

Viva Voce February 2023



Love Song p 7



Behind the Scenes, p 25

Opera Guild Lecture Series, p 8



Alcina, p 19

Edition Viva Voce,

February 2023

The Opera Guild of Rochester, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to support opera and opera education in the greater Rochester area. Our addresses are P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625; operaguildofrochester@gmail.com

The Guild presents Bravo Nights (free informal opera programs at the Little Café), free opera lectures at local libraries, trips to productions of local and regional opera companies, including the Glimmerglass Festival, the Haskell Rosenberg Memorial Series of DVD presentations in January, and recitals and concerts.

This newsletter is sent via eMail each month, currently to about 3,000 subscribers. For a free subscription go to our Website and sign up at https://www.operaquildofrochester.org/subscribe-to-viva-voce The deadline for submission of articles and event announcements for the next issue is the 20th of the previous month.

Our Website and Facebook pages serve as a clearinghouse for local and regional opera, concert, and recital information, with links to other music organizations in our area. Please visit us at operaguildofrochester.org. and at Facebook.com/OperaGuildofRochester

Some events are now being recorded. Click the YouTube logo to visit us there.



Opera Guild of Rochester, P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625

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This Month

Feb 2, 4, 5	Eastman Opera Theater	Handel's Alcina
Feb 5	Pegasus Early Music	<u>Rameau</u>
Feb 13	Opera Guild Bravo Nights	<u>Love Song</u>
Feb 16	Memorial Art Gallery	Third Thursday Concert
Feb 17	Friends of Eastman Opera	Voice Competition
Feb 2-18	Canadian Opera	<u>Le Nozze di Figaro</u>

Editor's Corner

Among other excellent choices this month are two of my favorites: the Opera Guild Lecture/Listening Series at Brighton Library (page 8) and the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition, always a great evening (page 19). As for lectures, the first is special. Professor of Voice Constance Fee will describe the journey taken by one of her students, from the first days in the Roberta Wesleyan voice program, to the establishment of a professional career – a behind the scenes look, straight from one intimately involved with his success.

Also not-to-be-missed is the *Love Song* Bravo Night on Feb 13 (page 7). Love arias and duets from opera? A no-brainer, but lush and lyrical.

News From Your Opera Guild

We note with sadness the passing of Board Member Rosalba Pisaturo, a long-time friend and colleague. She fought a brave battle with illness and was active almost to the end. See p 6.

It's been a busy year so far, and some of the best is yet to come. Watch for Glimmerglass trip information in March. And hold on, spring will creep in, even though ignoring the ground hog is always a good bet in Rochester.

Great Opera-tunities

(For those wishing to explore opera without spending a lot of money)

FREE - Opera Guild Lectures. See February and March 2023 Viva Voce for lectures at Brighton Memorial Library.

\$9/10 suggested donation - Opera Guild "Beat the Blahs," opera DVD presentations. In normal times, four Sundays in January at 1 pm. Pre-performance talk, refreshments at intermission, children and students always FREE.

\$24; UR students \$10 with ID - The Eastman Opera Season (Eastman voice students). Preperformance talks; see full listing in Viva Voce.

\$25 per (senior) ticket - Metropolitan Opera simulcasts in HD. These performances usually take place on Saturdays at 1 pm. An encore performance, not live, is given on the Wednesday following for \$23. Theaters are at Tinseltown, Eastview, Webster and Henrietta. See full listing and essays in Viva Voce.

FREE - Opera Guild Bravo Nights, in normal times at The Little Café. Live accompanied singers perform opera favorites in an informal atmosphere. See Viva Voce for next date.

FREE - Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition. Look for next year in February 2023 Viva Voce. 8 pm, Kilbourn Hall, Gibbs Street.

FREE - The Lotte Lenya Competition: young multi-talented singer/actors performing both opera and musical theater selections. See Viva Voce for information about the 2023 event.



Please keep in mind that we are a volunteer organization!

You can enjoy the opportunity to meet and work with other opera fans and help sustain the programs you like. Currently we are looking for an assistant treasurer, event helpers, technical back-up and publicity committee volunteers. For information about these jobs or to speak with us about any volunteer interest, write to operaguildofrochester@gmail.com and the appropriate person will contact you.

Donations

As an *Amici*, your contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. All donation levels receive an invitation to the Annual Recital; those listed below will be given priority until a date specified on the invitation, and at the *Comprimario* level and above may request extra tickets.

Chorus: \$50 per person, \$80 per couple.

Comprimario: \$100-\$199.

Primo: \$200-\$299.

Maestro: \$300-\$399.

Impresario: \$400 or more.

Donate On Line

You may also mail a check to Opera Guild of Rochester, P.O. Box 25613, Rochester, NY 14625. Please include an email or other address for your tax receipt.

A Note on Tax Receipts from the President:

The IRS does not require a charity to give, or the donor to have, a formal acknowledgment from the charity for donations under \$250.00. Your canceled check or credit card record is sufficient evidence for your donations below this amount if you itemize them. Donations of \$250.00 and above will receive the required acknowledgment from the Opera Guild before January 31st following the end of the calendar tax year. The invitation to the Annual Recital is our way of showing our appreciation to our donors and we sincerely hope to see you there!



IN MEMORIAM ROSALBA PISATURO

1948-2023



We remember Rosalba Pisaturo, who served on the Board of Directors of the Opera Guild for many years, contributing her knowledge of the Rochester community and Italian language and culture. She was known for her well-received lectures on Italian opera, which she continued to present until the pandemic interrupted them in 2019.

There were scheduled events for which we did not enjoy Rosalba's participation – a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she would rarely forsake the Italian tradition of dinner *in famiglia* on Sunday afternoon!

In addition to teaching Italian and Spanish at Monroe Community College and RIT, Rosalba developed the degree program in Italian at Nazareth College, was active in the Casa Italiana there, served as president of the International Sister Cities of Rochester, and devoted over thirty years to a student exchange between Rochester and Caltanissettta, Italy.

Feb. 2023 Bravo Night

Love Song



Monday, February 13 from 6:30-8 pm.

In the first half of the program, voice students from Roberts Wesleyan University will treat us to a variety of classical songs and opera selections, followed by a medley of popular standards from classic musicals.

In the second half, Josh and Lea Bouillon return to Bravo Nights with unforgettable love duets from Gounod, Bizet, Monteverdi, Massenet, Bernstein and Cole Porter.





Bravo Nights take place at the Little Café, located in the Little Theater at 240 East Avenue. Admission is **free** -refreshments may be purchased there.



FREE Lecture/Listening Series

Brighton Memorial Library, 7-8:45 pm. 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, 14618

All talks are generously illustrated with appropriate video selections.

3/8/23 : The Development of an Opera Singer

By Constance Fee

3/15/23 : The Tenor Voice in French Opera by Peter Dundas

3/22/23 : Magical Moments from the Ring! by Cindy Battisti

3/29/23 : <u>Puccini: La fanciulla del west -</u>

<u>The Girl of the Golden West</u>

by Carol Crocca



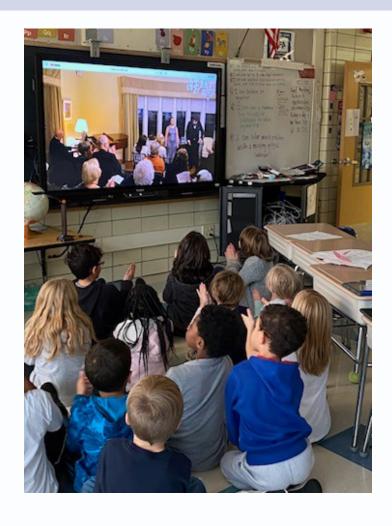
KIDS EXPERIENCE OPERA AND OTHER GREAT SINGING!

Recently our <u>Holiday Bravo Nights Concert video</u> was played for groups of grade school children at Helendale School in Irondequoit. They were so engaged with it!

From the teacher:

They have never heard opera and they are clapping after every song! Here are some of their delightful and insightful questions and comments:

- Are they married?
- Why is she singing with him?
- Her dress is so pretty!
- How does he sing like that?
- He doesn't even need a microphone his voice is so loud!
- He's amazing!
- I've never heard this kind of music!
- Is his mom in the audience?
- Where did he learn to sing like that?
- I wish I could sing like that!
- I never heard Silent Night like that - that's awesome!

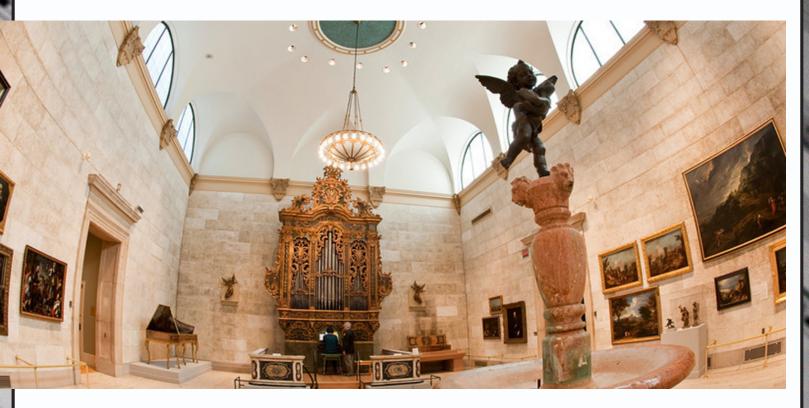


Click here to experience this beautiful seasonal music.

Third Thursday Concert

The Third Thursdays with Eastman's Italian Baroque Organ at the Memorial Art Gallery concert series presents: **Erica Johnson, organ**

A Boston-based keyboardist, **Erica Johnson** joined the faculty of Wellesley College as College Organist and Instructor in Organ and Harpsichord in 2019. Her current performance goals include how to promote the music of female composers for the organ.



By Eastman School of Music, Memorial Art Gallery

Admission to the concert is included with museum admission, which is half-price on Thursday evenings after 5 pm and free to University of Rochester student ID holders. **Seating is limited and is available on a first-come basis**. This concert is made possible by the Rippey Endowed Trust.

Thursday, February 16th, 2023 7:30pm to 8:30pm 500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607



The Metropolitan Opera

The Met has announced its season for Live in HD transmissions. The dates for these are as listed in This Month and below. **Essays on the opera appear in Viva Voce in appropriate months.**

For theater directions, see metopera.org, click menu icon in upper left corner, click 'Season', click 'In cinemas', click 'Find theater.'

March 18

Lohengrin, Richard Wagner

In a sequel to his revelatory production of *Parsifal*, director François Girard unveils an atmospheric staging that once again weds his striking visual style and keen dramatic insight to Wagner's music, with Music Director Yannick Nezet-Seguin on the podium. Tenor Piotr Beczała sings the title role of the mysterious swan knight, soprano Tamara Wilson is the virtuous duchess Elsa, and soprano Christine Goerke is the cunning sorceress Ortrud. Bass-baritone Evgeny Nikitin is Ortrud's power-hungry husband, Telramund, and bass Günther Groissböck is King Heinrich.

April 1

Falstaff, Giuseppe Verdi

Baritone Michael Volle stars as the caddish knight Falstaff, gleefully tormented by a trio of clever women who deliver his comeuppance in Verdi's glorious Shakespearean comedy. Maestro Daniele Rustioni takes the podium with an ensemble cast that features sopranos Hera Hyesang Park, Ailyn Perez, and Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano Marie-Nicole Lemieux, tenor Bogdan Volkov, and baritone Christopher Maltman.

April 15

Der Rosenkavalier, Richard Strauss

A dream cast assembles for Strauss's grand Viennese comedy. Soprano Lise Davidsen is the aging Marschallin, opposite mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as her lover Octavian and soprano Erin Morley as Sophie, the beautiful younger woman who steals his heart. Bass Günther Groissböck returns as the churlish Baron Ochs, and Markus Brück is Sophie's wealthy father, Faninal. Maestro Simone Young takes the Met podium and it's Robert Carsen's fin-de-siècle staging.

April 29

Champion, Terence Blanchard, libretto Michael Cristofer

Grammy Award—winning composer Terence Blanchard brings his first opera to the Met after his *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* premiered with the company to universal acclaim in 2021–22. Bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green is the young boxer Emile Griffith, who rises from obscurity to become a world champion, and bass-baritone Eric Owens portrays Griffith's older self, haunted by the ghosts of his past. Soprano Latonia Moore is Emelda Griffith, the boxer's estranged mother, and mezzo- soprano Stephanie Blythe is the bar owner Kathy Hagan. Yannick Nezet-Seguin takes the podium for Blanchard's second Met premiere, also reuniting the director-and-choreographer team of James Robinson and Camille A. Brown.

May 20

Don Giovanni, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Tony Award—winning director Ivo van Hove makes a major Met debut with a new take on Mozart's tragicomedy, re-setting the familiar tale of deceit and damnation in an abstract architectural landscape and shining a light into the dark corners of the story and its characters. Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann makes her Met debut conducting a star-studded cast led by baritone Peter Mattei as a magnetic Don Giovanni, alongside the Leporello of bass-baritone Adam Plachetka. Sopranos Federica Lombardi, Ana Maria Martinez, and Ying Fang make a superlative trio as Giovanni's conquests—Donna Anna, Donna Elvira, and Zerlina—and tenor Ben Bliss is Don Ottavio.

June 3

Die Zauberflote, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

One of opera's most beloved works receives its first new Met staging in 19 years—a daring vision by renowned English director Simon McBurney that *The Wall Street Journal* declared "the best production I've ever witnessed of Mozart's opera." Nathalie Stutzmann conducts the Met Orchestra, with the pit raised to make the musicians visible to the audience and allow interaction with the cast. McBurney incorporates projections, sound effects, and acrobatics to match the spectacle and drama of Mozart's fable. Soprano Erin Morley is Pamina, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, Tamino, baritone Thomas Oliemans in his Met debut as Papageno, soprano Kathryn Lewek as the Queen of the Night, and bass Stephen Milling as Sarastro.



Rising Stars | Distinguished Judges | An Event Like No Other

Join us as young artists perform thrilling renditions of the most moving classics of opera, art song, and oratorio.

Click here to view the event aired on May 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET.



2022 Lotte Lenya Competition Finals

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC



<u>Here's the link</u> to the page on the Weill Foundation site that includes access to the video of the entire final round competition as well as a set of excellent videos of Lenya Competition alumni performing while the judges deliberated.

This year's competition dates:

Semifinals

16, 17 March 2023 New York, New York USA

Finals

29 April 2023 The Eastman School of Music Rochester, New York USA



A series of events celebrating 25 years of the Lenya Competition and its ESM alumni

Saturday 29 April, Kilbourn Hall

10:30 am: In conversation: past ESM winners

11:30 am: Other perspectives: past and present judges

1:00-4:30 pm: Final round of the 2023 Lenya Competition

8:00 pm: 25th Anniversary Gala Alumni Concert and Awards Presentation for 2023 Finals

Sunday 30 April, Annex 804

Wholly Weill: Scenes from his European and American Stage Works Exhibits of LLC highlights and Kurt Weill manuscripts all month

ESM alums/LLC winners on stage



Analisa Leaming, The King and I (Lincoln Center Theater)



Jonathan Michie, Die Zauberflöte (LA Opera)



Natalie Ballenger, South Pacific (Theater Under the Stars)

All events open to the public and free of charge.

Visit kwf.org/LLC for more information and updates.

The Lenya Competition is a program of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

Online Opera Education for Young and Old

The Metropolitan Opera has many resources for both adults and students. If you haven't explored them already, go to the main menu at metopera.org and click on 'discover.' This leads to another menu of all kinds of educational features from podcasts and articles to more formal educational materials for students.

From Chatauqua Opera, at chq.org/opera-video-index, you will find a listing of all the features that were part of the 9-week summer video opera events, which are archived on the website's Virtual Front Porch platform. These include conversations with artists, vocal events, master classes, the Opera Song Cycle, new compositions, and more.

San Francisco Opera has a great education site for youngsters with materials that can be used in the home as well as by educators. sfopera.com/discover-opera/education

Los Angeles Opera has programs for both adults and children at laopera.org/community

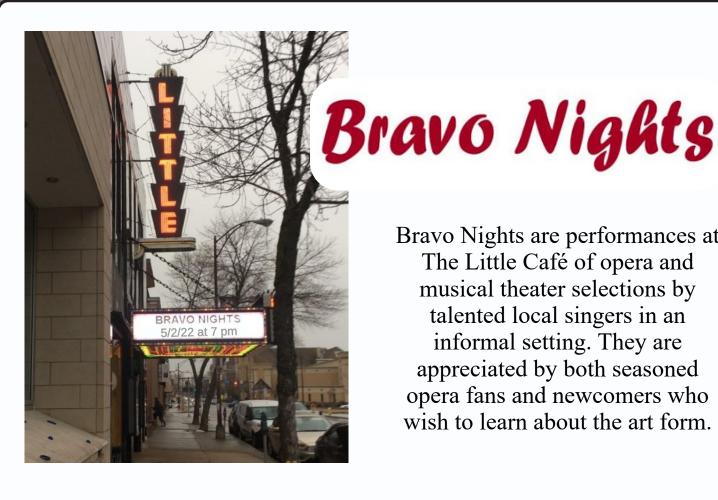
Utah Opera at https://utahopera.org/education/students/ also has good student materials.

From Arizona Opera, at https://azopera.org/education-community/opera-home-virtual-learning-tools, videos for middle school and older students with introductions to four operas. Although produced for Arizona Opera presentations, they are suitable as general references.

Many opera companies have such sites; you can search "virtual opera education" for more.



OPERA CLOAK OF THE NEW MATERIAL.



Bravo Nights are performances at The Little Café of opera and musical theater selections by talented local singers in an informal setting. They are appreciated by both seasoned opera fans and newcomers who wish to learn about the art form.

Please note new times –

Performances are 6:30-8 pm

Monday, February 13, Love Songs Tuesday, April 24, watch here for further info.

Bravo Nights take place at The Little Café, which is located in the Little Theatre at 240 East Avenue. Refreshments may be purchased there.





The Classical Clarinet

Chamber music of the Classical era for Clarinet and strings, including Mozart's beloved Clarinet Quintet K. 581.

Saturday April 29, 2023, 7:30 pm

Episcopal Church of St. Luke & St. Simon

Cyrene (Two Saints Church)

17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester



Dominic Giardino, clarinet Cynthia Roberts, violin Boel Gidholm, violin Christopher Haritatos, cello









UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

Tickets sold through the Eastman Theatre Box Office

433 East Main Street 585-274-3000

Pre-performance talks will take place one hour before each performance.

Please check the ESM website for additional information.

Alcina (1735)*

Music by George Frideric Handel Libretto from the opera L'isola di Alcina January 28 at 7:30 p.m. January 29 at 2:00 p.m. February 2, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m. 710 Annex

FEO Voice Competition

February 17 at 8:00 p.m. Kilbourn Hall

Florencia en el Amazonas (1996)

Music by Daniel Catán Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain March 30, 31 & April 1 at 7:30 p.m. April 2 at 2:00 p.m. Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra



Rigoletto

May 18 & 20

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will be presenting a concert version of *Rigoletto* as part of their 2022-2023 season.

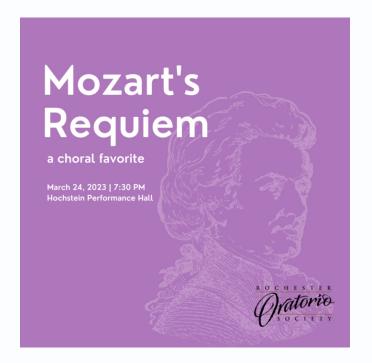






Mozart's Requiem

Friday, March 24, 2023 | 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |



Special Events and Appearances

Mahler's "Resurrection" with the RPO

Thursday, June 1, 2023 – Saturday, June 3, 2023 | 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm |

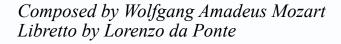
The Rochester Oratorio Society joins the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for Mahler's "Resurrection" conducted by Andreas Delfs.

Live Encore Broadcasts, see website, rossings.org











April 30, 2023, at 3 pm

About 3 hours thirty minutes with one intermission

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

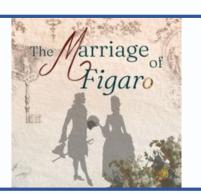
The Oncenter Crouse-Hinds Theater, 760 S. State St., Syracuse, NY 13202

Mozart's masterpiece, coming to you in grand style with glorious costumes and sets! Another timeless story of betrayal, forgiveness and the vagaries of the human condition, the human heart and soul.



Tri-Cities Opera is presenting the same program as Syracuse Opera, except that *The Marriage of Figaro* will be presented one week earlier – on April 23.

Sun 4/23/2023 3:00 PM The Forum Theatre



See <u>tricitiesopera.com</u> for times, locations and tickets.







Pegasus Early Music 18th season 2022-2023

Rameau's Pieces de Clavecin en Concert: February 5, 2023

Exquisite yet earthy French music! Robert Mealy, violin; Belilang Zhu, gamba; Leon Schelhase, harpsichord.

Dit de la Harpe: March 12, 2023

Visions of medieval women, led by Christa Patton, harp

Marcella/Marcello: April 16, 2023

Cantatas and instrumental music by Benedetto Marcello and his wife Rosana Scalfi Marcello, and a fascinating story!

All concerts at 4:00pm,

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester

www.pegasusearlymusic.org







The Marriage of Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

JANUARY 27, 29, FEBRUARY 2, 4, 10, 12, 16, AND 18, 2023

Macheth

Giuseppe Verdi

APRIL 28, 30, MAY 6, 12, 14, 17, AND 20, 2023

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Performance time is approximately three hours and 30 minutes, including one 25-minute intermission

Key Change
Explore the COC's new podcast, offering a fresh take on today's opera issues. All 16 episodes available now!

Connecting artists and audiences through a COC first: free digital streaming, from coast to coast to coast. Captured at the magnificent Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, enjoy new releases of purposeproduced concerts and performances every month with extraordinary Canadian and international artists.

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SIGN UP

From the home page menu at coc.ca, choose "21-22 season." Scroll down to "DIGITAL OFFERINGS" and click on "WATCH NOW." There are 9 or more concerts and operas streaming to choose from.

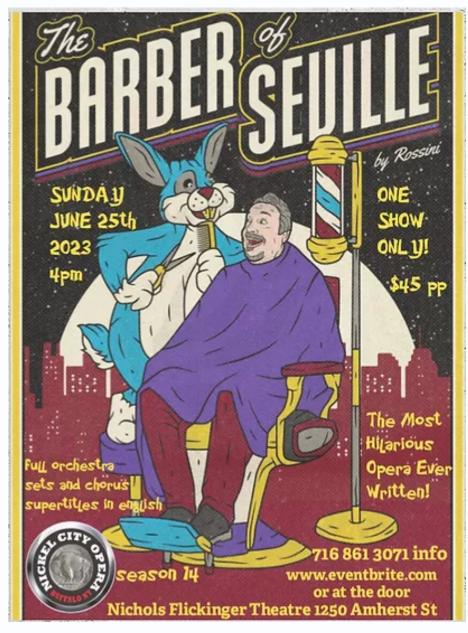






The Barber of Seville
June 25th, 2023

Tickets on sale soon!





Behind the Scenes : Elizabeth Long

Working Wizardry

Elizabeth Long is the Executive Director of Finger Lakes Opera, a company that was founded in 2012 through support from SUNY Geneseo and its college community where

Gerard Floriano, its Artistic Director, is a professor of voice. She was hired to be the first professional staff in 2019, thanks to a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts through a workforce development program and part of the company's transition to a free-

standing entity, and has been its organizational mainstay since that

time. With her assistance, the company has established itself as a major presence in the region, giving mainstage productions in the summer, developing a fine Young Artist program, recitals, concerts, outreach to schools, and collaboration with other community organizations both in Rochester and Canandaigua. This included a great deal of digital programming and an outdoor production of *The Barber of Seville* during the pandemic, both formidable achievements. She is a very busy lady.

Elizabeth was born and raised in Emporia, Kansas, the youngest of three sisters. The older girls took violin and Elizabeth followed at age five, under the Suzuki method, which led to her mother being involved daily in her studies for many years. She added piano at

six, and eventually became a violin performance major at Northwestern University. Unsure that she wanted to pursue a performance career, by junior year she was involved in art administration and found that she liked it. Her undergraduate

advisor was Thomas Willis, music critic for the *Chicago Tribune*,

who helped her secure internships with the Chicago Chamber Musicians and the Chicago Chamber Orchestra. During her senior year, she had an interview with the Public Relations Director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, who

admired her resume, but advised her to pursue a graduate degree. This she did, at the Cincinnati Conservatory, during which she had internships at both the Cincinnati and Atlanta Symphonies. On attaining her master's degree, her first job was marketing and public relations with the Delaware Symphony. She was one of seven selected to be a fellow with the American Symphony Orchestra League, but, eminently practical, passed it up for job experience in Delaware. She met her husband, Curt Long, while working there and ultimately moved to Ohio upon getting engaged. At the time, Curt was the President/CEO of the Dayton Philharmonic and she secured a job as executive director with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (just 45 minutes up I-70 from Dayton.)

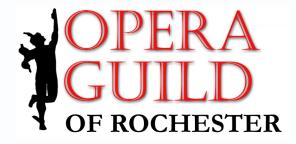
Elizabeth served as the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's executive director for five years.. As Elizabeth puts it in her downto-earth way, "I realized that I liked fundraising more than marketing. To me getting butts in seats is harder than asking for donations." When she and Curt started their family, however, her long commute was at least part of the reason she opted to become a stay-at-home mother to their eventual family of three children.

She has wonderful memories of Dayton, but then Curt was approached by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra where he became the President/CEO for 9 years. The energetic Elizabeth did not remain on the sidelines when their youngest entered grade school in Alabama. She was active in the PTA, became a group fitness instructor (try keeping up with her on walks) and also a grant-writer for the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. She moved on to work for Main Street Alabama, an organization focused on bringing jobs, dollars and people back to Alabama's historic communities. Elizabeth obviously knows how to deploy her talents in many contexts.

Fast forward now to 2017, when Elizabeth and Curt arrived in Rochester, he to become the President/CEO of the RPO. (See article on Curt Long and navigating the pandemic's challenges with the orchestra in the newsletter archive, May, 2021.) In 2019, Elizabeth was hired by FLO and her responsibilities have grown by leaps and bounds as she is involved in almost every aspect of the company's development. She has continually advocated in her skillful way for more programs, better organization, better staffing, better relations with musicians and backstage personnel, better everything.

Her conflict resolution skills are formidable, her approach always being to find common ground and appreciate everyone's contribution. With an appetite for on-the-job training, one of her challenges was becoming familiar with the production side of opera creation. Her dedication to her work is deservedly appreciated by her colleagues, who gave *her* the biggest applause at the 10th Anniversary Gala Celebration last year. May our music community long enjoy the contributions of Finger Lakes Opera, and Elizabeth Long's commitment to excellence, diversity, outreach, and, not least to this grandmother, children's opera!

Carol Crocca



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