

THE  
SANTA FE  
OPERA



# SANTA FE OPERA GUILD

THE GUILDS OF THE SANTA FE OPERA, INC

# OPERAGRAM

November 2020  
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## THE SANTA FE OPERA RETURNS | THE 2021 SEASON



The Crosby Theatre at the Santa Fe Opera. Illustration by Benedetto Cristofani.

On October 21, Director Robert Meya announced the operas for the summer 2021 season, a vibrant, challenging slate of world-class productions. To view a video that provides full details about the 2021 season, please click [here](#) to access the Santa Fe Opera website. The video explains the many safety protocols put in place to make everyone's theater experience a safe one.

### **The Santa Fe Opera Sets the Stage for a Bold New Season in 2021**

The Santa Fe Opera's 2021 Season, running July 10 through August 27, presents 30 performances of four operas, including the world premiere of *The Lord of Cries* by John Corigliano and Mark Adamo directed by James Darrah; the company premiere of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed and designed by Netia Jones; Laurent Pelly's stylish new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*; a new production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* directed by Alessandro Talevi; a celebratory concert featuring soprano **Angel Blue** in her company debut with 2021 Season artists and **The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra** led by **John Fiore**; and two **Apprentice Scenes** performances. The 64<sup>th</sup> Season celebrates the inclusion of works new to the world stage alongside audience favorites by Mozart and Tchaikovsky, and features some of opera's most exciting talent. A variety of time periods and languages are represented, with pieces and perspectives dating from 1786 to 2021, sung in English, Italian and Russian. The future season is the second to be led by General Director Robert K. Meya, Artistic Director Alexander Neef and Music Director Harry Bicket, and perfectly fits the time-tested programming model pioneered by Santa Fe Opera founder John Crosby: a balanced and varied repertory of new, rarely performed and standard works portrayed in a new light. The Santa Fe Opera has been working to bring this incredible art form to audiences since 1957, and will continue this work to expand opera's reach to new and diverse audiences through contemporary works, world premieres and its *Opera For All Voices* initiative. Says Meya, "The 2021 Season will be a tribute to our unwavering optimism for the future of opera and the delight it can bring to viewers of all ages and backgrounds."

## PLEASE NOTE: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE *OPERAGRAM*

Dear Members,

A monthly publication has, as we know, a predictable ebb and flow. For the most part, issues are divided into feature articles and recurring columns. In normal times, the *Operagram* followed this format with both news of past event successes and upcoming events, such as lectures, the Vivace Book Club, Met operas, the Breakfast Lectures series, News from the Santa Fe Opera, and Diversions. There was a comforting familiarity about reading the *Operagram* - readers always knew what to expect.

COVID-19 took a wrecking ball to our well-honed process, leaving the daunting task of reinventing the newsletter in the face of ongoing uncertainty. Every month has become a guessing game as to exactly what would be published. Thanks to the herculean efforts of the Education Committee, which plunged into virtual programming with tremendous energy and terrific results, we had copious news about Zoomed content, enough to fill our pages from spring through autumn.

Adversity will breed innovation if you remain open to it and so we brought new features to the *Operagram*. The Member Spotlight provided a way to highlight the lives of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to our resident photographer, Cate Bellanca, the pages of the *Operagram* are more colorful. She has also positioned Diversions to alert readers of upcoming local virtual events and remind them to check venue websites frequently for changes. In addition, we introduced our new Instagram page to the membership and announced the conversion of the Vivace Book Club to a virtual format. The *Operagram* now includes a listing of everyone who contributes an article or provides administrative help.

The Salon 2020 virtual event this month and the Virtual Vivace Book Club are the final events hosted by the Santa Fe Opera Guild this year.

**Given the greater circumstances, we have decided to extend to our volunteer staff a well-deserved break by combining the December, 2020 and January, 2021 issues; we will resume monthly publication in February, 2021.**

The *Operagram* staff and its contributors wish our members a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Warm Regards,

Bernadette Snider, *Operagram* Editor

Jackie M, VP of Communications

## REMINDER: WINTER CONCERT & OPERA INSIGHT

**The Santa Fe Opera's Winter Concert** will take a virtual format this year. Filming at northern New Mexico churches and at the Santa Fe Opera Ranch, the event will feature Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera, celebrated opera tenor and former Santa Fe Opera apprentice singer Joshua Dennis, and rising star and former Santa Fe Opera apprentice singer Briana Elyse Hunter. Team members of the Department of Community Engagement and Kathleen Clawson are coordinating the event. We look forward to sharing the holidays with you. The premier screen will take place on **December 6 at 3:00PM MST**.

**The Opera InSight** series is now available for online viewing on the Santa Fe Opera's YouTube [channel](#). Dr. Don Fineberg hosts Opera InSight: On Being Human, a series of five, half-hour episodes that explores how opera integrates its music, narrative and spectacle, immersing us in a range of emotions from thoroughly amused to profoundly moved. Opera InSight is an adventure for both the newly opera curious and the experienced opera enthusiast as it focuses on opera classics as well as new works. **Viewing is free of charge.**



# ZOOM MEETING: VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

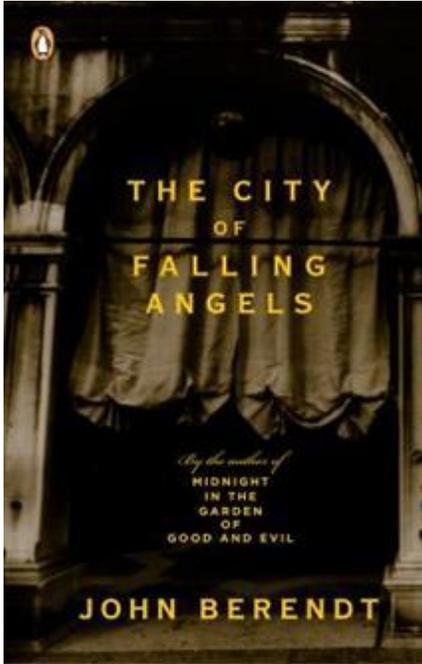
## VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:00PM-7:30PM MST

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MDT

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



**Monday, November 9: *City of Falling Angels*** by John Berendt is the selection for the book club meeting on **Monday, November 9 at 6:00PM MST**. The author is best known for his book that became a blockbuster movie, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

The novel opens with the fire at the venerable La Fenice opera house on January 29, 1996 that destroyed the historic building. The loss is an incalculable catastrophe not only to the denizens of Venice but to opera lovers and historians around the world. The author arrived in Venice 3 days after the fire and stayed 5 years.

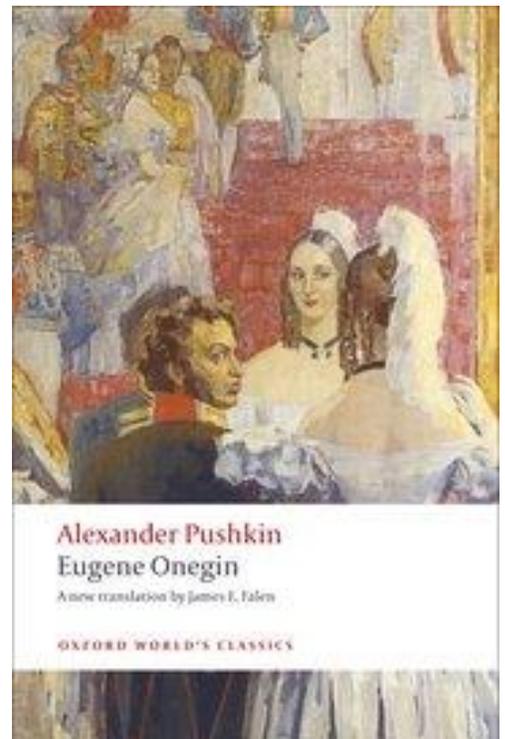
The characters are pure Berendt: outsized, outrageous, and outlandish! The diversity of colorful people from landed gentry to Venetian artisans to American notables will keep you entertained as you play sleuth with the author. The story is compelling in its rich atmosphere, complex characters, and infusion of political intrigue that unfolds in one of the world's most treasured cities.

To register for the November Vivace Book Club meeting, click [here](#) to provide your email address. We will send a link in plenty of time for the virtual session on November 9. If you have questions, please email [vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org](mailto:vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org). Berendt's book can be purchased from **Collected Works**. See below.

**Monday, January 11, 2021: *Eugene Onegin***. The Santa Fe Opera Guild is wasting no time preparing for the 2021 festival season. Our first meeting of the new year will take place on **Monday, January 11 at 6pm** and will feature a discussion of *Eugene Onegin*, the literary genesis for Tchaikovsky's eponymous opera that will premiere on Saturday, July 24, 2021. This opera was last performed in Santa Fe in 2002. *Eugene Onegin* is to Russian literature what *To Kill a Mockingbird* is to the American canon—an undisputed classic.

Written originally as a serial that ran from 1825 to 1832, *Eugene Onegin* was first published in its entirety in 1833. The work is set in 1820s Russia and follows the lives of three men and three women. Remarkable on Pushkin's use of verse for this story, one reviewer enthused "This flowed so well! I didn't even notice it was a poem. I just enjoyed the story and the flow of the language." Another noted that *Eugene Onegin* is "a must-read for anyone who loves Tchaikovsky's operatic version of this story and wants to get closer to the literary source."

We suggest the translation by James E. Falen, published by Oxford University Press. Vivace has partnered with Collected Works, which will carry this edition. Books can be ordered by **calling the store at 505-988-4226 Monday through Friday 10 - 4 and on Saturdays 10 - noon or by ordering online at [collectedworksbookstore.com](http://collectedworksbookstore.com)**. Books can be picked up curbside during the hours above or shipped anywhere in the US.



To register for the January 2021 Virtual Vivace Book Club meeting, click [here](#). We will send a link the morning of January 11. If you have questions, please email [educationvp@santafeoperaguild.org](mailto:educationvp@santafeoperaguild.org).

# SALON 2020

## THE SALON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 & 22, 12:00 NOON MST

ZOOM FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$10 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS

The Santa Fe Opera Guild's annual Salon will be back in 2020, but with a COVID-19 twist. Instead of one, two-hour session on a Sunday afternoon in November, we will **have two, one-hour sessions on consecutive Sundays: November 15 and November 22**. Both will begin at **12:00 Noon MST** via Zoom. Shelly Brock, Guild President and resident Zoom guru, said "We will use the breakout feature on Zoom to divide people into three groups. Every 20 minutes, they will change discussion topic and moderator. We will have a total of six themes, three per week that Salon attendees will explore."

### On November 15, the Salon will discuss:

- **Folk Tales and Fairy Tales in Slavic Operas.** Bill Derbyshire, the Guild's resident expert on operas composed in Russian and other Eastern European languages, is the topic moderator. Pre-pandemic, his Russian Opera Society films at Teatro Paraguas have been a big hit. Bill is a retired professor of Slavic languages at Rutgers University.
- **How Sets and Props Help Tell the Story.** The moderator for this discussion is TBD; The name of the moderator will be announced via email as soon as the selection has been finalized. Participants will be encouraged to share the set and prop designs they found to be particularly memorable. After all, who could forget the airplane from *The Italian Girl in Algiers* and other Santa Fe Opera design triumphs?
- **Black Lives Matter: Celebrating African American Singers on the Opera Stage.** Keren James, a member of the Guild's Education Committee, will moderate a discussion about the contribution of great singers, from Leontyne Price to today's stars such as Laurence Brownlee, Angel Blue, Pretty Yende, and Ryan Speedo Green.

### On November 22, the Salon will explore:

- **My Favorite Modern Composers.** Steve Kerchoff will lead this discussion. From *Cold Mountain* to *Steve Jobs* to *The Thirteenth Child*, the Santa Fe Opera has proudly blazed a trail for new works. Which new works, performed both in Santa Fe and elsewhere, rank among your favorites? Are there operas not yet been produced in Santa Fe that you would like to see performed here?
- **On Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears, Shakespeare, and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.** Desirée Mays will discuss SFO's 2021 opera, its composition, its composer, and its connection to The Bard. What is the impact of the relationships between Britten and Pears, Titania and Bottom, day and night, dreams, and everyday reality?
- **Choosing Streamed Content.** Bernadette Snider, Opera Guild board member and Editor of the *Operagram*, will lead a conversation about how you prioritize the myriad choices available in streamed content. How do you source virtual offerings? What makes a streamed performance worth a premium price? How often do you stream operatic content? Which content providers are most appealing, and why?

Salon capacity is limited, so sign up now. To register for **November 15** click [here](#): **November 22** click [here](#).



## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: BARBARA ANDERSON - ACOSTA



Credit: Cate Bellanca

Anyone who has ever attended a Santa Fe Opera Guild function knows Barbara Anderson-Acosta, VP of Social Events, the gracious woman with a mega-watt smile who greets every person as they enter and sees that every aspect of every event is flawlessly executed. Judy Costlow, a member of the Social Events Committee, described Barbara as having a twinkle in her eyes and a great sense of humor. Martha Baker, current VP of the Education Committee, also commented on Barbara's winning style and ability to work magic under pressure. Both praise Barbara for being organized, dependable, and a wonderful leader.

Barbara hails from El Paso, TX where she lived right through college. She graduated with a BA in English and minor in French from what is now known as the University of Texas at El Paso. (Another famous alum is the feisty journalist, Sam Donaldson.) Barbara taught French for two years before moving to Las Cruces for grad school where she received a Master of Arts in Teaching from New Mexico State University. Within three years, Barbara was accepted as a graduate assistant at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS where she earned a Master of Arts with a major in Spanish and minor in French.

Next, fate placed Barbara in Los Alamos where she taught both junior and senior high school; the majority of her 27 fulfilling years as a teacher were spent at Los Alamos High School. She taught French and Spanish, as well as advanced placement courses and had the enviable job of escorting her students on trips through

France and Spain. One memorable trip was to Morocco, where she was approached by a local and offered "many camels" for her "daughters" who were, of course, her female charges! At the drop of a hat, Barbara summoned her diplomatic skills and flashed her imitable smile, thereby avoiding an international incident. In the end, she returned to Los Alamos with students in tow, not camels!

While at Los Alamos High School, Barbara served as Chair of the School Governing Council, Student Council Sponsor, and Chair of the Language Department. All told, she taught 32 years and admits that she misses her interaction with students. She delights in coming across former students occasionally in Santa Fe and loves hearing about how they have used their language training in their jobs. According to Barbara, one of the highlights of her teaching career was being chosen to deliver the commencement address by one of the senior classes at Los Alamos High School.

Barbara approaches volunteering with the same energy and intellectual rigor as teaching. In Los Alamos, she was Budget Chair for the United Way, where she reviewed and selected applications for grants from organizations based there and elsewhere in northern New Mexico. She was appointed by the Los Alamos Council to the county Art in Public Places Committee.

In Santa Fe, Barbara volunteers with Habitat for Humanity by helping Spanish speaking applicants navigate the application process and subsequently supporting them in fulfilling their obligations to Habitat. She serves as Chair for the Santa Fe Advisory Council, advising the city on programs for retired seniors volunteering in the community. She is currently an Ambassador at The Lensic Theater. Barbara also volunteers at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, where she was named Volunteer of the Year in 2015.

Barbara has many roles in the Santa Fe Opera Guild, one of which is VP of Social Events. In this position, she plans and coordinates both the Annual Apprentice Party and the Annual Luncheon and procures refreshments for the Annual Meeting, Backstage Preview, and Meet the Diva. Barbara serves as VP of Education for Guilds, Inc. and chaired the Opening Night Dinner Committee for the Santa Fe Opera Guild for two years and Guilds, Inc. for three years. She is a docent at the Santa Fe Opera, and an active member of the Guild's Education Committee.

Barbara Anderson-Acosta's life is one of stewardship. She has educated and informed the minds of her students, assisted the disenfranchised to achieve a better life, encouraged our demographic to embrace giving back to others, and given of her time and talent to many local organizations. Barbara has enhanced our Guild's events through her ability to put the comfort of our members before her own. That is the essence of what is meant by being of service. Thank you, Barbara, for your generous spirit and impeccable service to our Guild and our community.

## NOVEMBER 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. 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, please let us know and we will mail them to you.

## DIVERSIONS

**Note:** Please continue to be vigilant when purchasing tickets. In this time of uncertainty, even virtual events are subject to cancellation. Visit venue websites frequently to obtain the latest information about online offerings.

**Performance Santa Fe** **has cancelled** the following in-person shows: VOCES8 (11/6), Theatre Re (11/13), Marc-André Hamelin (11/18). In their place is the series PSF@Home, featuring virtual performances that can be viewed by Annual Fund members. Three or four different offerings will be mounted in each of the upcoming winter months. Click [here](#) for program and access details as they become available.

**Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra** presents two Virtual Concert Series programs this month. On **Sunday, November 8 at 4:00PM**, the setting is the tranquil Santa Fe Children's Museum Garden and the *Ensembles Royales* program will feature works by Bach, Handel, Soulage, Ibert, Andrès, Piazzolla, Ravel, Sancho, Tizol, and Santana. Click [here](#) for a ticket and access. On **Sunday, November 22 at 4:00PM**, *Native Winds*, an earth-centric program filmed in The Santa Fe Botanical Gardens, will highlight works by Beethoven, Romero-Hymer, Sinigaglia, Haydn, Tate, Mozart, and Ran. Click [here](#) for ticket and access. Price: \$20/household.

**Jean Cocteau Cinema** mounts new, virtual, first-run indies and classics weekly and maintains a library of past films to be accessed online as well. Available now, for example, are *Radium Girls*, *White Riot*, *Major Arcana*, *Wild DaZe*, *Feels Good Man*, *The Keeper*, *Vinyl Nation*, *Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President*, *Jazz on a Summer's Day*. There are virtual and live "shows" and author events as well. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Santa Fe Violet Crown** frequently introduces new films to be virtually viewed, then absorbs them into its film library for patrons' future viewing. Currently, for example, the following are newly available on several virtual platforms: *Martin Eden*, *Nationtime*, *Oliver Sachs: His Own Life*, *Harry Chapin: When in Doubt*, *Do Something*. Click [here](#) for more information.

**New Mexico Performing Arts Society: New Mexico Bach Chorale and Chamber Players** present a live-streamed Winter Solstice Concert on **Sunday, November 29 at 5:30PM**. The stream will originate from The Immaculate Heart Chapel in Santa Fe. Works by the following will be on the program: Bach, Dufay, Gesualdo, Palestrina, Schnabel, and Vivaldi. Tickets are \$25 per household. Please procure 48 hours in advance of curtain time. Click [here](#).

**Know the Score**, published weekly by *The Guardian*, is a rich hybrid of print and visual offerings, each installment about one of the most famous of Western composers. Beethoven, Brahms, Verdi, and Stravinsky have been subjects. To access past and current selections, click [here](#).

**The Met** continues free opera streams. Click [here](#).

**Idagio** continues with *Fridays with Fred Plotkin* and *Thomas Hampson's World of Songs*. Click [here](#).

**Opera Wire** offers a list of opera houses streaming free performances. Click [here](#).

# LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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:

Bernadette Snider: *Operagram* Editor

Cate Bellanca: *Diversions* (recurring feature), Photographer

Martha Baker: *Salon 2020*

Rebecca Jensen: *The Winter Concert/Opera InSight Now Online*

Barbara Anderson-Acosta: *Member Spotlight*

Santa Fe Opera: *The Santa Fe Opera Returns*

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

Leslie Veditz: All membership-related articles (recurring features)

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

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