



# PARTNERS for the Arts

President: Leilane G. Mehler  
Secretary: F. Victoria Tresansky  
Treasurer: Audrey Pendergast  
Artistic Advisor: Elaine Walter, PhD  
Membership: Cyd Everett  
Vice President Emeritus: Robert Misbin, MD

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

### One more year and stronger! THANKS TO YOU !

In March, **PARTNERS** celebrated its anniversary at **Twin Oaks**, the elegant residence of Taipei's Economic and Cultural Representative to the United States (TECRO) thanks to the graciousness of **His Excellency Dr. Lyushun Shen and Mrs. Shen**. Winners of the vocal competition of 2014 as well as a finalist of the competition of 2013 delighted the audience.

In April, in co-production with our partner the **Bulgarian Music Society** at the Bulgarian Embassy, we had a musicale and one more platform was presented to our prizewinners and a finalist.

In May, a group went to Spain to attend concerts and operas. We thank Audrey Pendergast for arranging the trip and Alan Savada our travel agent. After the performance of our first opera, we had a toast with **Christina Scheppelmann**, artistic director of the Barcelona opera, **Mr. Plácido Domingo** and the cast of *I Due Foscari*.

In June, we had our traditional Potluck at the **Savada-Stevenson's** residence in D.C.. Good time and great fun trying to solve opera charade. **Will Stevenson, Dr. Wanda O'Brien Trefil** and mezzo-soprano **Linda Petravogi** were the stars solving the majority of the charades!

A new opera season will soon start with all our partners. Make sure that you renew your subscriptions. See you there!

And don't forget to "**Save the date**" **October 25** is **PARTNERS Vocal Awards Competition finals**, at the Lyceum in Alexandria. Come and hear the future stars of tomorrow! It is free and open to the public.

The prizes for the vocal awards competition for 2015 have been raised thanks to generosity of members **Dr. Robert Misbin, Dr. Elaine Walter**, and **Cynthia Bianchi**. This year **Drs. James and Wanda Trefil** have big-heartedly donated all the Encouragement Awards. We are immensely grateful to all of them.

**PARTNERS** is also happy to announce its partnership with the **Avenue Suites**, a Modus Hotel in Georgetown.

It is your continued support that enables our mission to be a reality. Thank you. Visit our web site to learn more about **PARTNERS** events and **PARTNERS'** partners events:

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**PARTNERS** for the Arts encourages and promotes the careers of emerging vocal artists not under professional management, interacts with arts organizations and schools of music in mutually beneficial activities, and nurtures audience development.

# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT TWIN OAKS



Leilane G. Mehler, Ambassador and Mrs. Shen.



Our singers: (left to right) baritone Johnathan McCullough, a finalist in Vocal Competition 2013; soprano Jennifer Cherest, the first prizewinner in Vocal Competition 2014; soprano Emily Casey, the second prizewinner in Vocal Competition 2014; and baritone Andrew Pardini, a finalist in Vocal Competition 2014, sang arias from operas and were the stars of the night. Joy Schreier accompanied them.

## COMPETITION 2015: OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE!

**Dr. Robert Misbin**  
for the 1st prize award  
The Misbin Family  
Memorial Award  
\$3,500

**Dr. Elaine Walter**  
for the 2nd prize award  
The Vincent P. Walter  
Memorial Award  
\$2,500

**Mrs. Cynthia Bianchi**  
for the 3rd prize award  
The Holly Bianchi  
Memorial Award  
\$1,000

**Drs. James and Wanda Trefil**  
for the Encouragement Awards  
\$1,250

## BULGARIAN EMBASSY



Soprano Grace Gilday, a finalist in Vocal Competition 2013; soprano Emily Casey, the second prizewinner in Vocal Competition 2014; and bass Joseph Chee, the third prizewinner in Vocal Competition 2014.

## PARTNERS POTLUCK AT THE SAVADA-STEVENSON RESIDENCE

Among others presenting the opera charades:

Alan Savada



and Dr. Wanda O'Brien Trefil.

## PARTNERS TRIP TO SPAIN



Front left: Su Kim Eisenberg, Linda Deramus, Jean Arnold, and Audrey Pendergast. Second row from left Robert Misbin, Leilane Mehler. Third row from left: Barry Mehler, Fernando Van Reigersberg, Oscar Olson. Fourth row Stephanie Van Reigersberg. Top row our guide Marc Balcells.



Cocktail after the performance of Verdi's *I due Foscari* Plácido Domingo with our group at the Grand Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona.



Beth, Christina Scheppelmann, and Jean Arnold.



Trumpeter Mireia Farrés and Martha Argerich with Orquesta Da Camera: Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

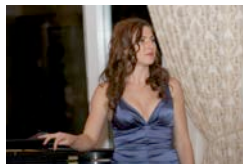


Orquesta de Valencia with maestro Yaron Traub.



Verdi's *Nabucco* at the Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia.

## FOLLOWING OUR STARS

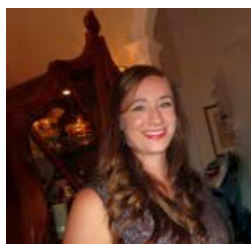


Soprano **Jennifer Cherest**, the first prizewinner in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2014, will sing the leading role of Gretel in Washington National Opera's production of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in December. In April, Jennifer sang the role of Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with North Carolina Opera under Maestro Timothy Myers' baton, receiving wonderful reviews.



Soprano **Emily Casey**, the second prizewinner in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2014, sung the role of Donna Elvira in the Seabrook Opera production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in July.

Bass **Joseph Chee**, the third prizewinner in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2014, covered the role of Frère Laurent this summer for the Aspen Music Festival production of Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.



Soprano **Merideth Marano**, a finalist in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2013, sung the title role of Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, presented by our partner Maryland Lyric Opera in July.

Baritone **Jeffrey Grayson Gates**, the third prizewinner in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2013, sung the role of Frédéric in *Lakmé* which was presented by our partner Baltimore Concert Opera last May. He performed in *Cragstliedlied* with our partner **UrbanArias** in July.



Baritone **Norman Garrett**, the first prizewinner in **PARTNERS' VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION** in 2013, is featured in "Sound Bites" in the April 2015 issue of *Opera News*. Norman has been busy! In addition to singing for major opera companies nationwide, he was a soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony in the 10th anniversary concert of our partner, the **National Philharmonic** at Strathmore, last February. Later this year, he will be performing the title role of *Koanga* by Frederick Delius, which opens the 64th **Wexford Festival Opera** in Ireland.

# PARTNERS' PARTNERS PRODUCTIONS—2015/2016



## Baltimore Concert Opera

Oct. 2, 4 *Aida*  
Nov. 20, 22 *Die Fledermaus*  
Feb. 26, 28 *Edgar*  
Apr. 22, 24 *Falstaff*

[baltimoreconcertopera.com](http://baltimoreconcertopera.com)



## Lyric Opera Baltimore

Oct. 25 *Musicale Preview*  
Nov. 13, 15 *Street Scene*  
*March 11, 13*  
*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*  
May 13, 15 *Roméo et Juliette*

[lyricoperahouse.com](http://lyricoperahouse.com)



## Opera Delaware

### Opera Festival

May 14, 20, 22 *Hamlet*  
May 15, 21 *Falstaff*  
May 19 *Shakespeare in Song*

[operade.org](http://operade.org)



## Opera Lafayette

Nov. 28, 29 *Catone in Utica*  
Feb. 2, 3 *Une Éducation*  
*Manquée*  
Apr. 29 *Opera and French*  
*Revolution*

[operalafayette.org](http://operalafayette.org)



## Maryland Lyric Opera

### Summer 2016

[marylandlyricopera.org](http://marylandlyricopera.org)



## Urban Arias

October 3, 4, 9, 10 *As One*  
April 2, 3, 8, 9 *After Life*

[urbanarias.org](http://urbanarias.org)



## Virginia Opera

Oct. 3, 4  
*Orpheus in the Underworld*  
Nov. 14, 15 *La Bohème*  
Feb. 13, 14 *Romeo and Juliet*  
Apr. 23, 24

### *The Flying Dutchman*

[vaopera.org](http://vaopera.org)



## Washington Concert Opera

Nov. 22 *Semiramide*  
March 4 *La favorite*

[concertopera.org](http://concertopera.org)



## The National Philharmonic at Strathmore

Oct. 3, *Rienzi*

For more of their extensive season, please visit

[nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org)



## Bulgarian Music Society

For information of their extensive season, please visit

[bulgarianmusicsociety.org](http://bulgarianmusicsociety.org)

## PARTNERS Vocal Awards Competition

Semifinal round October 24 - 1:30 pm

Final round October 25 - 2:30 pm

The Lyceum - 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria VA

Free and open to the public



WITH APPRECIATION



Alan J. Savada  
Certified Travel Consultant

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