

# Newsletter • Bulletin

Winter

1999

Le Hiver

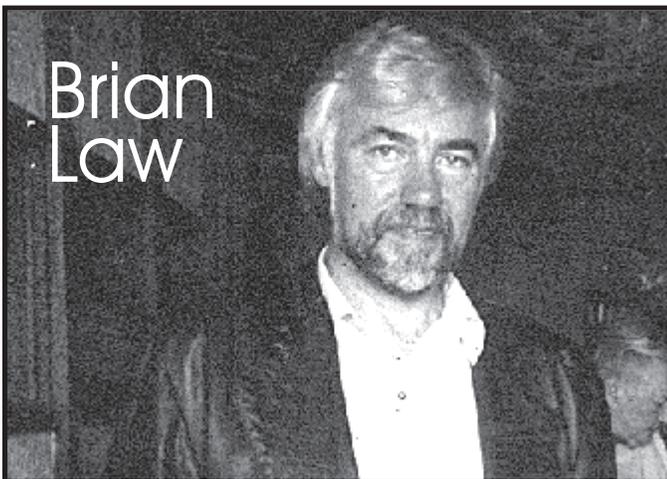
P.O. Box 8347, Station T, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H8

C.P. 8347, Station T, Ottawa, (Ontario) K1G 3H8

## Brian Law Finalists Chosen

### The Fourth Biennial Competition

This past November a preliminary jury made up of Yuriko Tanno-Kimmons, Barbara Clark, Sandra Graham and a NCOS representative selected three young opera singers to compete for the Brian Law Opera Scholarship at a recital to be held on January 23 at the Unitarian Congregation. The finalists are Corianne Bell, Alex Fleuriau Chateau and Sandra Stringer. One of these singers will win the \$2,000 first prize. Each competitor was required to submit a tape of three operatic arias (one including a recitative), a musical Curriculum Vitae, and a 200 word statement of their opera goals and aspirations.



## New York Metropolitan Tour

A special celebration takes place the weekend of April 10, 1999 when Ottawa's Daniel Taylor makes his Metropolitan Opera debut in Handel's *GIULIO CESARE (JULIUS CAESAR)*. As part of that celebration a SUPER RAFFLE has been launched with the Grand Prize consisting of a trip for two to New York valued at \$1990. The prize includes hotel accommodation for three nights at the Helmsley Windsor Hotel, a special musical tour of New York and tickets for the debut performance at the "Met".

Tickets for this SUPER RAFFLE are priced at \$5.00 each, with only 1,000 in distribution. Tickets are available from many sources: first from any NCOS member or by calling 225-2652; secondly, at Pflug Optical, 1580 Merivale Road; at CD Warehouse, 1383 Clyde Ave., Nepean or at the St Laurent Boulevard location in East Ottawa; at Compact Music, 785A Bank Street in the Glebe; or at HMV, 211-215 Sparks Street on the Mall. The SUPER RAFFLE draw is to be held on January 23, 1999 at 8:15 at the Brian Law Opera Scholarship Competition, prior to the announcement of the Scholarship winner.

ABC Congress Travel is in charge of the arrangements for the bus tour to New York, and the whole weekend promises to be one of joy and excitement in excellent spring weather.

For any additional information contact NCOS President Bobbi Cain at 225-0124

## Opera Alla Pasta — Sunday Afternoon at the Opera

2:00 p.m Sunday, January 10, 1999 at St. Anthony's Soccer Club

# LA GIOCONDA

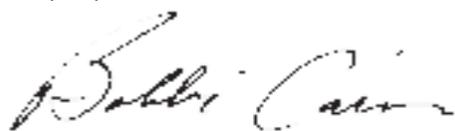
# From the President...

I hope tha you have had a Happy Holiday season. Now as we enter 1999 we see that the next several months promise to be most exciting and we hope that you will play a major part in that excitement. As you will see in this newsletter, the fourth Brian Law Opera Scholarship Competition will be held on January 23, 1999. The finalists have been chosen by the preliminary jury and now the final work starts. The proceedings will be followed by a luscious dinner catered by Dave Smith, C.M. There are still some spaces left, but get your word in quickly as time is running out.

One of our 1993 Scholarship competitors, Daniel Taylor, is making his debut at the Metroploitan Opera in New York on April 10 and we have organized a bus tour to help celebrate his achievement. To help raise badly-needed funds for the Society we have organized a raffle with two tickets for the tour as the prize. You have all received raffle tickets to sell to your friends and acquaintances, and I hope the winner will be among them. The draw will be held on January 23, after the competition recital while the jury will be making its decision.

The third of our Opera Alla Psta series will take place on January 10 when Ponchielli's LA GIOCONDA will be shown. This rarely produced opera will be presented in the spring by L'Opera de Montreal, so with the film you will be more familiar with it. Opera Lyra's Ottawa's presentation of Puccin's TOSCA will take place in March and if funds allow we hope to support their Associate Artist program which facilitates youg talent. Speaking of funds, are you aware that we have several corporate donor categories that we would like to fill, both in support of the Brian Law Opera Scholarship and in support of the Society. Do you have corporate and private sector contacts? The approaching millenium affords us the opportunity to initiate a special project of celebration as we approach our 20th birthday in August 2003. Can you help us? And help opera?

Happy  
New  
Year!!!



# N.C.O.S. Board of Directors

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*The Gypsy Baron* by Strauss  
(Concert Version)  
National Arts Centre  
April 28 & 29, 1999

Pavarotti's 30th Anniversary Gala  
from the Met on PBS  
March 31, 1999

## CORPORATE ENDOWMENT CATEGORIES

Major Endowment Sponsor	\$2000 +
Endowment Sponsor	\$1500 — \$1,999
Major Endowment Benefactor	\$1,000 — \$1,499
Endowmnt Benefactor	\$500 — \$999
Endowment Patron	\$100 — \$499

- \_\_\_\_\_ Brian Law Opera Scholarship
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Capital Opera Society

National Capital Opera Society  
P.O. Box 8347, Station T  
Ottawa, Canada K1G 3H8

# Saturday Afternoon at the Opera

TEXACO-METROPOLITAN OPERA RADIO BROADCAST SEASON

## 1999 SCHEDULE

(All broadcasts begin at 1:30 P.M.)

January 9 Leos Janáček *Kát'a Kabanová*

January 16 Gaetano Donizetti *Lucia di Lammermoor*

January 23 Jules Massenet *Werther*

January 30 Giacomo Puccini *La Bohème*

February 6 Giuseppe Verdi *Simon Boccanegra*

February 13 Giuseppe Verdi *Aida*

February 20 Arnold Schoenberg *Moses und Aron*

February 27 Richard Strauss *Elektra*

March 6 Giuseppe Verdi *Il Trovatore*

March 13 Modest Mussorgsky *Khovanshchina*

March 20 Giacomo Puccini *Tosca*

March 27 Giuseppe Verdi *Rigoletto*

April 3 Carlisle Floyd *Susannah*

April 10 Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky *The Queen of Spades*

April 17 George Frederic Handel *Giulio Cesare*



# THE BRIAN LAW OPERA SCHOLARSHIP

## The Fourth Biennial Competition

The Brian Law Opera Scholarship was established in 1991 to recognize and honour the contribution made by Brian Law to opera in the National Capital Region and beyond. It is managed by a sub-committee of the Board of Directors of the National Capital Opera Society. The first competition was held in 1993 with Brian present. The scholarship is under the distinguished patronage of Maureen Forrester, C.C.

Some ten months before the final juried recital, notices and application forms for the upcoming competition culminating in January 1999 are sent out to former competitors and most musical educational organizations across the country. The scholarship is designed for students aged 23 to 32, focusing on an opera career, and either a native of, or a resident in, the National Capital Region as defined by the National Capital Commission.

Applications, a package consisting of a tape of three operatic arias, one with recitative, plus a musical CV and a 200 word statement of why opera is so desirable, must be received postmarked no later than November 15. Next, a preliminary jury is convened; this time a highly qualified group made up of Yuriko Tanno-Kimmons, Barbara Clark, Sandra Graham and a NCOS representative. From all the entries, up to six finalists are chosen (both male and female if possible), and then notified early in December.

The competition recital will be held at the First Unitarian Congregation (30 Cleary Avenue) at 6:30 P.M. on Saturday, January 23. We are pleased to announce that the final jurors will be musician extraordinaire, Nicholas Goldschmidt, C.C., O.Ont,

soprano Roxolana Roslak, of the University of Toronto Faculty of Voice, both from Toronto, and Michael McMahon, from the McGill Faculty of Music, Montreal, accompanist to several vocal stars, and opera coach. Each singer must sing a selection of three opera arias, one with recitative, accompanied by their own accompanist. It is a thrilling evening of up to 18 arias and what suspense! The jury adjourns to decide the winner, and at approximately 8:30 P.M. the winner is announced and presented with the \$2000 award. The other finalists receive a nominal stipend to help defray expenses. The charge for these proceedings is \$10, the best bet in town!

Since we must feed the jurors and the competitors, a dinner is held afterwards, this time catered by our friend, Dave Smith, C.M. Total attendance at this dinner can be a maximum of 52 persons, so that means we have 40 places available to members and their friends, or other guests. The total charge for the dinner and the recital is \$45, and reservations must be made and paid in advance by January 15. All in all, this is a very exciting program of activity which needs your support, both in person and financially. The Endowment Fund for The Brian Law Opera Scholarship is gradually reaching its goal: it now stands at \$17,000, thanks to its friends.

For additional information about the Brian Law Scholarship or The National Capital Opera Society call Bobbi Cain at 225-1024 or Fax 225-1431

# Brief Biographies of the 1999 Brian Law Opera Scholarship Finalists

## Corianne Bell

A native of the Province of Alberta, mezzo-soprano Corianne Bell has been resident in Ottawa since early 1997. Her repertoire ranges from opera to oratorio through leïder and art songs from many periods in time. She is now an Associate Artist of Opera Lyra Ottawa, appearing in the recent production of Mozart's DIE ZAUBERFLOTE. Corianne took part in several tours and productions, both singing and narration, in western Canada with Alberta's Canadian University College Singers.

## Alex Fleuriau Chateau

A scholarship alumnus of The Cantata Singers, Ottawa's Alex Fleuriau Chateau is a bass with an impressive command of five languages. Now a member of the Canadian Opera Company chorus in Toronto, he is equally at home in oratorio. He has continued to study with Dr. Victor Martens of Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo since obtaining his Opera Diploma there. His operatic experience includes many small roles in productions in the Toronto area and in Altamira's Symphony in the Barn Festival in Durham.

## Sandra Stringer

Now enrolled in the Master of Music Opera program at the University of British Columbia, soprano Sandra Stringer is well-known in her native National Capital Region. As well as many appearances in recent productions of Opera Lyra Ottawa, she has taken part in a variety of oratorio presentations from the music of J.S. Bach to Benjamin Britten. Her wide repertoire, with art songs ranging from Baroque to this century, includes many opera excerpts; and chorus and understudy participation.

# The SINGSPIEL of Franz Schubert

by Gerda Ruckerbauer

(continued from the last issue)

## #9 Die Zwillingsbrüder D647 (The Twin Brothers)

Librettist: George von Hoffman

Recorded: 1975....ODEON 1C 065-28 833 Q LP  
and CPO 999 556 - 2 CD reissue

CAST: Helen Donath, Kurt Moll, Nicolai Gedda, Dieter Fischer-Dieskau. Bavarian State Opera Orchestra  
Conductor: Wolfgang Sawallisch

When the village mayor's daughter, Lieschen, was born a young neighbour called Spiess offered to be her godfather and bank a handsome dowry for her on condition that she become his wife if he returned in 18 years time. The opera takes place on her 18th birthday, the day she believes she can become engaged to her lover since Spiess surely will not return. However not only does Spiess return, so does his twin brother.

## #10 ADRAST D137 (Fragment only)

Librettist: Johann Mayrhofer

Recorded: no recording known

Of all Schubert's fragmentary operas, ADRAST is the most promising, Although it amounts to a mere 8 numbers, with sketches of 4 more, its superior musical qualities are evident. If ADRAST were complete, and all the music were of the same quality of what survives, Schubertians would have something to celebrate. And if the result were stageworthy, that would be a bonus, indeed.

## #11 DIE ZAUBERHARFE D644 (The Magic Harp)

Librettist: George von Hoffman

Recorded: 1983....BONGIOVANNI GB 2019/2020 LP  
CAST: Thomas Moser, Christine Ostermayer, Josef Nemeth, Otto Edelman Philharmonia Orchestra of the Theatre National of Szeged Conductor: Tito Gotti

The overture is well known because Schubert used it later for the overture to his composition for ROSAMUNDE. The plot of DIE ZAUBERHARFE involves fairies, dukes, knights, troubadors, demons, magic potions, an enchanted forest and, of course, a magic harp. In the end, all ends happily and the opera concludes with a hymn to music and to love.

## #12 SAKUNTALA D701 (Incomplete)

Recording: none known

This opera occupied Schubert intermittingly from October, 1820 into the spring of 1821. It was abandoned in such a sketchy form that it cannot be reconstructed. What remains indicates a large cast and a convoluted plot.

## #13 DIE ZAUBERGLOECKCHEN D723 (The Magic Bells)

In 1821 Schubert was invited to compose two additional numbers for the Vienna premiere of Herold's operetta LA CLOCHETTE, given under the title DAZ ZAUBERGLOCKCHEN. The critics rightly praised his duet and extended aria

## #14 ALFONSO UND ESTRELLA D732

Librettist: Franz von Schober

Recorded: 1978....ANGEL SCLX 3878 LP  
CAST: Herman Prey, Theo Adam, Edith Mathis, Peter Schreier, Dieter Fischer-Dieskau  
Berlin Chamber Orchestra  
Conductor: Otmar Suitner

This 3 act "grand opera" involved real characters displaying genuine emotions in credible situations. Froila has been usurped as King of Leon by Mauregato and now lives in exile in a valley beyond the mountains. Froila's son, Alfonso, falls in love with Mauregato's daughter, Estrella. An insurrection led by Mauregato's army chief, Adolfo, dislodges Mauregato and places Estrella in danger. Alfonso saves Estrella, the two kings are reconciled, and the succession passes to Alfonso, who marries Estrella.

## #15 DIE VERSCHWORENEN D787 (DER HAUSLICHE KREIG) (The Domestic War)

Librettist: Ignatz Franz Castelli

Recorded: 1977....ODEON 1C 065 - 30 743 Q LP  
CAST: Kurt Moll, Eda Moser, Gabrielle Fuchs, Elke Schary, Adolf Dallapozza Bavarian Radio  
Orchestra Conductor: Heinz Wallberg

Also recorded on LYRACHORD LLST 7207  
 CAST: Walter Berry, Ilona Steingruber, Laurence Dutoit, Walter Anton  
 Vienna Symphony Orchestra  
 Conductor: Ferdinand Grossman

The plot is a naive combination of two comedies by Aristophanes, transferred with suitable modifications to Vienna at the time of the Crusades. The censors, frowning for somewhat obscure political reasons at the title *Die VERSCHWORENEN* (The Conspirators) insisted on having the opera renamed *DER HAUSLICHE KRIEG*.

#16 RUEDIGER D791 (Sketches only)  
 Recorded: No recording known  
 All that is known about this singspiel is that Schubert began work on it about a month after completing *DIE VERSCHWORENEN*. He wrote two fragments consisting of some 300 bars and then abandoned it.

#17 FIERRABRAS D796  
 Librettist: Josef Kupelwieser  
 Recorded 1959 .... MYTO Records  
 CAST: Fritz Wunderlich, Otto von Rohr, Sieglinde Kahmann, Rudo Timper  
 Bern City Orchestra  
 Conductor: Hans Mueller-Kroy

The "Fierrabras" text is a compilation of a medieval romance and a German legend, "Eginhard und Emma" (a heroine who liberates a hero from ignominy and death). The title of the opera is odd because the two pairs of lovers "steal the show" and Fierrabras finishes up at the last curtain with much honour but no mate.

#18 ROSAMUNDE D797 (D644)  
 Recorded 1988....DG 423 656-2  
 The Chamber Orchestra of Europe  
 Conductor: Claudio Abbado

This work now universally known as the *ROSAMUND* Overture has a complicated history. The familiar music was associated with various other works by Schubert at different times but has come to be an orchestral favourite standing very much on its own.

#19 DER GRAF VON GLEICHEN D918  
 (The Count of Gleichen) (Sketches only)

Recorded: none known

Although the sketches are extensive they are insufficient to indicate whether Schubert could have made a successful opera of this venture. What is revealed are some interesting musical excerpts but even more important--the realization that what might have made Schubert a great opera composer was not lack of musical talent but the lack of a gifted librettist.

#20 DAS DREIMEDERLHAUS "Pastiche"  
 (The House of the Three Maidens. Also known as Lilac Time and Blossom Time)

Arranged by Berte from Vocal and Instrumental music by Schubert.

Recorded 1952....VOX PRODUCTIONS PL 20800  
 CAST: Hugo Meyer-Welfing, Franz Borsos, Geog Deggl, Herta Seidl, Hilde Laengauer, Elfriede Mueller  
 Vienna State Philharmonia  
 Conductor: Karl von Pauspertl

This operetta deals with a romantic episode in Schubert's life with the composer's music used throughout. It was an instant success when first presented in Vienna in 1916 and has enjoyed continued success in revivals ever since.

CONCLUSION: It would be difficult for any series of works to compare favourably with Schubert's lieder and his non-vocal music both of which are universally acclaimed as brilliant. So, although Schubert's singspiel are not considered his greatest achievements the recent revival of some of these operas could set the stage for a reappraisal. Without doubt, Schubert's musical genius cannot be denied in these operatic works.

#### SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Howitt, Basil *Love Lives of the Great Composers*

Marek, George *Schubert*

Newbould, Brian *Schubert, The Man and the Music*

Osborne, Charles. *The Dictionary of Composers*

Liner Notes and Librettos from the various recordings.

# Opera Within Reach

## OTTAWA

Opera Lyra

*Tosca* by Puccini  
April 2, 5, 7 & 10  
All performances are in the Opera of the NAC. Information: 233-9200

## National Arts

*THE GYPSY BARON* by Strauss

April 21 & 22  
Information: 594-9400

## MONTREAL

L'Opéra de Montréal

All performances are in the Salle Wilfred Pelletier in the Place des Arts  
Information: 1-514-985-2258

## TORONTO

Canadian Opera Company

*IL TROVATORE* by Verdi  
April 6, 9, 14, 18, 22 & 24

All performances are at the Hummingbird Centre.  
Information: 1-800-250-4653

## Opera in Concert

U of T Faculty of Music

## Opera Mississauga

All performances are in Hammerson Hall at The Living Arts Centre in Mississauga

## Roy Thomson Hall

March 23 — Thomas Hampson  
April 19 — Dawn Upshaw