

2016 Partners in Excellence

Seattle Opera Guild

Seattle Opera Guild is celebrating their 60th anniversary. They have contributed over three million dollars to the Seattle opera. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Seattle Opera in 1964. The guild also helped establish OVI and hosted it's first conference in 1972. The Seattle Opera Guild provides grants and performance opportunities to young singers as well as giving countless hours to support and promote the opera.

Young Patronesses of the Opera

YPO is celebrating its 60th anniversary. YPO was begun in 1956 by Arturo Di Filippi, the founder of the Greater Miami Opera, which is now the Florida Grand Opera. YPO brings opera education to the Miami-Dade County Schools. They produce the **Opera Funtimes** series of books for young people that tells the story of an opera by using illustrations, poetry, puzzles and a short musical score. They give an **Educator of Note Award** to outstanding teachers in the community. YPO has supported and worked closely with the Florida Grand Opera for 60 years.

Julie Ann Benson



Julie was president of the Chicago Lyric Opera Chapters Executive Board (CEB) for four years and the Near North Chapter for 5. She was Co-chair of the Chicago Lyric's Operathon for four years and chaired the Backstage Tours for three. As president of CEB she established the \$1 million Chapter's Endowed Chair of Education in memory of Alfred Glasser. She has worked for years recruiting volunteers and growing chapter membership. She serves on the Guild Board of Lyric

Opera. Julie is past president of OVI.

Jerry Bohannon

Jerry has been a member of the Houston Grand Opera Guild for more than twenty years. He

has been Guild president twice. Jerry managed the Boutique for several years and still volunteers to work in it. He has worked in various capacities with the volunteers. He researched an online tracking system for volunteers which has been very successful. Jerry worked at the OVI meeting in 2005 and the Opera America Meeting in 2009 in Houston.



Una Creditor

Una is a member of the Lyric Opera Kansas City Board of Trustees and has served for six years. She is presently in her third term. She has been a member of the Lyric Opera Guild

Board since 1995 while serving in almost all officer roles including president for two years. Una hosts events in her home, organizes parties, hosts visiting opera performers, and supports the Met auditions.



Danielle DiStefano



Danielle is from Eden, New York, and has done exemplary volunteer work for the Johnson Fund in the areas of graphics and web outreach. She has developed an opera course which will be brought to the schools in the Buffalo Niagara area. She was vice-chair of the Celebrate National Opera Week in Western New York. Danielle is an advocate of classical and operatic music education. She created the EHJMF's outreach program, Singing it Forward. She has published articles in operaBuffs of WNY, Inc. and OVI 's newsletters.

Delton Harrison, Jr.

Delton is a true philanthropist. He and his family have supported Shreveport Opera from its beginning 67 years ago. The major Shreveport-Bossier Opera Guild fundraiser, Les Boutiques de Noel, was Delton's idea: it contributes over \$100,000 a year to the Shreveport Opera. Delton has been a member of the Shreveport Opera Board for many years and is a contributing member of the Guild. Delton also supports Glimmerglass Opera and is on the board of the Metropolitan Opera.



Mark Maser



Mark has promoted Opera Omaha for over twenty years. He has served on the Board of Directors for Opera Omaha and its advisory board, and was president of the Guild of Opera Omaha in 2014-2015. Mark has co-chaired the Snowflake Ball and the 50th Anniversary Gala. Mark hosts the Opera Omaha Study Group in his home and also has Guild meetings there. He hosts the holiday Victorian Tea in his home which honors past Guild Presidents.

Marilyn Ott

Marilyn is a member of the Cincinnati Opera Guild Board. She is Co-chairman of the Outbound and Education Committee. She supports all of the meetings, lectures, performances, fundraisers, and all other events of the opera with her volunteer efforts as well as her financial support.

Marilyn coordinates Opera Raps volunteers and serves as head usher for the Opera Raps series. She is described as the first person to volunteer for any task at hand.

