competition***
Saturday Jan 14, 2023, 11am
Sandra Levine Theater, Sarah Belk
Gambell Center Queens University
- ***Porgy & Bess at Opera Carolina***
Jan 22,24,26 & 28, 2023
Belk Theater, Charlotte
- ***Guild Monthly Board Meeting***
Nov 22, 10 AM
Trio Restaurant 10709 McMullen
Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)

NEW MEMBERS:

Nathalie Martin-Clark & Greg Clark Nathalie.angelique@icloud.com
(N) 781-828-1896, (G) 781-752-9982 **Welcome Nathalie & Greg!!**

IN MEMORY:

Regina Fiegel, Oct 16, 2022, past president

Wayne Felton, Oct 17, 2022, husband of past president Carolyn Felton

Berry Grant, Oct 26, 2022 loving spouse to Sheldon

Memorials to the Opera Guild may be made in their honor - "*Gone but not forgotten*".

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

Gwen Reichbach - Gwen Reichbach has lived a full life of travel, school, work, kids & sewing. She landed in North Carolina in the early 2000's after spending most her life in the Midwest. Being raised in Chicago she can't quite understand our whining when the temperature gets below 50. While raising her two daughters, Gwen worked full time as professor & administrator at Eastern Michigan U & earned her PHD in finance. After her move to NC she met her main squeeze Michael Fonzo & began an elaborate sewing business for which she continues today. She & Michael joined the Opera Guild around 2006. She settled in several years later as guild treasurer, membership chair & the coveted recording secretary for which she holds today. She's usually the first person to volunteer to make a dessert or provide pickups from the airport. Many thanks to you Gwen. – *P. Chinnis*



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT

Opera Services is a committee easily looked over. Kim Dunnagan has headed it for many years now. When the opera principals arrive to Charlotte for a performance, **opera services** is there to meet them & take them to their hotel. They are also

greeted with a “goodie bag” showing our appreciation for having them. Opera services is now taking on the job of helping opera chorus member Gerry Clonaris man the “swag” tables where merchandise is for sale before, during & after the operas. If you help you get a free ticket to the performance plus represent Opera Guild.

Stay warm & safe,

Pauline Chinnis

Opera Guild President
704-560-9624

Opera Guild of Charlotte

NEWSLETTER – Dec ‘22



I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. In tumultuous times we still have much to be thankful for. Please take note of the many guild & opera events to come as you’re anticipating the busy holiday season.

INFORMATION:

- If you’ve not made your Holiday RSVP please contact Laurie Knudsen at laurieknudsen3@gmail.com
- Join facebook group of Opera guild of Charlotte to see event pictures.
- No Guild board meeting this month

EVENTS: (wear name tags at all opera events)

- ***Newcomers luncheon -***
Thursday Dec 1, 11:30-1
Home of Mary Staton
2431 Hartmill Ct, Charlotte 27226

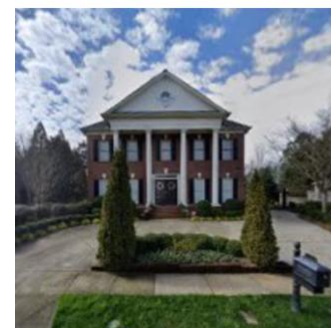


- ***Christmas Holiday Party***
Friday Dec 9, 6:30 pm
7506 Stonecroft Park Dr, Charlotte
Home of Christina Melissaris

- ***Enrichment for "Porgy & Bess"***
Jan 11, 2023, 5:30-7:30p.
(5-5:30 Newcomers)
Opera Carolina Office
1600 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte



- ***Met Opera Laffont Competition***
Saturday Jan 14, 2023, 11am
Sandra Levine Theater, Sarah Belk
Gambell Center Queens University



- ***Porgy & Bess at Opera Carolina***
Jan 22, 24, 26 & 28, 2023
Belk Theater, Charlotte



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT

Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition – sandwich/concession sale

This committee supports the Met competition that has been held in Charlotte for the last 25 years under the leadership of Leslie Paliyenko. With the exception of last year due to Covid restrictions, the competition has been held at Queens University. Singers from all over come to Charlotte to audition before judges with the hopes of being selected to go to Atlanta for regionals and on to New York in May for the final competition.

The Guild has traditionally held a “sandwich” sale to provide singers, judges & visitors food to eat & to create income given as a donation to the Met. The Guild members also serve in the lobby to greet singers & help them find their way to the stage at the appointed time. Please come to listen to the singers & support them. As I take over from Leslie this position as Director, I thank you in advance for the volunteer work you will provide.

Stay warm & safe,

Merry Christmas & blessings to you all.

Pauline Chinnis

Isaiah 9:6

Opera Guild President

704-560-9624



Opera Guild of Charlotte

NEWSLETTER – Jan '23



Happy New Year my Guild friends. I hope everyone had a blessed Holiday. We have many guild events to look forward to so please read carefully.

NEW MEMBERS:

Karen Gunther 1120 East 35th St, Charlotte NC 28205, bday 10/17
607-377-4756(c) Karen.gunther@gmail.com

Ed Azarian 138 Schooner Rd Mooresville, NC 28117
704-450-9000(c) azarian27@hotmail.com

Sheldon Grant (address change) 2257 Tattonhall Rd Fort Mill, SC 29715
704-771-8619 (c)

INFORMATION:

- Join facebook group of [Opera guild of Charlotte](#) to see event pictures.
- Wear **name tags** at all opera events
- Now available - Guild coffee mugs, \$12
Contact Theresa Nardi, t.nardi@att.net



OPERA GUILD FUNDRAISERS

- *Guild "Love Wine & Cheese"*
Wednesday February 8, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Enjoy wine, live music & extensive charcuterie

FUNDRAISER BY OPERA GUILD OF CHARLOTTE

LOVE
Wine & Cheese
February 8 5:30 PM

Deluxe Charcuterie
Exclusive Wines

Mere's Wine Curate Gourmet
2400 Park Road, Charlotte, NC

Live Jazz!

Tickets \$55
Use QR or
Link Below



[CLICK HERE TO ATTEND!](#)

Or mail a **check** to:

Opera Guild of Charlotte
PO Box 470132
Charlotte, NC 28247

- **MONTH OF OPERA FEASTS \$125 ea**
March 4, host Debbie Berry dberry616@aol.com
March 11, host Tatyana Thulien Thulien.tatyana@gmail.com
March 18, host Kristine Yankovsky kristinaesq@cs.com
March 25, host Theresa Nardi t.nardi@att.net

MORE DETAILS TO COME...

GUILD EVENTS:

- **Enrichment for "Porgy & Bess"**
Jan 11, 2023, 5:30-7:30p.
(5-5:30 Newcomers)
Opera Carolina Office
1600 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte
- **Met Opera Laffont Competition**
Please come support these singers
Saturday Jan 14, 2023, 11am
Sandra Levine Theater,
Sarah Belk Gambrell Center, Queens University
- **Porgy & Bess** at Opera Carolina **Jan 22, 24, 26 & 28, 2023**
Belk Theater, Charlotte
- Guild monthly board meeting **Jan 24, 10am**
Trio Restaurant 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT – Leslie Paliyenko

Say the name Leslie Paliyenko to anyone in the world of music in Charlotte & you immediately get a resounding “Oh my, what an amazing & lovely person”. Though very proud of her Ukrainian heritage, Leslie is a native of Toronto Canada, eh. She & her husband Paul raised 6 children. Though starting her career in elementary education, she quickly became a fixture in the Opera world, first as an opera chorus singer but later in development with Opera Carolina & Spirit Square.



Joining the Opera Guild of Charlotte in the early '70's there's not a position she hasn't held. She is finishing up 25 yrs as Director of the NC District of the Met Competition. Thank you Leslie for the many contributions you have made to our Opera Guild & the legacy you have left. *P. Chinnis*

Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624

Opera Guild of Charlotte

NEWSLETTER – Feb '23



Dear Guild members,

We've dodged the bad weather bullet but be alert for upcoming events. I'm grateful for all the help given for events so far. We work well together & have FUN!

NEW MEMBERS:

Carol Ann Smith carolannsmith1219@gmail.com

214-212-9114

Craig Danforth craig_danforth@hotmail.com

646-250-4545

PAST & PRESENT

Porgy & Bess Enrichment of 42 attendees – Thank you Bob Gaines & committee.
Met Opera Competition complete – Thank you Martha McCoy & committee
Successful UBER shuttle for Porgy & Bess, 5 participants
For Sale: Guild coffee mugs & History Books - \$10

OPERA GUILD FUNDRAISERS

Guild “Love Wine & Cheese”.

[CLICK HERE TO ATTEND!](#)

Wednesday February 8, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Enjoy wine, live music & extensive charcuterie



FUNdraiser by OPERA GUILD OF CHARLOTTE

LOVE

Wine & Cheese

February 8 5:30 PM

Deluxe Charcuterie
Exclusive Wines

Mere's Wine Curate Gourmet
2400 Park Road, Charlotte, NC

Tickets \$55
Use QR or
Link Below

Live Jazz!

QR code



OPERA FEASTS \$125 ea Email invite sent out

March 4, host Debbie Berry dberry616@aol.com

March 25, host Theresa Nardi t.nardi@att.net (SOLD OUT)

June 3, host Tatyana Thulien Thulien.tatyana@gmail.com

Sept '23, host Kristine Yankovsky kristinaesq@cs.com

GUILD EVENTS:



- Long time Guild member **Melanie Alexander** is hosting an **Art Sale** of her own artwork to benefit our Guild. We will receive 50% all sales.
Please plan to come by

Saturday Feb 25, 4-6pm (wine & Hors d'erves served)

Preview Friday Feb 24, 5-7pm

5431 Callander Court, Charlotte

Call her if this time doesn't suit you. **704-307-9225**

Check her website melaniecohartsart.com



- The Guild supports the young singers of Opera Carolina's Vocal Academy. They have invited us to attend one of their rehearsals at Myers Park Methodist Church **6pm**. Please indicate your preference to **Isabelle Griesmyer** igriesmyer@gmail.com:

Monday Feb 6

Monday Feb 13

Monday Feb 27

- Guild monthly board meeting **Feb 28, 10am**
Trio Restaurant 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (all are welcome)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT – Sherry & Charlie Rumbough

We're privileged to have many active couples in our guild & few deserve more attention than Sherry & Charlie. Married over 20 years, they have been stable fixtures in our Guild since 2007. Sherry was busy earning her MBA in WI before meeting physics career man Charlie in Florida. Her guild involvement down there was easily transferred to our guild as president, treasurer & secretary. Charlie is well know as a supernumerary on the Opera Carolina stage, gracing over 10 shows. They LOVE to travel, having been to over 100 countries. Tibet & Switzerland are their favorites. When Sherrys not traveling she's gardening or teaching Sunday School. We love them both & are grateful for their friendship & Guild commitment. *P.Chinnis*



Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624



Opera Guild of Charlotte

NEWSLETTER – March '23

Dear Guild Members,

A grand time was had by all who partook in our first **Wine & Cheese** fundraiser Feb 8. Check the Guild site on Facebook for darling pictures. A Met Opera Volunteer luncheon was held by president Pauline Feb 17. Many preparations are being made for upcoming Opera Feasts in March & the 2nd annual Kentucky Derby party fundraiser May 6. Mark your calendar.

DATE CHANGE:

Art sale for member Melanie Alexander has been changed from Feb 24-25 to March 10-11. 5431 Callander Ct.
Mar 10, 5-7p & Mar 11, 2-8pm, 704-307-9225
(Email has been sent out as a reminder)

OPERA FEASTS \$125 ea Email invite sent out

March 4, host Debbie Berry dberry616@aol.com 2 spots left

March 25, host Theresa Nardi t.nardi@att.net (SOLD OUT)

June 3, host Tatyana Thulien Thulien.tatyana@gmail.com

Sept '23, host Kristine Yankovsky kristinaesq@cs.com

LADIES DINNER OUT

Come meet fellow Guild ladies. All welcome – CASUAL!

Hickory Tavern – 6pm

12210 Copper Way, Charlotte

Thursday March 16

OPERA CAROLINA PRESENTS...

Musica Da Camera

Sunday March 26, 3pm Tate Recital Hall, CPCC

Opera Carolina & Chamber Music for all

FOR TICKETS CALL 704-330-2722

AS ALWAYS...

Donations graciously accepted for our Education & Encouragement Committee and for Memorials.

Opera Guild mugs & History Books will continue to be sold at all Guild events, \$10 ea.



THE OPERA GUILD OF CHARLOTTE AND OPERA CAROLINA cordially invite you to attend THE 2ND ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY Party

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023
3:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Hosted by FRANK AND KATHY BRAGG
16030 McAuley Road, Huntersville

Southern fare, Mint Juleps, Silent Auction Derby Hats and Southern Style are encouraged
\$75.00 PER PERSON

SCAN FOR RESERVATIONS
OR CALL 704.560.9624 OR 763.229.2736

OPERA TRIVIA – Did you know.....

- The first performance of Puccini's Madama Butterfly was one of opera's all-time worst flops. The audience made bird, cow & goat calls & booed. The opera became one of the best loved ones in history.
- Longest applause ever: Placido Domingo performed the title role in Verdi's Otello in Vienna in 1991 where the audience clapped one hour and 20 minutes & 101 curtain calls.
- Rossini (1792-1868) wrote one of the most famous operas The Barber of Seville in just **two weeks**.
- Some opera composers hired groups of applauders to cheer their works – or boo their rivals.

OPERA JOKES

- What do you call a fake opera singer?
Placebo Domingo
- How can you tell their a soprano at the door?
She can't find her key & doesn't know when to come in.

OPERA GUILD HISTORY

The Opera Guild of Charlotte officially began in 1954 when the Charlotte Music Club founded Charlotte Opera with a budget of \$150. Though the opera volunteer chorus made their own costumes, sets & props, the Guild began offering regular financial support. For 35 years the company performed at Ovens Auditorium. Later it was rebranded as Opera Carolina & in '92 moved to the current Belk Theater. The Guild has continued to be a significant partner in the growth of Opera Carolina. With over 60 past presidents & a current membership of over 120 members the Guild continues to flourish & make a difference.

Data taken from the "History of the Opera Guild"

Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624

Opera Guild of Charlotte

NEWSLETTER – April '23



Dear Guild Members,

Don't panic, spring really is coming. With it is the anticipated final opera "La Traviata" & our final

Enrichment/Spring general meeting. Please pay attention to emails that come out for necessary RSVPs.

The Guild will be voting in the new officers for 2023-24. More importantly are the preparations for the

2nd annual **DERBY PARTY MAY 6**. Please buy your tickets. Limited to 100 attendees.

PAST EVENTS:

Art sale for Melanie Alexander profited the Guild \$350.

Debbie Berry & Theresa Nardi's **Opera Feasts** were big successes.

Ladies' dinner at Hickory Tavern desires a repeat, TBD.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Enrichment for "La Traviata" & Spring General Meeting**
Thursday Apr 13, 5:30–7
Cameron Wood Swim & Racquet Club
3228 Birnen Dr, Charlotte
RSVP to Bob Gaines here rgaines@aum.com
- **Wingate University events**
Opera Scenes
Friday Apr 14, 7pm McGee Theatre
Choral Concert
Thursday, Apr 20, 7pm McGee Theatre



- Opera Carolina's "La Traviata"
Apr 20, 22 & 23, Belk Theater
Contact Jill Hazel for Shuttle/Uber Jillhazel41@gmail.com

- Opera Board Meeting - All are welcome
10am Tues Apr 24
Trios Restaurant – 10709 McMullen Creek Parkway

- Opera Carolina Vocal Academy Spring Events
Boom Festival Saturday Apr 22, 12:30-1 pm – Camp
NorthEnd

- Recital & Reception - Monday May 15, '23 6:30pm
Myers Park United Meth Church- Francis Chapel

Kentucky Derby Party

Saturday May 6, 3-8p

Buy your tickets **now!** [CLICK HERE TO ORDER.](#)

OPERA FEASTS \$125 ea Contact Tatyana & Kristine
June 3, host Tatyana Thulien Thulien.tatyana@gmail.com
Sept '23, host Kristine Yankovsky kristinaesq@cs.com

AS ALWAYS...

Donations graciously accepted for our Education & Encouragement Committee & for Memorials.

Opera Guild mugs & History Books will continue to be sold at all Guild events, \$10 ea.

Check our website for information operaguildofcharlotte.com

Wear your name tag!

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT – Maestro James Meena



THE OPERA GUILD OF CHARLOTTE AND OPERA CAROLINA cordially invite you to attend

THE 2ND ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY Party

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023
3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by
FRANK AND KATHY BRAGG
16030 McAnley Road, Huntersville

Southern fare, Mint Juleps, Silent Auction
Derby Hats and Southern Style are encouraged
\$75.00 PER PERSON

SCAN FOR RESERVATIONS
OR CALL 704.560.9624 OR 763.229.2736




Jim Meena has provided vision and leadership to Opera Carolina for nearly 23 years as Artistic Director. He came to Charlotte by way of Cleveland, OH. Born into a musical family, his father chose the life of a Jesuit Priest over full-time music. Jim began piano at age 5 and received full scholarships to both Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory & Carnegie Mellon, receiving a Masters in conducting. There he first discovered his gift of a photographic memory allowing him to conduct complete operatic works without one bit of sheet music. Astonishing! Having met his wife Mary in college, they've remained married 44 years, blessed with two daughters & now one granddaughter.

When the Maestro isn't preparing for an operatic performance he may be found in the kitchen honing his culinary skills or outside pruning his beloved Camellias. We in Charlotte are so fortunate that he has made home here & brought Opera Carolina to the height that it is. Thank you Maestro Meena!



Pauline Chinnis
Opera Guild President
704-560-9624