

THE OPERA VOLUNTEER VOICE

March 2023
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The official newsletter of
*Opera Volunteers
International*

Register ►

Register for Opera
Conference 2023
Here

Last Chance to Register for **OPERA CONFERENCE 2023**

details on page 4

National Volunteer Week April 16-23, 2023

National Volunteer Week is celebrated annually during the third week of April. This week-long celebration is about placing a spotlight on inspiring figures whose invaluable seeds of kindness through volunteering are bettering the community and our world in general. This significant celebration which was established in 1974 provides the perfect opportunity to say thank you. It also challenges us to do better and look for ways to be active participants, joining hands to impact our local communities and calling for more support.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

1. Get involved
Do more than applaud; let your impact be felt. One look around your community, and you find various ways in which you can lend your support.
2. Spread the word
Volunteers are often overworked, so there's always a need for more people. Be a part of the movement to call on more volunteers by using your social media handles to send the message out
3. Say thank you
Appreciating volunteers goes a long way to making them feel good about their impact and driving them to do more. You could do personalized gifts, host an appreciation gala, write a note, email, or thank them in person.

Your 2023 OVI *Partners in Excellence* will be recognized at May's Opera Conference and in the pages of our May newsletter.

You can nominate a special volunteer for next year's awards.

OVI can recognize your special volunteer

2024 Partner in Excellence application deadline is February 1, 2024

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/matching-grants-and-awards/partners-in-excellence/>

Visit our webpage to see how you can honor a special volunteer, group, or anniversary through our *OVI Partners in Excellence* program.

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Fallingwater

From the President: Mary Svela



Dear friends,

April is a special month for volunteer recognition. April 16-23, 2023 provides us all with the chance to recognize the wonderful work of our opera volunteers. Opera volunteers matter. We celebrate your dedication in service of opera, which often spans decades. Although the spotlight usually shines on center stage, **National Volunteer Week** moves the focus behind the scenes to you, our faithful volunteers, who help to make centerstage possible. Your willingness to share both time and talent, volunteering with your opera group and company, as well as with OVI, says a lot about each of you.

We have recognized the contributions of a select number of individual volunteers with our **Partners in Excellence (PIE)** awards through the years. Each time I read of the accomplishments of our PIE candidates, our 'Opera Volunteer All-Stars,' I feel a sense of pride in our organization for offering this special recognition. My hope is that we all will take the time to nominate those who deserve this special praise going forward.

The dedication of all our opera volunteers is appreciated, regardless of how many hours are given. It's important for each of us to know that what we do makes a difference. Let's celebrate National Volunteer Week together.

Mary Svela

2023 OPERA America Conference in Pittsburgh May 17 - 20 will include

- Keynote sessions
- Educational topics
- Round table discussions
- Boat excursion
- Cameraderie

Plus optional:

- Opera performances,
- Awards luncheon
- Dinners
- Sightseeing
- Road trip to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic *Fallingwater* residence.

See Page 4 for details.

2024 grant application and recognition deadlines are February 1, 2024.

Grants

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/matching-grants-and-awards/guidelines-for-ovi-grant-applications/>

Now is the time to think about the kinds of projects that can benefit your opera volunteer group or support your Opera Company and reach out to your community. Details and applications are available on OVI's website.

Partner in Excellence:

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/matching-grants-and-awards/partners-in-excellence/>

Is there an individual your group would like to honor or a special anniversary to celebrate. Nominate an individual or a group for an OVI award.

Project of Special Merit:

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/matching-grants-and-awards/projects-special-merit/>

Did your group create a unique project ? Let us know about it so we can recognize you and share your great idea with our other opera volunteer groups.

----- Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org -----



Plenty to see and do
in Pittsburgh

Download the
official
Pittsburgh
Visitors Guide
2022 from the
Opera
Conference
2023 Website



The Westin Pittsburgh
1000 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-281-3700



OVI
Member
2-Day
Pass!
\$345
until
conference
sold out.

Buy your OVI 2-Day Pass today!

OPERA America and Pittsburgh Opera welcome the opera industry to the City of Bridges for Opera Conference 2023 in association with Opera Volunteers International. Join opera directors, staff, trustees and volunteers at the conference from May 17-20, 2023. Register on the Opera America website for a special 2-day pass and have access to OVI events and experiences along with so much more. This year's conference explores the following themes: the needs of artists and arts workers, the patterns and behaviors of audiences, and the subjects and scope of operas produced in order to articulate core human values in service to communities. In addition to the daily conference events, purchase performance tickets and find conference hotel discounts when you register. More information is <https://web.cvent.com/event/4923e5a9-e47e-4b61-ab89-5486007df183/summary?RefId=Rates>

Explore the City of Bridges

Pittsburgh is renowned for the friendliness of its people, the beauty of its landscape, and the abundance of its world-class attractions. A walkable downtown allows conference attendees plenty of options to explore in their free time, including 200+ restaurants nearby. Nightlife features walkable hot spots in Market Square and the North Shore, just a short walk across one of the three sister bridges.

Hotel Lodging

Opera Conference 2023 will take place at **The Westin Pittsburgh**, located in downtown Pittsburgh, PA. Attendees are encouraged to book their stay at the Westin for easy access to conference activities using OPERA America's exclusive room rates. Rates valid until April 25, 2023 and subject to availability. Learn more and book your stay below.



The Westin Pittsburgh

\$209

An icon in the Steel City, The Westin Pittsburgh is an urban oasis brimming with modern style. Welcoming hotel guests with curated amenities, design-forward accommodations and an enviable downtown location, we offer everything you need for a relaxing and fun hotel stay. Located walking distance to the lively restaurants and shops of the eclectic Strip District.

Hotel Discount available at Opera Conference 2023 site:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/4923e5a9-e47e-4b61-ab89-5486007df183/websitePage:c000e458-9144-45e4-b4b8-509c25efdd23>

Attend with our special OVI member 2-day pass!

Wednesday 5/17

Opening Session

Explore the human dimensions of opera in this opening session of Opera Conference 2023.



Meet up with OVI attendees at our marketing table



Host Company River Cruise Reception

Board the charter cruise river boat after strolling from the conference hotel. Enjoy the sights of Pittsburgh from the river as you network with old friends and new acquaintances.

Evening Plans?

Find the perfect spot to end your day with the guide available from Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

Free time

If you love art, culture and learning, Pittsburgh is a great place to explore. With a wide range of museums and galleries, for interests ranging from history, science, sports and more, there are endless must-do items to add to your itinerary.

Thursday 5/18

Plenary Session

Hear from thought leaders in the opera world about elevating core human values through the production of art.

OVI Board Meeting

All OVI members are welcome to attend our General Meeting at the conference. Bylaws updates and Strategic Planning will be discussed.



Grantor's Luncheon

OVI's Grantor's Luncheon is open to all individual members pledging at the Grantor level and above. Steps from the hotel at the Standard Market & Pint House.



Roundtable Session

Hear new ideas and share experiences with other volunteer groups. New ideas for marketing, fundraising, recruiting and volunteer training will be discussed.

Plenary Session

A second session with thought leaders in the opera world on the topic of respecting and valuing opera's workforce.

Sponsor Reception

Network with friends near the OVI marketing table.

5/18 cont'd

Opera Pittsburgh performs

Denis & Katya at the Bitz Opera Factor
sold out



Resonance Works presents
Verdi's Macbeth

Friday 5/19

Plenary Session

The Audience: How can companies increase audience recruitment and retention after three years of COVID upheaval?

Volunteer Session

Pittsburgh Opera's educational trunk Opera program will be demonstrated.

OVI Awards Luncheon Presentation

Celebrate with these outstanding members of our volunteer community. Learn from the best of the best as they share their stories of success.



Pittsburgh Opera performs

We Shall Not Be Moved

August Wilson African American Cultural Center

Saturday 5/20

Opera America's Closing Session
11:00 am -12:00

OR

OVI Charter Trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater

1 hour tour - 70 mile trip to the site, lunch available at Fallingwater, not included in Fee \$85

Fallingwater is a house designed in 1935 by architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959). Wright's acclaimed work embodies his philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature. Fallingwater is located in the mountains of Southwestern Pennsylvania, about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Fallingwater is designated as a National Historic Landmark and named the "best all-time work of American architecture" in a poll of members of the American Institute of Architects. Travel+Leisure Magazine stated that Fallingwater is "one of the 12 landmarks that will change the way you see the world."

Reserve your spot now!
Only 20 seats available.

(see page 8 to order)



----- Like us on Facebook to join the conversation! -----

Things to do in Pittsburgh

Opera America Conference 2023: Pittsburgh, PA

Here are some suggested sites and delicious bites for your free time during Conference.

Welcome
to the
Burgh!



Duquesne Incline

- Over 140 years old, the ride features one of the most breathtaking skyline views of Pittsburgh you'll ever see!
 - \$2.50 one way, \$5 roundtrip
 - Restaurants:

○ Le Mont

○ Grandview Saloon

○ Altius

Strip District

- International and Specialty Grocery Stores
 - Restaurants in the Strip District

○ Primanti Brothers

○ Pamela's Diner

○ Deluca's

○ Mancini's Bakery

○ Pennsylvania Market

○ Luke Wholey's



Things to do in Pittsburgh

Warhol Museum

- This seven-floor museum is the largest in North America dedicated to a single artist and offers a glimpse into many different styles from Warhol's career- well beyond the iconic soup can.

Heinz History Center

- This six-floor museum features nearly every aspect of Pittsburgh's history including its early settlements, modernization, industries that called the region home (such as glass, iron, and steel), sports history, local inventions, and so much more.

Heinz Chapel

- Non-sectarian chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus

Cathedral of Learning

Gothic Revival skyscraper on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh

Internationally renowned Nationality Classrooms

The 535-foot-tall Cathedral is the second-tallest educational building in the world after the University of Moscow's main building

Pittsburgh Pirates

- Home games against the Arizona Diamondbacks on 5/19 at 6:35 pm and 5/20 at 4:05 pm.
- PNC Park has consistently rated the #1 or #2 ballpark in the country!
- 3rd baseline seats for a night game — you can't go wrong

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

- Opened in 1893 and encompassing 15 acres including a 14-room glasshouse and 23 distinct gardens.

St. Anthony Chapel

- Check out the largest collection of Catholic relics outside of the Vatican at this chapel.

Point State Park

- Located at the confluence of three rivers, is at the tip of Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle." The park commemorates and preserves the strategic and historic heritage of the area during the French and Indian War (1754-1763).

Opera Volunteers International

PO Box 7032
Evanston, IL 60201-2284

Address Correction Requested

Send your guild news and photos to
Newsletter Editor and Publisher:

Rick Greenman

newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Find us on the internet at
www.OperaVolunteers.org

Opera Volunteers International

is an all-volunteer service organization dedicated to advancing volunteerism in support of opera. OVI celebrates the hard work of volunteers and offers ways to help make more volunteer involvement possible by recognizing achievement and creativity, supporting volunteer projects, and advocating for continued involvement of volunteers in opera. Volunteering enriches the lives of volunteers, builds bridges to the community and makes it possible for opera companies to do more.

OVI Opera Conference 2023 Extra Events

(Conference registration at OPERA America website contact Mary Svela for opera tickets)

NAME _____ Phone/Text: (____) _____

Thursday, 5/18/23 GRANTOR LUNCHEON

_____ I will attend

No Charge for donors at the Grantor Level

_____ I will bring a guest

- _____ # guests @\$50 Total _____

Friday 5/19/23 AWARDS LUNCHEON (Award winners are entitled to one free meal)

_____ I will attend

\$62

_____ I will bring a guest

_____ # guests @\$62 Total _____

Saturday, 5/20/23 TRIP TO FALLINGWATER (includes transportation and admission)

_____ I will attend

\$85

_____ I will bring a guest

_____ # guests @\$85 Total _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

_____ Check enclosed, payable to Opera Volunteers International

_____ Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Name on Card _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____ CVV _____

Copy/clip and mail payment to: **Opera Volunteers International**

Sheila McNeill, 17402 Poppleton Ave., Omaha, NE 68130

(Please do not email credit card information to Sheila for security reasons.)

Questions or to upgrade member level? Call Sheila at (402) 630-4077.