

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
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 www.glimmerglassguild.org

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

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Member of



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy spring, everyone!

Along with the stirrings of new plant and animal life, we can also celebrate the increasing Glimmerglass Festival activity. Work is starting to speed up that will culminate in the much-anticipated opening of the 2016 Festival. This is also the beginning of the Guild's busiest time as you can see throughout this newsletter. There are many dates to mark on your calendars and opportunities to consider for volunteering. I hope you will decide to actively participate in the Guild's many programs in support of The Glimmerglass Festival.

As you mark your calendars for Guild events outlined in this newsletter, you will see the dates for the Talking Opera series. This year is the fifteenth season that we have offered this series to deepen understanding and appreciation of the season's upcoming productions. It seems to me that each year these presentations get better and better, with a corresponding increase in audience size. Educational programs like these are such an important part of our mission and reaching the fifteen-year milestone is a wonderful accomplishment.

In addition to the Talking Opera series, the Guild is continuing to offer presentations in conjunction with selected high-definition simulcasts of the Metropolitan Opera performances at Oneonta's Foothills Performing Art Center, as well as programs to encourage students at local high schools and colleges to learn more about Glimmerglass productions.

Educational programs are just one of the reasons we enjoy membership in the Guild. Speaking of membership, I have been so pleased at the response to our recent membership renewal campaign. Thank you to everyone who returned their renewals so quickly. Last year almost 95% of our members renewed their membership from the prior year—an amazing response rate! That rate will be very hard to beat, but let's try! If you haven't sent in your renewal, please mail it today. And this would be a great time to tell your friends about Guild membership, so that they, too, can enjoy the upcoming season!

Best wishes to you all.
 JANET

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Irene Fickbohm
 Marion S. King
 Barbara Pope
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Turner

A SPRINGFIELD APPRECIATION CONCERT

See page 4 for details on the July 2 Thank-you-Springfield concert for its continuing support of The Glimmerglass Festival.

THE THIEVING MAGPIE

The third production in the 2016 Glimmerglass Festival is Gioachino Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie*, its Italian title *La gazza ladra*. It opens on Saturday, July 16, and will have eight performances through Thursday, August 25.

The Thieving Magpie had its successful premiere on May 31, 1817, at La Scala in Milan, just a few months after the premiere, also a success, of *La Cenerentola* in Rome. Rossini was a mighty fast worker. Rossini based his opera on a French work, *La pie voleuse*, and Giovanni Gherardini prepared the libretto. Essentially a comic work, this opera has dark overtones as well as a last minute rescue of the heroine.

Ninetta, a servant girl in the household of Fernando Villabella, is in love with Giannetto, her master's son. He has just returned home from military service. Gottardo, the mayor, also romances Ninetta, but she rebuffs him. As a complicating element, Ninetta's father, Fernando, arrives; but he is a fugitive from the law and under sentence of death. So Ninetta hides him. To complicate matters further, a silver spoon is discovered missing.

Ninetta is accused of the theft, is tried and convicted, and sentenced to death. In the concluding scene, as

she is led to the scaffold, another servant and the jailer come running in. They have found the missing spoon where the thieving magpie has stashed it. To end on a completely happy note, an order from the king arrives with a pardon for Fernando. The curtain falls with Ninetta and Giannetto blessed for marriage.

Rachele Gilmore, a former YAP (2004, 2005), and last seen at Glimmerglass as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne in Naxos* (2014), assumes the role of Ninetta. Michele Angelini plays her lover, Giannetto; Dale Travis plays his father, Fernando Villabella; and Musa Ngqungwana is the mayor, Gottardo. Music Director Joseph Colaneri is conductor, and Peter Kazaras is director. The opera will be sung in Italian, with English language projected titles.



But, wait, there's more! The Glimmerglass Festival audience in 2016 will have another opportunity to enjoy Rossini. As part of its Lounge series in the Pavilion, Glimmerglass will present a Rossini one-act opera, *Lost Luggage* (Italian title: *L'occasione fa il ladro*, i.e., *Opportunity Makes a Thief*). This is a complicated farce involving mixed-up luggage and assumed identities. There will be three performances, July 29 and August 19 at 4:30 pm, and August 16 at 5:00 pm.

VOLUNTEERING

(continued from page 1)

• Changeover meals

Help prepare and serve meals on those days (Saturdays in August) when there are two performances and company staff have little time for a meal. Call Fran Bliven to find out how you can help (607-432-1825; fbliven@stny.rr.com).

• Ushering

Ushering at the Festival is not a Guild function, but under the direction of House Manager Ernie Adams. Many Guild members serve as ushers. If you have not ushered in the past and would like the opportunity to greet the audience and make them feel at home, contact Ernie (eadams@glimmerglass.org).

TALKING OPERA

(continued from page 1)

June 13. *The Thieving Magpie*: Maestro Colaneri and Director Peter Kazaras will discuss Rossini's opera and the Festival production. This program will be held in the Fenimore Art Museum's auditorium. Following the program, audience members may view the Museum's Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in Bohemian Paris exhibition which includes *La bohème* costumes from the Metropolitan Opera.

July 11. *Wilde Tales*: Kelley Rourke, writer, dramaturg, librettist, including last season's *Odyssey*, will discuss this season's youth opera, *Wilde Tales*, which premieres on August 9. The program will be in the Pavilion on the Festival campus.

ABBY KREH GIBSON
CHAIR, EDUCATION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SPRINGFIELD APPRECIATION CONCERT

The Glimmerglass Festival will once again give a concert in the Alice Busch Opera Theater in appreciation of Springfield's continuous support of the Festival, at 3:00 pm, Saturday, July 2. The one-hour program is a preview of the 2016 Festival productions. Money raised goes directly to the Town of Springfield Fourth of July Parade and Celebration.

This concert is an opportunity for anyone to have a glimpse of the Festival at a cost of \$5.00. Tickets can be picked up at Country Memories, 7683 State Highway 80, Springfield Center, or by calling or emailing Ernie Adams at 315-858-2691 or CtryMem@aol.com. Guild members are encouraged to help us have a sold-out concert.

ABBY KREH GIBSON, Vice President

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The company has invited members of the Guild to join CCAL participants in a series of programs on each of the mainstage productions in the 2016 Festival. The programs will be held on the back porch of the Woodcock Administration Building on the Festival campus, beginning at 11:15 am. There will be a presentation on the music from 11:15-11:45 am, followed by a speaker from 12:00 noon – 12:45 pm. The dates:

Monday, June 20: *La bohème*

Tuesday, June 21: *Sweeney Todd*

Thursday, June 30: *The Thieving Magpie*

Wednesday, July 13: *The Crucible*

GUILD GALA AND SILENT AUCTION

Please mark your calendar for this special Guild event. Members will receive an invitation and further information shortly.

Guild Gala and Silent Auction,
Tuesday, August 9, beginning at 6:00 pm.

For details on the Gala contact Dennis Banks (607-432-5652; dennis.banks@oneonta.edu). To add your special contribution to the Silent Auction, contact Carol Steigelman (607-353-0016; cjsteigelman@hotmail.com).

A DAY AT THE OPERA

Students from the surrounding area will be on campus Sunday, July 17 for "A Day at the Opera." Following a morning program by a Glimmerglass Festival artist involved in the production, the students will be given an exclusive backstage tour, a private preview of the opera and attend the matinee performance of *La bohème*.

ABBY KREH GIBSON

THE GUILD OF
Glimmerglass
FESTIVAL 

News & Notes

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CONSIDERING THE CRUCIBLE

Two additional programs this summer will help illuminate Arthur Miller's play and Robert Ward's opera, *The Crucible*.

On the mainstage, Saturday, July 23, at 4:00 pm, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, attorney Faith Gay, and guests will pursue a discussion of the Salem witch trials, the "Red Scare" that inspired the Miller play, and other "trial by fire" moments in American history.

This seminar will include an in-depth history of the Salem trials, a mock debate for and against the witches, and performances of works by artists whose work has come under fire.

At The Otesaga on Saturday, August 13, at 10:00 am, Jeffrey Toobin, senior legal analyst for CNN and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, will join special guests to discuss "witch trials" in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Purchase tickets for these two events at the company ticket office.