



PORTOPERA
 DONA D. VAUGHN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
 PRESENTS ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK'S

HANSEL AND GRETEL

July 29 at 7:30PM

July 31 at 2:00PM

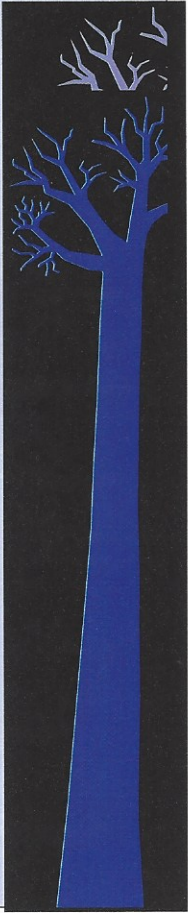
Merrill Auditorium
 Portland Maine

Israel Gursky, Conductor
 Dona D. Vaughn, Director

Tickets available now at
www.porttix.com
 207-842-0800



www.portopera.org



LOOKING BACK AT NASHVILLE BY RHONDA SWEENEY

What a beautiful city! Around 700,000 live in the greater metro area, which is situated on the Cumberland River, with another 300,000 in the surrounding area. Music is to be found everywhere and there is something for every taste.

I arrived for the Opera Volunteer International Focus and Board Meeting on Thursday, November 12, and was met by Felicia Gates, co-chair of the meeting who led me on a private tour of her city which included the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Tennessee State Capitol building, the War Memorial Plaza and the Tennessee Performing Arts Complex (TPAC). We walked through the beautiful 100 year old Hermitage Hotel, and the fabulous Nashville Library, with its remarkable reading room on the 3rd floor. The tour took in so many sights and we were never more than a few blocks away from the Downtown Sheraton, our meeting hotel. We returned



to the hotel in time for the Welcome Reception, hosted by the Nashville Opera Guild, where I had the opportunity to meet some of their Guild members and re-connect with the other OVI board members.



On Friday morning, we held our OVI Board meeting, chaired by new President Julie Benson. Following lunch a group of us took a city bus tour led by Ann Calhoun. We drove through Bicentennial Park, where a wall depicts Nashville's history from prehistoric times to now, and then on the other side of the park to view a depiction of the states geographical divisions and history. We toured the old Union Railroad Station, now a hotel, with beautiful stained glass ceilings and windows; a great reuse of a classic old building. Other sights included the Frist Museum, Christ Church Cathedral with more magnificent stained glass windows and a serendipitous concert rehearsal, the new Sommet Center, where the Country Music Awards event had been held two

continued on page 6

Old West/Mountain/Desert Region

Shirley Litchfield-Bird and Rosemary Schroeder
shirleylichfieldbird@sbcglobal.net
 phone 480-515-3725
 10333 Buckskin Trail, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

and

phone 630-837-6071
 8 N 190 Naperville Road, Bartlett, IL 60103
 Rosemary Schroeder *arts@aol.com*
 phone 623-561-0129 Phone 630-377-5188
 9438 West Behrend Drive 3020 Majestic Oaks
 Peoria, AZ 85382 St. Charles, IL 60174-7964

Arizona	Colorado	Idaho
Montana	New Mexico	Texas
Utah	Wyoming	

TEXAS

HGO Guild hosted "the best little party ever" event on March 7 to honor former Guild president Miss Bonnie Sue Wooldridge's 40 years of dedication, service and love to the Houston Grand Opera Guild. The event "Music, Divas and Desperados" chaired by Janet Sims provided the 150 guests with food, music, dancing, and fabulous auction items. It also raised \$20,000 for the Guild's education and outreach programs

Pacific Rim Region

Mary and Harold Scott
 phone 425-485-2207
 3225 S. 238th Street SW, Briar, WA 98036

Alaska	Australia	Baja California
California	Hawaii	Oregon
Nevada	Washington State	

WASHINGTON

The Skagit Opera Guild works closely with the opera company and provides assistance where it can. Last year the Guild secured an Opera Volunteers International grant to purchase a "Super title Projector". The population in the area is small but enthusiastic art lovers.

*Canada*

Heather Clark *heather.clarke@shaw.ca*
 phone 6004-733-9329
 1575 Trafalgar Street
 Vancouver, BC, V6K 3R4, Canada

Eastern Canada

Western Canada

WESTERN CANADA

One of Vancouver Opera Guild's projects is to sponsor two teachers to attend the "Music! Words! Opera!" workshop put on by Vancouver Opera. In August we met with the teachers to discuss the musical concert they will put on in December. In September The OGV's board of directors held a brainstorming session titled "Looking to the Future". There were two main topics discussed: (1) How can the Guild increase their active membership and identify individuals with specific skills? And (2) How can we increase public and financial support to meet the objects of the Guild?

Opening of the NOAH LIFF OPERA CENTER

The grand opening of the new Noah Liff Opera Center culminated with a community open house and festival on May 3, 2009, hosted by the Nashville Opera Guild volunteers. Dr. Morel Enoch Harvey, chairman of the event, organized and inspired over 80 NOG volunteers (some in opera costumes) to welcome 500 guests from the Middle-Tennessee area to see the new facility. Some of the activities offered to children and adults on that rainy afternoon were karaoke, face painting and tours of the building. Guests could try on opera wigs and costumes, handle props, put on make-up and be photographed in the process. The outreach performance of *The Magic Flute* was presented to an enthusiastic audience and "The Opera Quiz" table challenged attendees to test their knowledge of opera (no one failed). Bright colored balloons and other favors added to the fun spirit of the Festival.

The goals of the Opera Festival were to educate the community and their interested friends about opera, to create new audiences, and to welcome everyone to Nashville Opera's new home. The feed-back showed that they were successful on all accounts.

Northeast Region

Walter Briggs *walterbriggs@earthlink.net*
 phone 607-264-9312
 115 Fish and Game Road, Cherry Valley, NY 13320

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Connecticut | Delaware | Maine |
| Massachusetts | New Hampshire | New Jersey |
| New York | Pennsylvania | Rhode Island |
| Vermont | | |

NEW YORK

As the "Festival Season" of Glimmerglass Opera got underway the Glimmerglass Opera Guild sprang into action sponsoring a welcoming reception called "eat and greet" for new and returning artists, orchestra members, and production staff (over 300 attended). Then at each of three opera openings, they created a reception (attended by between 200 and 300 guests) following the performance. Throughout the season Guild members distributed picnic lunches to patrons and prepared "changeover" lunches and suppers for production staff on days when there were two performances.

A climax to the summer activities was a Gala Dinner and Auction at the Otesaga Hotel. The Gala was hosted by General Manager, John Irvin and his wife Nancy. The main auction item was a week's stay in an apartment in Paris, and entertainment was provided by members of the Opera's Young American Artists Program. Grossing approximately \$10,000, the Gala funded the Doris P. Shields Artistic Administration Intern, a position supported by the Guild and commemorating a longtime member of the organization.

Southeast Region

Shelley C. Page *Spage813@comcast.net*
 phone 615-665-1957
 1813 Tyne Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37215

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Alabama | District of Columbia | Florida |
| Georgia | Kentucky | Louisiana |
| Maryland | Mississippi | North Carolina |
| South Carolina | Tennessee | Virginia |
| West Virginia | | |

TENNESSEE

The Nashville Opera Guild hosted the Opera Volunteers International Focus and Board Meetings in November. That is now behind them and the membership is preparing for their annual fundraiser "La Bella Notte" to be held on January 23, 2010. This year's theme is "An Evening of Song and Fine Dining", and will be co-chaired by Mrs. John Bearden and Mrs. Charles Niewold. The Honorary Chair will be Crystal Gayle, and one of the high lights of the evening will be the presentation of the Francis Robinson Award.

The Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Guild's Vocal Competition has been held annually since 1995. Its purpose is to foster the study of vocal music as a career in high school students. Each high school in the area sends one student to compete. Two solo selections per student are judged on talent and potential for success in the field of singing as an art form. This year's competition was held on February 1, 2009. From left to right in the photo below are: Rhonda Catanzaro, Mark Laseter (winner), W. Boyd Jackson (first runner up), Mary Earl, Jesse Nance (second runner up), Kate Hoffmann (special recognition), and Jo Coke.



Central Region

Wilma Wilcox *wilmawilcox@yahoo.com*
 phone 913-302-9789
 16314 West Saddletree Lane, Olathe, KS 66062

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Arkansas | Iowa | Kansas |
| Minnesota | Missouri | Nebraska |
| North Dakota | Oklahoma | South Dakota |

MISSOURI

Two members of the Lyric Opera Guild of Kansas City received awards at the Opera Volunteers International Conference in Santa Fe. Dr. Morton Creditor received an award for his work on the Guild's publication of the company's 50th anniversary history book. Richard Byrum received his award for his work on the Guild's production of opera previews on compact discs.

Great Lakes Region

Please send Guild information directly to either Gerald Elijah or to Warren and Melody Schubert *wschubert4@aol.com*

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Eastern Canada | Illinois | Indiana |
| Michigan | Ohio | Wisconsin |

Opera Volunteers INTERNATIONAL

31 Barrett Drive
Rockport, ME 04856-5156

NEWSLETTER

Official Quarterly Publication
Editor, Warren Schubert

Please send Support Group & Volunteer news,
articles, comments and suggestions to:

OVI Newsletter
31 Barrett Drive
Rockport, ME 04856-5156
Telephone: 207-236-2162
E-mail: wschubert4@aol.com

All other correspondence
should be sent to the website:

website: www.operavolunteers.org

ADVERTISING RATES

	1 Insertion	4 Insertions	Savings
Business Card	\$45	\$165	\$15
Quarter Page	\$80	\$300	\$20
Half Page	\$130	\$500	\$20
Full Page	\$250	\$850	\$150

Prices are for camera ready copy or copy on computer disk (pdf, tif or jpeg formats).

Deadline for the Spring 2010
edition is March 1, 2010

APRIL IN CHICAGO

At the Opera
Volunteers
International Focus
and Board meeting
just completed in
Nashville, the conference and meeting
committee
announced that the
next meeting will
take place in
Chicago on April 23
and 24, 2010.
Attendees will be
able to attend
Rossini's "Moses in
Egitto" and Cavalli's

"Gisone" produced by Chicago Opera Theater in
the new Harris Theater located in Millennium
Park. The meeting hotel has not yet been
decided and additional events are still in the
planning stages, but our membership will be
receiving all of that information shortly.

