

GUILD'S RECENT GIFT TO THE FESTIVAL

At the November Board meeting, members voted to contribute \$1,000 to the company, earmarked to assist in the upgrading of the company's computer systems. This voluntary donation was enthusiastically endorsed by all Board members. In response to our gift, Francesca wished the following to be shared with all Guild members.

Dear Glimmerglass Guild,

On behalf of everyone at Glimmerglass, thank you for your generous donation to help us update our computer system. Your support means the world to us. The Guild already does so much for us, and this is above and beyond. We are all so grateful for this.

Warmly,
Francesca

The Guild received several notes of appreciation for this and our annual contribution. Space limitations will not permit printing them all in this newsletter, so we encourage members to read them on our website: www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org, click on Announcements.

TOM SIMPSON

FIRST YEAR OF THE GUILD WEBSITE

In February the Guild's website will be successfully completing its first year online. We continue to add to the site in an effort to keep it current and lively. Please bookmark the site and check back often for news of upcoming events of interest to the Glimmerglass community and the Guild membership.

Suggestions are always welcome for new ideas for additions or improvements to the site. If you have any thoughts about the website and its content, please contact the ad hoc Website Committee by using the link on the site or by emailing me directly at atelier@oecblue.com.

ED BRODZINSKY

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

For the nine-month period January 1 through September 30, 2013, our new fiscal year end, we reported 3,851 volunteer hours. This is 91% of the total of 4,210 from the prior year. Although this represents only nine months, this period includes most of the opportunities to perform volunteer service for the company. As this period has not been measured previously, it is not possible to make comparisons. However, the number stands on its own very well and is, in fact, more than we did in the twelve-month period of 2011.

The large increase in number of volunteers from 62 last year to 72 this year is very exciting. As our membership has grown, there has been a wonderful new surge in those wanting to participate in our activities to support the company.

A big thank you goes to all members who submitted their reports on very short notice this year. As the company changed its year end, our by-laws required us to follow, and everyone complied willingly and quickly.

Next year approaches. Many exciting projects and plans are developing. I hope you will be a part. If I can help you get connected, please contact me at marthajo31201@yahoo.com or 478-808-6957.

MARTHA DUKE

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date, May 5, 2014,
for the spring membership reception.
Check the Guild's website (www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org)
and March newsletter for details.

CORINNE PLUMMER

GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2014, JULY 11 – AUGUST 24

GIACOMO PUCCINI
Madame Butterfly

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN
Carousel

RICHARD STRAUSS
Ariadne in Naxos

TOBIAS PICKER
An American Tragedy

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglassoperaguild.org

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News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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Member of



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Marianne Bez and Michael Jerome
 Tara Sumner Rita Wellman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Guild members,

The Guild held its annual holiday party for the Festival's full-time staff on December 16 in the company offices. Despite the extreme cold and on-again off-again snow showers, an SRO crowd gathered around a table laden with seasonal fare, enjoying spirited conversation and a great many holiday good wishes. Our thanks to Christine McNaughton and all the members who contributed to the feast.

Francesca Zambello welcomed the group, generously thanking Guild members for their ongoing contribution to the Festival, and stressing the importance of volunteerism not only to Glimmerglass but to all arts organizations. Francesca didn't limit her comments to the arts, adding that all non-profit and charitable organizations — hospitals, libraries, museums, schools — depend heavily on their volunteers.

Her words were greeted with enthusiastic applause, confirming that she had struck a chord of agreement with all in the room.

Of course, we all are on the same page regarding the need for volunteers to support these organizations, but as I watched the warm interactions within the room, I realized again that the groups for which volunteers give their time and energies are not the only beneficiaries of that involvement. The friendships made through sharing of common interests and working toward common goals are special, and I wondered how many friendships, begun and strengthened through association with the Guild, would have been formed were it not for that involvement. I have been a Guild member only a few years, but the friendships I've built in that brief time are now among the most important to me. I'm sure it is the same for many of you.

Those who give their time to the Guild know very well the benefits of volunteerism. I encourage all of you to join in.

Happy New Year to you all,
 TOM

STAFF NEWS

Caryn Kerstetter Reeves has joined the Festival staff as Associate Director of Institutional Development. Formerly with New York City Opera, she replaces David Walker, who returned to the South.

Ellie Walker, from Cooperstown (whose family lives in Oneonta), who was with us for three summers, has joined the development staff full-time, replacing Tara Sumner,

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MADAME BUTTERFLY

The 2014 Glimmerglass Festival opens July 11 with Giacomo Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* in a new production staged by Glimmerglass Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello and conducted by Festival Music Director Joseph Colaneri. Soprano Yunah Lee will sing the title role. Lee has performed Puccini's heroine with opera companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Critics have praised her "handsomely colored full lyric sound," "picture perfect" acting, and "commanding and touching performance."

Lt. Pinkerton will be sung by tenor Eric Margiore. A former member of the Glimmerglass Young Artists Program (YAP), Margiore has recently appeared with opera companies in the U.S. and Europe singing leading roles in *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *Tales of Hoffmann*, and *Rigoletto*, among others, and as the tenor soloist in the Verdi *Requiem*.



Baritone Aleksey Bogdanov will sing Sharpless. Glimmerglass audiences will remember his robust portrayal of Escamillo in the YAP performance of *Carmen* in 2011. Earlier that summer he stepped into that role for several performances when the original Escamillo became indisposed. That same year, he was featured in the world premiere of *Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* at Glimmerglass. Since then, Bogdanov has sung leading roles with the Washington National Opera, the Atlanta Opera, and the Opera Theater of St. Louis. He has also been a guest on NPR's *Prairie Home Companion*.

Madame Butterfly is based on a play by American playwright David Belasco, whose work also inspired Puccini's *Girl of the Golden West* (Glimmerglass, 2004).

STAFF NEWS

(continued from page 2)

who has become Director of Development at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica.

Nathan Periello, a 2013 Development Intern, has joined the full-time staff, taking on much of Jake Anderson's job. Jake has moved to Chicago where he is Assistant to the President and Managing Director at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

Puccini attended a performance of Belasco's drama in London in 1900 and was so moved by the story of the courageous 15-year-old geisha, her arranged marriage to an American Naval Officer, and her ultimate sacrifice, that he asked Belasco for the rights to compose an opera based on the story.

Puccini labored over the opera's creation during a particularly difficult period in his life. When the work finally came to the stage at La Scala, Milan, in 1904, the response from audience and critics was far from friendly. Although devastated, Puccini refused to abandon this work into which he had invested so much. Extensive rewrites followed, and when the revised opera was presented three months later, it was an overwhelming success — Puccini's trust in his work was vindicated.

The compelling story evolves from Butterfly's struggle to overcome the conflicts between two cultures: hers, exotic and steeped in tradition, and Pinkerton's, straightforward and modern. It is the composer's job to heighten a story's impact through music, and this Puccini does with remarkable success. He brings listeners deeply into the conflicts faced by Butterfly by weaving wisps of Japanese melodies symbolizing the traditional, fragile nature of her culture, with the music he writes for the American characters — boisterous and full of the spirit of the new world, including a nod to the Star-Spangled Banner. The result is an emotionally powerful and moving work.

There will be thirteen performances of *Madame Butterfly* this summer, including the Guild-sponsored YAP performance on Sunday evening, August 3.

TOM SIMPSON



TREASURER'S REPORT, 2013

The Glimmerglass Opera Guild observes the same fiscal year as The Glimmerglass Festival, which has recently changed its fiscal year from the calendar year to an October-September year. The report below gives information for Guild income and expense for this transitional year, January-September 2013.

Balance, January 1, 2013: \$8,479.43

	Income	Expense
Membership	\$5,655.00	\$233.76

Fund-Raisers

First Night Fund	6,000.00	
Otesaga Gala	7,395.00	2,700.00
Gala auction	15,505.00	
C'town Country Club.....	1,200.00	
Dine-A-Round (2012).....		366.50

Guild Projects

Receptions.....	890.00	7,575.13
Shields Music Intern	1,580.00	3,187.50
Website.....		205.00
Olana bus trip	2,400.00	1,779.00
Black Cat Café (picnics).....	2,500.00	

Gifts Received

Members	2,915.00	
Others.....	1,000.00	

Miscellaneous

DVD and note cards.....	220.00	
Educ.: rental seminar space.....		200.00
CD Purchase.....		13.50
Opera Volunteers Int. dues.....		100.00
Reimbursement & refund.....		40.00
Other		\$216.82

Mailings.....2,334.55

Contribution to Company*21,957.50

Totals\$55,739.43 ...\$40,909.26

Balance, September 30, 2013: \$14,830.17

*Total contribution to company (fiscal 2013)

Cash	\$21,957.50
Shields Music Intern	3,187.50
Miscellaneous	471.82
Total	\$25,616.82

DONALD FENNER, Treasurer

Glimmerglass OPERA GUILD

News & Notes

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POETS' CORNER

The creative amongst us are sharpening our wits and our pencils to write limericks for the 2014 Guild Limerick Contest, an activity of the Guild's Education Committee. Anyone can join in the fun. Even if you've never attempted a limerick before, you should enter the contest. You too could be a winner. The rules for the contest are online. Go to the Guild website, Glimmerglassoperaguild.org. Then click on Events.

Said an opera fan named O'Leary,
"Of these heroines I am quite weary.
They chose the wrong lad,
He's always a cad,
So in the last act I'm all teary."

You have a lot of exciting material to choose from this season – hmmm, what rhymes with Goerke? Or Ariadne? Or Puccini? Or Hammerstein? Or Picker? Get inspired!

MARY BRODZINSKY