

THE  
SANTA FE  
OPERA



# SANTA FE OPERA GUILD

THE GUILDS OF THE SANTA FE OPERA, INC

# OPERAGRAM

July 2020  
Volume 12, Number 10

## DESIRÉE MAYS WAGNER WEBINAR: REGISTER NOW!

### THE WAGNER DYNASTY FROM RICHARD TO KATHARINA

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1:00PM - 2:00PM MDT\*

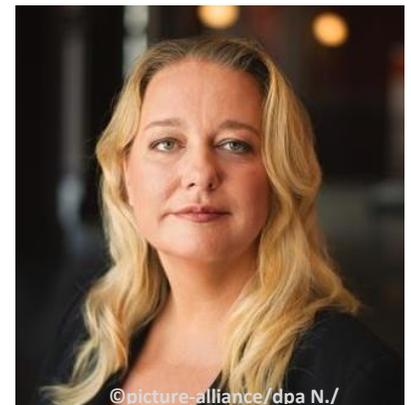
VIRTUAL CHECK-IN: 12:50PM

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



Following her husband's death in 1883, Cosima Wagner ruled over the Bayreuth Festival with an iron will for 20 plus years. She was succeeded by her son, Siegfried, who maintained the family tradition until his death. His wife, Winifred, took up the reins and directed the Festival through the tumultuous years of World War II. Faced with ruin in 1945, Winifred's sons, Weiland and Wolfgang, shared the job of bringing the Festival back to life. At Weiland's death, Wolfgang took over and led the Festival for 50 years. Today the Festival is run by Katharina Wagner, Wolfgang's daughter, who has just resigned. The saga continues.



Desirée will follow the Wagner line of succession in terms of the production values and changes over the years, and by examining the practical and creative responses of different family members to the great works of their forbear. The talk will include images and music excerpts.



Desirée Mays, a Prelude speaker for The Santa Fe Opera for 20 years, is immersed in the world of opera. A

storyteller, radio interviewer, reviewer, and writer, she is the author of the *Opera Unveiled* book series; Desirée lectures internationally and writes program notes, promotional and review pieces. Her radio shows include interviews with singers, directors, and conductors. To register for Desirée's virtual webinar, *The Wagner Dynasty from Richard to Katharina*, please click



[here](#) to provide your name and email address. We will send you a link in time for the virtual session on July 2. For any questions, please send an email to [webinars@santafeoperaguild.org](mailto:webinars@santafeoperaguild.org). \* This event is airing at a new time.

## NEWS FROM THE SANTA FE OPERA



### [Opera Makes Sense: A 4th of July Celebration | July 4 at 10AM MDT](#)

Join us online for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration from the Governor's Mansion on the nation's birthday. The event will feature the Santa Fe Opera Young Voices and a welcome from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. The event will last 15 minutes and will livestream on the Opera's [YouTube](#) channel.

### [Opera InSight | July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 2:00PM MDT](#)

The Opera InSight series returns in a webinar format featuring Dr. Don Fineberg. Opera InSight views opera as a window to the human experience. As such, opera is an undeniably psychological art form. This program, divided into five half-hour episodes, explores how opera integrates its music, narrative and spectacle and immerses us in the range of emotions from thoroughly amused to profoundly moved. Opera InSight is an adventure for the newly opera curious, as well as the experienced opera enthusiast as it focuses on opera classics as well as new work.

Opera InSight will be live on July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 2:00PM MDT. Registration and information about each of the episodes are available through the Santa Fe Opera [website](#). Registration is \$10 per episode, \$35 for the series of five episodes. Each episode will be 30 minutes and is followed by a question and answer period.

### [Songs from the Santa Fe Opera | July 3, 11, 18, 25 and August 1 at 7PM MDT](#)

Join us online for an opening night celebration of each of the five operas in our 2020 Season! Susan Graham, acclaimed mezzo-soprano and Santa Fe Opera audience favorite, will host the first installment, followed by other opera-singing luminaries in later presentations. We will bring you beloved arias from the 2020 festival season sung by the artists scheduled to grace our stage, along with insights from directors and conductors. Free to watch, each video premieres on the Santa Fe Opera's [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel and [website](#) at 7 pm MT, and will remain available to view thereafter. Pre-recorded from the Santa Fe Opera stage and in artist's homes around the world, *Songs from the Santa Fe Opera* presents fresh content and never-before-seen archival footage. All activities are done in accordance with current safety guidelines.

# SAVE THE DATE: SAMUEL RAMEY INTERVIEW WITH CORI ELLISON

## SAM I AM: A VIRTUAL VISIT WITH SAMUEL RAMEY



Samuel Ramey

WHO KNEW? That the quiet, young 1966 Santa Fe Opera Apprentice named Sam from Colby, Kansas, would, through hard work and rugged determination, become the international opera sensation, Bass Samuel Ramey. By 1974, Sam was appearing as Escamillo at the SFO, and subsequently was in demand as everyone's favorite Devil in Europe and New York!

Sam, and interviewer Cori Ellison, eminent Dramaturg and Juilliard Opera Educator, will explore this artist's journey to the top of his profession in a webinar presented by the Santa Fe Opera Guild on Friday, August 14 from 5:00PM-6:00PM MDT. Further detail, including registration will be published in the August *Operagram*.

In prior years, this event has carried an admission charge of \$20 per member. Martha Baker, President of the Santa Fe Opera Guild recently commented, "Our Board of Directors gave this careful consideration and decided that *Meet the Artist* should be free for members this year." She went on to say, "We are all disappointed by the cancellation of this year's festival season, and we

appreciate that our members are sticking with us. Making this important event free to our members is one way of expressing our gratitude." The fee for non-members is \$10.00, and we urge everyone to tune in to hear Sam and Cori chat.

This special event will provide an opportunity for participants to donate to the Opera's \$3 million Matching Challenge Campaign. These donations will be applied to the Opera's Annual Fund, which includes compensation for the singers, musicians, and technicians who had been scheduled to work here this summer. "We are looking forward to this exciting event with great anticipation, and we are sincerely grateful to the Opera Guild for their support and partnership. Knowing that each contribution will be matched on the dollar makes the effort even more meaningful."

Opera Guild members will be directed to a link on the Santa Fe Opera's website to make donations.

Please check the August *Operagram* for pertinent information about the webinar.



Photo Credit: Carol Rosegg

# ZOOM MEETING: VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

## VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, JULY 13, 6:00PM - 7:30PM MDT

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



"[A] wry and wonderful memoir." —NEW YORK TIMES

## FAMOUS FATHER GIRL

*A Memoir of  
Growing Up Bernstein*

JAMIE BERNSTEIN

The Santa Fe Opera Guild and Collected Works present Vivace, a book group devoted to readings about the world of opera. It may be some months before members of our book group are able to meet in person. For this reason, we recently began using Zoom, a multi-functional teleconferencing software which allows us to meet remotely. Our May session, where we discussed *The Noise of Time* by Julian Barnes, proved to be so popular that we had to schedule two additional sessions to accommodate the demand.

Our next Virtual Vivace meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13 at 6:00PM MDT. We will discuss *Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein*, by Jamie Bernstein, daughter of the legendary composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein.

The composer of *On the Town* and *West Side Story*, chief conductor of the New York Philharmonic, television star, humanitarian, friend of the powerful and influential, and the life of every party, Leonard Bernstein was an enormous celebrity during one of the headiest periods of American cultural life, as well as the most protean musician in twentieth-century America.

But to his eldest daughter, Jamie, he was above all the man in the scratchy brown bathrobe who smelled of cigarettes; the jokester and compulsive teacher who enthused about Beethoven and the Beatles; the insomniac whose composing breaks at four a.m. involved spooning baby food out of the jar. He taught his daughter to love the world in all its beauty and complexity. In public and in private, Lenny was larger than life.

In *Famous Father Girl*, Bernstein mines the emotional depths of her childhood and invites us into her family's private world. A fantastic set of characters populates the Bernsteins' lives, including the Kennedys, Mike Nichols, John Lennon, Richard Avedon, Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins, and Betty (Lauren) Bacall.

An intoxicating tale, *Famous Father Girl* is an intimate meditation on a complex and sometimes troubled man, the family he raised, and the music he composed that became the soundtrack to their entwined lives. Deeply moving and often hilarious, Bernstein's beautifully written memoir is a great American story about one of the greatest Americans of the modern age.

**To join us for the Monday, July 13 Virtual Vivace Book Group** via Zoom, click [here](#) to provide your name and email address. We will send you a link in plenty of time for the virtual session on July 13. If you have questions, please email [vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org](mailto:vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org). We look forward to having you join us at Virtual Vivace!

Bernstein's book can be purchased from **Collected Works** (in partnership with [bookshop.org](#) and [libro.fm](#)).

**Please Note:** For the September 14 session, we will be reading *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon, a murder mystery set in the famous opera house in Venice, Italy.

# BACKSTAGE PERSPECTIVE

## 2020 BACKSTAGE PERSPECTIVE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1:00PM – 2:00PM MDT

CHECK-IN, 12:50PM

VIA PRIVATE YOUTUBE CHANNEL & ZOOM WEBINAR

GUILD MEMBERS ONLY

COST: \$10.00 PER PERSON

REGISTRATION CLOSES AUGUST 5



One of the highlights of each year is the Backstage Preview (renamed **Backstage Perspective**), a Saturday morning that features presentations of production designs for the upcoming season. Though the pandemic forced the cancellation of the festival season this summer, the Santa Fe Opera Guild and the Santa Fe Opera's talented production staff have persevered and are delighted to announce the 2020 Backstage Perspective.

The event features presentations by Missy West, Costume Director; Randy Lutz, Properties Director; and Mike Ortiz, Technical Director. This talented trio will take guild members behind the scenes for a look at how they approached some of the most challenging production designs.



We hope you will join us on Thursday, August 6 at 1:00PM MDT for this special event. An exclusive feed from YouTube will be followed by a live Q&A session, accessible only to Guild members.



Due to COVID-19 constraints the event has been converted to a virtual format which increased audience capacity and lowered production costs. Happily, going virtual resulted in three pieces of good news:

**The Backstage Perspective is now accessible to all guild members, including those from our sister guilds in Albuquerque, Española Valley, Los Alamos, and Taos.**

**The price of the event was reduced to \$10.00 per person.**

**Members who have already signed up and paid for the Backstage Preview are eligible to receive a \$20/person refund.**

**Please note that everyone who plans to attend must register for the August 6 event at the new price.** If you have already signed up and paid for the April 18 event, click [here](#) to process your refund request. If you would like to register for the August 6 Backstage Perspective click [here](#). Reminder: registration closes on August 5. If you have questions, email [webinars@santafeoperaguild.org](mailto:webinars@santafeoperaguild.org).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: VERONICA REED



The Santa Fe Opera Guild is so fortunate to have an abundance of accomplished members. July's Spotlight Member, Veronica Reed is a case in point. Veronica is a multi-talented artist, a petite dynamo born in Boston, MA who was successful in diverse artistic genre as an actor, dramatic coach, designer, stage director of musical comedy as well as opera, and a sought-after writer. She accomplished all of this at a time when women had to be exemplary just to be noticed, let alone successful.

Veronica attended her first opera at the Santa Fe Opera in 1964. She jokes, "And that ruined my life." In 1968, armed with a BFA in Dramatic Arts from the University of New Mexico, she took a job as Dresser at the SFO. Following a National Opera Institute Internship in Stage Directing and Goldovsky Leadership Training Program, Veronica worked for seven seasons (1971 to 1978) as a Stage Director for the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Training Program while also directing in New York and regional opera companies.

As an Opera Stage Director, Veronica directed productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Pasquale*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Faust*, *L'Ajo Nel' Imbarazzo* (Donizetti), *The Magic Flute*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Tales of Hoffmann*, *Tosca*, and *Zazá* (Leoncavallo). She also served as Artistic Director for a small touring company, Associated Opera Artists of Vermont, Inc. which brought professional opera singers, in costumed and staged scenes, to outreaches of Northern New England.

Veronica is a full Writer- member of A.S.C.A.P., and has English versions of opera published and/or performed, including *Zazá* (Leoncavallo), *Undine* (Lortzing), *Agenzia Matrimoniale* (R. Hazon), *Taming of the Shrew* (Goetz), and a Kalmus score of Offenbach's *Le Mariage Aux Lanternes*, which was also performed at Manhattan School of Music and conducted by SFO's John Crosby.

Until retirement to New Mexico with her husband, Metropolitan Opera Bass LeRoy Lehr, Veronica worked on the staff of the Metropolitan Opera Guild and as a volunteer with the MOG's acclaimed The Opera Experience program. Veronica and LeRoy remain dedicated to promoting Opera through education.

Veronica is a member of the SFOG Education Committee and is responsible for securing bass opera legend, Samuel Ramey to headline a webinar in August. She gives freely of her knowledge, experience, and industry relationships to help the Santa Fe Opera Guild maintain its reputation as a dynamic supporter of opera. BRAVA, Veronica!



Rehearsal for *Baby Doe*, 1975, SFO. From left to right: James Dietsch, Baritone; center Nancy Callman, Mezzo-soprano; far right, Veronica Reed, Stage Director. Photo courtesy of Ken Howard.

## JOSHUA HOPKINS AND ROBERT TWETEN IN RECITAL



Joshua Hopkins

**The Wagner Society of Santa Fe** is organizing a special recital in July with baritone Joshua Hopkins and conductor Robert Tweten. The program will include some of Joshua's favorite songs and a short (!!!) Wagner piece. The Wagner Society is offering the recital for free, online. Details such as the date and time will be announced at a future date.

Joshua was to sing Figaro in Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, which was slated to open the Santa Fe Opera's 2020 season. Next year, he will take the title role in Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* at the Metropolitan Opera, scheduled for May and June 2021.

Robert will accompany Joshua at the piano. He conducts extensively throughout North America and holds the positions of Head of Music Staff at the SFO and Music Director



Robert Tweten

of Opera Studies at the New England Conservatory.

The recital will be available for free online. For further information, please check the Wagner Society of Santa Fe's **Facebook page**. If you're not already a member of the Wagner Society of Santa Fe, you may wish to email [wagnersocietyofsantafe@gmail.com](mailto:wagnersocietyofsantafe@gmail.com) to be placed on an e-contact list for this recital.

Photo credits: Joshua Hopkins (Simon Pauley), Robert Tweten (MayaRose Creative).

## THE ROLE OF FACEBOOK AND THE OPERAGRAM

The Santa Fe Opera Guild uses multiple online platforms to communicate with our members – *Operagram*, email blasts, the SFOG web page, and Facebook. This means that information is readily available to our members in whichever format they find most familiar and suited to their needs.



The SFOG Facebook page provides meeting announcements for upcoming Guild events. In addition, the page features photo albums and short video clips highlighting recent events. We are not adding any new photos in our current environment of hosting virtual events, but the photos from past events are still available for viewing. To reach the Santa Fe Opera Guild Facebook page click [here](#).

**OPERAGRAM** is a monthly newsletter delivered in a digital format directly to the mailboxes of Santa Fe Opera Guild members. Unlike a Facebook or Instagram post, the *Operagram* cannot be updated with new information once it reaches our members on the first of every month except through e-blasts. The purpose of the publication is to alert members to upcoming events sponsored by the SFOG, its sister guilds, and the Santa Fe Opera, and to provide links to register for these events. As a courtesy to our members, we include a limited list of music and theater venues in the Diversions section.

Since the beginning of the year, we have expanded beyond inserting registration links to including music excerpts in articles about The Met: *Live in HD* broadcasts and the Meet the Apprentice profiles. COVID-19 created the need to convert live events to virtual ones, so YouTube videos also were added for instructional purposes and musical enjoyment. Consequently, the *Operagram* is becoming more than a static document, and will continue to evolve thanks to a push by an earthshaking virus.

## JULY MEMBERS: ITS TIME TO RENEW

When your renewal comes due, you will receive an email alert. Renew by clicking **RENEW NOW!** We accept four major credit cards and PayPal, or mail a check to The Santa Fe Opera Guild, Membership, P.O. Box 2371, Santa Fe, NM, 87504 -2371. You can renew at any of our upcoming events. Send membership questions via email to Leslie Veditz at [VPMembership@SantaFeOperaGuild.org](mailto:VPMembership@SantaFeOperaGuild.org), or telephone her at (888)666-3430 ext. 502. The Membership Committee will send your membership tax receipts and membership cards to you by email.

Those of you without email will continue to receive these communications by US mail. If you do not have a printer at home or if you still prefer a hardcopy tax letter and membership card, you can get these at any of our education events.

## DIVERSIONS

**NOTE:** As we enter July, there is staged reopening of the New Mexico economy and gradual loosening of restrictions. However, Governor Lujan-Grisham expects large gatherings to be restricted in New Mexico for the “foreseeable future.”

### VIRTUAL PICKS

**National Theatre Live** continues its free streaming of not-to-be missed plays: Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (through 7/2), L. Hansberry’s *Les Blancs* (7/2-9), T. Rattigan’s *The Deep Blue Sea* (7/9-16), and P. Shaffer’s *Amadeus* with live orchestral music (7/16-23). Click [here](#) for all the details.

**Performance Santa Fe** presents An Evening of Stars, a free, virtual Gala that will stream on several popular platforms (TBA) on **Saturday, July 18 at 6:00PM**. On the bill: Susan Graham, Joshua Bell, Angela Meade, Delfeayo Marsalis, Lisette Oropesa, Yefim Bronfman, Isabella Leonard, Gil Shahan, Pablo Sáinz, Malcolm Martineau, and Daniel Ulbricht. Click [here](#) to pre-register.

*Fridays with Fred Plotkin* and *Thomas Hampson’s World of Song*, both on Idagio, click [here](#).

**The Met:** free opera streams, click [here](#).

**Opera Wire:** list of opera houses around the world streaming operas free, click [here](#).

### ON THE HORIZON

Santa Fe’s top presenters have set their schedules for the 2020-2021 season and there is so much to look forward to! A word of caution, however. **Before purchasing tickets, be sure to confirm the return policy, as it seems we are not out of the COVID-19 woods yet. This can be done most effectively by ordering by phone.**

**Santa Fe Pro Musica** presents The Dover Quartet (11/22), A Baroque Christmas (12/19-24), Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* (12/29, 30), St. Lawrence String Quartet (1/10), A New Era (1/30, 31), Castalian String Quartet (3/7), Diderot String Quartet (4/1-3), Hayden’s *The Creation* (4/24-25), Cuarteto Casals (5/1). Click [here](#).

**The Santa Fe Symphony** presents Alexi Kenney, violin (9/13), Drew Petersen, piano (10/18), Beethoven’s Harp (11/8), Handel’s *Messiah* (11/21, 22) Christmas Pops (12/13), A Night at the Opera (12/24), Mozart, Hayden & Fung (1/17), Stravinsky’s *The Soldier’s Tale* (2/7), Holst’s *The Planets* (2/14), 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Appalachian Spring* (3/5, 6), Romantic Legacies (3/21), Celebrating Stravinsky (4/29), 37<sup>th</sup> Season Finale! (5/16). Click [here](#).

**Performance Santa Fe** presents Ray Chen, violin (9/29), Teicher & Tao (10/13), Voces8 (11/16), Marc-André Hamelin, piano (11/18), Rhythmic Circus (12/8), Spanish Harlem Orchestra (12/11), Eighth Blackbird (1/9), Alisa Weilerstein, cello (1/26), Cécile McClorin Salvant (2/9), Joyce DiDonato: Songplay ((2/24), Martha Graham Dance Company (3/5, 6), Meow Meow (3/26), Los Romeros & Isabel Leonard (4/13), Beatrice Rana, piano (4/17), Jerusalem Quartet (4/20), Chanticleer (5/28), Vijay Iyer Sextet (5/21), Charlotte Ballet: Cinderella (6/5, 6), Birds in the Moon: A Chamber Opera (6/12). Click [here](#).

**The Desert Chorale** has moved its 2020 Summer programming in its entirety to the Summer of 2021. Santa Fe Sings! 2020 is now scheduled for **November 7, 2020**. And the 2020 Winter program, *Nochebuena* remains intact this December 2020. A Santa Fe tradition that honors the Chorale’s commitment to Hispanic composers, *Nochebuena* will offer new works and carols from the America’s in nine performances in Santa Fe and Albuquerque from **December 12-22 of 2020**. Click [here](#).

### RECENTLY CANCELLED

**The Los Alamos Concert Association** has cancelled its entire 2020-2021 season and hopes to bring it back in full for the 2021-2022 season.

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *OPERAGRAM*

The *Operagram* would not be possible without the dedicated members who contribute articles each month. We are grateful for their support. This month's list of contributors are as follows:

Yoko Arthur: *Joshua Hopkins and Robert Tweten in Recital*

Cate Bellanca: *Diversions*, Photograph (Veronica Reed)

Martha Baker: *Backstage Perspective*

Keren James and Veronica Reed: *Save the Date: Samuel Ramey*

Rebecca Jensen: *News from the Santa Fe Opera*

Steve Kercoff: *Virtual Vivace* (recurring feature); *Facebook and the Operagram* (with Bernadette Snider)

Desirée Mays: *The Wagner Dynasty from Richard to Katharina*

Lucinda Surber: Web Support, Guilds, Inc.

Leslie Veditz: All membership related articles (recurring features)

### THE GUILDS OF THE SANTA FE OPERA, INC.

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