



OPERAGRAM

November 2021
Volume 16, Number 2

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thanksgiving is a celebration of the people in our lives, the places we call home, and the freedom we have to build and maintain fruitful lives.

In what we all fervently hope is the twilight of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can be grateful for the brilliant scientists who created lifesaving vaccines, for our local government that provided access to the vaccines to everyone, and for those who went to work every day, so we had food, clothing, medical care, and city services. From grocery and drug stores to restaurants with take-out, to veterinarians and package delivery workers, citizens of Santa Fe risked their own health so life could retain a modicum of normalcy for our community.

Thanksgiving is also the perfect time to acknowledge our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the Santa Fe Opera Guild and all our sister guilds. Thank you for the invaluable service you provide all year.

This holiday season let us celebrate the strength we have gained from adversity. Wherever you are and whatever you do, stay safe and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Warm Regards,

Shelly Brock

Board President, Santa Fe Opera Guild

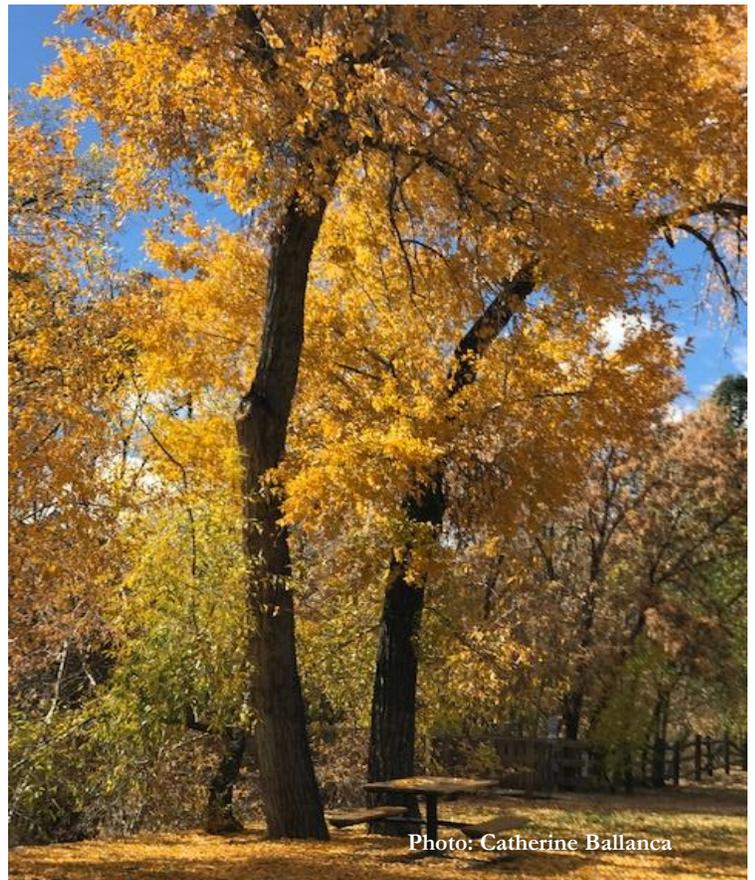


Photo: Catherine Ballanca

OPERAGRAM HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

During the holiday season we are giving the volunteer staff of the *Operagram* a well-deserved break by combining the December 2021 and January 2022 issues; we will resume monthly publication in February 2022. During the hiatus, important Santa Fe Opera Guild information will be sent directly to our members' email addresses.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Warm Regards,

The Staff of the *Operagram*

VIRTUAL VIVACE

VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

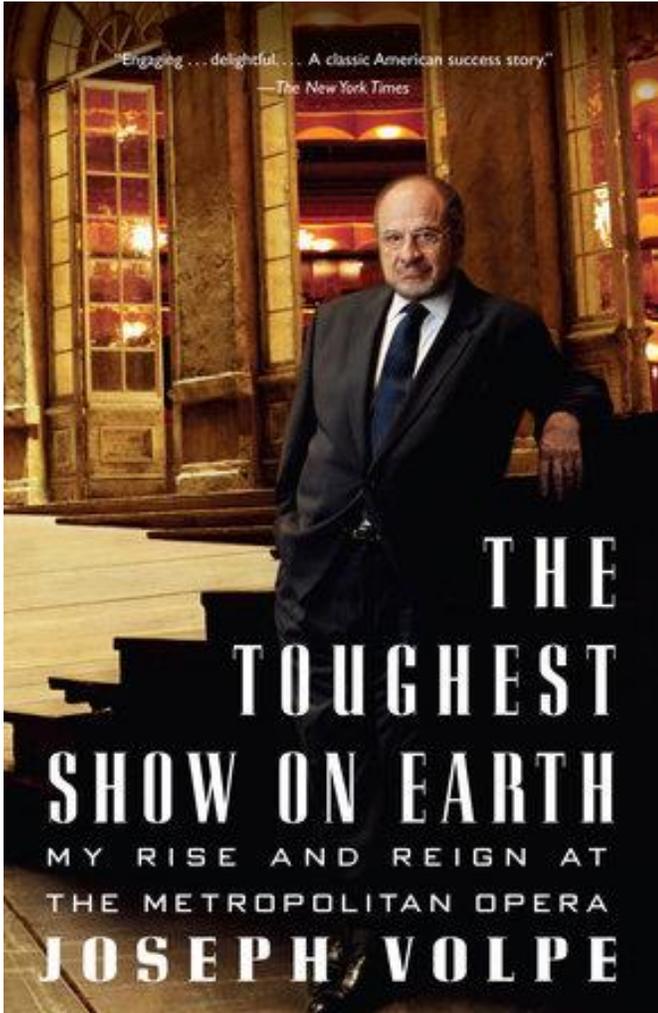
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021, 6:00PM-7:30PM MST

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MST

MODERATOR, BERNADETTE SNIDER

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



The Toughest Show on Earth is the ultimate behind-the-scenes chronicle of the divas and the dramas of New York's Metropolitan Opera, written by Joseph Volpe, the remarkable man who rose from apprentice carpenter to general manager of the iconic New York opera house.

Volpe gives us an anecdote-filled tour of more than four decades at the Met, an institution full of vast egos and complicated politics. With stunning candor, he writes about the general managers he worked under, his embattled rise to the top, the maneuverings of the blue-chip board, and his masterful approach to making a family of such artist-stars as Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, Teresa Stratas, and Renee Fleming, and such visionary directors as Franco Zeffirelli, Robert Wilson, and Julie Taymor. Intimate and frank, *The Toughest Show on Earth* is not only essential for music lovers, but for anyone who wants to understand the inner workings of the culture business.

Our discussion will address the trajectory of the book and the recent history of the Met, but also what changes will have to occur for opera as a music genre to survive and flourish for future generations. We must look no further than our Santa Fe Opera to glimpse an institution positioning itself not only for today, but for the future.

There are two other books read previously by Vivace Book Club that cover much of the same subject matter and provide interesting comparisons to *The Toughest Show on Earth*. Volpe's narrative follows that of his late colleague, Johanna Fiedler who wrote *Molto Agitato: The Mayhem Behind the Music at the Metropolitan Opera*, a first-hand account of her 15 years as Chief Press Liaison

with the Met. The second book is by Heidi Waleson, the opera critic for the *Wall Street Journal*, who penned a comprehensive narrative about the history, politics, financial, and social factors that led to the demise of the New York City Opera. She cleverly titled the book *Mad Scenes and Exit Arias: The Death of the New York City Opera and the Future of Opera in America*. Of the three authors, Volpe's approach is the most direct, emotional, and unflinching, as he discusses intimate details of his career and relationships during his tenure at the Metropolitan Opera.

The moderator for the evening is Bernadette Snider, a member of the Santa Fe Opera Guild's Board of Directors and Editor of the *Operagram*. She is also the newly appointed Coordinator of the Vivace Book Club. She has advanced degrees in Psychology and English Literature and a diverse career in academia, mental health, and corporate consulting.

Copies of *The Toughest Show on Earth* are available at Collected Works Bookstore, or online at collectedworksbookstore.com. Collected Works is located at the corner of Galisteo and Water Streets.

We hope you will join the Santa Fe Opera Guild on Monday, November 8 at 6:00PM MDT for Virtual Vivace. To register for this event, click [here](#). We will email a link for the Zoom discussion the morning of November 8. If you have questions, please email vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org.

NEWS FROM THE SANTA FE OPERA

The 2022 Season Announcement will take place on November 4. The Opera is so grateful for the support of the Guilds, patrons, and donors as we reflect on our re-opening this past summer.

Opera for All Voices

Hometown to the World, a commission of Opera for All Voices, will have its world premiere on **December 17 at 7:00pm** at **The Lensic Performing Arts Center**. Tickets are **\$25.00** and will be available on **October 20** at **Lensic.org**.

Hometown to the World is set in 2008, in the aftermath of the nation's largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid of North America's biggest kosher meat processing plant, in Iowa. The small agrarian town of Postville had been brought back to economic viability by the influx of a group of Hasidic Jews—from the Lubavitcher sect—who moved from Brooklyn to Iowa, where hogs outnumber people five to one. Postville's prosperity attracted workers from around the world. They emigrated mostly from Central America, especially Guatemala, but also hailed from Eastern Europe, East Africa, Israel, even Palau. A vast number of these workers were hired even though they were known to be undocumented. Many came in desperation, to escape poverty, violence, and repressive regimes, seeking a new life in the U.S.

During its renaissance, Postville evolved into a model of multi-culturalism, summarized perhaps most accurately by the sign on the edge of town, which reads: "Hometown to the World." An ICE raid in May 2008 resulted in the deportation of approximately a quarter of the town's population, which led to another quarter of the citizens fleeing. Families were destroyed, the meatpacking plant was forced to close, and Postville's ability to function was decimated. With this history of Postville—a microcosm of America's great immigrant experiment in multiculturalism—as the backdrop, *Hometown to the World* tells the story of how the worlds of three characters from the community's main ethnic/religious/linguistic groups collide in the wake of a brutal ICE raid. The result is a complex tale that ends with a message of hope and equity.

Panel discussions around *Hometown to the World* are currently in development.

The cast of *Hometown to the World* includes:

Laura Kaminsky, *Composer*

Kimberly Reed, *Librettist*

Kristine McIntyre, *Stage Director*

Carmen Florez-Mansi, *Music Director*

Luke Cantarella, *Scenic and Projections Designer*

Kara Harmon, *Costume Designer*

Kate Ashton, *Lighting Designer*

Cast: Blythe Gaissert, *Linda Larsen*

Cassandra Zoe Velasco, *Linda Morales*

Michael Kelly, *Abraham Fleischman*

Winter Tour

The Winter Tour has been suspended for 2021 as our state continues to battle Covid infections. A 2022 Spring Tour is in the planning stages.



APPRENTICE WATCH



Courtesy: Magnum Opus Artists

Anthony Robin Schneider (Bass) is from Austria and New Zealand. He holds a BA in Music with Honors (Voice Performance) from the University of Auckland and is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts and the Houston Grand Opera Studio. He was also an Apprentice Singer at the Santa Fe Opera in 2017 and 2018. Anthony made his debut with The Santa Fe Opera in *Ariadne auf Naxos* as Truffaldino and sang the role of the Baron/Grand Inquisitor in *Candide*. Anthony is trilingual - English, French, and German - which enhances his versatility in the culturally diverse opera repertoire.

As an Ensemble soloist at Oper Frankfurt, Anthony will be singing the roles of Ibn Hakia in *Iolanta*, First Soldier in *Salome*, Panas in *Christmas Eve*, King Heinrich in *Lohengrin* and Cirillo in *Fedora* during the 2021/22 season. Past highlights at Oper Frankfurt included roles as The Grand Inquisitor/Monk in *Don Carlo*, Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, and Don Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro*. In addition to his Ensemble work, Anthony will be performing with the Houston Grand Opera as Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as the Cleveland Orchestra as Lodovico in Verdi's *Otello*.

In the summer of 2021, Anthony made his Wagner debut as Fafner in *Das Rheingold* with the Tiroler Festspiele Erl directed by Brigitte Fassbender. He will be returning in 2022 as Hunding in *Die Walküre*.

Anthony was a national semifinalist at the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 2016, he was awarded a grant from the Gerda Lissner Foundation Lieder/Song Competition, and 2nd Prize in the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition. Anthony is also the proud recipient of a Kiri te Kanawa Foundation Scholarship.

The following YouTube selection provides excellent examples of Anthony Robin Schneider's range as an artist. To hear a full-length concert from Oper Frankfurt, click [here](#). To choose individual pieces, click on the time intervals: **.50** Schubert - *Three Italian Songs*; **12:14** Finzi - *Let us garlands bring*; **28:12** Moussorgsky - *Songs and dances of Death*; **49:19** Shostakovitch - *Macpherson's Farewell*; **52:19** Ireland - *Sea Fever*. To access Anthony's website, click [here](#).

Richard Trey Smagur (Tenor) is from Clarksville, Georgia. He has been praised for his "attractive lyric tenor" and "vivid presence" (*Opera Today*). He holds an MA in Music from Shorter College and a Performers Diploma from Indiana University (Georgina Joshi Fellowship Scholar). He sang many roles during his training at Indiana University, including the title role in *Peter Grimes*, B.F. Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Don José in *Carmen*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, and Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Richard was a Studio Artist at the Houston Grand Opera, a Fellow at the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, an Apprentice Artist at the Des Moines Metro Opera, and an Apprentice Singer at the Santa Fe Opera.

He has made significant role and house debuts including Gastone de Letorières in *La traviata*, Young Servant in *Elektra*, and Count Almaviva in select performances of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Miller Outdoor Theater in Houston during the 2017-2018 season. In 2017, Richard was an Apprentice Singer at the Santa Fe Opera making his house debut as Tsarevitch Gvidon in *The Golden Cockerel*; he returned in 2019 to make his principal role debut as Števa Buryja in *Jenůfa*.

The Houston Grand Opera has announced its 2021-22 season, which will feature six productions. The season opens with Bizet's *Carmen* starring Carolyn Sproule, Richard Trey Smagur, Christian Pursell, and Heidi Stober.

Richard was Grand Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council in 2017 and received the Richard Tucker Memorial Award from the Santa Fe Opera, also in 2017.

To hear Richard Trey Smagur sing the Mad scene from *Peter Grimes*, click [here](#). To enjoy a selection from *Carmen*, click [here](#).



Courtesy: IMG Artists

BRAVI TUTTI ON A HISTORY-MAKING 2021 REOPENING SEASON



Among the first opera companies in the world to return to performances in their own venue in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Santa Fe Opera presented 30 mainstage performances, held hundreds of rehearsals and employed over 500 members of staff without a single postponement or cancellation in its 64th Festival Season. Said General Director Robert K. Meya, “From the first downbeat on opening night to the final notes upon closing, Santa Fe Opera audiences and artists alike were overjoyed to experience live music. Never before in our company’s history have the arts, and music in particular, been more meaningful.”

The company will announce the 2022 Season on November 4 and extends its lasting gratitude to the artists, staff, Board members, donors, patrons, and elected officials for supporting America’s premiere opera festival. It is thanks to the hard work, determination, and generosity of many that the Santa Fe Opera is in a strong position for 2022 and beyond.

To view the tribute video from the Santa Fe Opera, click [here](#). For additional details regarding the 2021 season reopening, click [here](#).

NOVEMBER MEMBERS: IT’S 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.

With the greatest pleasure, we welcome Jim Leonard 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.



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

John F. Kennedy

DIVERSIONS

As local venues transition from virtual to in-person events, please be sure to check their websites frequently for the most current information and to stay informed about each venue's COVID safety protocols.

Madera Winds: Amy Thiemann Leal (flute), Angela K. Winter (French horn) and Cheyenne Cruz (clarinet) will perform classic works by Christian Dickhut and Marcel Boucard, and modern works by Allison Loggins-Hull and Béla Kovács at **4:00 pm** on **November 6** at St. John's Methodist Church. Presented by Southwest Arts. To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

The Santa Fe Symphony is offering two concerts in November: SFS Strata *Beethoven's Harp* on **November 10 at 7:00 pm** and Handel's *Messiah* on **November 20 at 7:00 pm** and on **November 21 at 4:00 pm**. To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Chatter (In) SITE: Chatter weaves together traditional and contemporary chamber music programs that include both music and a reading by a poet. J.S. Bach's *Concerto for Oboe and Strings in A major*, BWV 1055 György Ligeti Chamber Concerto, and a reading by the poet Levi Romero are presented on **Saturday, November 13 at 10:30 am** at SITE Santa Fe. Tickets are \$5-\$16 in advance; \$5-\$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for additional information, click [here](#).

Russian/Eastern European Opera: The next presentation in the Russian and Eastern European series of opera on film takes place on **Wednesday, November 17, at 1 pm** at the **Santa Fe Woman's Club**. It will be a double feature of two unjustly neglected operas rarely seen in Russia, much less in Europe or the Americas. The first opera is *The Stone Guest* by Aleksandr Dargomyzhsky in a live performance at the Bolshoi in 1979. The second is Sergei Rachmaninov's *The Miserly Knight* filmed at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2004. The librettos for both operas are based on stories by Aleksandr Pushkin, and each opera features outstanding casts; a rare treat not to be missed. A donation of \$5.00 to help offset costs is suggested, and masks are required on the premises. Additional information or questions may be addressed to Bill Derbyshire at wwdcroat@aol.com.

Santa Fe Pro Musica: For the 2021-22 season, Pro Musica is offering subscription packages, featuring three distinct concert series, in three historic Santa Fe venues—the 1873 Gothic-style Loretto Chapel, the 1917 Pueblo Revival-style St. Francis Auditorium, and the 1930s Moorish-inspired Lensic Performing Arts Center. Click [here](#) for dates, venue seating charts, and subscription options. For subscriptions and single tickets contact the **Pro Musica Box Office at 505.988.4640 x 1000**.

Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe offers its first season of "Performance at CCA." A series of films will be shown on weekdays and every other Saturday, give or take. In November, two films will be shown: *The Sleeping Beauty* on **November 13 & 17**, and *Falstaff* on **November 27 & December 1**. For more information on dates/times and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

The Met: The company has announced its 2021-2022 season, when opera will return live to the stage. To read a list of the operas, click [here](#).

The Metropolitan Opera Guild Opera America: #meetopera Online: Opera companies across North America invite you to experience the art form virtually with live-streaming and on-demand performances. Click [here](#) for Opera America's website.

The Met Podcasts: While you are browsing the Met's website, check out their podcast, *Aria Code*, a collaboration with WQXR and WNYC studios. The series features opera notables discussing interesting aspects of music and opera productions. Click [here](#) to listen to *Aria Code* podcasts on The Met's website. Click [here](#) to listen to the series at AriaCode.org.

The Lensic: Click [here](#) to purchase tickets for the many musical events hosted at The Lensic in November. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays!

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

Latina Women in Opera's Monthly Concert Series continue each month on their Facebook Page [here](#). Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Canadian Opera Company: Connecting artists and audiences through a COC first: free digital streaming, from coast to coast to coast. Captured at the magnificent Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, enjoy new releases of purpose-produced concerts and performances every month with extraordinary Canadian and international artists. Sign up [here](#) for free.

Opera NexGen: Join them for their 2021-2022 season online. Click [here](#) to access their calendar of events.

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

Martha Baker, Bernadette Snider: *Apprentice Watch*

Shelly Brock: *Thanksgiving Message*

Alice Jennings: *Diversions* Editor

Rebecca Jensen: *News from the Santa Fe Opera*

Santa Fe Opera: *Bravi Tutti*

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

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

Michael Motley: Graphic support

Jackie M, Martha Baker: Publicity

THE GUILDS OF THE SANTA FE OPERA, INC.

P.O. BOX 2371, SANTA FE, NM 87504-2371

Find us on the internet at GuildsofSFO.org/SF

Operagram Editor: Bernadette Snider • OperagramEditor@SantaFeOperaGuild.org

Santa Fe Opera Guild President: Shelly Brock • President@SantaFeOperaGuild.org • (888) 666-3430, Ext. 501

VP Communication: Jackie M • VPCommunications@SantaFeOperaGuild.org • (888) 666-3430, Ext. 504

VP for Membership: Leslie Veditz • VPMembership@SantaFeOperaGuild.org • (888) 666-3430, Ext. 502