



# OPERAGRAM

March 2022  
Volume 16, Number 6

## VIRTUAL VIVACE



Watercolor by Prosper Mérimée

### **CARMEN**

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

**VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 5:50PM MST**

**SPECIAL GUESTS: VIRGINIA BROWNING AND MAESTRO JOE ILLICK**

**MODERATOR: BERNADETTE SNIDER**

**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT**

**COMPLIMENTARY**

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 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 Merimée'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 Bleecker Street*, *La verbena de la paloma*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Così fan tutte*, *La farsa amorosa*, *Madama Butterfly* and of course, *Carmen*.

Joe Illick is the Music Director and Principal Conductor of Fort Worth Opera and former Artistic Director of Performance Santa Fe. Illick conducts leading orchestras worldwide. He has composed *UnShakeable* for the Santa Fe Opera with librettist Andrea Fellows Fineberg. Other operas include *Frida Kablo 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](http://collectedworksbookstore.com). We hope you will join the Santa Fe Opera Guild on **Monday, March 21 at 6:00 PM MDT** 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](mailto:vivacebookgroup@santafeoperaguild.org).



Joe and Gina

# THE MET: LIVE IN HD

## *ARIADNE AUF NAXOS*

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022, 11:00AM MST

ENCORE, 6:00PM MST

THE LENSIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

211 WEST SAN FRANCISCO STREET

TICKETS: \$22.00 - \$28.00



The exhilarating soprano Lise Davidsen makes her *Live in HD* debut in one of her signature roles, the mythological Greek heroine of Strauss's enchanting masterpiece. The outstanding cast also features mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as the Composer of the opera-within-an-opera around which the plot revolves, with soprano Brenda Rae as the spirited Zerbinetta and tenor Brandon Jovanovich as Ariadne's lover, the god Bacchus. Marek Janowski conducts. To purchase tickets for *Ariadne auf Naxos*, click [here](#).

Richard Strauss (1864–1949) composed an impressive body of orchestral works and songs before turning to opera. His 1909 opera, *Elektra*, was his first collaboration with Hugo von Hofmannsthal (1874–1929), a partnership that became one of the most remarkable in theater history. Hofmannsthal emerged as an author and poet within the fervent intellectual atmosphere of Vienna at the turn of the last century.

## *DON CARLOS*

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022, 11:00AM MDT

ENCORE, 6:00PM MDT

THE LENSIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

211 WEST SAN FRANCISCO STREET

TICKETS: \$22.00 - \$28.00



For the first time in company history, the Met presents the original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera of doomed love among royalty, set against the backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition.

Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads a starry cast, including tenor Matthew Polenzani in the title role, soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Élisabeth de Valois, and mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča as Eboli. Bass Günther Groissböck and bass-baritone John Relyea are Philippe II and the Grand Inquisitor, and baritone Étienne Dupuis rounds out the principal cast as Rodrigue.

Verdi's masterpiece receives a monumental new staging by Sir David McVicar that marks his 11th Met production, placing him among the most prolific and popular directors in recent Met memory. To purchase tickets for *Ariadne auf Naxos*, click [here](#).

**Please Note: The Lensic has detailed COVID protocols in place. It is advisable to check their website prior to leaving for an event as local and federal regulations and restrictions may have been altered. To read the current Covid safety protocols, click [here](#).**

# THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

***THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: ROSSINI STICKS NECK OUT WITH *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*, NEARLY GETS NICKED***

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM MDT**

**VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 2:50 PM MDT**

**PRESENTER: MARK TIARKS**

**ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT**

**COMPLEMENTARY FOR SANTA FE OPERA GUILD MEMBERS**

**\$10.00 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS**



Rossini rolled the dice when he wrote *The Barber of Seville* in 1816. It was a cheeky maneuver by the 23-year-old, since the much older and greatly admired composer Giovanni Paisiello had written a still-popular opera on the same subject in 1782. The opening night of Rossini's opera was one of the most famous fiascos in opera history, leaving the young composer despondent, and by the end of the second performance Rossini feared that he might not live to see another day.

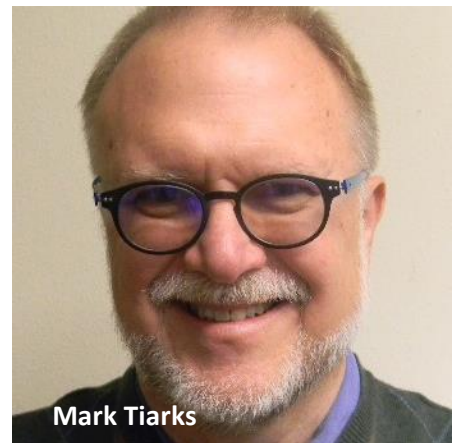


Fortunately for the opera world and us, he survived and notched 53 more years. This talk focuses on key scenes from the two operas, which are very similar in structure, with video excerpts showing how the two composers developed the same material in their own unique ways.

Click [here](#) to register for *The Barber of Seville* on Wednesday, April 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.



# MARY SPRINGFELS: MEDIEVAL MUSIC AND THE TRISTAN LEGEND

## THE MEDIEVAL ORIGINS OF TRISTAN AND ISOLDE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022, 3:00 PM MDT

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 2:50 PM MDT

PRESENTER: MARY SPRINGFELS

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

COMPLEMENTARY FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$10 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS

Richard Wagner may have made *Tristan and Isolde* a household name for modern audiences, but the story has a long history, dating back to Celtic times. Mary Springfels, a specialist in early music and one of the leading players of the viola da gamba, will present “The Medieval Origins of Tristan and Isolde” as part of the Santa Fe Opera Guild’s series, “Laughter and Love, Lying and Loss: 2022 Season Preview.” Her talk will take place on Wednesday, April 20 at 3:00PM and will be via a Zoom webinar.

Ms. Springfels will talk about the literary source used by Richard Wagner, a novel in verse by Gottfried von Strassburg, in a lecture that is illustrated with beautiful images from the Codex Manesse, a document compiled around 1340. She will also play examples of early music on instruments that were familiar to von Strassburg such as the harp, vielle, and medieval bagpipe. You can register for Mary’s talk by clicking [here](#). 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.



Mary Springfels describes herself as a “veteran of the early music movement in America.” In addition to being co-director of the performing group Severall Friends, she maintains an active practice teaching the viola da gamba and plays with New York Pro Musica, the Folger Consort, Ars Lyrica of Houston, and the Texas Early Music Project of Austin.

## WAGNER IMMERSION AT THE SANTA FE OPERA GUILD



Desiree Mays talks are in Zoom webinar format and will be recorded for viewing later for all who registered for the webinars. Both webinars are at 3:00 PM MDT on April 20 and May 24, respectively.

Virtual Vivace is in Zoom meeting format and is not recorded, so please register, and attend each session if you want to be part of stimulating and informative discussions about the stories behind the operas this summer. The Virtual Vivace meetings begin at 6:00 PM MDT.

Links to all Santa Fe Opera Guild talks and Virtual Vivace meetings are emailed to registrants the day of the event.

In addition to Mary Springfels’ presentation on “The Medieval Origins of Tristan and Isolde” on April 20, the Santa Fe Opera Guild is sponsoring a Virtual Vivace led by Wagner expert David Hughes on May 2 and a talk by Desirée Mays on May 24. The three events are part of the Guild’s series, “Laughter and Love, Lying and Love: A 2022 Season Preview.” You may register for David Hughes’s facilitation of *The Romance of Tristan* at the May 2 Virtual Vivace meeting in the April and May *Operagrams*. Mr. Hughes has written two articles which will also be published in the same issues. A registration link for Desirée Mays’ talk on May 24, “Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde*, the Opera, the Music, Love, Longing and Night” will also be available in the April and May newsletters. Mary Springfels and

# 2022 SEASON VIRTUAL PREVIEW WITH MAESTRO JOE ILLICK

## 2022 SEASON PREVIEW | OPERA: TELLING STORIES THROUGH MUSIC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022, 3:00 PM MDT

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN, 2:50 PM MDT

PRESENTER: MAESTRO JOE ILLICK

ZOOM WEBINAR FORMAT

\$20.00 PER DEVICE FOR GUILD MEMBERS

\$25.00 PER DEVICE FOR NON-MEMBERS



Maestro Joe Illick Photo: Babak Dowlatshahi

For many years, Maestro Joe Illick has entertained our members by playing excerpts from the Santa Fe Opera's upcoming seasons. His vast experience as a conductor and composer makes him uniquely qualified to provide valuable insight into each of the operas. On April 27, 2022 Maestro Joe Illick will perform virtually and preview the five scores from the Santa Fe Opera Season 2022: Bizet's *Carmen*, *Falstaff* by Verdi, Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini, and the world premiere of *M. Butterfly* by Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang.

Maestro Illick is the Music Director and Principal Conductor of Fort Worth Opera and former Artistic Director of Performance Santa Fe. He also conducts leading orchestras worldwide.

Maestro Illick's performance on April 27<sup>th</sup> was recorded at the Ranch Lounge at the Santa Fe Opera and will air on Zoom at 3:00PM MDT. Tickets may be purchased [here](#) for \$20 per device for Guild members, and \$25.00 per device for non-members.

## NEWS FROM THE SANTA FE OPERA

### Family Concerts

Family Concerts featuring the Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera will take place in May and June at the Santa Fe Public Libraries. Events are free of charge.

Friday, May 6 at 2:00PM Southside 6599 Jaguar Dr

Friday, May 13 at 2:00PM Main 145 Washington Ave

Friday, June 3 at 2:00PM Southside 6599 Jaguar Dr

Friday, June 17 at 2:00PM LaFarge 1730 Llano S

### Seminars

Our upcoming season includes a pair of seminars that will further illuminate our 2022 productions. Join Jennifer Rhodes for a guided journey into the masterworks of the operatic tradition. Seminar participants will learn about and discuss the season's operas, including their composers, plots, musical characteristics, and interpretations.

#### Session I

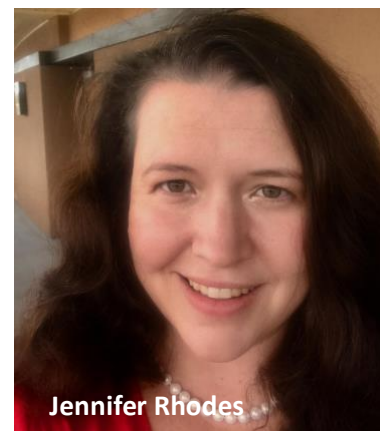
August 2 – 6, 2022

*Carmen*, *M. Butterfly*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *The Barber of Seville*

#### Session II

August 23 – 27, 2022

*Tristan und Isolde*, *M. Butterfly*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Carmen*



Jennifer Rhodes

For more information or to register, please contact Alvaro Quintanar by phone at 505-946-2404 or by email at [aquintanar@santafeopera.org](mailto:aquintanar@santafeopera.org).

## MARCH 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](mailto: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 Dana De Santis, David Hughes, Brenda Jerome, Nancy and Paul Klymko, Madeline Lewis, David Lotter, Katie Olivant, Tamar Stieber, Jan Watson, Dr. Robin Williams, and Francine Wunk 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.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Looking for the perfect gift?

How about a gift membership in the Guild?

The Santa Fe Opera Guild is united by curiosity and affection for one of the greatest art forms in the world. Surprise someone special with the gift of membership in a community that ranges from opera newcomers to lifelong aficionados.

**[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP](#)**



## 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** presents **Harp in the Morning**: NM Phil Principal Harpist Matthew Tutsky shines in a soothing concert that will brighten your morning! Ravel's lush *Mother Goose Suite—Ma mère l'Oye*—opens the performance, followed by Debussy's ethereal *Danses sacrée et profane*. Next on the program, Handel's beauty-filled *Harp Concerto*, which was originally written as an organ concerto! Milhaud's *Le Bœuf sur le toit* (The Bull on the Roof) completes the concert—a musical rainbow with competing keys, characteristic of the composer's style. Performance is on March 18 at 10:45AM. Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Tickets are available [here](#). Another interesting offering is "Zimowski Plays Wieniawski" on Saturday, March 26, 2022, 6:00PM.

**Santa Fe Symphony**: The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus is thrilled to present **Celebrating Stravinsky**—a recreation of Igor Stravinsky's masterful *Symphony of Psalms* originally conducted on July 17, 1960, at the iconic Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi—plus Haydn's *Sinfonia concertante* and Mozart's Symphony No. 38. This brilliant program features four Santa Fe Symphony principals and the full Symphony Orchestra & Chorus under the direction of Maestro Guillermo Figueroa. Thursday, Apr 28, 2022, at 7:00PM Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. 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. Robert Ashley *Outcome Inevitable* and Alex Temple & Katie Doyle *Everything Is Named After Something Lost* (world premiere). Edie Tsong, poet. Tickets are \$5-\$16 in advance; \$5-\$20 at the door. To purchase tickets and for additional information, click [here](#). On March 12, 2022, at 10:30AM at SITE Santa Fe.

**Russian/Eastern European Opera: Russian/Eastern European Opera:** The next presentation in the Russian and Eastern European series of opera on film takes place on Wednesday March 16. Moniuszko's *Halka* premiered in 1854. Halka is a woman's name, short for Halina/Galina. *Halka* is probably Poland's most popular opera. It is a tale about jealousy, sacrifice and rejected love and death. It is considered one of Moniuszko's greatest operas. The music in *Halka* is melodic, deeply lyrical and includes several dance sequences. At 1:00PM at the Santa Fe Woman's Club. A donation of \$5.00 to help offset costs is suggested. Additional information or questions may be addressed to Bill Derbyshire at [wwdcroat@aol.com](mailto:wwdcroat@aol.com).

**Santa Fe Pro Musica** presents the Borromeo String Quartet with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott. The program includes the Bartók *Piano Quintet in C Major, Sz. 23*; Aldolphus Hailstork *Quartet No. 2, Variations on Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* and Debussy *Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10*. The performance is Sunday, March 6 at 3:00PM. Lencic Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available [here](#). On Sunday, March 27, the St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform the following: Mozart *Quartet in E-Flat Major, K. 428*; Korngold *Quartet No. 3 in D Major, Op. 34* and Franck *Quartet in D Minor*. Established in Toronto and named after the mighty St. Lawrence River, this Grammy nominated quartet is the Ensemble-in-Residence at Stanford University. The performance is at 3:00PM at St. Francis Auditorium.

**Los Alamos Concert Association** will host Simon Trpčeski, Piano on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at 4:00PM. A musical hero in his Macedonian homeland, Simon Trpčeski has conquered stages world-wide with powerful virtuosity and charismatic stage presence. For ticket information, click [here](#).

**Severall Friends:** *The Lovers' Bane: The Story of Tristan and Yseult*, as told in music and images of the High Middle Ages. Saturday, May 28, 7:30PM. San Miguel Chapel, 401 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe. All tickets: \$20, sold on-line only. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

## 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

Shelly Brock, Joe Illick: 2022 Season Preview | *Opera: Telling Stories Through Music*

Alice Jennings: *Diversions* Editor

Rebecca Jensen: News from the Santa Fe Opera

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

Mary Springfels: The Medieval Origins of Tristan and Isolde

Lucinda Surber: Web support, Guilds, Inc.

Mark Tiarks: *Barber of Seville*

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

Michael Motley: Graphic support

Jackie M, Martha Baker: Publicity

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