



Newsletter November/December 2008

# ELGIN O·P·E·R·A

## **ELGIN OPERA PRESENTS A TASTE OF ITALY**

Elgin OPERA is announcing its production of *A Taste of Italy*. Without a doubt, this gala concert will be a beautiful production with an emphasis on capturing the essence of Italy through the works of famous Italian composers.

The New Millennium Orchestra (45-50 piece) along with Elgin OPERA Chorus (40 members) and six professional lead singers will perform excerpts from "Tosca", "Turandot", "Il Barbiere di Siviglia", "Lucia di Lammermoor", "Elisir d'Amore", "Don Pasquale", "Otello", "La Forza del Destino", "Rigoletto", "Manon Lescaut", "Cavalleria Rusticana", "La Traviata", "Nabucco" and Neapolitan Songs under the direction of Maestro Francesco Milioto.

In celebration of all things Italian, Elgin OPERA would also like to highlight various Italian businesses and companies from the Fox Valley and Chicagoland areas. Booths and tables with displays and food samples from these businesses will be featured in the foyer preceding the performance and

### **Do You Hear What I Hear?**

#### **The Festival of Singers Return to Villa Verone!**

O Come, All Ye Faithful to hear the Festival of Singers at Villa Verone Ristorante Italiano in downtown Elgin; 13 Douglas Ave. From 6:00 – 8:00pm every Sunday in December, singers will bring *Joy To The World* with an array of vocal selections for your listening pleasure.

*Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* as you indulge in authentic Italian cuisine offered by longtime restaurateur, Pietro Verone. *The Angels* (of EO) *We Have Heard on High* will perform selections from Broadway to Italian songs and famous opera arias. Holiday carols may even be heard during the not so *Silent Night*. The angelic voices include contestants and winners of Elgin OPERA's Second Vocal Competition in addition to members of the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble and guest artists.

So *Let It Snow* and come *Jingle your Bells* at Villa Verone in the not so *Little Town* of Elgin during the month of December. Entertainment is free of charge to patrons of the restaurant. Reservations are not required but are recommended. Please call Villa Verone at 847-742-0263. [www.villaverone.net](http://www.villaverone.net).

during the intermission.

Elgin OPERA is very proud of its very unique Training Ensemble. For years the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble has been working with the youngest generation, offering them vocal training and opportunities to perform in front of a live audience. The talent and professionalism of these young soloists (8 -15 years old) will amaze you as they perform Italian songs and arias for your enjoyment in the foyer of the Hemmens Cultural Center prior to the main performance and during the intermission.

*A Taste of Italy* will be held Saturday, January 31, 2009, at 8:00 PM at the Hemmens Cultural Center. Tickets prices range from \$20 - \$40 for adults, \$15 - \$35 for seniors and students. A 10% discount is offered for groups of 10 or more.

Elgin OPERA's production of *A Taste of Italy* will truly capture the essence of Italy in a setting enjoyable for the whole family. To be a part of this elite experience, contact the Hemmens Cultural Center box office at 847-931-5900.

### **Elgin OPERA Coffee and Tea Makes a Great Gift!**

The season of giving is upon us. Hot, delicious coffee and tea make great gifts for family, friends, neighbors, teachers, hairdressers, co-workers, mail carriers – absolutely everyone! Don't forget yourself!

Elgin OPERA gets its coffees and teas from Conscious Cup Roastery and Café in Crystal Lake, IL. They are an independently owned and operated café specializing in fair trade and organic coffees.

Available coffee blends are the **Encore Blend** – a delicious light roast created just for Elgin OPERA, the **Sumatra Mandheling** – a full bodied dark roast with chocolate tones and an earthy finish, and the **Mexican Decaf** – has all the body and flavor of a regular coffee without leaving you wanting! The **Numi Tea Box** is filled with an assortment of 6 Numi teas.

All coffees are available for immediate purchase in either whole bean or ground. The 1lb bag of your favorite blend is just \$15. The half pound bag is available for \$10 as well as the tea box. Money raised from the coffee/tea sales allows Elgin OPERA to continue the high quality performances that Elgin OPERA is known for.

And purchasing coffee and tea is a piece of cake (coffee goes great with cake!). Just call Meghan Smeenge with Elgin OPERA at 847-741-1184. Know that with every gift of coffee and tea and with every sip of these delicious products, you are supporting Elgin OPERA.



**Solange Sior**, *Artistic Director*  
**New Address:**  
**350 Park St**  
**The Rider Center Rm207**  
**Elgin, IL 60120**

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**E-Mail:**  
**office@elginopera.org**

*The Opera Company  
Serving Elgin, Illinois  
and the Fox Valley*

*A resident Artist  
Program with offices  
and performances on  
the campus of Elgin  
Academy*

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
**www.elginopera.org**

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### **Thanksgiving!**

Elgin OPERA would like to express its gratitude to the City of Elgin, the Florence B. & Cornelia A. Palmer Trust, the Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Grand Victoria Foundation, Elgin Academy, Judson University, Villa Verone, the Suburban Women's Health Specialists, Dr. Brad Epstein, Dr. Dorothea Poulos, Dr. John Cooper, Mayor Ed Shock, Lois and Jim Bauer, James A. and Barbara J. Bellini, Norman V. McCabe, Nasir J. Ahmad M.D., all the members of the OPERA Guild and the board members of Elgin OPERA for their support as well as all the private donors and people involved with our benefit event.

We are also very grateful to Andrew A. Knox, CPA; Jennifer Bellini J.D., Grant

### **Become a member of the hottest growing organization in the area.**

#### **Join the Elgin OPERA Guild!**

The mission of the Elgin OPERA Guild is to offer volunteer and financial support to Elgin OPERA so it can continue to create and nourish a greater appreciation of the classical vocal arts, and to educate through professional performances and outreach programs.

By joining the OPERA Guild, not only are you joining the latest and greatest new organization, your financial contribution goes to support such wonderful events as the Festival of Singers and A Taste of Italy. Without magnificent people like *you*, Elgin OPERA would not be able to continue the high quality of performance they are known for.

If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a member of the Elgin OPERA Guild. A membership would also make a great gift for the music lovers in your life!

Meghan Smeenge

***Become an Elgin OPERA Guild member and receive a free drink at Villa Verone as our way of saying "thank you"!***

Writer; Suzanne Scherr Steger, Marketing Consultant; Dr. Patrick T. Alden, Professor of Business Administration; Professor Keith Jenkins, Information Technology Systems, and our nine Interns from Judson University (Brittany Albers, Jacob Bostwick, Benjamin Fischer, Brant Kaufman, Matthew Kistler, Nina Lopez, Sandy Orozco, Matthew Rousar, and Jennifer Taylor) for their time and expertise.

A very special thank you to e3 design group for its promotional graphic design services, and to John Patton for creating our website.

Elgin OPERA would not be what it is today without you. Your contribution makes it possible for Elgin Opera to grow and strengthen our involvement in the community. It is through donations such as yours that we are able to make the dreams of so many people interested in the arts into a reality.

Solange Sior, Artistic Director

### **It's Holiday Party Time!**

Tired of turkey? Got those day after Christmas blues? Continue the joy of the season a little longer and join Elgin OPERA at its Annual Holiday Party to be held on Friday, December 26, 2008 at 6:00pm at Villa Verone Ristorante Italiano, 13 Douglas Ave in Elgin. \$20 per person (**\$15 for Guild members, donors over \$500 are invited at no charge**) will get you a delicious Italian buffet and great entertainment provided by the singers of Elgin OPERA accompanied by Chiayi Lee. A cash bar will be available. Tax and tip are included in the ticket price. Come join the fun!

Call Elgin OPERA by December 19, 2008 at 847-214-8340 or 847-695-5014 to make your reservations.

