

## Newsletter

## Bulletin

August 1989

Août 1989

### Message from the President

It is a special privilege to again have the opportunity of serving as your President for the coming year. But I need your help! At the present time, the Board of Directors of the Society consists of six (6) persons, while the maximum for the Board can be fifteen (15) people.

The expression is that "many hands make work light", and certainly more hands are what we need. If you feel you have time to commit approximately one evening a month, and would be willing to serve your fellow members in this capacity, please contact me at 225-0124. We are especially in need of a Treasurer -- all our financial records are computerized so that the job is not onerous, and has strictly-defined parameters. Can you help us? Do you know of anyone talented in these various skills whom you might recommend to us, so that they can have the pleasure of GETTING INVOLVED?

Happy opera days!

Bobbi Cain, President

### Message de la présidente

Je vous remercie du privilège de pouvoir vous servir en tant que présidente pour une autre année. Mais je compte sur votre aide! Dans le moment, le Conseil d'administration de la Société compte six (6) personnes, alors que le maximum est de quinze (15).

Plus il y a de mains à la pâte, plus la tâche de chacune et chacun est allégée. Si vous croyez pouvoir consacrer une soirée par mois au service de vos confrères et consœurs en tant que membre du Conseil, veuillez communiquer avec moi au 225-0124. Nous avons surtout besoin d'un trésorier ou d'une trésorière -- toutes nos données financières sont informatisées, ce qui facilite la tâche et permet de fonctionner selon des paramètres bien définis. Pouvez-vous nous aider? Connaissez-vous quelqu'un possédant des connaissances dans ce domaine et que vous pouvez nous recommander, afin qu'il ou qu'elle puisse s'IMPLIQUER?

Heureuse saison d'opéra!

Bobbi Cain, présidente

### NOTICE

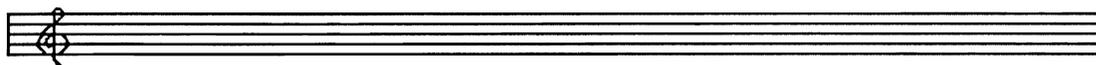
Put May 12, 1990 on your special calendar. That evening, our Spring Opera Gala Fundraiser -- **"A NIGHT IN VIENNA"** -- will be held in the ballroom of the Skyline Hotel, Ottawa. Preliminary plans include dinner, dancing, and entertainment.

### AVIS

Inscrivez le 12 mai 1990 à votre agenda. C'est ce soir-là que nous aurons notre gala printanier bénéfice -- **"UNE SOIRÉE À VIENNE"** -- en la salle de bal de l'hôtel Skyline d'Ottawa. Une ébauche de programme comprend un dîner, de la danse et des divertissements.

NCOS  
P.O. Box 8347, Main Terminal  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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SOCN  
C.P. 8347, Terminus central  
Ottawa (Ontario)  
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**September 1989****Septembre 1989**

7, 9, 11, 13, 15 - OPERA LYRA - NAC Theatre - Théâtre du CNA

**CARMEN (Bizet)**

12, 16, 21, 23, 27, 30 (See Oct./Voir oct.) - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**FAUST (Gounod)**

22, 27 (See Oct./Voir oct.) - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)**

29, 30 (See Oct./Voir oct.) - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Rossini)****October 1989****Octobre 1989**

(See Sept./Voir sept.) 2 - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**FAUST (Gounod)**

(See Sept./Voir sept.) 2, 5, 8, 11, 14 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Tor.

**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)**

(See Sept./Voir sept.) 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15 - CANADIAN OPERA CO. - O'Keefe Centre, Tor.

**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (Rossini)**

26 - INTERNATIONAL OPERA FESTIVAL/FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL D'OPÉRA - Skydome, Tor.

**A I D A (Verdi)** - Tickets/Billets - TICKETMASTER - (416) 872-1111**November 1989****Novembre 1989**

2 - OPERA LYRA - Château Laurier, Ottawa

Concert - **"RENDEZ-VOUS RUSSE"**

14, 18, 23, 25, 29 (See Dec./Voir déc.) - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**LE COMTE ORY (Rossini)****December 1989****Décembre 1989**1, 2, 3 - OPERA LYRA - Theatre, Museum of Natural Sciences/Théâtre, Musée des sciences naturelles - Ottawa - **AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS (Menotti)**

(See Nov./Voir nov.) 2 - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**LE COMTE ORY (Rossini)****January 1990****Janvier 1990**

18, 19, 26, 29, 30 (See Feb./Voir fév.) - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Center, Tor.

**CARMEN (Bizet)**

25 - OPERA LYRA - Château Laurier, Ottawa

Concert - **An evening with RICHARD WAGNER/Une soirée avec RICHARD WAGNER**

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**January 1990 (cont'd.)****Janvier 1990 (suite)**

27, 31 (See Feb./Voir fév.) - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**WOZZECK (Berg)**

30 (See Feb./Voir fév.) - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**L'ENLÈVEMENT AU SÉRAIL/THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO (Mozart)****February 1990****Février 1990**

(See Jan./Voir janv.) 2, 6, 8, 11 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**WOZZECK (Berg)**

(See Jan./Voir janv.) 3, 4, 7, 9 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**CARMEN (Bizet)**

(See Jan./Voir janv.) 3, 8, 10, 14, 17 - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**L'ENLÈVEMENT AU SÉRAIL/THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO (Mozart)****March 1990****Mars 1990**

6 - NAC BAROQUE SERIES/SÉRIE BAROQUE DU CNA - Ottawa

**TAFELMUSIK - FLORIDANTE (Handel) - Semi-staged/Mise en scène partielle**

8 - OPERA LYRA - Château Laurier, Ottawa

**Concert - BEL CANTO****April 1990****Avril 1990**

3, 7, 12, 14, 18, 21 - OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL - Place des Arts

**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)**

7, 11, 16, 19, 22, 24, 27 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**OTELLO (Verdi)**

14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**LA RONDINE (Puccini)**

26 - OPERA LYRA - Château Laurier, Ottawa

**Concert - GAJETÉ OFFENBACH****May 1990****Mai 1990**

\*\*\* 12 \*\*\* - NCOS/SOCH - Ballroom/Salle de bal - SKYLINE, Ottawa

**Opera Fundraiser - AN EVENING IN VIENNA****Gala bénéfique - UNE SOIRÉE À VIENNE****June 1990****Juin 1990**

20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY - O'Keefe Centre, Toronto

**DER ROSEN KAVALIER (Strauss)****July 1990****Juillet 1990****RUMOUR!!!!???****NAC!!!!???****RUMEUR!!!!???****CNA!!!!???****COSI FAN TUTTI****OPERA LYRA: 233-9200 - CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY: (416) 363-8231****OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL: (514) 521-5577 - Billets/Tickets: (514) 842-2112**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - May 31 - 1989 - 31 mai - ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLEPresident's MessageMessage de la présidente

In our Spring Opera Gala program I suggested that the love of opera knows no boundaries. Opera enthusiasts are of every age, every nationality. No matter what its expression may be, whether in Chinese, Italian, English or German, to name just a few, that marvellous merging of elements of love, joy, sadness, tragedy and comedy with music, drama and dance reveal all the facets of humanity over the past centuries right up until today. Yet that opera lover is not alone in the love of music, because without the coordination of singing, dance and orchestra, opera is not complete.

Last summer we celebrated the return of opera production to the stage of the Opera at Canada's National Arts Centre. We sensed an immense satisfaction in the enjoyment of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro", and at our celebration reception Susanna and Figaro cut their wedding cake (compliments of the Westin) and we all applauded. We applauded not only at the achievement of the summer, but also at the foresight and perseverance of those at the NAC who worked to realize our dream -- and their dream. Over one thousand persons signed our petition to the NAC urging opera "for ever, and ever, and ever". We sent copies to the Minister of Communications, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the NAC and the Director General of the NAC, as well as, recently, to the Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Culture.

This summer we will enjoy five productions of Don Giovanni, and will fete the singers and other major opera personnel at a closing reception after the final performance on July 29th. But --- there is a vast cloud shadowing over these events as we all worry about "What is going on at the NAC?" What is going to happen to the orchestra, and just as importantly, what is going to happen to opera? We have no assurance that in-house opera production will remain at the NAC and we mourn the imminent departure of the Centre's Music Producer, Joanne Morrow, whose efforts have been a major catalyst in realizing our goal. She is a good friend of the NCOS, a major ally, and had earned our respect and admiration for her talent and organizational abilities. We wish her good fortune in her new career!

We are closely monitoring the situation at the NAC and will help in whatever way we can to fight not only for opera, but for its integral companion, the orchestra. The two are inseparable. In the midst of these concerns, we are happy to achieve a goal which has preoccupied your Board of Directors since the last Annual General Meeting. The NCOS has established a backstage production apprentice scholarship, and this year, in conjunction with the NAC Music Department, a suitable candidate, a permanent resident of the National Capital Region will work with the production staff for Don Giovanni for a five-week period, funded by a \$1,250 scholarship from you, the members of the Society. At the July 29th reception, after the amorous Don makes his final departure, this scholarship will be formally awarded. We are proud and happy to enhance the training of a young person interested in entering into that most complex of production fields, the production of opera.

The broadening of the scope of the activities of the Society has been supported by our more traditional areas of activity, and this support needs everyone of you. In addition to the Marriage of Figaro, last year's NAC Summer Festival brought us a special treat from the repertoire of Opera Atelier, Toronto's Baroque Opera Company. Many of our members joined us for that treat. In September we enjoyed Opera Lyra's performance of La Boheme and wept as Mimi departed to the opera heaven. We were pleased to vote a special donation of \$500 to assist Opera Lyra's work, and look forward to their production of Bizet's "Carmen" in September. As members of the opera community in Canada it is imperative that we support efforts to bring the art to a wider and wider audience.

To this end, the Society has continued its program of special opera film benefits in cooperation with the Bytowne Theatre. Last October, the legendary Don Giovanni paid an advance visit with a screening of Joseph Losey's masterful interpretation of Mozart's collector of hearts. In January, Franco Zeffirelli's "La Traviata" was shown, setting the stage for Violetta's Frolic, our April fundraiser. Our efforts to help the Bytowne bring the new film of "La Boheme" to the Ottawa public on Easter weekend was scooped by the NAC, and then rescheduled in May, only to be sabotaged by the Canadian distributor. A late May showing of the 1951 masterpiece "The Tales of Hoffman" starring among others Moira Shearer was disappointing, and we hope yet to bring a top quality, technicolor print of this film back to Ottawa.

Meanwhile, as the Treasurer will report, the NCOS budget was greatly enhanced by our first fundraising effort of 1989, the Vienna Opera Tour. Those of us fortunate enough to join it heard our old friend of "Eugene Onegin" Thomas Allen as the Barber of Seville, and the great Alfredo Krause as Hoffman as he recounts his three tales, in Offenbach's melodious work. Our second, and major, fundraiser of the year was the Spring Opera Gala, "Violetta's Frolic" on April 21st, an evening of dinner, dancing, music and gambling. Our friend John Dodington charmed us with some Flanders and Swann "Animal Songs" — who can forget the sleepy sloth —, the Palm Orchestra serenaded our tastebuds, and the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir acted as choral emissaries of flower power. Everyone had a great time, but we were disappointed with the support from the public, and more importantly, from you, our members.

While I risk repeating my last year's message, our work is far from over as events at the NAC have so clearly demonstrated. We cannot afford complacency and everyone of us must fight the fight! We are determined to keep opera production on the opera stage at the Centre, and now forces have conspired to make that a much greater challenge than we had originally imagined. The whole arts community must stand up and be counted! We must tell the world that the arts — music and opera as well as other forms — are essential to the survival of a truly well nourished Canadian culture and to a nation capable of balancing the many attributes of its diverse population!

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for their hard work and support, and to the many others who have helped to make this past year such a pleasure for me.

Thank you.