

FRIENDS OF OPERA

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

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King, Queens & Tyrants Gather for Gala!

by Joyce Halvorsen



It was a Royal Affair, as opera enthusiasts gathered Oct. 23rd for the annual FOO Gala. A wonderful dinner followed by performances by UNL Opera students and a lively auction of items ranging from stained glass art work to numerous private concerts all made for a memorable evening.



The theme of the evening was a Royal Affair: Kings Queens & Tyrants with music selections ranging from Broadway favorite, The King and I, to Handel's Agrippina. Once again, the student performances were outstanding and the highlight of the evening.



After expenses, over \$12,000 was raised and will be used in a number of ways including scholarships, support of the Amahl and the Night Visitors project and subsidies for guest artists.

Come join us to get into the holiday spirit with Gian Carlo Menotti's **Amahl and the Night Visitors**. Following UNL tradition, the two casts for this operetta invite all of the Title I schools in the Lincoln Public Schools District to performances. The public performances are held at 1:30 and 3:00pm on Saturday, December 9 in the studio theatre at the Temple Theatre Building on UNL's campus. One cast will also be traveling to Central City, NE on Sunday, December 10 thanks to the generosity of James C. and Rhonda Seacrest Tour Nebraska Opera Fund.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions January 27th, 2018 10:00 am at O'Donnell Auditorium, Nebraska Wesleyan University

Join us for the *Celebration of American Song Series* Monday January 29, 2018 at 7:30 in Kimball Recital Hall

2018 Spring Mainstage Production
Così fan Tutte
By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Friday, February 23 at 7:30pm
Sunday, February 24 at 3:00pm
Kimball Recital Hall

Visit our new website at friendsofopera.org and like our Facebook page Friends of Opera, University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the latest information, reminders of upcoming events, and memories from past performances!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings,

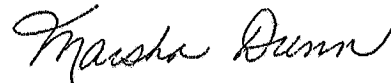
I cannot believe we are six months into our membership campaign! I have been hearing great accolades about our new look on our Friends of Opera website. This is another great way to join and be a part of helping UNL Opera continue with their success!

Success it has been. We have had talented students do very well at NATS, took the opera "Baby Doe" to North Platte, had a very successful Gala and just saw the fall opera "Don Pasquale". You will see these outcomes in this newsletter. Enjoy!!

I have the distinct privilege to preside over a wonderful board of directors for Friends of Opera. Their

enthusiasm and willingness to serve for the talented students at UNL is amazing. We have such talented and dedicated instructors in all areas of the Opera/Musical Theater realm that help lead the way for these students by giving them opportunities to direct, perform, design and just be students!! Putting these factors all together I think it is a good reason to be a member of Friends of Opera!! Hope you will take this opportunity today.

Best Wishes,



Marsha Dunn, President

An Italian Opera in the American West: *Don Pasquale*

by Trey Meyer



This comic opera was a great opportunity to laugh and enjoy the light-hearted side of opera. Following the shenanigans of the title character Don Pasquale, this show explored the dynamics of family, love, and power and how those relationships can lead us to make rash decisions. Thanks to the vision of Opera Director William Shomos and set designer Jessica Thompson, the audience was transported to a hacienda in the American Southwest. Sheric Hull, lighting design, Rebecca Armstrong, costume design, and Jason Hibbard, technical director, add their expertise to transform



Gaetano Donizetti's story from the original 1840s Rome setting to the Wild West. Arica Coleman played the wiley Norina who is in love with Ernesto, played by Alfonzo Cooper Jr., the title character's nephew. The two, along with Pasquale's friend and doctor, Malatesta (Jared H i s c o c k), come up with a crazy plan to find a suitor for Pasquale played by Dr. William S h o m o s .



The orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Tyler White, provides the lively Spanish flair that sets the atmosphere. The cast and chorus enjoyed collaborating to create this spin on Donizetti's signature opera buffa.

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Congrats at NATS!

Congratulations to the Nebraska National Association of the Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions. The competition was held in Kearney, NE on Friday, October 6. The winners are listed by category:



Lower College Musical Theatre Women

1. Katelyn Hinderer
2. Samantha Thomas

Lower College Musical Theatre Men

1. Matthew Carter
2. Dakota Mathew

Lower College Women

3. Alison Gillespie
- Honorable Mention: Krista Benesch

Lower College Men

1. Sam Galligan
2. Matthew Carter
3. Ryan Wortmann
3. Matthew Harroun

Honorable Mentions: Dakota Mathew, Ryan Savage, Cameron Strussie

Upper College Musical Theatre Women

1. Michelle Ingle
2. Victoria Handford
3. Jeannie Hageman

Honorable Mentions: Susan Twiehaus, Skyler Dykes, Abby Kurth

Upper College Music Theatre Men

3. Braxton Carr

Upper College Women

2. Victoria Handford
- Honorable Mentions: Mary Dowd, Jeannie Hageman

Advanced College/Independent Studio Women

1. Patty Kramer
 2. Brianna Smith
- Honorable Mention: Hayley Shoemaker

Advanced College/Independent Studio Men

1. Trey Meyer

Congratulations to the West Central National Association of the Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions. The competition was held in Greeley, CO. The competition started on November 2 and concluded on November 4. The winners are listed by category:



First Year Men

Honorable Mention: Matthew Harroun

Sophomore Men

1. Matthew Carter
4. Dakota Mathew
5. Ryan Savage

Sophomore Women

3. Victoria Handford
- Semi-finalists: Mary Dowd, Skyler Dykes, Abby Kurth, Susan Twiehaus

Senior Women

5. Jeannie Hageman

Graduate Women

2. Patty Kramer

Nontraditional Students

3. Genevieve Cardos

First Year & Sophomore Men in Musical Theatre

1. Matthew Carter
 2. Ryan Savage
 4. Dakota Mathew
- Semi-finalist: Sam Galligan

Junior & Senior Women in Musical Theatre

1. Victoria Handford
 4. Susan Twiehaus
 5. Skyler Dykes
- Semi-finalists: Michelle Ingle, Abby Kurth

Junior & Senior Men in Musical Theatre

2. Logan Langholdt
- Semi-finalist: Braxton Carr

Congratulations also go out to Alisa Belflower who was elected the West Central Regional Governor. Professor Belflower is the first from UNL to ever hold a national position in this professional organization. Congratulations to Professor Belflower.



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Friends Membership Dues Reminder

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7001 S. 27th St.
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*The Friends of Opera Board
of Directors thanks you for
your support!*

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The Ballad of Baby Doe Travels to North Platte

by Trey Meyer



Earlier this semester, students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln had the opportunity to present their production of Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* to the community of North Platte, Nebraska. For much of the audience that came out to see the show, this was their first live opera experience. As a performer, it was an honor to present this classic American opera to a new audience. Unlike many of the characters portrayed in opera, the cast of *Baby Doe* had the task of embodying real historical figures. Set in Colorado in the late 1800s, the audience sees familiar political figures William Jennings Bryan (Jared Hiscock) and President Chester Arthur (Connor Husa), Elizabeth "Baby" Doe Tabor (Arica Coleman), Horace (Trey Meyer), and Augusta Tabor (Patty Kramer).

Dr. William Shomos' brilliant staging of this opera employs the use of North Platte's entire Fox Theatre. On-stage pianist, Michael Cotton masterfully conveyed the detailed musical elements and elegance of the accompaniment that would traditionally be delivered by a pit orchestra. The cast and crew would like to express their gratitude for the James C. and Rhonda Seacrest Tour Nebraska Opera Fund for the ability to share this experience with the community of North Platte.

