

NATIONAL CAPITAL OPERA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 1990

P.O. Box 8347, Main Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8

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President - Bobbi Cain	Public Relations - Gilles Patry
First Vice-President - Jeffrey Morgan	Films - Helen Morgan
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PROFILE - JEFFRY MORGAN, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE N.C.O.S.

Some time ago I called upon Jeff Morgan at his home on Ambleside Drive... he needed an accompanist for a group of singers he was leading and I had been suggested to him. To my surprise I realized Jeff was also the Chief Executive Officer of Morgan Tours. And that is how I got to know Jeffrey Morgan. Jeff was a music teacher with The Ottawa Board of Education before starting to work with Morgan Tours in 1985. Morgan Tours is a family business specializing in music tours here and abroad. As a youngster, Jeff lived in Australia and the USA while his father was commissioned there with the military. Jeff studied music for years, making the trumpet his main instrument.

Jeff has his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Ottawa, Bachelor of Education from Queen's University and his Masters' in Music from the State University of New York, where he was first of his class. Fred Mills (Canadian Brass) and Robert Oades are fondly remembered as teachers. He also studied piano for a time with Jean-Paul Sevilla. He was the Director of both the National Capital Wind Ensemble and the Bytown Brass; worked for a time as Music Director of The Orpheus Operatic Society, and has directed Dinner Theatre at the MacDonald Club. He also played with the NAC's Beer Garden Band (sporting a flowing beard, I'm told!). In addition to his NCOS responsibilities, Jeffry is the Executive Director of the Amadeus Concert Society.

Jeff is a reasonably private person and doesn't talk easily about himself. He does like people and travel, loves nature, and gives most of his spare time to music and the arts. He reads many of the great authors, and even finds time to go to the occasional football game with his wife, Helen. His love and knowledge of music work well in combination with all of the above. If you've ever travelled with Morgan Tours you'll know well what I mean. Newly married, Jeff's wife, who is originally from New Zealand, supports him at his work and of course at home, where Mozart reigns supreme!! (Mozart being their large black, grey and white tabby!!)

As a matter of fact, Mozart (the composer) is Jeff's favourite, although he does like all the great classics. He has a special kinship for modern composers. Being involved with the NCOS also indicates his love for opera. His large collection of compact discs is mostly on the operatic side, but also includes the instrumental and symphonic literature. This serves him well for the tour briefings he conducts prior to each tour.

His greatest ambition is to stay happy and healthy. Jeff always displays a great sensitivity in his dealings with the people he works and travels with.

Finally, our 1st Vice-President has a passion for (besides his "Belle H el ene") good travel, good food, good wines and of course good music!! How can you go wrong?? Thank you Jeff.

Watch for my next profile - Second Vice President - Marjorie Clegg.

Gilles Patry, Managing Editor.

SOCIÉTÉ D'OPÉRA DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

BULLETIN

Octobre 1990

C.P. 8347, Terminus Central, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8

Conseil d'Administration de l'SOCN

Présidente - Bobbi Cain

1er Vice-Président - Jeffry Morgan

2ème Vice-Présidente - Marjorie Clegg

Secrétaire - Valerie Donnelly

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Relations Publiques - Gilles Patry

Films - Helen Morgan

Voyages - Jeffry Morgan

Gala - Anne-Marie Smith

Relations à l'Extérieur - Pat Adamo

Membres - John Clegg, Frank Fitch

PROFILE - JEFFRY MORGAN, 1er VICE-PRESIDENT DE L'SOCN.

La première fois que je rencontrai Jeff Morgan, c'était à Tanglewood, Massachusetts lors d'un voyage organisé par Morgan Tours dont Jeff est le Directeur en Chef. L'année suivante je retournai à Tanglewood et à mon retour je visitais Jeff chez lui, cette fois je causais avec le musicien non l'administrateur. On m'avait demandé d'être le pianiste pour un groupe de chanteurs que Jeffry dirigeais! C'est à ce moment là que je réalisais l'éclectisme de ce jeune homme, et de l'emprise que la musique avait chez lui.

Très jeune, Jeff avait beaucoup voyagé avec ses parents dont son père le Colonel Don Morgan étant militaire s'était trouvé assigné en Australie et aux Etats-Unis. Il fit ses études musicales au Canada et aux Etats-Unis. Il détient son Bachelier en Musique de l'Université d'Ottawa, Bachelier en Education de l'Université Queen's et sa Maîtrise en Musique du State University of New York, où il fût le premier de sa classe! Durant ses années d'études il dirigea le National Capital Wind Ensemble; Bytown Brass; Théâtre Cabaret au Macdonald House. Il a travaillé avec l'Orpheus Society d'Ottawa comme directeur musical, et fut le trompettiste au Beer Garden du CNA durant les années '70's. Jeff a aussi étudié le piano avec Jean-Paul Sévilla, mais son instrument de choix est la trompette.

Il est donc évident que Jeff aime surtout parler musique et ce sujet reviens constamment chez lui. Il affectionne particulièrement les compositeurs contemporains, et l'opéra.

Dans sa vie privée Jeff aime écouter la belle musique. Il possède déjà une vaste collection de musique en feuille et disques compacts, qui sont souvent ses références pour ses voyages musicaux. Mozart, est pour lui son compositeur préféré. Il aime aussi Sibelius et Shostakovitch. A ses moments libres il lit les grands auteurs. Son chat Mozart lui tient aussi compagnie.

Sa plus grande ambition est d'être toujours heureux et en bonne santé. Son violon d'Ingres est certainement le trait particulier chez lui: son humanité. Je suis souvent témoin de ses rapports et relations avec le public. Il a constamment le souci des autres à coeur. Il aborde ses relations publiques avec grande sensibilité. Ce qui lui vaut une affection spéciale de la part de ses compagnons de voyage etc. La famille Morgan est d'ailleurs l'exemple parfait de cette sensibilité toujours présente.

Parler de Jeff Morgan sans parler d'opéra n'est pas possible. Son enthousiasme face à l'opéra est contagieux. Son opéra favori: La Flûte Enchantée avec affection spéciale pour Othello. Ses chanteurs préférés: Fischer- Dieskau, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf et Maria Callas.

Jeff Morgan a épousé une joviale femme qui le supporte constamment le long de ses périodes à l'étranger. Bon vivant dit bonne bouche! Donc toujours les bons vins, la bonne cuisine! avec naturellement - la - bonne - musique. Que peut-on demander de plus? Merci Jeff.

Le prochain profile - 2ème Vice Présidente, Marjorie Clegg.

Gilles Patry, Rédacteur en Chef.

MEMBERSHIP "BRIEFS"

MEMBERSHIPS Just a quick reminder that membership renewals are due in January. We will be in touch towards the end of November with your renewal forms. Our present membership level is one of the strongest in recent years. We wish to keep all of you "enrolled", and at the same time encourage you to tell your friends about the kind of things we do. Our voice in the National Capital Region is appreciated by the various organizations we support. Our dollars matter.

FILMS

Our lineup of films (to be shown at the Bytowne Cinema) for the current year promises to be both interesting and varied. Do mark these dates **now** on your calendar and plan to attend!

October 21	The Music Lovers	Tchaikovsky
December 9	The Great Caruso	Mario Lanza
February 10	The Magic Flute	Ingmar Bergman
April 7	La Traviata	Zeffirelli

Our first film presentation, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Tchaikovsky, is the Ken Russell film, *The Music Lovers*, starring Richard Chamberlain, Glenda Jackson, Max Adrian and Christopher Gable. This is a controversial film, and will without doubt challenge your mind and your sensibilities. We offer it as an opportunity to broaden your understanding of the man, and to view the philosophical ideas of one of the greatest of the modern film-makers.

Ken Russell is famous for his shock value, and he's never been known to stick entirely to the facts. But this is a recommendation, not a censure: Russell has filtered the life and loves of Tchaikovsky through his own peculiar sensibility, and the result is perhaps scandalous, maybe offensive, but definitely interesting. And no matter what you may think of Russell's ideas about Tchaikovsky's personality, fidelity, or homosexuality, you'll be won over by his unwavering love of the music. Russell, director of such musical treats as *Lisztomania*, *Tommy* and *Mahler*, knows, like Tchaikovsky himself, that the music takes precedence over all else.

- byline Bruce White

TOURS

We have about ten places open for seating on our **Montreal Opera Tour**, attending the 1990-1991 season at L'Opéra de Montréal. Our first tour to see **Adriana Lecouvreur** was sensational. The remaining productions include **Tales of Hoffmann** (Offenbach), **I Pagliacci** (Leoncavallo) combined with **Gianni Schicchi** (Puccini), and **Der Rosenkavalier** (Strauss). All performance dates are on a Saturday. They may be taken individually or in combination. We have included the Tour Bulletin for your further consideration. **Come and support live opera, and the NCOS!!**

GALA

Please save **April 27, 1991** to attend the next NCOS Gala. Last year's production was the best ever, and this year's promises to be even better. Full details will follow in a future edition of the Newsletter.

On a further note to the Gala insert: If any of our readers find they have a little extra free time and would like to help organize this year's event, please give us a call. Many hands make for light work.

MEMO POUR NOS MEMBRES

ADHESION

1990 tires à sa fin et cela veut aussi dire le renouvellement des cartes de membres de l'SOCN. Nous tenons à conserver le présent excellent niveau d'adhésion et celui de vos amis. Faites-vous donc notre porte-parole et encouragez vos parents et amis à se joindre à nous.

FILMS

Veillez prendre note des dates suivantes et les inscrire à votre calendrier. Soyez des nôtres!

Octobre 21	The Music Lovers	Tchaikovsky
Décembre 9	The Great Caruso	Lanza
Février 10	La Flûte Enchantée	Bergman
Avril 7	La Traviata	Zeffirelli

Les films ont lieu au Bytowne Cinema (rue Rideau).

Pour ceux qui ne connaissent pas le cinéaste Ken Russell, il serait peut-être bon de mentionner le côté très controversé de ses productions. "The Music Lovers" - vérité très choquante de la vie de Tchaikovsky nous frappe durement en ce film tourné il y a presque vingt ans!

Russell n'épargne pas la sensibilité du spectateur comme d'ailleurs sa propre sensibilité n'est pas épargnée. Mais ce qui compte certainement plus c'est la belle musique qui malgré toute l'extravagance de la vie filmée de Tchaikovsky sait quand même fasciner l'amateur du cinéma!

TOURS

Ci inclus le feuillet publicitaire des opéras, saison 1990-91 L'Opéra de Montréal. Nous disposons d'une dizaine de places pour le reste de la saison. Veuillez le consulter et vous joindre à nous. **Supportez le monde de l'opéra avec la Société.**

GALA

Le prochain Gala aura lieu le **27 avril**. L'année 1990 fut un véritable succès! 1991 sera encore mieux. Nous sollicitons votre aide si la chose vous intéresse. Plus de détails suivront avec votre prochain bulletin.

LETTRE DE ERIC FEELEY

Nous accusons avec grand plaisir, la lettre d'Eric Feeley, remerciant la SOCN de son parrainage lors de la représentation du *Così fan tutte* de la saison estivale. Le texte complet de sa lettre en anglais est ici incluse.

MEMENTO

OPERA LYRA présente **Célébration GALA de deux siècles d'Opéra au Canada** au Théâtre du Musée de la Civilisation, le 9 novembre 1990, à 20h30. Brian Law dirigera les Thirteen Strings et les Cantata Singers d'Ottawa. Les solistes seront Rosemarie Landry (soprano), Sandra Graham (mezzo-soprano), Dennis Geisbrecht (tenor), Michael Shade (tenor) and John Fanning (baryton). Billets: \$ 50.00. OPERA LYRA (233-9200).

Summary of NAC Work Term on Cosi Fan Tutte: by Eric Feeley (Summer 1990)

Let me begin by thanking the National Capital Opera Society for this Production Apprenticeship Scholarship, without which I would never have gained hands-on experience in opera production. The opera *Cosi fan tutte*, the first produced by the NAC in over seven years, has been a rare and excellent learning opportunity with a production period twice as long as that of theatre (eight weeks versus four weeks).

The work backstage is divided between the scene shop and the prop shop. The scene shop supplies the back drops, balconies, etc that represent places, and as a rule these are generally large and require more than one person to move them on or off stage. The prop shop supplies the furniture, weapons, etc that are used in staging, and these are usually smaller and can be moved by a single performer or stagehand. Needless to say the two may overlap, and this calls for a combined effort, with each shop agreeing to finish part of the work.

My workterm on the sets for *Cosi fan tutte* was spent almost entirely in the prop shop under the supervision of Victor Elliott. The staff of the prop shop undergoes many changes as production proceeds and specialists are brought in as required, including carvers, upholsterers, furniture builders, etc. The number of employees varies week to week ranging from four to nine. The majority of the work is done in wood, but with the facilities available I'd say just about anything could be built.

I was responsible for the finishing of all furniture and styrofoam carvings. I'll give you an example: A small wooden table still requires the edges to be sanded down so that there are no rough corners that might snag costumes; nail holes and joints need to be filled in to give a smooth surface; and it then has to be primed and given two coats of paint. The styrofoam carvings (sphinxes, vases etc) need several coats of glue and cheesecloth which provide both a simulated stone surface and an outer shell which protects the delicate carving from damage. My work also included styrofoam carving; assisting with the dry ice effect for the bath slabs; detailing chandeliers, and many other odd jobs.

The designer of *Cosi fan tutte*, Peter Rice, worked quite closely with the prop shop on this production, and this gave me many opportunities to see just how the designer interacts with the builders. I was able to learn a great deal from my examination of the technical drawings, sketches and scale models that Peter supplied, as well as several in-depth discussions covering a wide variety of topics. In fact almost all of the many people I met on *Cosi fan tutte* were very patient with me, and more than willing to take the time to help me out and answer my questions.

This experience has certainly given me a perspective on my immediate studies, as well as giving a number of well placed contacts for possible employment in the future. I could not have asked for a more fulfilling and educational workterm.



REMINDER

OPERA LYRA presents a **GALA Celebration of Two Centuries of Canadian Opera** at the Theatre of the Museum of Civilization, November 9, 1990, at 8:30 PM. Brian Law conducts *The Thirteen Strings* and the Cantata Singers of Ottawa. Soloists for the evening include Rosemarie Landry (soprano), Sandra Graham (mezzo-soprano), Dennis Geisbrecht (tenor), Michael Shade (tenor) and John Fanning (baritone). Tickets are \$ 50.00 available from OPERA LYRA (233-9200).

1990 - 1991 OPERA CALENDAR

OPERA ATELIER (Toronto)

Il Pastor Fido	Handel	October 11, 12, 13	MacMillan Theatre
The Return of Ulysses	Monteverdi	May 9, 10, 11	Winter Garden

CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY (Toronto)

Madama Butterfly	Puccini	September 20, 21, 28 October 1, 3, 6, 11, 13, 14	O'Keefe Centre
Eugene Onegin	Tchaikovsky	September 29 October 2, 4, 7, 10, 12	O'Keefe Centre
The Coronation of Poppea	Monteverdi	October 27, 30 November 1, 3 November 17, 18 (Ottawa)	Imperial Oil Opera Theatre National Arts Centre
Die Fledermaus	J. Strauss Jr.	January 19, 23, 26, 29 February 1, 4, 7, 8, 10	O'Keefe Centre
Elektra	R. Strauss	January 25, 28, 31 February 3, 6, 9	O'Keefe Centre
Suor Angelica & I Pagliacci	Puccini Leoncavallo	April 6, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, 25	O'Keefe Centre
Lulu	Berg	April 13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26	O'Keefe Centre
Apollo and Hyacinthus	Mozart	April 28	Imperial Oil Opera Theatre
Così fan tutte	Mozart	June 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 20, 22	Elgin Theatre
La clemenza di Tito	Mozart	June 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 18, 21	Elgin Theatre
Le nozze di Figaro	Mozart	June 14, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29	O'Keefe Centre
Bastien and Bastienne	Mozart	June 15, 16	Imperial Oil Opera Theatre

L'OPERA DE MONTREAL

Les Contes d'Hoffmann	Offenbach	Novembre 20, 24, 29 Décembre 1, 5, 8	Place des Arts
I Pagliacci & Gianni Schicchi	Leoncavallo Puccini	Février 12, 16, 21, 23, 27 Mars 2	Place des Arts
Der Rosenkavalier	Strauss	Avril 9, 13, 18, 20, 24, 27	Place des Arts
La Veuve Joyeuse	Lehár	Mai 25, 30 Juin 1, 4, 6, 8	Place des Arts