

THE
SANTA FE
OPERA



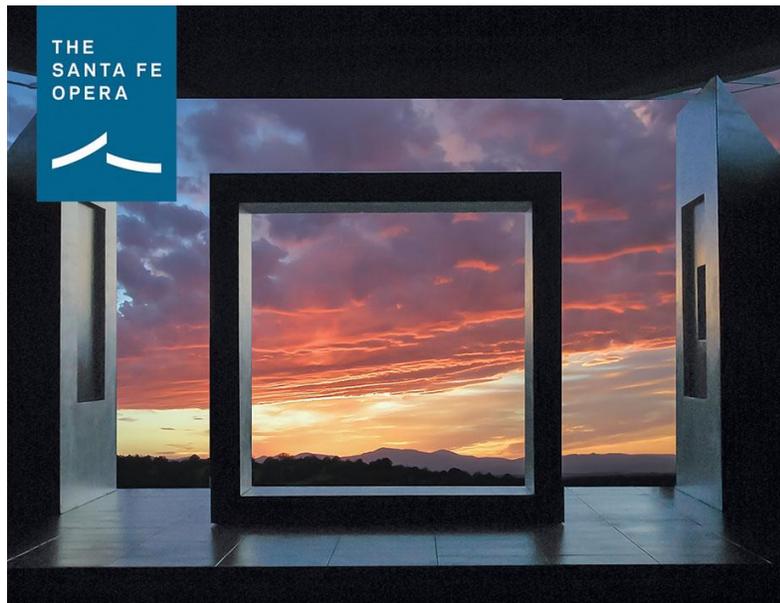
SANTA FE OPERA GUILD

THE GUILDS OF THE SANTA FE OPERA, INC

OPERAGRAM

May 2020
Volume 12, Number 8

UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR



Dear Friends

I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and keeping in good spirits. In line with New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's recent extension of the stay-at-home instruction through May 15, the Santa Fe Opera staff, like many of you, continue to work from home.

Over the course of the last six weeks, the Santa Fe Opera Leadership Team and Board of Directors, have been working tirelessly to evaluate all possible scenarios for the future of our 2020 Season. Working in close communication with the Office of the Governor, we continue to keep the health and safety of our artists, staff and patrons as the primary factor in all deliberations.

I want to assure you that the Santa Fe Opera is doing everything in our power to do right by our community. We are committed to making the best decision for everyone whose life is touched by the opera and the business it brings to northern New Mexico. We expect to have that announcement by May 12.

In the meantime, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your patience and continued support.

With deepest gratitude

Robert K. Meya
General Director

COVID-19 AND THE SANTA FE OPERA



The Santa Fe Opera grounds are currently closed in accordance with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's stay-at-home order, in effect until May 15.

As stated in Director Robert Meya's letter to the opera community, our leadership is continuing to explore contingencies for our Opera Festival Season and other programs while remaining vigilant for COVID-19 outbreaks in our community that could impact our plans. Please be assured that while all Opera staff are working remotely, we remain available via email.

General Director Robert Meya has said that an announcement about the upcoming season will be made on May 12. "Working in close communication with the Office of the Governor, we continue to keep the health and safety of our artists, staff, and patrons as the primary factor in all deliberations," Meya said via email. "I want to assure you the Santa Fe Opera is doing everything in our power to do right by our community."

All of the following events are directly linked to the 2020 SFO season. If the season dates are adjusted in response to COVID-19, there likely will be changes to the status of the events, as well as event and program schedules.

- Backstage Preview
- Youth Nights
- Meet the Apprentice Singers
- Opening Night Dinner
- Preview Dinners

Please check our websites for the latest information: [Santa Fe Opera Guild](#), the [Santa Fe Opera](#), [Santa Fe Opera Guilds, Inc.](#)

OPERA MAKES SENSE: SONGS THAT SING

The Santa Fe Opera is now offering Opera Makes Sense: Songs that Sing for all ages on their [YouTube channel](#). Each Saturday at 10:00AM in May, tune in for a breath of fresh air featuring the Santa Fe Opera Young Voices as well as poetry reading. This program is hosted by the Opera's Department of Community Engagement with special thanks to Kathleen Clawson and the Young Voices. Join us on May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. It's a great way to kick off your weekend.

ZOOM WITH THE SANTA FE OPERA GUILD

What is all the hype about Zoom? Will it enhance my everyday life? How do I learn to Zoom?

At its core, Zoom is a teleconferencing tool that facilitates virtual meetings and training, as well as a conduit for social interaction like its' predecessors FaceTime and Skype. Virtual communication is fast becoming a pathway to how we live our lives in the new millennia, post COVID-19. Zoom and technologies like it are becoming indispensable as our prolonged period of social distancing has forced organizations, businesses, and individuals to rethink how they interact. Video conferencing is not merely a fun activity, it is a critical skill necessary to navigate even the most routine aspects of our lives.

Zoom's popularity as a meeting tool accelerated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic because it provided relief from the social distancing and group size limits mandated by the federal and state governments. The Santa Fe Opera is using Zoom to hold virtual meetings to keep operations moving while keeping employees, vendors, and the public safe. The Santa Fe Opera Guild is also using Zoom to hold board and committee meetings; SFOG is hosting its first Virtual Vivace Book Group on Monday, May 11 via Zoom. SFOG plans to hold other events in the near future using the webinar capabilities of Zoom.

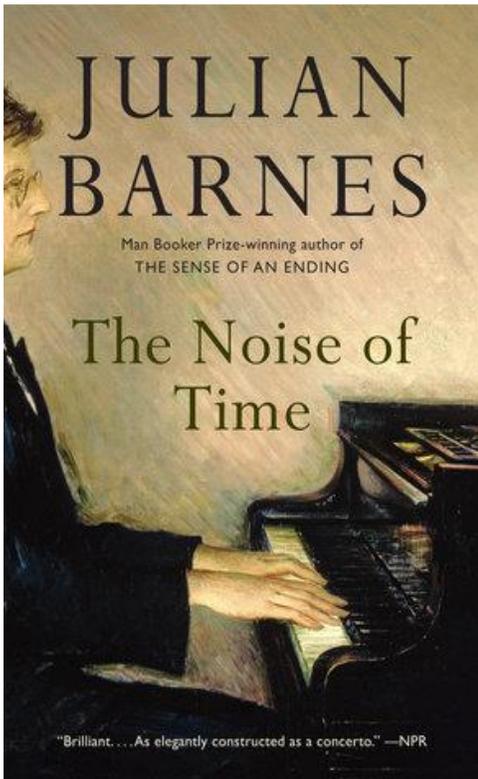
So, how does one learn to use Zoom? As a service to our members, the SFOG recently provided Zoom training in a virtual format. Steve Kerchoff, SFOG board member and chair of the SFOG technology committee, facilitated several sessions in April and received excellent feedback from participants. One attendee emailed Steve and said *"This session was very informative. I appreciate your time and effort to help us newbies along."* Another wrote *"Thanks so much for instructing us in Zoom basics. Very grateful for your knowledge and patience!"*

Zoom is user-friendly which accounts for its popularity with the general public for use as a tool to visit with family and friends. (Rumor has it, there are some fun virtual Happy Hours taking place on Zoom!) For anyone wanting to learn how to Zoom, click on the links below for a YouTube video and a handout, *A Guide to Zoom* created by SFO's Rebecca Jensen, Volunteer Liaison, that introduces you to the Zoom process. To listen to the video, click [here](#); to access the guide, click [here](#).

Welcome to Zoom. See you soon.

ZOOM MEETING: VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, MAY 11, 6:00PM - 7:30PM
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT
COMPLIMENTARY



Dear Members,

It may be some months before participants in our book group, Vivace, are able to meet in person. For this reason, we will be using Zoom to have a virtual book discussion for our next meeting.

We will meet at 6:00PM on the second Monday of the month, May 11 - but we will meet via Zoom. For those who have not yet used Zoom, it is a teleconferencing software which will allow us to meet remotely. You can use it on a computer, a smart phone, or a tablet. **To join us for the Monday, May 11 Virtual Vivace Book Group** via Zoom, click [here](#) to give us your name and email address. We will send you a link in plenty of time for the virtual session on May 11. If you have questions, please send an email to vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org.

We will be discussing *The Noise of Time*, by Julian Barnes. It is a fictionalized biography of Dmitri Shostakovich. We suggest that you purchase the Penguin Edition. We have a few copies available, so if you need the book, please contact President@SantaFeOperaGuild.org.

The next book group meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 13**. The selection is *Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing up Bernstein*, by Jamie Bernstein.

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

APPRENTICE WATCH

Baritone Benjamin Taylor's career is flourishing. He is slated to return to Santa Fe this summer in the role of Papageno in our production of *The Magic Flute* and to appear in Performance Santa Fe's Festival of Song with tenor Jack Swanson. Ben was one of our Apprentice Singers in 2018 and 2019 when he sang in the choruses and covered the role of Zurga in *The Pearl Fishers*. He is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program, where he sang a wide variety of roles including Schaunard in *La bohème*, Older Thompson in *Glory Denied*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, and Captain Gardiner in *Moby Dick*. Ben was a Gerdine Young Artist in 2015 and 2016 and a Richard Gaddes Festival Artist in 2017 at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, assuming the roles of Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*, Cowardly Giant in *Shalimar the Clown*, and Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*. In 2016, he performed Marcello in *La bohème* with Crested Butte Festival and Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly* for Berkshire Opera's inaugural season.

To hear Ben sing Silvio's aria from *Pagliacci*, click [here](#). We look forward to welcoming Ben Taylor back to Santa Fe.



SANTA FE OPERA GUILD TO ADOPT STREAMING MEDIA



The Santa Fe Opera Guild has been giving serious consideration to how we can maintain a connection with our members during the time of COVID-19. Many of us are currently using streaming media such as Netflix and are enjoying the Metropolitan Opera's free nightly transmissions. One technology under consideration is an online tool known as a webinar, which combines streaming content with an element of interaction with viewers.

You can think of a webinar as a seminar that is offered over the Internet. This is the same technology that is currently being used for distance learning in schools and universities. An individual presenter or group of panelists can use this platform to deliver a talk that incorporates audio with visual content. Webinars can accommodate groups of varying sizes, from one participant to a larger group. Participants can ask questions of the presenter in real time and get answers. Participants pre-register for a webinar and receive a link via email to join a session. Webinars can also be archived, providing participants with the ability to access the webinar at a future date.

Many of our members have become familiar with videoconferencing software such as Zoom Meeting. The main distinction between this technology and the webinar is that webinar attendees are anonymous. As one Opera Guild board member said "You watch it like you would watch a video on YouTube. No one can see your picture and you have the option of not showing your name." She went on to say "Unlike YouTube, you have a chance to ask questions. And unlike Zoom Meetings, the only video that is visible is that of the presenter and the content such as photographs or PowerPoint slides that the presenter wants to show." Participants are muted unless the host unmutes them so that they may ask questions and/or participate in a discussion with the presenter.

Be on the lookout for an email announcing the Santa Fe Opera Guild's first webinar event, likely in the latter half of May.

KUDOS FOR COSI FAN TUTTE

Opera News honored last summer's production of *Così Fan Tutte* at the Santa Fe Opera with an inclusion in its' list of ten essential clips from Mozart's tour de force opera. If you recall, director R. B. Schlather and set designer Paul Tate DePoo III produced an avant-garde production of *Così Fan Tutte* that provoked spirited discussions among those who attended the opera. The talented cast included Amanda Majeski (Fiordiligi), Emily D'Angelo (Dorabella), Ben Bliss (Ferrando), Jarrett Ott (Guglielmo), Rod Gilfry (Don Alfonso) and Tracy Dahl (Despina.)

For more information about the other productions of *Così Fan Tutte* that made the *Opera News* list, click [here](#).

MAY 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, 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.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT FOR OPENING NIGHT PARTY

OPENING NIGHT DINNER

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 5:30PM-7:30PM

DAPPLES PAVILION, THE SANTA FE OPERA

COST: \$75.00 PER PERSON



At this time, the Opening Night Dinner and Party, which is linked to the Festival Season of the Santa Fe Opera, is moving forward. The annual celebration is sponsored by the Guilds of the Santa Fe Opera, and is scheduled to take place on Friday, July 3, 2020 at Dapples Pavilion. The opening night selection is Rossini's beloved opera, *The Barber of Seville*, which provides the theme for the event. This fundraising event is hosted by all five member guilds located around the state. Pricing for the event will remain at \$75 per person (\$40 tax deductible) throughout the registration period.

The Opening Night Party will feature a celebratory toast and a sumptuously themed buffet dinner accompanied by wine. The guest speaker is Mark Tiarks who is well known for his lectures on opera throughout the community. Mark has enjoyed a distinguished career in opera and theater production spanning more than four decades.



You may purchase tickets [here](#) for the Opening Night Dinner. To pay by check, make your check payable to Guilds of the Santa Fe Opera, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 2658, Santa Fe, NM, 87504.

Refunds will be issued in the event of a cancellation. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

All guests are responsible for purchasing their own opera tickets for the July 3, 2020 performance at the Crosby Theatre. Purchase your opera tickets online directly from the [Santa Fe Opera Box Office](#) or call the Box Office at 800-280-4654.



DIVERSIONS

NOTE: During the month of April, the nationwide restriction to “shelter in place” resulted in the cancellation or postponement of any activity that would have more than five people gathering in one venue. As we enter May, there are discussions nationwide about a multi-stage reopening of our economy and gradual loosening of restrictions. According to Governor Lujan-Grisham large gatherings are expected to be restricted in New Mexico for the “foreseeable future.”

Below are updates on specific venues and performances, plus information about virtual performances.

Opera America: For a list of streaming options in North America and beyond, click [here](#). In addition, OA has begun a new social media campaign, [#meetopera](#), that allows opera lovers to join the conversation about their favorite subject. For more information visit their website or call (212)796-8620.

Fridays with Fred Plotkin and Thomas Hampson’s World of Song are two of many exciting programs offered online at Idagio Live. Fred’s program airs **Fridays at 2:00PM**. He interviews Christine Goerke on May 1 and Ben Hepner on May 8. Thomas Hampson’s program airs on **Tuesdays and Thursday at 11:00AM**. Click [here](#) for the website.

The Lensic announced that it will be closed for the entire month of May. Click [here](#) to see the list of cancelled or rescheduled events. For refunds, donations, and tickets for events beyond May, call the box office at (505)988-1234. For a selection of online offerings, click [here](#).

Desert Chorale’s multi-generational choral workshop, Santa Fe Sings! **originally scheduled for May 16, has been rescheduled for November 7.** The 2020 Summer Festival, originally scheduled for July 19 through August 5, has **been postponed until Summer, 2021.** Please check the Desert Chorale [website](#) or call (505)988-2282 for updated information about the summer Gala, scheduled **for August 25** at the Four Season’s Resort, Rancho Encantado. The Chorale will continue to share exclusive recordings of past performances every Monday via email, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival is scheduled for **July 19-August 24**, preceded by its first-ever Opening Weekend Celebration. Please consult their [website](#) for possible updates. To enjoy past Festival performances online, click [here](#).

Santa Fe Pro Musica’s 2019-2020 season concluded in April. Please click [here](#) for updates and the 2020-2021 season announcement. Phone: (505)988-1234.

Performance Santa Fe has cancelled the remainder of the 2019-2020 through **June 5.** For information about the 2020-2021 season, click [here](#), or call (505)984-8759.

Santa Fe Symphony has cancelled the remainder of the 2019-2020 season through **June 30.** Click [here](#) to access the interactive 2020-2021 season brochure, or call (505)988-1234.

Opera Southwest has rescheduled *La Traviata* to be the opening opera of the 2020-2021. The new dates are **Sunday, October 25 at 2:00PM, Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30PM, Friday, October 30 at 7:30PM, and Sunday, November 1 at 2:00PM.** If you already have a ticket for March, it will be valid for the corresponding date and time in October-November 2020 (e.g., a **March 25 at 7:30PM** ticket becomes an **October 25 at 7:30PM** ticket). Check the OPSW [website](#) frequently for further information.

Taos Opera Institute Festival has cancelled the 2020 13th Festival Season. For more information, go to [TaosOI.org](#) or call (575)740-6431.

Los Alamos Concert Association ended its 2019-2020 season in April. LACA 2020-2021 season is slated to begin in September, however the organization has opted to postpone announcing details until further notice. Visit their [website](#) where you can sign up for email updates, or call (505)662-9000.

Russian Opera Society has cancelled future operas until further notice. For updates, please query Bill Derbyshire at wwdslovene@aol.com.

New Mexico Performing Arts Society: NMPAS has rescheduled Steinway Artist Jacquelyn Helin’s performance of Bach’s *Well Tempered Clavier, Book I* for **August 29**; the Cantata Series II Concert, featuring Bach’s *Cantata BWV 39*, originally scheduled for **May 3 and has been rescheduled for August 30.** All tickets for the cancelled dates will be honored at the door on the new dates. NMPAS’ Season Finale Opera Concerts are still scheduled for **June 20 and 21.** To purchase tickets for events and to check for changes to the schedule, please click [here](#) for the NMPAS website or call (505)474-4513.

Theatre Santa Fe has one show listed on their calendar for May, *Bad Jews*, by Joshua Harmon, directed by Lindsey Hope Pearlman. It is scheduled to run from **May 14 to June 7** at The Santa Fe Playhouse. Please consult the Theatre Santa Fe [website](#), or call the box office at (505)988-4262 for updates.

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