

BEL CANTO

Newsletter of the Manatee Opera Guild

January 2024

<https://manateeoperaguild.org>



**SWEETHEART LUNCHEON
HONORING CATHY KNOBEL
and
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
PALM AIRE COUNTRY CLUB**

**Coffee and Conversation at 10 a.m.
Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
Sarasota Opera Singers at 11 a.m.**

Followed by an optional luncheon.

Luncheon Menu

Pan-roasted salmon with Lemon & Caper Sauce,
Green Beans, and Rice Pilaf

-or-

Vegetarian Napoleon — layers of roasted
vegetables with sauce.

Dessert: Black Forest Chocolate Cake

**To make reservations for lunch, please call,
write or email Cathy Knobel at:**

787 Ben Franklin Drive #8

Sarasota, FL 34236

knobelwd@aol.com

941-706-2490 or 941-666-3253 (cell)

Luncheon is \$35 per person. Please indicate your
choice of entrée when making your reservation.

Reservations must be received by February 9.

A MESSAGE FROM JEANNE

What a great way to start a new year! Of course, I am speaking of our January meeting. We were overwhelmed by the talent brought to us by Sarasota Opera. Five Studio Artists presented a variety of arias and duets. Learn more about them on page 3.

We are looking ahead to three major events in February, and it would be so wonderful to see all Guild members at all three. The first, on the 11th at 1:30 p.m. is our **Stars of Tomorrow Concert** at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. This concert introduces us to the Apprentice Artists at Sarasota Opera, and allows us to hear them individually. On stage at the Opera, they are in the chorus, where most opera careers start. Some day, we will say, “We knew them when...”

The second is our **Sweetheart Luncheon**, on February 14th this year honoring Cathy Knobel. Cathy is a long-time member of the Guild, and has always been willing to help the Guild succeed, including bringing in many new members. We thank her for arranging our luncheons here, and being a faithful and thoughtful Board Member. When Cathy and her husband moved from Bradenton to Sarasota, she maintained her allegiance to the Manatee Guild.

The third event is the **Fashion Show** on February 28, at 11:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Ranch Country Club. This is always an elegant event, as well as a good fundraiser. This year’s theme is *Carmen*, and will feature singers presenting arias from that opera. Please wear red and black, if you can, to celebrate the spirit of Carmen.

Our February Prelude is on *Deceit Outwitted*, given by Elizabeth Aversa. It will take place at 10 a.m. on February 16 in the auditorium of Westminster Towers, 1533 4th Avenue West, Bradenton, (coffee and pastries at 9:30 a.m.).

TRIBUTES

From Syble DiGirolamo in fond memory of **Dave Luce**.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members:

Ann Haddad
222 12th Street West, Apt. 205
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-504-1049
annthemoviefan@gmail.com

THE ART OF DISGUISE (IN OPERA)

Elizabeth Aversa

The final opera of this year's season is its only comedy. With five performances between March 15 and March 23, we can enjoy the only opera of the 2024 Winter Opera Festival in which nobody dies at the end! Joseph Haydn's *Deceit Outwitted* (*L'infedeltà delusa*) is a delightful comedy with a story that will keep us laughing with music worth hearing again and again. Studying *Deceit Outwitted*, an opera involving several disguises, led me to think about the many operas where characters are disguised and identities are mistaken. From the earliest opera buffa to contemporary opera, disguises are part of this performing art.

Many serious operas have disguises: Wotan as "the wanderer" in Wagner's *Siegfried*; Siegfried as Gunther in Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*; Riccardo as a fisherman in Act I of Verdi's *A Masked Ball* and then the masked ball itself; and Beethoven's *Fidatio* has the title character, who works in a prison to save her husband, but is really a disguised noblewoman named Leonore. But even with these serious operas having disguises, comedies more often use them. Here are five fun examples and links to videos of the operas.

La Serva Padrona (1733)

In this short opera composed by Pergolesi, Serpina, a maid, convinces a household servant, Vespone, to take a disguise as her serious suitor in order to trick her master Uberto into marrying her. The trick works, and Serpina happily goes from maid to mistress of the house. Here

is a link to the opera that is both funny and short. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cQurXAzD8c> The scene with Vespone in disguise begins at 36:05 on the video.

Deceit Outwitted (1773)

This, the sixth of Haydn's twenty operas, uses several disguises. In the first of these a quick-witted peasant girl (Vespina) dresses up as an old crone who is supposedly looking for her daughter's husband Nencio who she says has left the girl with three starving children and no means of support. The disguise and Vespina's wit convince Filippo and his daughter Sandrina that Nencio would not be a suitable husband for Sandrina. Sandrina is relieved because she loves another; Vespina is relieved because she herself has eyes for Nencio! Here is a link to the opera. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FcZ-ec4QU0> Move to 1:02:41 for the 13-minute disguise scene.

Così fan tutte (1790)

Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is another opera that involves multiple disguises. An old philosopher bets two engaged men that their girls will not be true to them in their absence. To prove his point he has the young men disguise themselves as "a couple of Albanians," and then entices them to try to seduce one another's girls. Philosopher Alfonso almost wins the bet, but the happy ending doesn't happen until the girls' maid Despina dons additional disguises as a doctor and as a notary! Here is a link to this amusing opera. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egi7fxTEUCQ>. At 1:48:25 you will find the scene in which the so-called Albanians appear.

The Barber of Seville (1816)

This favorite by Rossini has Count Almaviva disguised, first, as Lindoro, a poor student, who wants Rosina to love him for who he is, not for the glitter and gold of his status as a count. Additional disguises, at the advice of Figaro, are used as well. Here is a video of the whole opera, featuring Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG4V7GPvcvM> In the span of 35:19 through 39:22 on the video we hear Lindoro's serenade for Rosina.

Gianni Schicchi (1918)

In this opera, Puccini's only comedy, a greedy Donati family engages Gianni Schicchi to impersonate their dead relative Buoso Donati so as to change his will. The idea is that the relatives should inherit what Buoso intended to leave to the monks. Schicchi has other plans for the money! Here is a link to the opera <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcH-2uHqLBs>. Move to 38:37 for the action as Schicchi disguises himself as a living Buono Donato.

If you are interested more examples of operas with disguises, check out Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in which Don Giovanni's servant Leporello plays the role of his very demanding master; see Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* where Norina plays Sofronia; and take a look at Verdi's *Falstaff*, in which various characters disguise themselves as elves, fairies, and other forest creatures in order to teach Sir John Falstaff a lesson.

SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S COMING

Stars of Tomorrow — February 11

Sweetheart Luncheon — February 14

Fashion Show — February 28

Spring Fling/Awards Luncheon — March 20

New Member Welcome Luncheon — April 17



January Artists, from left: Luke Hornish, Theresa Kesser, Heeseung Chae, SarahAnne Duffy, Husan Park (Director of the Studio Artist Program), and Nicholas Huff.

Links to their websites:

[Nicholas Huff](#)

[Luke Harnish](#)

[SarahAnne Duffy](#)

[Heeseung Chae](#)

[Theresa Kesser](#)

[Husan Park](#)



Sunday, February 11, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Manatee Performing Arts Center
502 3rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Tickets: \$20 at the door or from Guild Members



Manatee Opera Guild Fashion Show

Lakewood Ranch Country Club
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
11:30 a.m.

Lunch and Fashion Show
Tickets: \$60, Patron Tickets \$75
Call Barbara Quinn
941-776-0038
barbquin@aol.com

SARASOTA OPERA EVENTS

Contact the SO Box Office for tickets to any of these events. Phone: 941-328-1300; sarasotaopera.org, or leave an email at boxoffice@sarasotaopera.org

Opera Performances

Carmen

February 20, 2024 7:30PM
February 22, 2024 7:30PM
February 25, 2024 1:30PM
February 28, 2024 7:30PM
March 2, 2024 1:30PM
March 5, 2024 7:30PM
March 8, 2024 7:30PM
March 13, 2024 7:30PM
March 17, 2024 7:30PM
March 19, 2024 1:30PM
March 22, 2024 7:30PM

Lucia di Lammermoor

February 27, 2024 7:30PM
February 29, 2024 7:30PM
March 3, 2024 1:30PM
March 6, 2024 7:30PM
March 10, 2024 1:30PM
March 16, 2024 7:30PM
March 23, 2024 7:30PM

Deceit Outwitted

March 17, 2024 1:30PM
March 19, 2024 7:30PM
March 21, 2024 7:30PM
March 23, 2024 1:30PM

Luisa Miller

March 12, 2024 7:30PM
March 14, 2024 7:30PM
March 16, 2024 1:30PM
March 20, 2024 7:30PM
March 24, 2024 1:30PM

Prices for operas vary according to seating choice.

Apprentice Artists at Noon

Sarasota Opera House, Peterson Great Room
\$10
March 15 and 21, 2024

Covers at 3 PM

Sarasota Opera House, Peterson Great Room
Understudies (Covers) perform arias from this season's opera season.
\$10
March 21, 2024

Opera Gala —A Masked Ball: Carnevale di Venezia

Ritz Carleton Grand Ballroom
Saturday, February 3, 2024
Reception: 6 PM
Program and Performances: 7 PM
Gala Dinner: 7:30 PM

Salute to the Stars Awards Luncheon

Sarasota Yacht Club
Friday March 22, 2024

11:30 AM, Wine reception

12 PM, Program and Performances by Award Winners

12:30 PM, Luncheon