

# BEL CANTO

Newsletter of the Manatee Opera Guild

<https://manateecoperaguild.org>

April 2025

## APRIL MEETING

### “WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!”

Palm Aire Country Club

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

10:00: coffee and conversation

10:30: meeting, followed by

**A conversation between Maestro DeRenzi and  
Richard Russell**

11:45: optional lunch

Menu:

Chicken Blanquette - sauteed chicken breast with sherry mushroom cream sauce, sweet potato mash, and roasted seasonal medley

Vegetarian: Pasta Primavera - linguine, garlic and olive oil, assorted grilled vegetables

Dessert - Key Lime Pie

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @\$35 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check (made out to MOG) and Reservation Form to:

Cathy Knobel

787 Benjamin Franklin Drive Sarasota,  
FL 34236

or contact Cathy at 941-706-2490 or

[knobelwd@aol.com](mailto:knobelwd@aol.com)

**Reservations Due Friday, April 11**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my final message to you as president, and it has been a wonderful experience to work with you all, co-president, Richard DeGennaro, our amazing, thoughtful, and hard-working board of directors, and the great folks at Sarasota Opera. As Richard and I leave you in our position of co-presidents, we can proudly say that it has been a great year, in terms of member participation in meetings and events, in a variety of top-notch events, and in money raised for Sarasota Opera. To date, we have given \$26,150 to the opera, \$7,000 to Youth Opera, as well as \$3,000 to a rising opera star, mezzosoprano Tessa Fackelmann. I am so proud to be a member of such a beautiful organization. My thanks to all of you!

Sincere thanks to Syble DiGirolamo who led our nominating committee. She brought us a slate of talented people to take over many of the positions of the Guild. Elizabeth Aversa, our new president and monthly Bel Canto columnist, has introduced all our new board members in an article on the next pages. We are delighted to have newer members join the board Valerie Giuliani taking over as vice-president, and Jeanne Scachetti assuming the role of membership chair. As our board grows, and new ideas are brought in, the Guild will remain a robust organization.

Please plan to come to our meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April to welcome our newest members: **Catherine Boccabella, James and Eileen Buzzard, Michele Corbo, Kathryn DeYoung, Stephanie Fecik, Rudolf Miller, Cheryl Molyneaux and Sue Neumann.**

Before you slip into estivation\*, please renew your membership for next year. You will find the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Can we count on you to continue all our good works? (Members who joined in February or later are already members for next year.)

\*estivation: state or condition of torpidity or dormancy induced by the heat of summer

## **PRESENTING THE 2025-2026 MOG BOARD**

By President-Elect Elizabeth Aversa

In a survey of members of a neighboring opera guild we learned that members wish to “know more about other guild members and their activities.” For this column, then, believing that MOG members may like to know more about their folks, too, we are introducing the new board and their opera favorites. Links to music videos will enable us to hear what our leadership loves!

### **Committee Chairs**

**Bel Canto Editor** Jeanne Yeagle

Jeanne has served several terms as co-president of MOG but will now continue as editor of *Bel Canto*. Jeanne’s favorite aria is “Casta diva” from Bellini’s *Norma*. In the aria, Norma, a Druid priestess, leads her followers in a prayer to the “chaste goddess” of the moon. Here is Anna Netrebko singing the aria in concert.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q41\\_PISixm8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q41_PISixm8)

**Education Chair** Richard DeGennero

Rich has served as co-president with Jeanne Yeagle, but now is moving to the position of Education Chair. When asked for his favorite, he replied “That is such a difficult question. Like which is your favorite child?” After much thought, he settled on the duet with Rodolfo and Mimi in Puccini’s *La Bohème* as the most enduring moment for him. Here is the duet “O soave fanciulla” with Luciano Pavarotti and Fiamma Izzo d' Amico.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzPW8mXX3bg>

**Hospitality Chair** Catherine Knobel

Cathy, who sets up our meetings, greets everyone, and checks to see that we’re registered and paid up, will continue as MOG’s Hospitality Chair. Her favorite is “Nessun Dorma” from Puccini’s *Turendot*. Sung by Calaf, the mystery prince who hopes to marry the icy Princess Turandot, the aria is Calef’s declaration of success after passing three tests required of the suitor who will win her hand. Here is Franco Corelli singing Cathy’s favorite:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWokel5YxM8>

**Membership Chair** Jeanne Scachetti

Jeanne is a new member of MOG, but she’s already modeled in the fashion show and taken the position of Membership Chair. Her favorite, like Cathy

Knobel’s, is “Nessun Dorma.” But she admits to having so many favorites that it’s hard to choose! Here is another version of the aria from 2020. An Italian singer serenaded Florence from his balcony daily during the Covid-19 lockdown.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhTjGS3QkYE>

**Publicity Chair** Brenda Ianiro

Brenda has served on the board as chair of Publicity for several years, and has cheerfully agreed to continue in that role to be sure people throughout the region know about our annual concert and other events. Her favorite aria is from Verdi’s *Rigoletto: La Donna e Mobile*. Here is the link to Vittorio Grigòlo singing the role for The Royal Opera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKoa3BHHbB8>

**Tributes Chair** Linda Buchhart

Linda Buchhart has served as Tributes Chair in the past, and has graciously agreed to continue making sure that MOG members are remembered at important times in their lives. Linda admitted that she really doesn't have an all-time favorite song or piece from a special opera, but she was swept away by the Overture of Verdi's *Stiffelio* this past Winter Opera Festival. Here is a link to the

overture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS4TJ8LFNc>

**Website Chair** Maryanne Hazen

Maryanne previously served as treasurer of MOG, but now will move to the position of Assistant Treasurer so she can apply her considerable technology talent to the MOG website as Webmaster. Maryanne’s favorite is Cherubino’s “Voi Che Sapete.” We heard this sung by MOG award winner Tessa Fackelmann in Mozart’s “*Marriage of Figaro*” this past month. Here is Agnes Baltsa singing the aria.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl8ANZbyO20>

### **Officers**

**President** Elizabeth Aversa

Former Education chair Elizabeth Aversa will serve as president beginning this month. She has many favorites, but offers the revival scene from Carlisle Floyd’s *Susannah* as a choice in the ensemble/chorus category. Here is Samuel Ramey singing Reverend Olin Blitch’s dramatic piece

from the opera that will be on the 2025-2026 schedule of Sarasota Opera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-FPJ4IECd8>

**Vice President** Valerie Giuliani

When invited to reveal her “favorite,” newly elected Vice President Valerie sang the pieces over the telephone! A professional singer with opera under her belt, Valerie has multiple favorites from Verdi (*La Traviata*) and Mozart (*Magic Flute*), to name just two. But the first one she mentioned is Doretta’s song from Puccini’s *La Rondine*. Here is our singer’s pick with a young Rene Fleming in the role.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45dBprCcfs0>

**Vice president (Events)** Syble DiGirolamo

In addition to her “jobs” as a member of the Sarasota Opera board of trustees, the organizer of the T.O.W.N. Club, and being active in numerous other civic and social organizations, Syble is the MOG Vice President for Events. She is the person behind MOG’s annual stage concert and the fashion show. Her favorite choice of an ensemble is the quartet from Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. Click here for the famous “Bella figlia dell’amore” with an all-star cast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFAfvcT9Sgg>

**Secretary** Angela Korsmo

Angela is returning to the position of Secretary even after serving for several years. She especially likes the arias in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Here is Lisette Oropesa singing “Regnava nel silenzio”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYPBO5PdEV>

Y And we also have “Quando rapito in estasi” in which Lucia tells of her love for her intended, Edgardo. Here is Brenda Rae singing that aria for Santa Fe Opera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU5lg14Wjs0>

**Treasurer** Meg Weinberg

Although new to her position as Treasurer, Meg is a regular at MOG activities, including the annual fashion show in which she models and her husband Gary serves as an escort. Meg is another fan of “Nessun Dorma,” but she enjoys many other opera songs. She finds Verdi’s “Brindisi” (“The Drinking Song”) from *La Traviata* to be upbeat and cheerful,

and it’s her favorite for our purposes here. Here is “Libiamo ne’ lieti calici” featuring Venera Gimadieva (Violetta) and Michael Fabiano (Alfredo).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZvgmpiQCcI>

That finishes up the musical picks of this year’s newly constituted board of MOG. We hope you’ll enjoy listening to some of opera’s great hits and that we’ll see

## SARASOTA OPERA NEWS

### 2025 Fall Season



Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

**Brundibár**  
Sarasota Youth Opera Production



Music by Hans Krása  
Libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister

**The 2026 Winter Opera Festival**, running from February 14 through March 29, 2026, will feature four productions.

**Subscriptions for the 2025-2026 Season** will be available for renewal on March 17th online at [SarasotaOpera.org](http://SarasotaOpera.org) and in the Sarasota Opera Box Office, or by phone 941-328-1300. Single tickets on sale August 1.



Very excited by the news of next year's operas, Amigo, my opera-loving kitty, ran to get his book *The Catropolitan Opera*, and opened it to *Così fan tutte* to brush up on the plot and characters. Here he is reading.



Collection

## Opera at The Bay



The Bay  
4754 followers

In partnership with the Sarasota Opera, enjoy three world-class performances from Sarasota Opera's 2025 Winter Festival for FREE at The Bay!

### Events in this collection



#### Opera at The Bay: Cavalleria rusticana

Sun, Apr 27 • 12:00 PM

The Oval at The Bay

Free



#### Opera at The Bay: Pagliacci

Sun, May 4 • 12:00 PM

The Oval at The Bay

Free



#### Opera at The Bay Finale: The Barber of Seville

Sat, May 17 • 7:00 PM

The Oval at The Bay

Free

### Opera at The Bay Schedule of Events

Please click on each of the Opera titles below to learn more and to register.

[Cavalleria rusticana](#) | Sunday, April 27 | 12:00-1:30pm

The calm of a Sicilian Easter morning is broken by a betrayed lover who sets off a chain of events ending in violent tragedy.

Enjoy this opera over a delicious Brunch at [The Nest Café](#) and more.

[Pagliacci](#), including a live performance by the Sarasota Youth Opera | Sunday, May 4 | 12:00-1:30pm

The "Pagliacci" (clown) tries to go on with the show, but his real-life humiliation and despair lead to a grim climax.

Members from the [Sarasota Youth Opera](#) will kick off this event showcasing their impressive musical talents and skills. Enjoy this opera over a delicious Brunch at [The Nest Café](#) and more.

[The Grande Finale: The Barber of Seville](#) | Saturday, May 17 | 7:00-9:30pm

Determined to win the heart of the beautiful Rosina, Count Almaviva enlists the help of Figaro, the barber of Seville, to steal her away from her guardian, Dr. Bartolo. This opera features some of opera's most delightful music and one of the most beloved comedic works.

This not-to-miss series finale promises to offer some surprises to enhance the fun and experience of this final opera showing of the series.

For more information, contact:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/opera-at-the-bay-4179893?utm-source=cp&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-campaign=social&utm-medium=discovery&utm-content=creatorsshare>



## Annual Membership Application

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member ☐      Renewing Member ☐

I (we) can help the Manatee Opera Guild in these ways (please check all appropriate boxes)

Literature design ☐

Event planning ☐

Fundraising ☐

Greeting ☐

Developing membership ☐

Photography ☐

Writing ☐

Hosting parties ☐

Hospitality ☐

Publicity ☐

Refreshments ☐

Serving on the Board ☐

Soliciting advertising and gifts ☐

Telephoning ☐

Editing (newsletters, brochures, letters) ☐

Setting up/cleaning up ☐

Modeling at fashion show ☐

Other talent ☐

Membership Level:

☐ Single Regular Membership \$40

☐ Single Sustaining Membership \$50

☐ Couple Regular Membership \$60

☐ Couple Sustaining Membership \$70

Send application and payment to:

Make checks payable to **Manatee Opera Guild  
or MOG**

Jeanne Yeagle

1700 3rd Avenue West, Apt 111

Bradenton, FL 34205