



TALKING OPERA 2017

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival's Talking Opera programs will once again offer the public, free of charge, exciting and special insights into the 2017 Glimmerglass Festival. Five programs will be held in May and June, each beginning at 7:00 pm. All, but *The Siege of Calais* program on May 31, will take place at Christ Church Parish Hall, 69 Fair Street in Cooperstown.

Monday, May 22. *Robin Hood*: Kelley Rourke, writer, dramaturg, librettist, including *Odyssey*, *Wilde Tales*, and *Robin Hood* will discuss this year's youth opera which premieres on August 8.

Wednesday, May 31. *The Siege of Calais*: Joseph Colaneri, Glimmerglass Festival's Music Director and conductor of this rarely performed Donizetti opera, will give a presentation in the auditorium of the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown.

Monday, June 5. *Oklahoma!*: Richard Johnson returns to share his love and expertise in musical theater with a program on this Rodgers and Hammerstein II classic.

Monday, June 12. *Porgy and Bess*: Kevin Miller, a Glimmerglass Festival principal coach/accompanist, will lead a program focusing on this great American opera.

Monday, June 19. *Xerxes*: Director Tazewell Thompson will be joined by countertenor John Holiday in his discussion of *Xerxes*, which he feels has "everything," including "important truths about our shared humanity."

ABBY KREH GIBSON, Chair
Education/Community Engagement Committee

VOLUNTEERING AT THE FESTIVAL

Add something special to your enjoyment of The Glimmerglass Festival. Participate in the numerous volunteer activities available. Have a question on what you'd like to do: just contact Martha Duke (478-808-6957; marthajo31201@yahoo.com).

Here are some examples:

- *Opening performance parties*

Call Chris McNaughton (607-547-2380; cgmcn@clarityconnect.com) to let her know how you can help at the parties following each opening performance.

- *Changeover meals*

Call Fran Bliven (607-432-1825; fbliven@stny.rr.com) to let her know when you can help prepare and serve meals on those Saturdays when there are two performances and company staff have limited time for a meal.

- *Ushering*

Ushering is not a Guild function, but many Guild members do serve as ushers. If you have not ushered and would like this new opportunity, contact House Manager Ernie Adams (607-547-0700, ext.265; eadams@glimmerglass.org).

EAT AND GREET

When: Saturday, July 1, 4:00 pm.

Where: The Pavilion

Be on hand to greet new and returning Glimmerglass Festival staffers at this year's Welcoming Reception. See page 3 for details.

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2017 GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL: JULY 7 – AUGUST 22, 2017

PORGY AND BESS

Gershwin/Heyward & Gershwin

OKLAHOMA!

Rodgers/Hammerstein II

XERXES

Handel/Minato & Stampiglia

THE SIEGE OF CALAIS

Donizetti/Cammarano

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



ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, July 6: Cooperstown Country Club Dinner
Tuesday, August 8: Guild Gala and Silent Auction,
Otesaga Resort Hotel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Guild Members,

I know many of you are experiencing the joys of spring, with warmer weather and lots of new life in both the animal and plant worlds. For Guild members, spring is also special because it is the time for increased activity at The Glimmerglass Festival, with the promise of another exciting summer. Spring begins our busiest time of year, as evidenced throughout this newsletter. There are many dates to mark on your calendars and opportunities to consider for volunteering.

Speaking of dates to look forward to, plan to attend as many of the Talking Opera programs as you can. For me, these always excellent programs serve to whet my appetite for the coming Festival as they deepen understanding and appreciation of the year's upcoming productions. Educational programs like these are such an important part of our mission. They offer a great opportunity for you to invite your friends and ask them to join our Guild when they find the program interesting and enjoyable!

Throughout the Festival, the Guild will be an active participant in many Festival activities, most visibly perhaps in our role as hosts of the annual Eat & Greet, opening performance celebrations, and changeover meals. Volunteering in these and other Guild activities is a big part of why you are Guild members, so I urge you to take full advantage of all the ways you can make a difference, helping the Glimmerglass Festival succeed and prosper. You'll be glad you did.

We are currently winding down the membership renewal process. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who returned your membership renewals so quickly. A special thank you to those who sent a gift, in addition to your dues, to support the Guild and the Festival. If you haven't sent in your renewal, it's not too late; please mail it today.

Best wishes to you all,
JANET

OVI AWARD TO DENNIS BANKS

We are pleased to announce Opera Volunteers International (OVI) has awarded its 2017 Partners in Excellence award to Guild member Dennis Banks. Dennis is a current Board member and serves on the Education and Hospitality Committees. During the last 20 years he has been the OVI Representative and President of the Guild for two separate terms. Congratulations, Dennis!

XERXES

George Frideric Handel's magnificent *Xerxes* premiered in London in 1738. The opera's involved plot is based very loosely on episodes in the life of Persia's Xerxes I. Xerxes loves Romilda. Romilda is in love with, and is loved by, Xerxes' brother Arsamene. Xerxes rids himself of a rival by banishing his brother. Meanwhile, Romilda's sister Atalanta, who also loves Arsamene, claims that it is she whom Arsamene truly loves. Enter a host of other characters including Xerxes' fiancée Amastre (disguised as a man), and the plot proceeds as intrigue, treachery, and questioned fidelities abound.

Handel composed *Xerxes* near the end of his opera-writing career. Before *Xerxes*, the composer adhered to a rather strict compositional formula – bravura da capo arias separated by recitatives gave leading singers ample opportunity to display their dazzling techniques, placing them front and center in performances. With *Xerxes*, Handel relaxed this practice, creating a more seamless compositional transition with less emphasis on vocal fireworks and more attention to character.

This year's production of *Xerxes* reunites several Glimmerglass alumni who brought us Vivaldi's *Cato in Utica* in 2015. Countertenor John Holiday, who thrilled Festival audiences with his portrayal of Caesar in *Cato*, returns to sing Xerxes. Equally at home with jazz and gospel, Holiday also delighted Glimmerglass audiences with his late night cabaret performances in the Pavilion. Holiday made his Boston Baroque debut recently as Tolomeo in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and will make his debut with Opera Philadelphia in a world premiere of

Daniel Roumain's *We Shall Not Be Moved*, directed by the award-winning Bill T. Jones.

Allegra De Vita, Fulvio in the 2015 production of *Cato*, shares the stage again with Holiday as Xerxes' brother Arsamenes. Last season, the mezzo-soprano charmed Festival audiences as Pippo in *The Thieving Magpie*. Presently, she is a member of Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program where she sang the title role in *The Dictator's Wife* and Cherubino in WNO's Emerging Artist Performance of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. In April local audiences heard her as Olga in Syracuse Opera's *Eugene Onegin*.

Emily Pogorelc, who sings Romilda, appeared at Glimmerglass last season as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* and as Berenice in the Pavilion performances of Rossini's *Lost Luggage*.

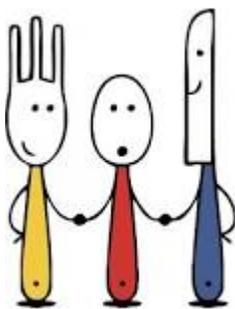
Glimmerglass favorite and another alumnus of *Cato in Utica*, Tazewell Thompson returns to direct *Xerxes*. In addition to *Cato*, Thompson has created unforgettable productions for Glimmerglass, including *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Death in Venice*, and *Lost in the Stars*.

Performances will be conducted by Nicole Paiement, who was seen last year leading the Festival orchestra for *The Crucible*.

Glimmerglass Associate Artistic Director Emeritus John Conklin, also an alumnus of *Cato*, will design the sets. *Xerxes* opens July 15 and runs for seven performances.

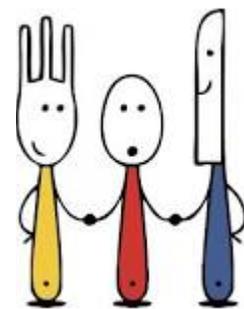
THOMAS SIMPSON

WELCOMING RECEPTION



The Guild's welcoming reception for company staffers (a.k.a. "Eat and Greet") will take place Saturday, July 1, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, in the Pavilion on the Festival campus. Here we have an opportunity to greet and get acquainted with the some 300 staffers that make each year's Festival a reality. Be present to appreciate the longest buffet table in Otsego County!

Bring a covered main dish (meat, vegetarian or salad – enough to serve 20) to the Pavilion by 3:30 pm and then stay to greet the company. (Dessert, beverages, and rolls will be provided.) Let Cynthia or Bill Goertemoeller know what you will bring (607-432-5644; email bill-cyn73@gmail.com).



A DAY AT THE FESTIVAL

On Sunday, July 23, middle and high school students from Otsego, Herkimer, Oneida, and surrounding counties will be offered a "Day at the Festival" beginning at 10:00 am with a tour of the theater and facilities, a special program with Young Artists and the 1:30 pm matinee performance of *Oklahoma!*

ABBY KREH GIBSON, Chair
Education/Community Engagement Committee

THE GUILD OF Glimmerglass FESTIVAL

News & Notes

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Cooperstown, NY 13326

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RENEWED YET?

Have you renewed your Guild membership? If you have, thank you; if not, please do so asap.

We would hate to lose you! If you do not have the renewal form you may download one from our website: glimmerglassguild.org. or request one at glimmerglassoperaguild@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Festival and at Guild events.

A NEW PRODUCTION BUILDING

The first new structure built in the 1980s on the site of what was to become the campus of The Glimmerglass Festival was a scene shop. Even as construction proceeded on the new Alice Busch Opera Theater, the company used this barn-like structure to build sets for Glimmerglass productions still going on in the Cooperstown high school.

When all operations moved to the new campus in 1987, the scene shop was the basic building used for local set construction. Unfortunately, it could be used only during spring and summer months since it was not insulated, and much set construction had to be contracted out. Several years ago the building was partially insulated with provision for heating, so that work could proceed throughout the year. (By next winter it will be fully insulated.)

What was missing was office space for supervision of these operations, and so two long trailers were positioned next to the scene shop for the offices. This past year construction began on the needed office building. It

replaces the two trailers and provides space for the technical director, scenic artists, and the properties department. The new space also hosts the A/V staff and electricians. Architect Stephen Eckert designed the building, in a style compatible with that of the late Hugh Hardy, who designed the opera theater and other buildings. The new structure is connected to the scene shop, and staff are to move in during May.

Director of Production Abby Rodd reports that with this new building there will be budget economies as all sets will now be built locally. (The 2015 season was the first in which all sets were constructed here.) The company will also have far more control over quality, will achieve greater flexibility in operations, and will be able to respond rapidly to needs.

Our thanks to Carole and Dudley Johnson for their gift in making this new building a reality. They also presented the gifts for insulation and heating in the scene shop and the new sprinkler system in the theater.