

Elgin OPERA Newsletter

Summer 2009

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Visit us on the web at
www.elginopera.org
<http://elginopera.wordpress.com/>

ELGIN OPERA THIRD ANNUAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Come and listen to the Finalists of Elgin OPERA's Third Annual Vocal Competition!

Saturday, June 27 at 1:00 PM, finalists in Divisions I & II (singers under 18 years old) and Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 PM, finalists in Divisions III & IV (19 years and older) will compete for cash prizes and scholarships to Elgin OPERA's First Music Festival.

The event will be held at the Elgin Art Showcase, Professional Building, 164 Division Street in Elgin and will include a catered buffet.

You must reserve by June 23. Reserved Admission \$25.00

Price includes general admission & catered buffet. Discounted price for Elgin OPERA Guild Members \$15.00
 Contact the Office for reservations at 847-695-5014.

Want to hear more?

Semi-Finals will be held at the Kimball Street Theatre on June 13 & 14. Saturday at 1:00 PM, singers in Divisions I & II will compete. Sunday, Divisions III & IV will start at 2:00 PM. General Admission \$15.00 at the door.

Kimball Street Theatre is lo-

cated inside the New Rider Center, 261 Dundee Avenue on the Campus of Elgin Academy.

Elgin OPERA Vocal Competition attracts singers from multiple states as well as the Fox Valley area. The level is very competitive and promises to be a great event!

Four judges will evaluate the singers and give them constructive criticism. Elgin OPERA is very honored to welcome Philip Morehead (Head of Music Staff of Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists) as one of the judges.

This event is made possible by the Palmer Foundation, Elgin Academy, the Illinois Arts Council, the Grand Victoria Foundation, Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation, E3 Design Group, Elgin Opera Guild, the board of Elgin OPERA, and Elgin OPERA's generous sponsors.

For more information contact Elgin OPERA at 847-695-5014 or office@elginopera.org.



ELGIN OPERA T-SHIRTS

Elgin OPERA long sleeve T-shirts are still available. Only \$18 to be the picture of style with Elgin Opera. Contact the office for more information. Additional Elgin OPERA merchandise, including a variety of t-shirt styles, bumper stickers and much more are available at www.cafepress.com/elginopera.

ELGIN OPERA MUSIC FESTIVAL 2009

Elgin OPERA launches its First Annual Community Outreach Music Festival— June & July 2009—

MASTER CLASSES

Finalists in Elgin OPERA's Third Vocal Competition and participants in the Music Festival will sing at Master Classes with Maestro Giulio Favario (former Associate Conductor and Chorus Master at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and former Principal Coach at the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists); Philip Morehead (Pianist and Conductor, Head of Music Staff of Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists and former Chorus Master); and Solange Sior (Founder & Artistic Director of Elgin OPERA)

These events are open to the general public and will be held at the Kimball Street Theatre located in the New Rider Center, 261 Dundee Avenue on the campus of Elgin Academy. Audience General Admission \$10.00 at the door (no pre-sale).

French Diction & Master Classes with Solange Sior

Tuesday, June 30 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM
Tuesday, July 7 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM
Tuesday, July 14 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM

Spotlight on Vocal Health with Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellow

Class on vocal hygiene & good health practices
Monday, July 6 from 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Master Classes with Maestro Philip Morehead

Wednesday, July 1 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM
Wednesday, July 8 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM
Saturday, July 11 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Master Classes with Maestro Giulio Favario

Sunday, July 12 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM
Saturday, July 18 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

MUSIC FESTIVAL PRODUCTIONS

Come and enjoy a wide variety of music this summer from the most popular Broadway excerpts to an evening of comedy to the Best Loved Opera Scenes. Come and hear the winners of the Vocal Competition, members of Elgin OPERA and professional singers.

Broadway Night! Excerpts from your Favorite Broadway Shows

Friday, July 10 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, July 11 @ 8:00 PM

Comedy Tonight! A Collection of Parodies & Humorous Scenes from Various Genres *In Collaboration with Opera Moda*

Friday, July 17 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, July 18 @ 8:00 PM
Sunday, July 19 @ 3:00 PM

Opera in Concert

Highlights from your Favorite Operas!

Friday, July 24 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, July 25 @ 8:00 PM
Sunday, July 26 @ 3:00 PM

Best Loved Opera Scenes

Staged & Costumed Production

Directed by Mark James Meier

Friday, July 31 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, August 1 @ 8:00 PM

Order your tickets in advance!

Contact Elgin OPERA at 847-695-5014, office@elginopera.org or pay at the door. All Events will be held at the Kimball Street Theatre, in the New Rider Center, 261 Dundee Avenue, on the Campus of Elgin Academy, Adults \$18.00
Students & Senior \$15.00
Opera Guild Discount of 10 % on tickets.

This event is made possible by the Palmer Foundation, Elgin Academy, the Illinois Arts Council, the Grand Victoria Foundation, Barbara and Barre Seid Foundation, E3 Design Group, Elgin Opera Guild, the board of Elgin OPERA, and Elgin OPERA's generous sponsors.



JOIN ELGIN OPERA GUILD

Benefits of becoming a Guild Member include:

- Receive 10% discounts on our Shows and Master Classes this summer!
- Invitations to special gatherings and events
- Subscription to the quarterly newsletter
- Special discounts throughout the year
- Behind the scene participation
- Advance notice to upcoming events

SPONSORS OF THE MONTH: JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

June:

Meghan & Paul Smeenge

Multi-Month Donor

July:

Meghan & Paul Smeenge

Multi-Month Donor

August:

Dr. Dorothea Poulos

Multi-Month Donor

Elgin Family Physicians
915 Center St., Ste 3000, Elgin
2320 Royal Blvd., Ste D, Elgin
847-888-3661

EOTE ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: PAULA MRAZEK

Paula Mrazek would like to credit Elgin OPERA's Training Ensemble (EOTE) and Solange Sior as the "spark" in her singing career. Through consistent voice study with Ms. Sior and participation in the EOTE, Paula gathered courage to audition for other opera companies in the Chicagoland area. Describing the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble as a support network of other singers at all stages of development and as a family, it gave her the support she needed to further her singing career. With them, she has participated in fully staged operas including *Die Fledermaus*, *La Traviata*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Elixir of Love*. She has also enjoyed performing in outreach programs, Fox Fire Festival, and Villa Verone's *Festival of Singers*.

As a stay-at-home mom of two, Paula's fondest memory of Elgin Opera was the ability to share her love of opera with her children. She describes this when she says, "Being on stage in February 2008, singing chorus for *Elixir Of Love* with Elgin OPERA at the Hemmens Cultural Center was great, but what made it memorable to me was having both of my kids as supernumer

aries on stage with me through most of the opera. They actually got to be my 'onstage kids'! It was such a positive experience for both of them."

It is turning out to be a busy summer for this mezzo-soprano. In June 2009, Paula is singing the role of "The Sandman" in *Hansel and Gretel* with Chamber Opera Chicago. She is also excited to make her debut with daCorno Opera as "Siebel" in Gounod's *Faust* this August, with orchestra. She recently portrayed "Prince Orlofsky" (of *Die Fledermaus*) and "2nd Lady" (of *Die Zauberfloete*) in Elgin OPERA's staged production of *Love and Fairy Tales* in May 2009. She has also sung with Music By the Lake, Chamber Opera Chicago, Music On Stage, Norris Center Chorale and DuPage Opera Theater. She has performed the roles of "Kate" in *Pirates of Penzance*, "Kate Pinkerton" and "Cio-Cio San's Mother" in *Madama Butterfly*, and "Flora" in *La Traviata*. She covered the title role of "Carmen" with Chamber Opera Chicago and "Clothilde Lombaste" in *The New Moon*.

On another note, Paula is a member of the Lakeside Singers of Evanston, a 24-voice

professional ensemble that recently debuted at Ravinia Festival in August 2008 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, in an all-Broadway concert under the baton of Maestro Erich Kunzel. With performances this year for the ACDA Fall Conference 2008 at Northern Illinois University, Harris Theater in Chicago, the Raue Center in Crystal Lake, and the Metropolis Arts in Arlington Heights, this group is always fresh and exciting. She has also been an alto ringer and soloist for another group affiliated with George Williams University in Wisconsin, called Music By the Lake Singers. She recently performed with the trio she co-founded, DivaMammias, at the "One of a Kind Show" at the Chicago Merchandise Mart in December 2008. She will be joining the Tenors 3 as their guest artist for their concert at Schaumburg Town Square in June.

A longtime resident of Cary, Illinois, Paula is happiest when at home with her husband, Bruce, and her son and daughter, Kristian and Julia. She could not pursue this path of singing without the love and support of her family and parents.

A TASTE OF ITALY: DVD AVAILABLE

Did you miss Elgin OPERA's biggest event this year?

Elgin OPERA presented "A Taste of Italy" - An Opera Gala Concert at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin on January 31. Now you have the chance to own your own professional DVD of the performance. For the low cost of only \$25 you can bring home a piece of Elgin OPERA history. Maestro Francesco Milioto lead the New Millennium Orchestra (50 piece), the Elgin OPERA Chorus (40 members) and a dozen professional soloists in excerpts from "Tosca", "Turandot", "Il Barbiere di Siviglia", "Elisir d'Amore", "Otello", "La Forza del Destino", "Rigoletto", "La Traviata" and Neapolitan Songs.

The DVD excellently crafted by John Fleener, Videography Instructor of Elgin Academy, this delightful two-disc DVD is sure to delight both the eye and ear. The DVD is available exclusively for our valued patrons, sponsors and performers such as yourself

To reserve your copies, contact the office at 847-695-5014 or by email at 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**

Elgin OPERA Spring Newsletter

June 2009

Check out online reviews for Elgin OPERA:

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/geneva/entertainment/x185283926/Concert-to-deliver-Italian-opera-favorites>

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/print/?id=267182>

<http://www.oakparkjournal.com/2008/2009-Elgin-Opera-Gala-Jan-31-8pm.html>

We have joined the wonderful world of blogging. To follow the most up to date workings of Elgin OPERA visit us at: <http://elginopera.wordpress.com/>

www.elginopera.org

Visit us on the web at
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ELGIN OPERA COFFEE AND TEA MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

Need a little motivation to start your spring cleaning?

Caffeinate yourself with delicious coffee and tea from Elgin OPERA.

Available coffee blends are the **En-core 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 and tea box are available for \$10.

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.

