



OPERAGRAM

October 2021
Volume 16, Number 1

NOTES FROM THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING



Shelly Brock, Board President of the Santa Fe Opera Guild conducted the Annual Meeting via a Zoom webinar due to the constraints of social distancing. Shelly introduced the Board of Directors for fiscal year 2021-2022 and congratulated the team for its hard work. She also presented an overview of the SFOG finances, including actual expenditures vs. projected budgets and revenue from membership dues. In reviewing the membership report, she announced that the guild had welcomed 42 new members in fiscal 2021. Quite a feat during a pandemic!

Shelly reviewed the successful programs presented to our members over the past year - all virtually via Zoom Webinar and Meeting formats. She acknowledged the steep learning curve and hours of preparation that went into the success of our many programs, including Desirée Mays four-part series *Opera Virtually Unveiled*, Mark Tiark's presentation on Offenbach, and the Vivace Book Club that went 100% virtual, widening its geographic reach in the process. The Annual Luncheon, *The Salon, You be the Judge*, and *Backstage Perspective* successfully transitioned to virtual. Not to be forgotten are the special webinars that featured Sam Ramey & Cori Ellison, Dr. Evan Fein, Anthony Roth Costanzo & David Lomeli.



Tracy Armagost

The guest speaker for the meeting was the dynamic, indefatigable Tracy Armagost who energetically recounted the joys and challenges of the 2021 season. She explained in detail the extent to which the Opera sought to comply with COVID requirements for the health and safety of everyone. Tracy painted a clear picture of the challenges of bringing theater to the stage—in person—during a pandemic. She told stories of having to replace singers, directors, and set designers because of pandemic-related visa issues, resulting in meetings in the early hours of the morning to accommodate international time zones. One moving moment was when Tracy told everyone that a tree used on the hill in *Eugene Onegin* was from her late colleague, Randy Lutz's yard. Tracy spoke for over an hour, but had many stories left untold. Thank you, Tracy, for sharing your time with us. Please come back again.

MARK TIARKS: *THE SILVER SCREAM*

THE SILVER SCREAM

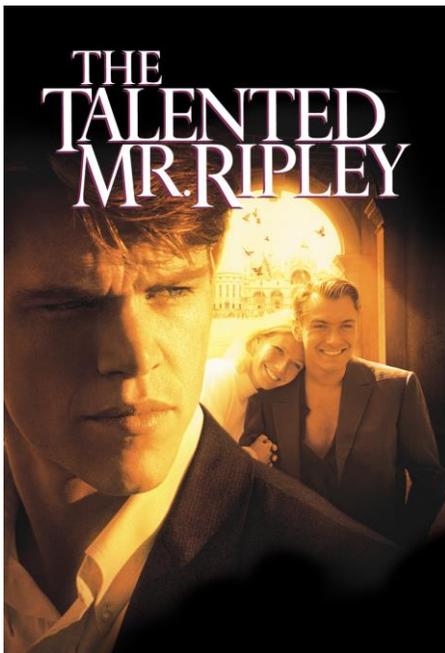
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 3:00PM MDT

CHECK-IN 2:50PM MDT

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$10 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS

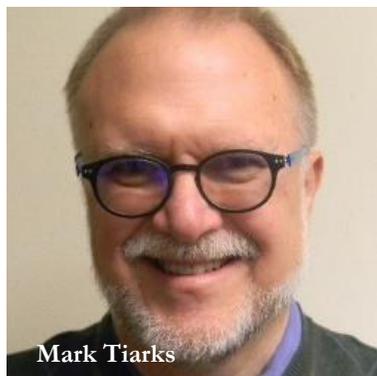


The Silver Scream – Portrayals of Opera in Cinema, is an entertaining discussion of opera favorites that became part of mainstream movies. We know from past presentations, that Mark will deliver an informative and humorous talk in his engaging style.

Hear Frank Sinatra sing the “Seduction Duet” from *Don Giovanni*! See Beverly Sills’ only cinema appearance! Watch Judy Garland and Betty Jaynes warble toe-to-toe in “Opera versus Swing” from *Babes in Arms*! This talk explores the creative ways that filmmakers have used opera to advance a story, create a unique atmosphere, or comment on the action, from “The Ride of the Valkyries” in *Apocalypse Now* to *Madame Butterfly*’s “Un bel di” in *Fatal Attraction*, to a *Marriage of Figaro* duet in *The Shansbank Redemption*. The grand finale is “Everybody Wants to Be Figaro,” in which performers ranging from Robin Williams to a singing whale have a crack at the famous aria “Largo

al factotum” from *The Barber of Seville*. Click [here](#) to register for *The Silver Scream* on October 14. You will receive confirmation of your registration by email and a link will be sent the day of the webinar.

A recording of *The Silver Scream* will be available to registered viewers until November 15, 2021.



Mark Tiarks

About Mark Tiarks: Mark served as the Director of Planning and Marketing of the Santa Fe Opera for 11 years. His earlier professional positions include General Director of Chicago Opera Theater, Producing Director of Court Theatre, and Artistic Administrator of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Mark is currently the *Santa Fe New Mexican*’s classical music critic and is on the board of directors of RENESAN where he is a lecturer and member of the Curriculum committee. His lectures for the Fall 2021 semester are entitled *Mikado Madness* and *Sondheim’s First Ten Musicals*. The *Mikado Madness* talk is available both online and in-person, at the Center for Contemporary Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail. See *Diversions* for further details and registration information.

“Film music should have the same relationship to the film drama that somebody’s piano playing in my living room has on the book I am reading.”

Igor Stravinsky



THE MET: LIVE IN HD PRESENTS...

BORIS GUDUNOV

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 11:00AM MDT

ENCORE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 6:00PM MDT

THE LENSIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

211 WEST SAN FRANCISCO STREET

TICKETS: \$22.00 - \$28.00 (STUDENTS: \$15.00)

Bass René Pape, the world's reigning Boris, reprises his overwhelming portrayal of the tortured tsar caught between grasping ambition and crippling paranoia, kicking off the *Live in HD* season on October 9, 2021. Conductor Sebastian Weigle leads Mussorgsky's masterwork, a pillar of the Russian repertoire, in its original 1869 version. Stephen Wadsworth's affecting production poignantly captures the hope and suffering of the Russian people as well as the tsar himself. The cast features tenors David Butt Philip and Maxim Paster, baritone Aleksey Bogdanov, and bass Ain Anger. Click [here](#) to order tickets for the October 9th or October 12th screening of *Boris Gudunov*.



FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 11:00AM MDT | ENCORE, 6:00PM MDT

THE LENSIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

211 WEST SAN FRANCISCO STREET

TICKETS: \$22.00 - \$28.00 (STUDENTS: \$15.00)

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Grammy Award-winning jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard's adaptation of Charles M. Blow's moving memoir, which *The New York Times* praised after its 2019 world premiere at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as "bold and affecting" and "subtly powerful." The first opera by a Black composer presented on the Met stage and featuring a libretto by filmmaker Kasi Lemmons, the opera tells a poignant and profound story about a young man's journey to overcome a life of trauma and hardship. James Robinson and Camille A. Brown—two of the creators of the Met's sensational recent production of *Porgy and Bess*—co-direct this new staging, which appears in cinemas on October 23. Baritone Will Liverman, one of opera's most exciting young artists, stars as Charles, alongside sopranos Angel Blue as Destiny/Loneliness/Greta and Latonia Moore as Billie. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets. **Please Note: Face masks and proof of vaccination-or proof of recent negative Covid test-are required by The Lensic for this event. For further information, click [here](#) to read the Lensic's Covid policy.**

HD Broadcasts 2021

Eurydice, December 4

Cinderella, January 8

HD Broadcasts 2022

Rigoletto, January 29

Ariadne auf Naxos, March 12

Don Carlos, March 26

Turandot, May 7

Lucia di Lammermoor, May 21

Hamlet, June 4

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

VIRTUAL VIVACE

VIRTUAL VIVACE BOOK CLUB

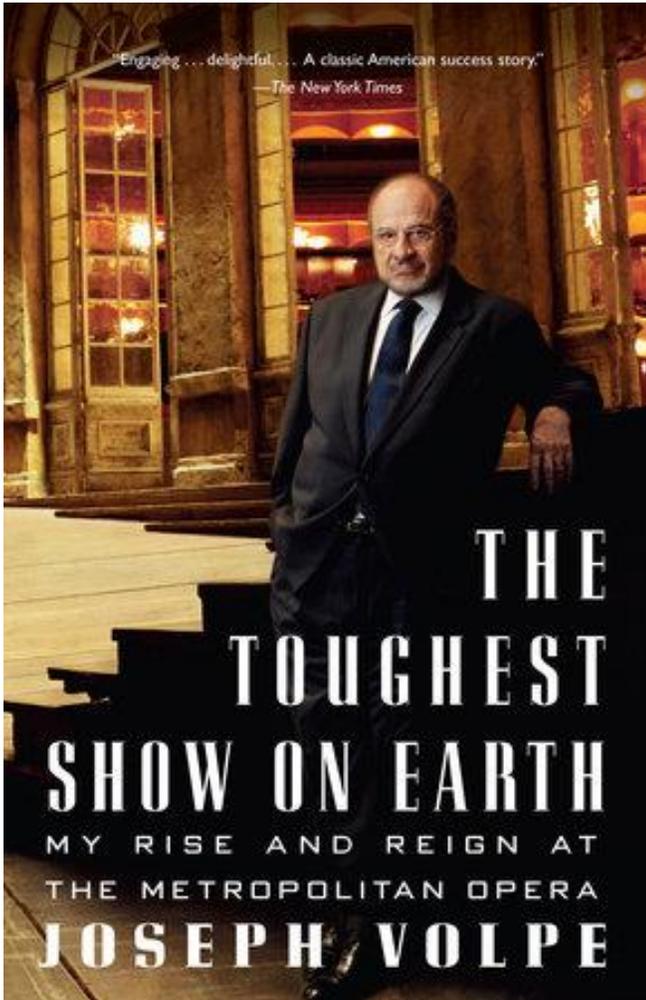
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021, 6:00PM-7:30PM MST

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 House, 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 educationvp@santafeoperaguild.org.

NEWS FROM THE SANTA FE OPERA

Opera for All Voices

Hometown to the World, a commission of Opera for All Voices, will have its world premiere in **December** at the **Lensic Performing Arts Center**. Date is yet to be determined.

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. Today, as the many issues surrounding immigration, citizenship, economic viability, and cultural cohesion are at the center of national discourse, *Hometown to the World* is a critical piece of contemporary opera that seeks to create greater awareness, thoughtful dialogue, and impactful response.

Arts Advocacy

Kyle Gray has returned to the Opera's Community Engagement Department as the Manager of Community Relations & Government Affairs. As the Arts Advocacy Committee, in collaboration with Kyle, move forward there will be an opportunity for guild members to join in a "volume of voices" to promote arts advocacy in our community.

Winter Tour

The Santa Fe Opera's Winter Tour concerts are under development and dates will be determined in October.

THE SALON...TILL WE MEET AGAIN...IN PERSON

Everyone who has ever participated in the Santa Fe Opera Guild's Salon, attended as much for the camaraderie as for the thought-provoking conversations. To our members, these afternoons in November were a welcome prelude to the holidays, and an opportunity to connect with friends before the rush of seasonal activities.

This year will be different. Martha Baker, VP of Education conducted a survey last month and our membership response indicated that virtual events were preferable until the pandemic subsides. We agree wholeheartedly and will schedule an in-person Salon sometime next year, when COVID poses little threat to our members' health and safety.

Salons have a long and vibrant history, serving not only as an elite venue for the intelligentsia, the wealthy, and the connected, but also a place to foment dangerous ideas and revolutionary plots. From the powdered wigs of royal courts to the acerbic roundtables of Dorothy Parker, salons throughout history have shaped government policy, elevated scoundrels to respectability and those of virtue to obscurity.

The tradition continues today whenever a few people meet to discuss ideas that could possibly change the world. We look forward to meeting in person at The Salon in 2022.

YOUNG TECHNICIANS PROGRAM RETURNS VIA ZOOM



One casualty of the COVID pandemic in 2020 was the Young Technicians Program of the Santa Fe Opera. The dynamic curriculum provided hands-on experience in diverse areas of theater production to students considering a career in technical theater. High school students from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Española, and Los Alamos were afforded the opportunity to explore a career path under the guidance of working theater professionals at the Opera. Unfortunately, the program ground to halt in Spring 2020 as the coronavirus closed schools and led to the cancellation of the Santa Fe Opera's Festival Season. With summer opportunities cancelled and the production studios closed to non-staff, the Young Technicians program was only able to offer online seminars in stage management and lighting, presented by LA Opera's Tech Academy.

The Delta variant interfered with the plan to resume in-person sessions this Fall, so a new series of afterschool workshops will be presented instead via Zoom. In October, Nancy Allen will lead a Props Craft workshop on creating a fantasy book. Students will receive materials to create their book at home, incorporating techniques demonstrated by Nancy. An Introduction to Costume Design led by Costume Stock and Rental Coordinator, Brianna Fristoe, will address costuming as a career, introduce the design process including ways to interpret the characters, and conduct period research for the ever-popular, *Carmen*. The program culminates with students sketching their own designs for Don José and Carmen's costumes; part of the assignment is to choose a period in which the opera would be staged, which influences set design, costumes, and props.

If you know creative high school students who would love to stretch their imaginations and learn new skills under the direction of the Santa Fe Opera's production staff, please tell them about the Young Technicians Program, which is free and open to all. If you have questions about the program, please contact youngtechnicians@santafeopera.org.

For more information on how they can join, visit the Opera's website, click [here](#) and scroll to the Young Technicians section.

OCTOBER 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.

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.

New Mexico Philharmonic Beethoven Festival: Piano concertos with Olga Kern. **October 1 at 8 pm** and **October 2 at 6 pm** at Popejoy Hall in Albuquerque. For more information, click [here](#).

RENESAN: *Mikado Madness* is presented by Mark Tiarks **on** Thursday, Oct. 7 from 1-3 pm. The talk is available both online and in-person, at the Center for Contemporary Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail. *The Mikado* wasn't just a hit operetta — it spawned marketing tie-ins for decades (including corsets, stoves, tomatoes, and condoms) and was the basis for innovative stage and film adaptations that featured such stars as Bill Robinson, Groucho Marx, Stubby Kaye, and Eric Idle. Mark Tiarks explores this rich heritage through video excerpts and period imagery. Information and registration at renesan.org or 505-982-9274.

Chatter (In) SITE: Chamber-music ensemble; premiere of Pierre Jalbert's *All Is Now* and Darius Milhaud's *La Création du monde*. 10:30 am., October 9. Tickets are \$5-\$16 in advance; \$5-\$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for additional information, click [here](#).

The Santa Fe Symphony: Don't miss this epic afternoon on October 10th at 4 pm celebrating the 251st anniversary of master symphonist Ludwig van Beethoven. For this highly anticipated concert, they are honored to bring back piano virtuoso Drew Petersen, winner of the 2017 American Pianists Awards and Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship: Artist-in-Residence at the University of Indianapolis, and 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Russian/Eastern European Opera: Operas on film from Russia and Eastern Europe have been **tentatively** rescheduled (TBD based on status of COVID) to resume on October 20 at 1 pm at the Santa Fe Woman's Club with a showing of Igor Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* (sung in English with English subtitles). This film is the now classic production filmed at Glyndebourne in 1975 and stars Felicity Lott, Samuel Ramey, Leo Goeke, conducted by Bernard Haitink. A contribution of \$5.00 per person is suggested. While reservations are not required, an email sent to wwdcroat@aol.com indicating that you plan to attend is greatly appreciated. Masks will be required if still mandated by the State in mid-October.

Santa Fe Pro Musica: For the 2021-22 season, Pro Musica is offering a variety of 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 every other Saturday, give or take. In October, two opera films will be shown: Teatro Real Madrid features *Rusalka* on Oct 2, and Oct 6 and *Der Rosenkavalier* is at Munich Philharmonic on Oct 16 and 20. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Opera West presents Puccini's tragic love story *Madame Butterfly* at St. Francis Auditorium on October 22 at 6 pm, October 23 at 2 pm & 6 pm, and October 24 at 4 pm. Seats are \$20-\$200. Click [here](#) for ticketing and information or call (773) 720-9354.

Los Alamos Concert Association will host The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields on October 26 at 7:00 PM. The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields is one of the world's finest chamber orchestras, renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of the world's greatest orchestral music. Formed by Sir. Neville Marriner in 1958 from a group of leading London musicians, the Academy gave its first performance in its namesake church in 1959. Today the Academy is led by Music Director and virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell, retaining the collegiate spirit and flexibility of the original small, conductor-less ensemble which has become an Academy hallmark. For ticket information, click [here](#).

Santa Fe Desert Chorale: Nochebuena (December 11-22, 2021): In this program, the Desert Chorale builds on its long-standing commitment to music by Hispanic composers. The rich tapestry of our New Mexico heritage informs this seasonal celebration with new works as well as beloved carols from Spanish and Anglo traditions. Tickets on sale now [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 is pleased to announce a new season of lectures and community engagement. This year they have curated a wonderful mix of both virtual and in-person programming. For more information, click [here](#).

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](#) to reach 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.

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: *The Salon*

Alice Jennings: *Diversions*

Rebecca Jensen: *News from the Santa Fe Opera*

Jackie M: *Young Technicians Program Returns Via Zoom*

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

Mark Tiarks: *The Silver Scream*

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

Michael Motley: Graphic support

Jackie M, Martha Baker: Publicity

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