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**Opera Ball 2012 – Puttin’ on the Ritz**

Speakeasy... pearls...top hat and a cane...boas...a secret password for admission and more similar images will permeate Opera Ball 2012 as Opera Guild of Dayton hosts our annual glamorous fundraiser, *Puttin’ on the Ritz*. Mark the date of **Saturday, March 3**, on your 2012 calendar now. The timeless grandeur of Dayton Country Club (DCC) will be the setting for all the festivities that will begin at 6 p.m.

A sumptuous dinner will be prepared by the culinary staff of DCC followed by a lively auction conducted by auctioneer and resident actor at The Human Race Theatre Company, Tim Lile. “Cigarette girls” will mingle with the crowd to sell gold keys for our very special Opera Ball raffle. And back by popular demand, the dance floor will be commanded by The Tom Daughtery Orchestra.

Ball attendees will certainly want to



“dress the part,” therefore attire for the evening will be black tie optional with a little bling for a roarin’ time at the Ritz. Creating the glamour and excitement for this unforgettable event are Chairs Paul and Susie Weaver and their committee consisting of Dolores Anderson, Sam Bennett, Patrick and Suzanne Crippen, Laura Fike, Kelly Haluschak, Margarete Jennings, Dana Kane, Kimberly Robinson and Toni Winger.

To make your reservations or for further information, please call Sam Bennett at 937/434-8236. We’ll be puttin’ more information on the Guild’s Website at <http://www.operaguildofdayton.org> and on Facebook as details are finalized. For now, we hope you are puttin’ this date on your calendar so you won’t miss, **Puttin’ on the Ritz!** 🎩



**“Tweet” Music**

Nationwide art attendance is down, “in part due to the economy, exacerbated by the buyers/subscribers not being replenished by younger attendees” writes Matt Holsinger, a Live Entertainment Marketing Professional who has worked for Cirque du Soliel and Ballet Met Columbus. Megan Cooper of JumpstART noted in a 2010 article on DaytonMostMetro.com that survey results show people in their 20s and 30s “feel disconnected to arts events because they presume them to be too costly or because they don’t consider the arts to be accessible enough or they feel they were not informed about arts events.”

*continued on page 4*

**Student Dress Rehearsal**

Rain streaked the glass-enclosed atrium of the Shuster Center on October 19, the night of the Student Dress Rehearsal. Yellow buses pulling up to the performing arts center were hard to see through the windows. It was no ordinary school night for the 552 students streaming into the Schuster Center to see one of the most celebrated operas in the world, *La Bohème*. Students hailed from many educational institutions in the greater Dayton region including: Springfield High School Language Department and French Club, Celina High School Choir, Wilberforce University Opera Department, Greenon High School Choir, Belmont High School Language Department, Greeneview High School Choir, Valley View High School Choir, Dixie High School Choir, John Paul the Great Home Educators, St. Henry High School Choir, Bethel High School Music Department, Antioch School, Dayton Christian High School Choir and Language Department, Stivers School for the Arts and Building Bridges,

Ushers met the students, panting and complaining about the stairs, at the entrance to the loge and lower balcony. When these same students entered the theater their widening eyes and open mouths conveyed nothing short of astonishment. All of the elements of the show came together during the Student Dress Rehearsal. It was run as much like a real performance as possible. The student’s laughed along with the young bohemians in the garret and cried when Mimi died. They were engrossed in the story and the music. Many students asked for a program to have as a keepsake from their first opera. 🎭

## Opera Guild of Dayton Officers:

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### Opera Guild of Dayton Mission Statement

The Opera Guild of Dayton encourages and promotes opera in the Greater Dayton area and supports Dayton Opera through fundraising, marketing and educational activities.

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## THE MET AT THE MOVIES: *Live in HD*

It's a long, long time from October to February and, if you miss the opera experience between Dayton Opera's October production of *La Bohème* and its February production of *Romeo and Juliet*, you might try The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD at the movies. *The Met: live in HD* has begun its sixth year. Dayton area opera lovers can see the productions at either the Regal Cinema at Fairfield Commons or Dayton South Cinema on Mall Woods Drive on designated Saturdays. Most productions are replayed in a week or two on a Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Watch your newspapers for details. 📺

### Coming up soon:

<i>Rodelinda</i> (Handel)	Saturday, December 3	12:30 p.m.
<i>Faust</i> (Gounod)	Saturday, December 10	12:55 p.m.
<i>The Enchanted Island</i> (Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau and others)	Saturday, January 12	12:55 p.m.
<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (Wagner)	Saturday, February 11	12 noon
<i>Ernani</i> (Verdi)	Saturday, February 25	12:55 p.m.
<i>Manon</i> (Massenet)	Saturday, April 7	12 noon
<i>La Traviata</i> (Verdi)	Saturday, April 14	12:55 p.m.

## Remembrance Fund

The Remembrance Fund helps support the Guild's High School and Tri-State College Vocal Competitions. Gifts made in observance of a birthday, anniversary, promotion or other event, as well as those remembering the lives of loved ones, help further the dreams and goals of many talented young people. Gifts should be sent to Evelyn M. Lewis, 3104 Carrier Avenue, Dayton, OH 45429, 937/299-4825. Make checks payable to the Opera Guild of Dayton. Donations can also be made online. 📺

### Recent donations:

**In Memory of Mildred Davenport Johnson (Marsha Enterline's mother)**  
Paul and Dolores Anderson

### In Memory of Linda Kramer

Jim and Sue Falter  
Earl and Betty Holton  
Bill and Toni Winger

### In Memory of Frieda Dyviak (Lee Monnin's mother)

Earl and Betty Holton

## OPERA Overtures

The speaker will be Dr. Samuel Dorf, faculty member in the Department of Music at the University of Dayton. The schedule of lectures appears on the back page of this newsletter. Be informed and enjoy the opera even more than you thought possible. 📺

### Stay in Touch with Guild e-Notes

The Opera Guild wants to provide members with news that becomes available between issues of Opera Notes. This can come to you through *e-Notes*, the Guild's short and to the point electronic newsletter. If you would like to be added to the list of *e-Notes* subscribers, please give your e-mail address to Mollie Hauser at 937/546-4074 or e-mail it to her at mehunique@aol.com. 📺

## President's Message Fall 2011 — Toni Winger

Fall arrived with a flourish as Opera Guild members and guests gathered in the Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College for our annual BRAVO! fashion show. Julie Shone Baker of ELAN proved once again that fashion is constantly changing as she featured wearable styles from casual to very formal and everything in between. BRAVA! to our chair Dana Kane and all of the hard working volunteers.

Penny Wolff was approached by Sharon Kelly Roth of Books & Co. at the Greene to see if we would be interested in sponsoring a book signing and dinner with Adrienne McDonnell, author of *The Doctor and the Diva*. Deciding that this should be a "friend maker" rather



**Toni Winger**

than a fundraiser we set the date for Sunday, November 6 at Brio's at the Greene. Although we didn't have time for the usual publicity and space was limited, we hoped we found another way to interest people in opera and the Guild.

In a move to strengthen the organization the Guild has re-joined Opera Volunteers International whose mission statement is "Expanding the future of Opera through development, mentoring and advancement of volunteer service." Their Mission Statement says, "The strength of Opera Volunteers International lies in the opportunity for the members to share their successes and concerns in a supportive network of active member volunteers." Opera Guild

of Dayton hopes to learn and grow through renewing this association.

Susie and Paul Weaver have again confirmed their dedication to opera by agreeing to chair Opera Ball 2012! Mark your new calendar in red for March 3 to experience a fabulous evening at Dayton Country Club. This busy couple has formed their committees and will be working through the holiday season to insure a fun filled evening for all.

The opera season certainly opened on a high note with the outstanding production of *La Boheme*...was there a dry eye in the house? To steal Burt Saidel's comment "the Bankston Magic" was overwhelming. We hope to see everyone at *Romeo and Juliet* in February which will be sponsored by the Guild. Don't miss a single production in our much too short, but exciting season! 📖



### The Doctor and the Diva

It was a relaxed evening of cocktails, dinner, dessert and conversation with Adrienne McDonnell, author of *The Doctor and the Diva* who appeared on tour at Books and Company at the Greene and then joined fans at Brio Tuscany Grille for dinner and a book-signing. A small, but enthusiastic group reported that the evening was a great success. 📖

### Red Book Changes

#### Returning member:

**Wilma Jingling**

2591 Greenlefe Dr.  
Beavercreek, OH 45431

**Phone:** 937/426-5334

**E-mail:** wjingling@aol.com

#### New members:

**Mrs. Pat Ebright**

110 Balmoral Dr  
Dayton, OH 45429

**Phone:** 937/299-2772

**Dr & Mrs Speros Gabriel**

3117 Locust Camp Rd  
Dayton, OH 45419-1233

**Phone:** 299-6693

**Mr. Robert Johnson**

901 Cottonwood Rd  
Dayton, OH 45419

**Phone:** 927/4363

**E-mail:** abjon@ameritech.net

#### Changes:

**Janice Allen**

**E-mail:**

janiceallen@trotwood.K12.oh.us

## Applause! Applause!

# Rachael Boezi

Three years ago Dolores Anderson, Opera Guild board member and past president, was looking for someone to maintain and manage the membership lists in the Guild's relatively new database. It would be an important position demanding time and meticulous attention to ever-changing records. Remembering an old proverb-- when you need someone to do an important

job, ask a busy person--Dolores asked Rachael Boezi, to take the job and she accepted.

Rachael was not a newcomer to Dayton Opera. She joined the Dayton Opera chorus 17 years ago and has sung in 22 of its opera productions. A resident of Troy, Ohio, she often must attend rehearsals in Dayton 3-4 times a week. In addition to her devotion to Dayton Opera, she is a busy mother of three youngsters at home, ages 14, 11, and seven, all of whom are involved in music. Rachael is delighted that her family sings together, and that includes her husband David, who has a longtime interest in Dayton Opera. He served as president of the Dayton Opera Board from 2004-2006 and continues to support opera in Dayton. The Boezi family has sung together many times at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on First Street in Dayton.




A tall woman, Rachael stands out even on a crowded, busy stage. In the October production of *La Boheme*, it was easy to identify Rachael, one of many

townspeople on stage in a rousing, distracting scene. A mezzo-soprano Rachael has a well-trained voice. She attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana where she majored in English, but had a minor in voice.. A semester in

Vienna was a part of her course of study at DePaul and she attended an opera there almost every night. She stood up for all forty of the operas, arriving early to take advantage of the two-dollar fee.

When Rachael returned to the States, she became a member of the Indianapolis opera chorus for about five years. When she and the family moved to Troy, she joined the Dayton Opera chorus. When asked what is her favorite opera, she replied "the *Elixir of Love*" because the chorus has a big role."

Applause, Applause to Rachael for the dedicated and professional service she has brought to Dayton Opera and to the Opera Guild. We look forward to enjoying many more evenings at the opera watching and listening to our "special diva." 

"Tweet Music" continued from page 1

This season Dayton Opera will provide an opportunity for young professionals to engage in the arts and with Opera performances through special "Tweet Seats." "This initiative is designed for members of area Young Professional groups to experience opera along with the opera-tunity to network and socialize before and after Dayton Opera's Friday evening performances" notes the Dayton Opera website.

Social Networking, as Twitter, Facebook, and similar websites are called, holds high importance with today's Young Professionals. Tweets, the items posted on Twitter, consist of 140 characters and communicate short updates of the user's status. According to Wikipedia, Twitter has 200 million users as of 2011 with 200 million tweets and 1.6 billion search queries performed daily. Tweets provide an immediate response, a fast review to life experiences. Chuck Duritsch, Marketing & Communications Director for the Dayton Opera, developed the idea for "Tweet Seats" after attending a conference. He hopes to reach a new generation of younger, non-conventional theatre goers through this program. "We want to be something you seek out," he says. Duritsch continues, "I don't want to change Opera. I want to change the way people view Opera."

Dayton Power & Light underwrites the special "Tweet Seats" which Young Professionals purchase for \$15. As part of the special pricing patrons in these Upper Balcony seats will Tweet, text, and Facebook about the Opera performance as it happens, informing their contacts and friends about their experience. The Director, Conductor, and Cast are encouraged to tweet when they are off-stage. Duritsch plans to Tweet and blog from special stations set up in the Wintergarden. Patrons must mute their phones and avoid phone conversations. As part of the evening, these Young Professionals can attend a Networking time before the Opera and the cast party after the performance.

While new to the Dayton Opera, Theatre Companies around the world now use Social Media to promote events and engage audiences. The Royal Opera House in the UK organized a live tweet-along to the broadcast of their new ballet *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* on BBC2. Stratford East's Theatre Royal invites patrons to Tweet during performances. They have a Tweet Zone equipped with Wi-Fi. England's Opera North offers unique events for bloggers at live performances. The Vancouver Opera introduced Blogging Night at the Opera. Dylan Tweney, a writer for *Underwire*, secretly tweeted his way through the San Francisco Opera's 2010 performance of Wagner's *Die Walküre*. Tweney states "Twitter is well-suited to giving people a glimpse of something as it happens, adding a communal (and even global) dimension to real-time events. So why not Opera?" Tweney received positive feedback for his tweets during the performance.

Megan Cooper attended the kick-off party, given for representatives of Young Professional Organizations. Cooper plans to sit in the Tweet Seats this spring and thinks it is a "great idea combining a couple of opportunities – affordability and immediate interaction." She has been helping to spread the word that Opera "can be for the next generation of art lovers."

The first Tweet Seat performance occurred Friday, October 23, 2011, at *La Bohème*. Additional opportunities to join the tweeting Young Professionals occur Friday, February 24, 2012, for *Romeo & Juliet* and Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18, 2012, for *The Tragedy of Carmen*. Young Professionals can purchase tickets by calling 937-228-3630 and using the discount code TWEET. 📺

## Backstage with Burt

*La Bohème* is the world's most popular opera. Seeing the Dayton opera triumph last month, it deserves to be. It burst on the opera scene in 1896 and has not left the stages of opera houses, great and small, ever since.

Although success was instant, it was a long and painful process in development.

Puccini was working with Ruggiero Leoncavallo, better recognized at the time as a librettist than as the composer of *I Pagliacci*, on the script for *Manon Lescaut*. Both were interested in writing an opera based on Henri Murger's *Scenes of Bohemian Life*.

The public was fascinated with the Bohemians, the hippies of that day, living in the attics of Paris. Possibly as a result of this competition, Puccini fired Leoncavallo from the "Lescaut" project. He also drove his other librettists crazy with his constant demands and changes. We all agree, the birth pangs were worth it!

Both composers did write a *La Bohème*. The best man won and the world is richer for it. Leoncavallo's version had very limited success and disappeared from the repertory.

"Bohème" dispelled many of the grandiose traditions of opera. It dealt with common folk and their common problems. *Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*, also dealt with the ordinary lives. In "Bohème" the personae were more sophisticated and the story was unashamedly romantic.

You cannot discuss *La Bohème* without highlighting the music. Puccini's magical score affects the pull of romanticism that lurks just below the surface in each of us.

I spoke with one Dayton Opera patron who said she loved the opera but for the first time did not cry. Another said her tears were

flowing in the first act thinking ahead to the well-known tragic conclusion. Different strokes for different folks. It all works as long as you love the opera – and it was loveable!

Impresario Tom Bankston peopled the cast with debut artists. Inna Dukach, as Mimi, had a vocal line that enveloped the listener. As Rodolfo

and Marcello, Dinyar Vania and Kyle Pfortmiller, were handsome and vocally "macho" swains. With the return of our Bess, Kearstin Piper Brown, they completed the quadrangle of lovers and made Grand Opera really "grand."

Keeping opera, particularly the standard repertory, fresh is a challenge. Bringing casts full of youthful vigor and great talent is the specialty of "Bankston magic." His great combinations of directors, conductors and singers will keep the "blues" away from Dayton Opera.

Now, on to *Romeo and Juliet* in February. They are nice kids but too full of libido to think clearly. I wonder how that will all turn out? 📺

Burt Saidel



Poster for the 1896 production for Puccini's *La Bohème*



# BRAVO! 2011 Champagne Brunch and Fashion Show

The guest knew when the automated shades started to glide down the long windows of the Grand Hall of Sinclair Community College Ponitz Center on Friday, Sept 23, that something special was happening. Earth Wind and Fire's hit, "Shining Star," began pulsating through the dimly-let room as colored lights illuminated the New York-style runway. Guests watched professional models showcase fall 2011's newest fashions at the Opera Guild's 24th BRAVO! Champagne Brunch and Fashion Show. At 10 a.m. attendees started the festivities with a social hour and boutique shopping. Regional vendors included Oakwood Florist, Lula Bell Designs, Flirt by Diane, Earth Fare, World Threads and L.C. Jewelry plus the Guild's own boutique.



Brunch at 11:30 a.m. was a three-course meal prepared by Sinclair chefs. The show began at 12:30 p.m. and featured fashions and accessories by featured designers Lafayette 148, Sarah Pacini, Peter Cohen, Marisa Baratelli, Zenobia and Elton Daniels with commentary by local radio personality Nancy Wilson. The fashion show was orchestrated by Julie Shone of ELAN. An extra treat was provided by mezzo-soprano Kate Wakefield who sang a

selection from Mozart's *Così fan tutti*. Community role models were selected for their service to the community and modeled elegant outfits to the delight of the audience. Modeling were Martine Meredith Collier, Dick Ferguson, Kenneth and Mimi Kuntz, Michael and Dr. Lori Vavul-Roediger, Burt Saidel, Terry and the Rev. Roger Schalnat, and Jerri Stanard. The 24<sup>th</sup> annual BRAVO! Fashion Show was a success. 



# MiniNotes

## Cast Refreshments

The cast of *La Bohème* was served sandwiches, punch and cookies by Guild members Kimberly Robinson, Mary Cecil, and Ann Jorgensen. Kelly Haluschak, Kimberly Robinson, Kathy Brown, Rosalie Jennings, and Dolores Anderson prepared sandwiches and Mary Lou Heitkamp, Betty Holton, Beverly Cowden, and Suzanne Crippen prepared cookies. The cast really appreciates the food provided by the Guild members after a strenuous rehearsal.

## Star Hospitality

Providing opera singers with a place to stay has saved Dayton Opera thousands of dollars and has also been the source of many friendships between Guild members and opera singers. For *La Bohème*, seven singers stayed with Guild families. Dinyar Vania (Rodolfo) stayed with Paul and Susie Weaver; Kearstin Piper Brown (Musetta) stayed with Bill and Jackie Lockwood; Kyle Pfortmiller (Marcello) stayed with Ron Anderson and Rob Sloan; Eric McKeever (Schuanard) was with Suzanne and Patrick Crippen; Christopher Temporelli (Colline) stayed with Bob Woehrmyer and Mark Baker stayed with Tom and Kathy Brown. What a great way to support Dayton Opera! 🇺🇸

## Looking Ahead:

Feb. 12, 2011 5 p.m.  
**OPERA OVERTURES**  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
(Gounod)  
Books & Company at  
The Greene

Feb. 16, 2012 6 p.m.  
**OPERA OVERTURES**  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
(Gounod)  
"Arts and Arias"  
Dayton Visual Arts  
Center

Feb. 21, 2012 7 p.m.  
**OPERA OVERTURES**  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
(Gounod)  
Trinity Presbyterian  
Church

Feb. 24, 2012 8 p.m.  
Dayton Opera's *Romeo*  
*and Juliet*  
Schuster Center

Feb. 28, 2012 3 p.m.  
Dayton Opera's *Romeo*  
*and Juliet*  
Schuster Center

Mar 3, 2012  
"Puttin' on the Ritz"  
Opera Ball  
Dayton Country Club



# Opera BALL 2012

**Save the date!**

**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**Dayton Country Club**

*Dancing to The Tom Daughtery Orchestra*

**Plan to attend...**  
*See you there!*