

**THE GLIMMERGLASS
FESTIVAL 2020**

July 11–August 25

On the Mainstage

Rodgers / Hammerstein II

The Sound of Music

July 11–August 25

Handel / Rossi

Rinaldo

July 12–August 18

Wagner

Die Feen (The Fairies)

July 16–August 21

Mozart / Da Ponte

Don Giovanni

July 17–August 24



Special Events

Sankaram / Rourke

The Jungle Book

YOUTH OPERA

August 3–18

Mozart

Così?

ADAPTATION

August 4–22

Isabel Leonard

August 7

John Holiday

August 14

Rhiannon Giddens

August 18



All tickets available now

Box Office: 607-547-2255

www.glimmerglass.org

RINALDO, OPENING JULY 12

In the early years of the 18th century, London became infatuated with Italian opera. British bon vivants returning from the Grand Tour had experienced a new world of music and wanted to bring it home. Italian sopranos and castrati were invited to perform (although they would only sing in Italian), and English musicians labored to create works for them without understanding what Italian opera was about. It took a young German composer with a recent hit opera in Venice to get England singing. George Frideric Handel's *Rinaldo* was the first Italian opera specifically composed for the London stage.

The framework for the opera came from *Gerusalemme liberata (Jerusalem Liberated)*, a highly embroidered account of the First Crusade by 16th century poet Torquato Tasso. Tasso emphasized the romance of the Crusades rather than the horrors of war, and the tale became still more romantic when it reached Handel and his librettist Giacomo Rossi. The opera was produced with astonishing speed, made possible by Handel's reuse of music he had composed in Italy over the previous few years. Don't be surprised to hear some tunes familiar from *Agrippina*.

Rinaldo, the greatest warrior in the army, will be sung by Glimmerglass favorite Allegra De Vita, who began her career here in 2015 as a Young Artist in Vival-

Rinaldo continued on page 3

DIE FEEN (THE FAIRIES), OPENING JULY 16

Richard Wagner (1813–1883) began working on the libretto for his three act opera, *Die Feen (The Fairies)*, in 1833 when he was 20 years old. It was completed in 1834 but not performed until June 29, 1888 in Munich, five years after Wagner's death. Following 1896, *Die Feen* was seldom performed, so the 2020 Glimmerglass Festival production is a truly special event, in keeping with the Festival's mission to present rare as well as familiar work.

While the Italian playwright Carlo Gozzi's fairy tale *La donna serpente (The Snake Woman)* was the source, Wagner's libretto with his many changes reflects German romantic opera and supernatural subject matter as well as the poetic themes Wagner expressed in his music throughout his life: tests of fidelity and redemption through love. Wagner's score shows his skillful handling of conventional operatic forms and mastery of aria, recitative, arioso, and ensembles with even a comic (opera buffa) duet. The role of the orchestra is enhanced, demonstrating Wagner's characteristic use of the orchestra to carry the melody while the singers declaim dramatically. Critics have praised the original passages in the orchestra and instrumental writing in *Die Feen*. Also evident is Wagner's belief that the opera libretto is linked to the music, and that the composer should write the libretto. Wagner expressed his feelings on completing *Die Feen* when he said in December of 1833 "...the whole work has poured from my innermost soul—and people say that if that is so, the work will pass into the soul of others."

Die Feen continued on page 3

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
 P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326
www.glimmerglassguild.org

Officers

President.....Mary Margaret Kuhn
 Vice President.....Laura Tansey Wetzel
 Secretary.....Mary Brodzinsky
 Treasurer.....Joanne Tobey

Committee Chairs

CommunicationsJane Grastorf
 Education/Community Engagement Kathy Eisele
 Fundraising.....Christine Weiss
 Grounds (ad hoc).....Jean Lyon
 HospitalityCynthia and William Goertemoeller
 Membership Winifred Olsen
 Nominating..... Walter Ashley
 Volunteer Services Rita Emanuel
 Website Committee (ad hoc).....Mary Brodzinsky

Board Members (at large)

Ernest Adams, Jr.	Jean Kohler
Martha Duke	Janet Potter
Abby Kreh Gibson	Carol Steigelman
Kate Johnson	Janet Vinyard
Rhonda King	

Guild Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Mary Margaret Kuhn

Company Representative

Brittany Lesavoy

Trustee Liaison to the Guild

Thomas Simpson

Member of



OVI Liaison

Rita Emanuel

News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of
The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival

Editor: Kate Johnson
 652 Glimmerglen Road
 Cooperstown, NY 13326
 Phone: 607-547-7267
 Email: kate.gogf@gmail.com

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Winter snow, sleet, and winds may be blowing but things are percolating in preparation for the 2020 Festival season. Here are just a few upcoming events, in addition to those described elsewhere in this newsletter:

- I am looking forward to the company of fellow Guild members at Washington National Opera to see *Blue* at the Kennedy Center on March 28, 2020.
- The National Council Season Preview will be held in May this year; details will be forthcoming.
- Plan to prepare your favorite dish for the annual **Eat and Greet**, planned for Saturday, June 20 and spear-headed by Cynthia and Bill Goertemoeller.
- **A Day at the Festival** for students will be offered on July 23 culminating with the matinee of *The Sound of Music*. Be sure to spread the word!
- Christine Weiss is planning a night of music at the Cooperstown Country Club for the evening of July 23. The lakeside setting and music by the Young Artists make for a lovely event you’ll want to enjoy.
- Yet another date for your calendar is the Guild Gala on August 4, chaired by Carol Steigelman. Martha Duke has some exciting new plans for the Gala Auction she is chairing, and Rita Emanuel and Winnie Olsen promise to bring back the popular Wine Pull!

In other news:

- Joan Desens recently announced that she plans to retire as the Festival’s Director of Institutional Advancement at the end of 2020. She will continue to work as a part-time consultant on the Facilities Capital Initiative. Joan has been a wonderful Guild member and I wish to thank her for all she has done for the company.
- Jane Grastorf has graciously volunteered to lead the Communications Committee and to oversee Guild e-blasts and coordinate our public relations. If your email changes please notify Jane (jane.grastorf@oneonta.edu); she maintains the database now.
- With sadness I share the news that Robert (Bob) F. Van Wormer passed away February 3 after an illness. Bob was devoted to Glimmerglass; he began ushering with Doris Shields in 1990 and continued for 28 seasons. A retired educator, Bob was a true gentleman who will be deeply missed. He is survived by his cousin Richard Johnson and Richard’s wife Harriett, who kindly asked that memorial contributions be made to the Guild’s Tribute Fund. We extend our sincere condolences.

MARY MARGARET KUHN

Rinaldo continued from page 1

di's *Cato in Utica* and returned in 2017 as a Guest Artist singing Arsamenes in *Xerxes*. Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, a rapidly rising countertenor, will sing Goffredo, Commander of the forces.

Other significant roles include Almirena, daughter of Goffredo and betrothed to Rinaldo; Argante, King; and Armida, Queen and lover of Argante, a powerful sorceress. These roles and others will be sung by Glimmerglass Young Artists.

Both the conductor and director of this production are new to Glimmerglass, and both are dynamic young women born in Germany. Erina Yashima was a winner of the prestigious Sir George Solti Conducting Apprenticeship with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has had extensive experience conducting opera, including leading *Le Nozze de Figaro* in Novara and Ravenna.

Director Louisa Proske is the co-founder of Heartbeat Opera in New York City, about which critic Anthony Tommasini said, "(it) strives to make familiar works intimate and freshly powerful." Two years ago, Heartbeat performed an acclaimed production of *Fidelio* in which the chorus of prisoners was made up of chorus members from prisons in six different states in the Midwest, connected by video. That is definitely a freshly powerful view of opera.

PATRICIA THORPE

GLIMMERGLASS UNDER THE STARS

All Glimmerglass Festival participants are invited to attend a season-opening celebration, **Glimmerglass Under the Stars**, on Friday, July 10, 6:30–9:30 pm. Sponsored by the Guild, the party will feature a variety of specialty foods provided by local caterers and food trucks.

With 300 attendees expected, guests will enjoy the ambiance of the Pavilion, pre-show tent, and picnic area for dining and dancing. A local band, Hanzolo, will provide entertainment; the beverage bar will include mocktails for children involved in *The Sound of Music* and *The Jungle Book*.

Inspired by other opera companies, Artistic Director Francesca Zambello has asked us to try this large all-cast celebration in place of four cast parties, traditionally opening each opera. It will be held just before the weekend openings of *The Sound of Music* and *Rinaldo*.

A Guild ad hoc committee consisting of Mary Margaret Kuhn, Abby Kreh Gibson, Jane Grastorf, Christine

continued next column

Die Feen continued from page 1

Former Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists (YAPs) returning in principal roles are Ian Koziara as Arindal, Alexandria Shiner as Ada, and Timothy Bruno in the dual role of Gernot and Groma. Glimmerglass Festival Artistic and General Director Francesca Zambello will direct the production and Music Director Joseph Colaneri will be the conductor. They will be joined by Costume Designer Constance Hoffman; Set Designer Adrienne Lobel; and Lighting Designer Mark McCullough in presenting this otherworldly tale of a mortal prince and fairy princess who begin a romance that causes chaos in their respective kingdoms.

ABBY KREH GIBSON

FROM THE FESTIVAL BOARD CHAIRMAN

What an opportunity and sneak preview I had recently, stepping onto the Glimmerglass stage to view the set for *The Sound of Music*. I almost burst into song, but thank goodness held back. Joel Morain, who we all know from his exciting behind the scenes tours, showed me an incredible staircase that will be used for this production. He also showed me that the hills are alive on stage with more designs from Peter Davison who designed sets for previous GGF productions including *Showboat*, *La traviata*, *West Side Story*, and *Porgy and Bess*.

Now I have a favor! We are very short on housing for our visiting artists this summer, and are asking whether you know of any available rooms, houses, guest cottages, or other housing. If you have suggestions, please contact Merritt Schifano, our Housing Director, at (607) 547-0700 ext. 220.

I received The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival calendar for the 2020 season. It reminded me how great and educational the Talking Opera series is, and I definitely marked my calendar for that along with all the change-over dinners. How fortunate we are at Glimmerglass to have such an active guild that hosts educational activities, raises funds, and feeds the multitudes.

Continue to have a safe winter.

ROBERT NELSON

Glimmerglass Under the Stars, continued

Weiss, Laura Tansey Wetzel, Janet Vinyard, and Cynthia and Bill Goertemoeller is meeting monthly to plan this event. Feel free to speak to a committee member if you have suggestions and/or wish to make a monetary donation toward party expenses.

CYNTHIA AND BILL GOERTEMOELLER

607-432-5644

billcyn73@gmail.com

TALKING OPERA 2020

The Glimmerglass Festival's Music Director Joseph Colaneri will open the 19th Talking Opera season on **Monday, June 1** with a program about Richard Wagner's first opera, *Die Feen*, in the auditorium of the Fenimore Art Museum, 5798 State Highway 80, Cooperstown.

Other programs in the series will be presented in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 69 Fair Street, Cooperstown:

Monday, June 8: *The Jungle Book* and *Cosi?*

Monday, June 15: *Rinaldo*

Monday, June 22: *The Sound of Music*

Monday, June 29: *Don Giovanni*

All Talking Opera programs begin at 7:00 pm. The May newsletter will have further details about each program.

KATHLEEN EISELE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS BEFORE THE METROPOLITAN OPERA'S HD BROADCASTS

On Saturday **March 14** Guild board members Abby Kreh Gibson and Janet Potter will be at the Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center, 24 Market Street, Oneonta for an educational program before the Metropolitan Opera's 12:55 pm HD broadcast of its new production of Richard Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* (*Der Fliegende Hollander*). The presentation, including musical excerpts, will begin at noon in the Upstairs Theater. It will be approximately 40 minutes in length and is open to the public free of charge.

The Metropolitan Opera's HD broadcast of Gaetano Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* on Saturday **May 9** will begin at 12:55 pm. Guild members Thomas Simpson and Abby Kreh Gibson will discuss this opera based on the personal and political rivalry between Elizabeth I of England and Mary, Queen of Scots. This educational program will begin at noon in the Sinnott Family-Bank of Utica Auditorium, Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, 310 Genesee Street, Utica. It will be approximately 40 minutes in length and is open to the public free of charge.

ABBY KREH GIBSON

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following new and renewing members have joined since the January newsletter:

Joanne Crowson and family

Frieda Lipp

We're delighted to have you as members of the Guild!

WINIFRED OLSEN

THE GUILD OF Glimmerglass FESTIVAL

News & Notes

P.O. Box 191

Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglassguild.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 422
Oneonta, NY

CHARLES SCHNEIDER, GLIMMERGLASS FOUNDING MUSIC DIRECTOR

Long time Guild members will remember Charles Schneider, who went on to conduct several orchestras and recently retired from the Catskill Symphony. Charles is fighting terminal pulmonary fibrosis. His wife, Rayna, has now been diagnosed with ALS. Their children have established a Go Fund Me page to help pay for Charles and Rayna's medical needs. If you wish to contribute, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-charles-and-rayna-schneider-als-pfibrosis>

PIRATES AT OPERA SARATOGA

Are you interested in a Guild trip to *Pirates of Penzance* at Opera Saratoga at 2:00 pm on June 29, 2020?

Reservations for this trip have been few, so there will be no bus; we'll carpool. I have 20 tickets reserved, all downstairs; they are \$70.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing one or more ticket(s), please contact me to arrange payment.

Thank you for supporting The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival.

607-988-7007

JEAN SEROKA
jjwilser3@yahoo.com