



OPERAGRAM

September 2020
Volume 12, Number 12

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA BAKER



Dear Santa Fe Opera Guild Members,

I am truly honored to have served as President of the Santa Fe Opera Guild for the past two years; it has certainly been an eventful time! Our exceptional Board of Directors and hard-working committee members, have consistently delivered an outstanding selection of diverse programs, while building a strong sense of community, and helping deepen our appreciation of opera, the ultimate performing art. We rallied in the face of the unanticipated challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the help of Shelly Brock and Steve Kerchoff, shifted our activities to the virtual platforms of Zoom and You Tube. We deeply appreciate the continued support that our members have given the Santa Fe Opera Guild during this unprecedented time in history. I will continue to be active in the Guild as a board member and as Vice President of the Education Committee, under the experienced leadership of our new President, Shelly Brock.

With sincere gratitude and warm regards,

Martha

AUTUMN IN THE CITY DIFFERENT

September traditionally signals the beginning of the cultural events season in Santa Fe, replete with world-class offerings in every art genre. But not this year. Not in 2020. Not in the Year of COVID-19. Much-anticipated season premiers have morphed into virtual events, continuing the trend dictated by stay-at-home mandates and prohibitions against large group gatherings. Virtual technology has afforded organizations world-wide the opportunity to provide access to programming despite the challenges presented by social distancing – challenges that could continue through the holidays and into 2021.

Although this season will be different from others in the past, it does not have to be a crushing disappointment. The months leading up to the holidays have at their core, a shared bond of community that pervade all autumn and winter traditions. The joy of connecting with others, however it is manifest (in person or virtually), is primarily about supporting and celebrating others. This season, vow to be a steadying force for others. Stretch your imagination and embrace the virtual events offered by the Santa Fe Opera Guild, the Santa Fe Opera, and the other organizations that make Santa Fe a cultural mecca. Celebrate the here and now. Embrace gratitude. Stay safe.



Photo Credit: Cate Ballanca

ZOOM MEETING: VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

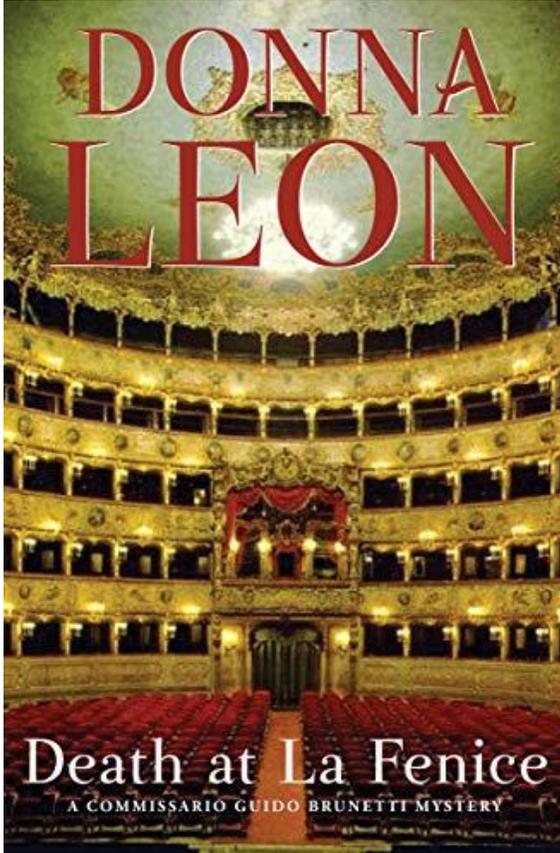
VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 6:00PM-7:30PM MDT

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MDT

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



Monday, September 14: Mystery novels thoroughly engage the intellect of those who read them, making them a great genre to occupy time spent in quarantine. Combine mystery with opera and we have *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon, the selection for the September 14 Virtual Vivace Book Club meeting. The novel is the first book in her award-winning Commissario Brunetti series.

Synopsis: During intermission at the famed La Fenice opera house in Venice, Italy, a notoriously difficult and widely disliked German conductor is poisoned, and suspects abound. Guido Brunetti, a native Venetian, sets out to unravel the mystery behind the high-profile murder. To do so, he calls on his knowledge of Venice, its culture, and its dirty politics. Along the way, he finds the crime may have roots going back decades—and that revenge, corruption, and even Italian cuisine may play a role.

To join us for the Monday, September 14 Virtual Vivace Book Group via Zoom, click [here](#) to provide your name and email address. We will send a link in plenty of time for the virtual session on September 14. If you have questions, please email vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org.

Copies of *Death at La Fenice*, both new and used, may be purchased from multiple, mass market book sellers.

Monday, November 9: *City of Falling Angels* by John Berendt is the selection for the book club meeting on Monday,

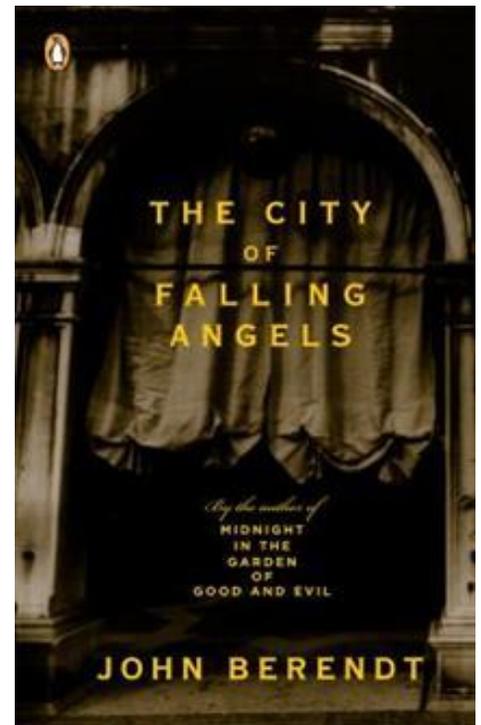
November 9. The author is best known for his novel that became a blockbuster movie, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

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 early for the November Vivace Book Club meeting, click [here](#) to provide your email address. A link will be sent prior to the meeting.

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



THE RED VIOLIN TO LORD OF CRIES: JOHN CORIGLIANO'S MUSIC

THE RED VIOLIN TO THE LORD OF CRIES: JOHN CORIGLIANO'S MUSIC

PRESENTATION BY EVAN FEIN, DMA

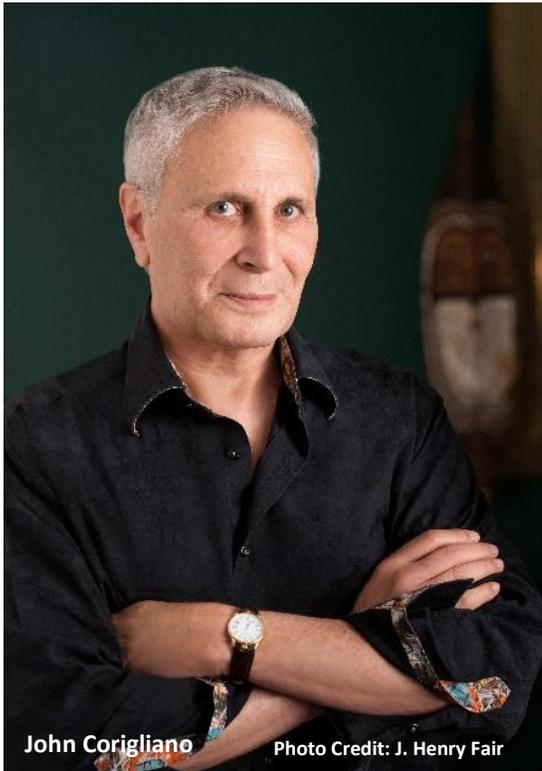
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2:00PM TO 3:00PM MDT

CHECK-IN: 1:45PM MDT

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$10 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS



John Corigliano

Photo Credit: J. Henry Fair

The Santa Fe Opera Guild is pleased to host a webinar presented by Dr. Evan Fein who will explore the music and career of one of America's living treasures, composer John Corigliano. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, five GRAMMY Awards, and an Oscar for his score to *The Red Violin*, Corigliano's music has fascinated and delighted audiences and critics for six decades. As the Santa Fe Opera prepares for the 2021 premier of his second opera, *The Lord of Cries*, this discussion will reflect on some of Corigliano's most celebrated works and his unconventional compositional process.

About John Corigliano, Composer: In an *Artist Biography*, author Michael Rodman wrote that American composer John Corigliano has summed up his artistic aims thus: "It has been fashionable of late for the artist to be misunderstood. I think it is the job of the composer to reach out to his audience with every means at his disposal... Communication of his most important ideas should be the primary goal."

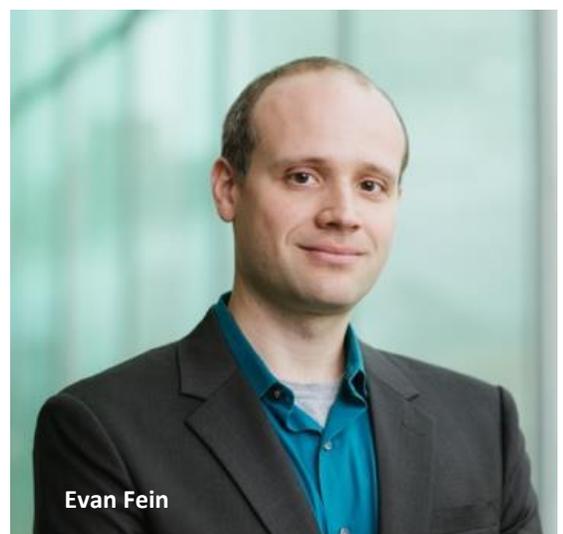
John Corigliano has lived in New York City all his life. He is a graduate of Columbia University and the Manhattan School of Music. He is the son of the legendary New York Philharmonic concertmaster, John Corigliano Sr. and Rose Buzen, an accomplished pianist and educator. Corigliano serves on the composition faculty at The Juilliard School of Music and holds the position of Distinguished Professor of Music at Lehman College, City University of New York, where a scholarship has been established in his

name. (excerpted from bio at www.johncorigliano.com.)

About Evan Fein, DMA: American composer Evan Fein was born in Cleveland, Ohio and currently resides in New York City, where he serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School Pre-College and Evening Divisions. His music has been commissioned by organizations including Musica Sacra, Opéra de Poche, The Albany Symphony, The Juilliard School, and The New York Choreographic Institute. Fein was awarded the 2014 Palmer Dixon Prize for Outstanding Composition and is the recipient of honors from the ASCAP Foundation, Boston Metro Opera, and the American Scandinavian Society. His dissertation "*The Ghosts of Versailles*" by John Corigliano: An Evolutionary Study, is the first comprehensive study of this seminal work in the 20th-century American operatic repertoire. Fein holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts and a Master of Music from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 29 at 2:00PM MDT. It is free for Opera Guild members and \$10 per device (computer, laptop, smart phone, tablet, etc.) for non-members. To register, please click [here](#). If you have questions, email webinars@santafeoperaguild.org.

To hear *Anna's Theme* from the Oscar winning, *The Red Violin*, click [here](#). To listen to *They Wish They Would Kill Me* from *The Ghosts of Versailles*, click [here](#).



Evan Fein

OPERA AND THE SEA



Desirée Mays' next Metropolitan Opera talk, "*Opera and the Sea*," is currently scheduled for May 2021. Live, she hopes! Desirée is asking our members to propose operas with connections to the sea to be considered for her presentation. The category includes rivers (the Rhine, of course), lakes (*La Donna del Lago*), ponds (*Rusalka*, *Wozzeck*) - you get the idea.

Upon submission, please include the title, the composer, and the reason why this opera has meaning for you. Could it be that the music conjures images of lying on the deck of a yacht while strains of *Idomeneo* drift up from below? Does someone special come to mind because of a shared opera experience? Or is it simply how certain passages personify, or interpret the elements of the sea: tides, storms, tranquility, or the ripples caused by the slightest disturbance?

Desirée is looking forward to your suggestions and will credit *Operagram* readers as co-researchers when she speaks at the Metropolitan Opera. Quite an exciting opportunity!

Please send your suggestions to OperagramEditor@SantaFeOperaGuild.org and they will be forwarded to Desirée. Do not miss this opportunity to share ideas and dialogue with Desirée.



SAVE THE DATE: YOU BE THE JUDGE

YOU BE THE JUDGE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 1:00PM MDT

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$10 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS

The Santa Fe Opera Guild will be hosting a new event on **Wednesday, October 14 at 1:00PM MDT**. We will choose three or four outstanding renditions of a popular aria by some of the world's leading singers, play the YouTube clips back-to-back, and give you the opportunity to vote on which is your personal favorite. David Holloway, retired Director of the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Singer Program, will provide expert commentary after participants have voted. Ken Hunt, a member of the Guild's Education Committee said, "We think this will be an entertaining chance to compare singing techniques and sharpen a listener's skills at detecting variations in interpretation." Check your email which will provide a link for registration.



The October *Operagram* will provide additional details about this event and other happenings that the Santa Fe Opera Guild has planned for the remainder of 2020.

HELP WANTED: MODERATOR FOR VIVACE BOOK CLUB



The Santa Fe Opera Guild is currently looking for a volunteer to assume the role of Moderator for the popular Vivace Book Club.

Responsibilities include choosing an opera-related book from any literary genre, coordinating with Collected Works Bookstore to secure the titles for purchase, and selecting a book club participant to rotate as facilitator for the bi-monthly meetings, which are currently virtual on the Zoom meeting platform. We have resources available to help with the technical aspects of the Zoom meetings. If you are interested in becoming the Vivace Book Club Moderator, or have questions about the position or the book club format, please email OperagramEditor@SantaFeOperaGuild.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CATHERINE BELLANCA



Photo Credit: D. DeSantis

One constant at Santa Fe Opera Guild events is Catherine (aka Cate) Bellanca, the *Operagram's* photographer and the editor of its most popular feature, *Diversions*. For nearly four years, Cate has captured candid photos of members at various events including the Annual Luncheon, Apprentice Party, Opening Night and The Salon. She works quietly, coaxing members to smile while creating a historical record for the Guild. Behind the camera is a multi-talented woman who has been successful in various careers. She chose Santa Fe to retire "...for the sun and the intoxicating scent of pinion burning."

Cate is a native New Yorker, born in Port Jefferson, Long Island to a musically and scientifically talented family that emigrated from Sicily. Her early music instruction in piano and classical guitar was from her maternal grandfather, Francesco Scolaro, who learned his craft from a church organist in Castellammare del Golfo, on the northwestern shore of Sicily. Whereas Francesco spent every Saturday afternoon listening to the Met Opera, it was her mother, Antoinette, who introduced her to the art form. Aviation is

prominent in the Bellanca family, as a likely ancestor, Guiseppi Bellanca, was a famous aviator and designer of the Bellanca aircraft; Cate's father, Stephen, a scientist at Grumman, helped design the Apollo Project's Lunar Excursion Module.

It is no surprise given her cultural upbringing that Cate is a life-long learner. She holds a PhD in Philosophy, a BA in Math and Philosophy, and a BS in Nursing, which she used in service of country when she joined the Army Medical Corps as a Second Lieutenant at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA. Her education also includes numerous programs at the prestigious Maine Photo Workshop, and violin lessons with Gemma DeRagon of Santa Fe.

Early in her career, Cate moved to Maine to become the Assistant Director of Public Relations for Colby College. The role included being school photographer, writer, editor, and director of sports information. After Colby, she worked at Unity College, a small, environmental science college where she created the Fine and Performing Arts Series, booking poet laureate, Mary Oliver and classical guitarist, David Russel, among others.

Cate's successful career as a photo editor in NYC included work for The Joe Nally Studio, *TV Guide*, *Lears*, *People*, *Elle*, and *Forbes*. While working at *Forbes*, Cate experienced her "Golden Period" that began with a singing audition that culminated in an invitation to join the 180-voice New York Choral Society as an Alto-1. She sang for 6 seasons under Jack Goodwin. Highlights from this period include the 1998 GRAMMY Awards, when Pavarotti received the Living Legend Award but was too sick to perform; his stand-in that night was none other than Aretha Franklin, who sang her own jazzy version of *Nessun Dorma*, bringing down the house at Radio City Music Hall. Other performances included the international debut of *Itaipu* at Carnegie Hall, honoring Phillip Glass; the Lincoln Center 80th birthday performance honoring Yehudi Menuhin; and many Tucker Galas at Lincoln Center, singing choral excerpts behind Sam Ramey, Stephanie Blythe, and Patricia Racette.

Two life lessons stand out for Cate: never put off keeping a promise, and strive to pursue your life-long dreams, however outlandish they may seem. Her most memorable example involves her mother, with whom Cate enjoyed many a Met performance in the infamous Family Circle. Antoinette had a life-long crush on Sam Ramey and made Cate promise to introduce her to him someday. The magical evening arrived on March 31, 1999 at the Met premier of *Suzanna*, starring Sam Ramey and Renée Fleming. After a 90-minute post-performance wait backstage, Antoinette's wish was fulfilled as she became fast friends with Sam, Renée, Jerry Hadley, and Denyce Graves who had been in the audience. Hugging ensued, autographs were signed, and a daughter kept her promise. Exactly one year later at her mother's funeral, Cate reached into the pocket of her coat for a tissue to wipe away tears and instead pulled out the ticket stub for *Suzanna*. As for not postponing one's dreams- Cate took herself to a dude ranch in Colorado last summer and learned to gallop and cut cattle!

Whenever life returns to normal and we socialize in person again, Dr. Cate will be circulating with her trusty camera phone. Remember to smile, thank her for her service and her willingness to lend her many talents to the Santa Fe Opera Guild.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

With the greatest pleasure, we welcome Kim & Jeff Klotzman and Pamela McClain to the Santa Fe Opera Guild. We look forward to meeting you at our programs and events when social distancing restrictions are lifted. Thank you so much for joining us.

SEPTEMBER 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, 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

Having recently sold tickets for in-person events, some Santa Fe presenters have made the decision to cancel these same events due to uncertainty over COVID-19 restrictions. The events that were cancelled were all scheduled for September through January 2021. Although refunds may be offered, there is a hope that patrons will donate at least part of the ticket price to fund new virtual offerings. Local organizations are introducing innovative programming, designed to keep music viable in Santa Fe. Please be vigilant and read the fine print before purchasing tickets.

New Mexico Performing Arts Society presents a virtual performance: *2020 Season Finale Operetta and More Opera Concert: Opera*, on **Sunday, September 6 at 5:30PM**. Selections by the following composers will be performed in, and livestreamed from, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel: Verdi, Gounod, Monteverdi, Serrano, Romberg, Puccini, Purcell. The following artists will perform in the state-of-the-art singer's mask, designed by the Broadway Relief Project: Esther Moses Bergh, Jennifer Perez, Kehar Koslowsky, André Garcia-Nuthmann, John Tiranno, Tim Wilson, and Nate Salazar (piano). Franz Vote, Artistic Director, will conduct. Please purchase tickets at least 48 hours in advance to obtain access. For more information and tickets (\$25-\$26 per household), click [here](#).

The Santa Fe Symphony has rescheduled its Fall 2020 lineup to Fall 2021; details about January-May of 2021 have not been shared. This month, **SFS 1:1 Experiences** offers 10-minute, in-person concerts performed by Symphony musicians at iconic, outdoor locations around town, including the Museum Hill Café (\$15 for a wine tasting). The cost for the concert is \$50 per person. Click [here](#) or call (505)983-3530.

Performance Santa Fe has cancelled its entire Fall 2020, in-person schedule. Instead, **PSF@Home**, digital concerts from the archives of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's *Front Row* series, will take the place of the previously scheduled events. The September performances air on **Mondays at 7:00PM**, with each ensemble led by an international star: **9/7**, clarinetist David Shifrin (Mozart, Bassi, Ellington); **9/14**, pianist Gloria Chien (Fields, Liszt, Mendelssohn); **9/21**, violinist Arnaud Sussmann (J.S. Bach, Chaussou); **9/28**, pianist Anne-Marie McDermott (Mozart, Smetana). **Please Note: only donors to the PSF Annual Fund will be granted access. Donors at the \$500 and up levels are also invited to Oliver Prezant's pre-performance Zoom talk on 9/14.** Click [here](#) or call (505)984-8759 for more information and to become a fund member.

Santa Fe ProMusica has cancelled its entire 2020-21 season due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has not announced any virtual performances thus far. Click [here](#) for updates.

The Russian Film Society has provided a YouTube link to Tchaikovsky's one-act opera, *Iolanta*. To listen to the opera, click [here](#). To join the Russian Film Society mailing list, please email wwdcroat@aol.com.

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

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

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

RENESAN will offer *OHO! (One-Hour Operas!)* via Zoom Meeting or Webinar on Wednesdays, **September 9, 16, 23,** and **30**. Registration begins on **August 17** and is limited to 25. The operas chosen by course instructor, Mark Tiarks are: *The Night Bell*, Donizetti's classic Comedy; *il Tabarro*, Puccini's verismo drama; *L'enfant et les sortièges*, Ravel's lyrical fantasy; and *Bluebeard's Castle*, Bartok's psychological thriller. Each session will feature an introduction, a screening of the complete opera, and a discussion. Click [here](#) to register.

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:

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

Martha Baker: *A Message from Martha Baker*, *You Be the Judge*, Registration links for all events

Steve Kerchoff/Martha Baker: *Virtual Vinace* (recurring feature)

Jackie M: *The Red Violin to The Lord of Cries: John Corigliano's Music*

Desirée Mays: *Opera and the Sea*

Bernadette Snider: *Autumn in The City Different*, *Member Spotlight: Catherine Bellanca*

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

Leslie Veditz: All membership related articles (recurring features)

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