



**Opera Volunteers International
and
The Guilds of The Santa Fe Opera, Inc.
present**

**Conference 2009
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

***Volunteerism in
Today's World***

**Thursday, July 9 to
Sunday, July 12, 2009**

This is the time and place for meeting fellow volunteers from across North America; it's the time for sharing your enthusiasm as a volunteer by contributing to lively Conference presentations and informal chats; it's the time for enjoying Santa Fe's unique charms; and it's the place for experiencing the magic of The Santa Fe Opera.

As the sun drops behind the mountains, creating a classic Northern New Mexico sunset, the house lights dim to signal the start of another great performance — in this case, a world premiere appearance by Natalie Dessay in the role of Violetta, the doomed heroine of Verdi's masterpiece, *La Traviata*!

Join Us - Be There to Enjoy It All!



Welcome to Santa Fe!

Some Advice For First-Timers to Northern New Mexico

Be aware that the city is located at 7,000ft. Summer days can be very warm, getting close to 90F, but the nights are generally wonderfully cool. First time visitors are advised to take it easy for a day or two to adjust to the altitude and the plentiful sunshine. Bring sunscreen, wear a hat, and be aware that a couple of alcoholic drinks can be the equivalent of imbibing lots more at a low altitude! Above all, keep drinking water! Due to our very low humidity, a regular supply of drinking water is important to have with you at all times!



The Basilica in downtown Santa Fe

Your Visit to The Santa Fe Opera



The Crosby Theatre of The Santa Fe Opera

While the days are warm, it can sometimes be a bit chilly at the Opera by the time a show finishes at 11:30pm or midnight! Although, mid-July is still a bit early, the "monsoon" rains often bring intense but cooling thunderstorms in the late afternoon. Be prepared by bringing layers of clothing and/or a blanket! A performance at the 53 year-old Santa Fe Opera is about more than the singing and the music. We shall be in the third theatre constructed on this site, although this modern facility, completed in 1998, retains many of the features of the very first 500-seat all-wood theatre which opened in 1956.

Our Saturday evening visit will be timed so that we arrive at least one half-hour before the performance in order to take in the views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the East. (Named "The Blood of Christ", they often glow at sunset for a few magical minutes). Visible from the opera house terrace or even from our seats, the setting sun drops behind the Jemez Mountains and is visible through the open rear of the stage. Many stage directors and scenic designers take full advantage of this element of the Crosby Theatre's design and construction to provide these spectacular views, which are unique in comparison to any of the world's opera houses!

OVI Membership and Membership Upgrades

Membership in Opera Volunteers International is available in the following categories on a yearly basis:

Individuals — **Student:** \$25; **Patron:** \$45 (Dual \$60); **Grantor:** \$150; **Benefactor:** \$250; **Sponsor:** \$500; **Ambassador:** \$1,000; **Donor:** \$2,500; **Sustainer:** \$5,000; **Lifetime:** \$10,000.

Groups — \$100, with more than 50 members active for 3 years or more; \$50 – Fewer than 50 members or active less than 3 years. Further information available from OVI Conference Chairs, Ann and Ellen Fusz at aandefusz@aol.com.

To take advantage of the Grantors Circle benefits at Conference 2009, please upgrade your membership.

Optional program:

Thursday 9th, 9am to 5pm: All-day Pre-Conference Trip to Taos

Members of the Taos Opera Guild, your hosts for the day, will meet the van's arrival in Taos and accompany the group during your visit in town. This will include seeing the ancient Taos Pueblo (photo above), continuously inhabited for over one thousand years. You'll look inside local artists' studios and have lunch at a local restaurant. On the way back to Santa Fe via the "High Road", with its charming villages and churches, you'll visit the historic Santuario in the village of Chimayo (photo right) and arrive at the hotel in time to prepare for the 5:30pm Welcome Reception.



**Cost: \$85pp, including lunch.
10 people minimum required for this option.**

Optional program:

Friday 10th, 5pm at The Santa Fe Opera: Dinner and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*

A van will pick you up at 5pm and drive the 6 miles to the Opera for a 1-hour backstage tour of the unique Santa Fe Opera House where most of the backstage facilities are located beneath stage level. It will be followed by an elegant buffet dinner at the new Dapples Pavilion (photo right) and a pre-performance talk by nationally-known lecturer Desirée Mays, before strolling up to the theatre to catch the sunset and wait for the house lights to dim, signaling the beginning of another great evening at The Santa Fe Opera.



**Cost: \$135pp plus \$20pp pro-rated for van transportation.
10 people minimum required for this option.**

OVI Conference 2009

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 8 or Thursday July 9, 2009

All day: Arrivals into Albuquerque's "Sunport" (ABQ) via all major carriers. Regularly scheduled shuttles and trains run directly from the airport to Santa Fe. See page 4 for transportation options.

Thursday, July 9, 2009

9am: Registration at the Hotel Santa Fe all day.

9am: Optional program: All-day trip to Taos and Chimayo, returning by reception time. See page 2 for details.

5:30pm: Come and meet your fellow volunteers from all over North America and make new friends at the Welcome Reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres at the hotel.

Friday, July 10, 2009

7am: Enjoy a nice walk to the downtown Plaza in the cool of the morning! Silent Auction set up begins.

From 8:30am: Come and see the auction items, donated by many of the participating organizations and on display for you to place your bids! Bid early, bid often!

8:30am: Continental breakfast on the patio followed by welcoming remarks by our Keynote Speaker, well-known for his support of volunteers, The Santa Fe Opera's General Director **Charles MacKay**.

10am: Share your experiences and ideas during the popular "Volunteer Highlights" hour.

11am: First Conference Session: **Andrea Fellows Walters**, The Santa Fe's Opera's Education and Community Programs Director: "A Place at the Table: Arts Education Policy in the 21st Century", followed by breakout sessions and the sharing of reports with the group.

12:15pm: Lunch at the Hotel Santa Fe includes a general membership meeting and the 2009 Awards Presentation to honor this year's OVI achievers.

Afternoon & Evening: Free to enjoy Santa Fe shopping and dining and/or our optional program.

From 5pm: Optional program: At The Santa Fe Opera, take a backstage tour of the unique opera house, have dinner in the new cantina, and see Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. See page 2 for details.

Saturday, July 11, 2009

7am: Wake up and walk over to the new Santa Fe Farmers Market at the recently completed Railyard! Catch a glimpse of New Mexico's new Rail Runner Express train as it arrives or leaves!

8am: Full breakfast and regional meetings on the hotel patio.

9:15am: Second Conference Session: **Susan Berk**, local volunteer organizer extraordinaire: "The Value of Volunteers: Finding and Retaining Them - and Making Them Feel Good".

11am: Third Conference Session: **John Webber**, Editor of Santa Fe Guild's newsletter, *Operagram*, and *GI News*, the newsletter of all eight New Mexico Guilds: "Getting the Word Out: Sharing Methods of Communicating with Volunteer Groups." *Attendees should bring copies of their group's newsletters to share with others.*

Afternoon: Optional local trips to be arranged, or explore Santa Fe on your own.

2pm: Grantors' Circle Event (available to members at the Grantor level or above): Enjoy a special house and garden tour with wine and hors d'oeuvres in one of Santa Fe's finest homes.

5pm: Silent Auction closes. Take time to check on your bids this afternoon and let's see who wins!

From 6pm: Cocktails and dinner at the well-known La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa, followed by one of internationally-famous soprano Natalie Dessay's first performances in the role of Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* at The Santa Fe Opera.

General Information

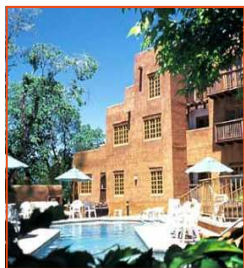
The Santa Fe Opera Guild's Toll Free Line: (888) 666-1410, Ext.109

E-mail: OVI2009inSantaFe@comcast.net

Santa Fe contacts: Co-chairs, Nancie Dominic and John Webber via the above

Full Conference 2009 information and a registration form will be posted on the OVI website at www.operavol.org

Conference Hotel - The Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe NM 87501



More information about the hotel and its facilities can be found on the internet at www.hotelsantafe.com.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible by calling (800) 825-9876 and asking for the OVI Conference rates.

Rooms in different categories are being held at special Conference rates from \$169 per night (superior king).



Getting to Santa Fe from the Albuquerque "Sunport" Airport (ABQ)

At this time there are no scheduled flights into Santa Fe's small regional airport. The closest air connection is via Albuquerque, New Mexico's main airport, 60 miles south of Santa Fe.

- **Sandia Shuttle Express: (888) 775-5696** or www.sandiashuttle.com

From the airport, shuttle buses run directly to the Hotel Santa Fe (first stop) from 8:45am and each hour until and including 6:45pm, then 8:45pm and 10:45pm. One way per person: \$25. You should book in advance by phone or online. This shuttle trip takes just over an hour.

- **ABQRide, Route 350: (505) 243-7433** or www.cabq.gov/transit. This bus connects ABQ to 6 scheduled Rail Runner trains from 5:58am to 6:10pm, about 25 minutes before each train's departure. One way fare: \$1 /\$.35 seniors.

- **Rail Runner Express: (866-795-7245)** or www.nmtrainrunner.com

The newest connection between Albuquerque and Santa Fe started service in December 2008. It makes 8 trips each day from Monday to Friday, fewer on Saturday. As of March 2009 there is no Sunday service nor is there a train from ABQ between 10:37am and 4:15pm. The last train leaves at 6:35pm. One way fare: \$6 / \$4 seniors.

- **The Santa Fe Pickup** is a new, free shuttle bus which meets each train in Santa Fe and does a circular, counter-clockwise loop through town. The Hotel Santa Fe is one of the first stops. The entire trip from ABQ takes about 2 hours.

Opera Tickets

A limited number of group rate tickets at \$84 (\$20 off regular price) in Section 3 for Friday's *The Elixir of Love* (available only as part of the dinner and backstage tour package) and Saturday's *La Traviata* are being held and may be booked when you mail in your registration form. Delegates and guests, who may wish to purchase seats for *La Traviata* in a different section of the house, may book directly from the Opera's box office or select their own seats online by viewing the seating chart for the July 11 performance. No Group/OVI discount is available through box office or online orders. **The Santa Fe Opera box office: (800) 280-4654**, Monday—Friday, 9am to 5pm, Mountain Time or at www.santafeopera.org.

Volunteer Highlights on Friday morning, July 10th

This is an enjoyable sharing of your group's success stories; check the appropriate box on the registration form and OVI will provide guidelines and suggestions.

Silent Auction: Set-Up from 7am on Friday; Open all day Friday and until 5pm Saturday

President Fern Grauer has already sent a letter to all OVI members asking for donations of opera-related items for Conference 2009. Non-members will find Fern's letter and Donation Form included with this brochure. Contact our Silent Auction Chair, Isabel Hudson, in NM at **505-753-2318** or musicibh@yahoo.com.

Registration Deadlines

Conference Delegates and Guests: Registration must be made by Monday, June 1st 2009.

Hotel Santa Fe: Room reservations must be made by Monday, June 1st or rooms will be released.

Opera tickets: Unsold tickets will not be held after Friday, May 22nd.