



OPERAGRAM

February 2022
Volume 16, Number 5

VIRTUAL ANNUAL LUNCHEON

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 1:00 PM – 2:30PM MST

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 12:50 PM MST

GUEST SPEAKER: KYLE GRAY,

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLEMENTARY FOR SANTA FE OPERA GUILD MEMBERS

\$10.00 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS

The Santa Fe Opera Guild is pleased to announce that the annual luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2 at 1:00 PM. The luncheon will again be held virtually over Zoom. Even though we will miss greeting one another in person, our guest speaker, Kyle Gray, is sure to put a smile on your face.

Yes, Kyle has returned to the Santa Fe Opera to assume the role of Manager of Community Relations & Government Affairs and has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker despite his busy work schedule. Kyle's talk will focus on "the intersection of community engagement and arts advocacy, and to that end, will invite the Guilds to develop ideas within their own communities as a rallying point in response to the difficult world circumstances over the past almost two years." His topic is both timely and thought provoking.



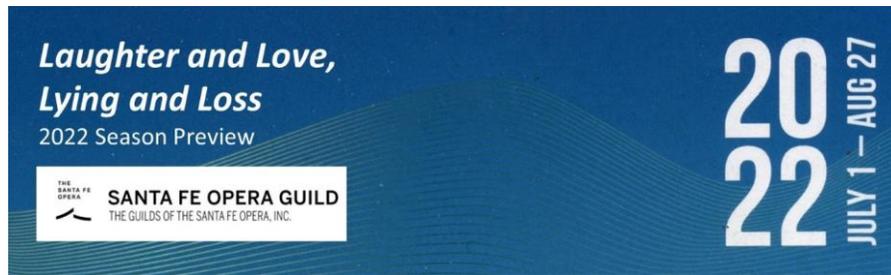
Kyle Gray

About Kyle Gray...

Kyle is a non-profit leader with 20 years of experience in arts, culture, and education spaces specializing in community engagement strategies, volunteer management, government advocacy, and project management. Kyle is currently the Manager of Community Relations & Government Affairs for the Santa Fe Opera, working to broaden awareness, understanding, and appreciation, to a diverse public locally, regionally, and nationally, of the Santa Fe Opera. His work includes promoting objectives and goals of the Opera while seeking opportunities for alignment with arts advocates, community partners, and other constituencies. Kyle was most recently the West Coast Regional Director for the Heart of America Foundation, working to bring educational resources into underserved communities. Kyle has participated as a grant panelist with the New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism, Santa Fe Arts Commission, and New Mexico Arts, and is a recent graduate of the Executive Program in Arts and Culture Strategy from National Arts Strategies and the University of Pennsylvania.

To register for the Virtual Annual Luncheon, please click [here](#). The event is free for Santa Fe Opera Guild members and \$10 per device (computer, laptop, smart phone, tablet, etc.) for non-members. If you have questions, email webinars@santafeoperaguild.org. We will email a link for the Zoom webinar the morning of February 2. **Please Note: This event will be recorded, but to receive a secured link for future viewing, you must be registered.**

SANTA FE OPERA GUILD 2022 SEASON PREVIEW



We are all looking forward to attending performances of the five operas being presented this summer at the Santa Fe Opera: *Carmen*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Falstaff*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and *M. Butterfly*. The Santa Fe Opera Guild has created a slate of programs whose main purpose is to help enhance our members' enjoyment of the upcoming productions. The Virtual Vivace Book Group will study the origins of the stories that inspired the operas, while a series of webinars presented by subject matter experts will examine multiple aspects of the five operas.

We began the year with a wonderful Virtual Vivace meeting in January that was facilitated by Dr. Robin Williams, who discussed *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the inspiration for Verdi's *Falstaff*. The following is a list of programs scheduled for February through June 2022. There may be other events added as we get closer to the opening of the opera this summer.

February 2: Virtual Annual Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Kyle Gray

February 23: "*Falstaff: Portraits of a Scoundrel or of a Saint, If You Asked His Opinion*": Mark Tiarks

March 21: Virtual Vivace/ *Carmen*: Special Guests Virginia Browning and Maestro Joe Illick will review the novella and share personal experiences from their opera careers.

April 6: *The Barber of Seville* presented by Mark Tiarks

April 27: Preview of musical themes in the 2022 Festival Season with Maestro Joe Illick

May 2: Virtual Vivace: *The Romance of Tristan* facilitated by Wagner expert David Hughes

May 10: *Carmen* presented by James Keller, retired music critic for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*

May 17: "*Medieval Sources of the Tristan and Iseult Legend*" Mary Springfels, ancient music scholar and performer

May 25: "*Wagner's Tristan und Isolde, the Opera, the Music, Love, Longing and Nigh*": Desirée Mays

June 20: Virtual Vivace, *Liaisons*, (the non-fiction source for *M. Butterfly*) facilitated by Bernadette Snider

June 27: "*Monsieur Butterfly, a Tale of Elusive Love, Mistaken Identity, Spying and East/West Relations*": Desirée Mays

ALLBUQUERQUE OPERA GUILD CELEBRATES LOVE



The Albuquerque Opera Guild of the Guilds of The Santa Fe Opera, Inc. invites you to our **Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon** on **February 14, 2022**. The Meet and Greet begins at 11:00 am and is followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The guest speaker is Desirée Mays who will discuss "*Love in the Time of Covid*."

The luncheon is being held at the Tanoan Country Club 10801 Academy Road, NE Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Reservations are required. The cost per person is \$35.00. **Please RSVP by February 2nd**. To pay by credit card, click [here](#).

Please note: The Guild follows CDC and New Mexico Public Health guidelines; therefore, we ask that you attend only if you are fully vaccinated (including the booster) and wear a mask except when eating.

FALSTAFF: PORTRAITS OF A SCOUNDREL OR A SAINT

FALSTAFF: PORTRAITS OF A SCOUNDREL OR OF A SAINT, IF YOU ASKED HIS OPINION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM MST

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 2:50 PM MST

PRESENTER: MARK TIARKS

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLEMENTARY FOR SANTA FE OPERA GUILD MEMBERS

\$10.00 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS



Shakespeare's Falstaff has almost none of the conventional virtues, but we love him in spite of it, or perhaps because of it and his irrepressible zest for life. Giuseppe Verdi had searched for years to find a suitable comic opera subject without success, and never seems to have considered Falstaff as a possibility, even though Shakespeare was one of his favorite authors.

That all changed when he met composer-librettist Arrigo Boito, who prepared the text for *Otello*. After its great success, Verdi confided to his collaborator, "After having relentlessly massacred so many heroes and heroines, I have at last the right to laugh a little," and Boito began surreptitious work on a libretto based on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Verdi was delighted with the result, even though he was unsure if he had the energy and the lifespan left to write another opera. Fortunately, he did, and he crowned his career with *Falstaff*, which premiered in Milan in 1893, the composer's 79th year.

In this presentation we'll explore some of the key scenes from Verdi's and Boito's masterpiece of comedy and, at times, pathos. We'll also have brief looks at two *Falstaff* operas that preceded Verdi's—Antonio Salieri's *Falstaff* and Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*—as well as at Orson Welles' unforgettable portrayal of the rascal knight in his film *Chimes at Midnight*.



Click [here](#) to register for *Falstaff* on Wednesday, February 23 at 3:00 PM. You will receive confirmation of your registration by email and a link will be sent the day of the webinar. The webinar will be recorded for viewing later. A link will be provided via email once the event has been posted online and will be available only to those who were previously registered.

Mark Tiarks has enjoyed a distinguished career in opera and theatre production spanning more than four decades. Earlier in his career, Mark spent 11 years as Director of Planning and Marketing for

the Santa Fe Opera and eight years as General Director of Chicago Opera Theatre.

A sought-after speaker and RENESAN lecturer, his topics included Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and *West Side Story*, cartoons in opera, and the complex genesis of *M. Butterfly*. Mark is currently the *Santa Fe New Mexican's* classical music critic.



VIRTUAL VIVACE

CARMEN

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022, 6:00PM-7:30PM MST

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MST

SPECIAL GUESTS: VIRGINIA BROWNING

AND MAESTRO JOE ILLICK

MODERATOR: BERNADETTE SNIDER

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT

COMPLIMENTARY



Watercolor by Prosper Mérimée

The composer Bizet's *Carmen* is one of the most beloved operas of all time. The tragic tale of the beautiful but dangerous gypsy, Carmen and her besotted suitor, Don José has remained a favorite of performers and audiences alike. The score is exhilarating and foreboding as the fate of its characters lead to a dire end.

The inspiration for the opera is the novella, *Carmen* by the French writer, Prosper Mérimée. The opera diverges from the original story in several ways: narration, characters, and plot. We will examine the differences as the novella is the source material for the opera and bring attention to works like Alexander Pushkin's poem *The Gypsies*.

We are fortunate to have Virginia (Gina) Browning and maestro Joe Illick as our guests and co-facilitators. Their participation will add immensely to the discussion of Merimee's novella as they bring the artistic perspective of opera professionals. Gina is a soprano who has sung

dozens of roles and hundreds of programs in opera houses and concert halls throughout the United States and Europe. She was particularly known for her mesmerizing acting and her affinity for contemporary music. Her signature roles were Violetta in *La traviata*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Musetta in *La bohème*, and the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She also performed in *The Elixir of Love*, *Le vin herbé*, *The Saint of Bleeker Street*, *La verbena de la paloma*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Così fan tutte*, *La farsa amorosa*, *Madama Butterfly* and of course, *Carmen*. Gina created the award-winning EPIK Artist Program in Santa Fe.

Joe Illick is the Artistic Director of Fort Worth Opera. He has previously served as Artistic Director to Shreveport Opera, Lake George Opera (now Opera Saratoga), Voices of Change, Voces Intimae, Pittsburgh Opera Theater, Greater Miami Opera (now Florida Grand Opera), and Performance Santa Fe. Additional conducting includes Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, San Francisco Opera (Merola), Opera Omaha, Nevada Opera, Opera Carolina, Augusta Opera, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Santa Fe Symphony, and Miami Symphony Orchestra. He has composed *Unshakeable* for the Santa Fe Opera with librettist Andrea Fellows Fineberg. Other operas include *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*, *Stone Soup*, *Bernadette's Cozy Book Nook*, and *Ricky*, all with libretti by Mark Campbell, and *Feel the Tango*, with a libretto by Susan Westfall.

If you do not own a copy of the novella, an excellent edition of *Carmen* is published by the public domain Project Gutenberg. Copies may be purchased from Collected Works Bookstore, or online at collectedworksbookstore.com. Please order your copy as soon as possible so you have time to read the novella and join in what will be a lively discussion about a very feisty woman! We hope you will join the Santa Fe Opera Guild on **Monday, March 21 at 6:00pm MST** for Virtual Vivace. To register for this event, click [here](#). We will email a link for the Zoom discussion the morning of March 21. If you have questions, please email vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org.



Joe Illick and Virginia Browning

NEWS FROM THE SANTA FE OPERA

Following the successful world premiere of *Hometown to the World*, Opera for All Voices continues the development of two commissions, *This Little Light of Mine* and *The Pigeon Keeper*.

This Little Light of Mine highlights the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, one of the mothers of the Civil Rights Movement. It calls to attention Hamer's testimony before the Democratic National Convention in 1964 that awakened the nation to the obstacles, intimidation and violence Black people faced when attempting to vote in Mississippi and throughout the country. Hamer's testimony, during which she recounted the savage beating she endured at the hands of police after attending a voting workshop, was instrumental in passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed the discriminatory voting practices many southern states adopted after the Civil War. *This Little Light of Mine* will premiere in late 2022.

The Pigeon Keeper tells the story of a lonely fisherman's daughter who pulls a boy like a fish from the Mediterranean Sea and sets out to find him a home on an island closed to outsiders. A fable for now that explores the myriad ways we respond to "the other" in the face of surging mass migrations, *The Pigeon Keeper* celebrates the kindness of strangers, the power of human connection, and the unexpected places we find family. *The Pigeon Keeper* will premiere in late 2023.

FEBRUARY MEMBERS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Attention Members: You will receive an email reminder on the first of the month in which your membership renewal is due. The email will include a link which will take you to a secure webpage where you can renew by credit card, PayPal, or by check. Checks should be mailed 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 card and tax receipt 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.

Click [here](#) to renew your membership, **or** renew via the link in your reminder email.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

With the greatest pleasure, we welcome Betty Baxter, Kathy Chambery, and Katharine Holland 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.



"I speak of love awake,
I speak of love in my dreams,
To the water, the shadows, the mountains,
To the flowers, the grass, the fountains."

Figaro from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*

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: The NM Phil welcomes Stradivarius International Violin Competition winner Yoonshin Song back to New Mexico as soloist in a remarkable performance of Astor Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires!* Clever, entertaining, and filled with the full force of tango's greatest composer. Also, Schubert's graceful, elegant *Fifth Symphony* pays homage to Mozart with sublime melodies and harmonies. **February 6 at 3:00 PM.** Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Tickets cost \$26-\$55. For more information and to buy tickets click [here](#) for the website.

The Santa Fe Symphony: Join the Symphony for a musical encounter featuring the ethereal *blue cathedral* by acclaimed composer Jennifer Higdon and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Christopher Rouse's explosive and passionate *Flute Concerto*, featuring The Symphony's very own Principal Flutist Jesse Tatum. Dvořák's *Eighth Symphony* rounds out the program on **February 13 at 4:00 PM** at The Lensic. For tickets, click [here](#).

Chatter (In) SITE: Chatter weaves together traditional and contemporary chamber music programs that include a reading by a poet and music. Performers include violinist David Felberg, violinist Laura Steiner, saxophonist Chris Jonas, pianist Luke Gullickson, and percussionists Douglas Cardwell and Jeff Cornelius. Tickets are \$5-\$16 in advance; \$5-\$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for additional information, click [here](#). Program includes poet, Hakim Bellamy. On **February 12 at 10:30 AM** at **SITE Santa Fe**.

Russian/Eastern European Opera: The next presentation in the Russian and Eastern European series of opera on film takes place on **Wednesday, February 16 at 1:00PM** at the Santa Fe Woman's Club. Janáček *From the House of the Dead - Z mrtvého domu* in Czech (1930). In 1862 Dostoevsky published a semi-autobiographical novel based on his memories of the four years which he spent in a forced-labor Siberian prison for revolutionary activity. It portrays the life of convicts. Janáček set scenes of this brutal story to music. A donation of \$5.00 to help offset costs is suggested, and masks must be worn. Additional information or questions may be addressed to Bill Derbyshire at wwdcroat@aol.com.

Santa Fe Pro Musica: Named 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist of the Year, the Castalian String Quartet is emerging as one of the most exciting and in-demand quartets on the world stage. "Nothing short of sensational."—*Dundee Courier*, Scotland. The program includes Mozart *Quartet in D Minor, K. 421*; Janáček *Quartet No. 1, Kreutzer Sonata*, and Schubert *Quartet in G Major, D. 887*. **February 13 at 3:00 PM** at the NM Museum of Art. Tickets are available [here](#).

Los Alamos Concert Association will host **The Poulenc Trio** on **February 11 at 7:00 PM** at Duane W. Smith Auditorium, 1300 Diamond Drive in Los Alamos. Since its founding in 2003, the Poulenc Trio has performed in 45 U.S. states and at music festivals around the world. The evening's program includes Handel *Trio Sonata in F major*; Glinka *Trio Pathétique in D minor*; Shostakovich *Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano*; Viet Cuong *Trains of Thought* (2012), and Rossini *Fantaisie Concertante on themes from Semiramide*. For ticket information, click [here](#).

The Met: The company has announced its 2021-2022 season, and opera has returned 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](#) to reach Opera America's website.

The Met Podcasts: *Aria Code* is 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.

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. Click [here](#) for more information. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Opera nex-gen: Orfeo ed Euridice: Tickets on sale **February 1**. The opera will be live streamed on **March 4 and 6**. Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* will be streamed LIVE and virtual running approximately 2 hours, with one 15-minute intermission. For more information, 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

Barbara Anderson-Acosta, Martha Baker, Judy Costlow, Kyle Gray: *Virtual Annual Luncheon*

Alice Jennings: *Diversions* Editor

Rebecca Jensen: *News from the Santa Fe Opera*

Virginia Browning, Joe Illick, Bernadette Snider: Virtual Vivace: *Carmen*

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

Mark Tiarks: *Falstaff*

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

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