

NATIONAL CAPITAL OPERA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 1991

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

NCOS Board Members

President - Marjorie Clegg
First Vice-President - Jeffrey Morgan
Second Vice-President - Gilles Patry
Past President - Bobbi Cain
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Corresponding Secretary - Anne Marie Smith
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Newsletter - Gilles Patry, John Clegg
Publicity - Gilles Patry, Maureen Donnelly
Tours - Jeffrey Morgan
Films - Helen Morgan, Ruth Davis
Events - Ruth Davis, Anne Marie Smith
General Liaison - Jeffrey Morgan
NAC Liaison - Bobbi Cain
Opera Lyra Ottawa Liaison - Gilles Patry
Scholarships - Bobbi Cain, Helen Morgan,
Gilles Patry

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Bobbi Cain awarded Life Membership

Awarded in recognition of outstanding contribution to the Society, a Life Membership was presented to Bobbi Cain at the Annual General Meeting on 27 May 1991. Bobbi, who has been President of the Society for the past eight years, has been a dedicated and tireless worker on behalf of opera in the National Capital region. A specially-engraved plaque, presented by Jeffrey Morgan, expressed gratitude for those years of exceptional leadership. Bobbi joins Trudi LeCaine, one of the founders of the National Capital Opera Society, in being honoured in this way. Congratulations, Bobbi.

Our guest speaker on the occasion of the AGM was the renowned pianist Jean-Paul Sévilla, who entertained us with his witty and interesting anecdotes on his love of opera.

Opera Lyra Ottawa

In recent weeks the Board has been vigorously discussing the nature and state of the relationship between the NCOS and Opera Lyra Ottawa. The new President of NCOS has met Norman Brown, the new General Manager of Opera Lyra Ottawa, and their discussions resulted in a proposal that the NCOS Board approved at its meeting on 18 June.

The essential part is that liaison will now become more formal, or institutionalized, by making one of our Board members responsible for the liaison. This duty falls to Gilles Patry. The approved purposes of the liaison are, for Opera Lyra Ottawa's benefit, to see that Opera Lyra Ottawa's requests for any assistance get to the NCOS Board and thence to the members through the Newsletter or some other means, to recruit and coordinate any production or other assistance that Opera Lyra Ottawa might want, and to be responsible for NCOS receptions at Opera Lyra Ottawa events. For NCOS's benefit, we will be able to make group purchases of tickets for Opera Lyra Ottawa productions, we will receive invitations to lectures and other special events, and we will be able, if we wish, to get Opera Lyra Ottawa's help in finding artists or getting publicity for our events. We may hold joint fund-raisers.

The exact mechanism for dealing with Opera Lyra Ottawa remains to be worked out, but we are confident that the new arrangements will prove to be beneficial for both our organizations.

SOCIÉTÉ D'OPÉRA DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

BULLETIN

Juillet 1991

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

Conseil d'Administration de l'SOCN

Présidente - Marjorie Clegg

1er Vice-Président - Jeffrey Morgan

2ième-Vice-Président - Gilles Patry

Présidente Sortant - Bobbi Cain

Secrétaire des Réunions - Valerie Donnelly

Secrétaire Correspondante - Anne Marie Smith

Trésorier - Murray Kitts

Adhésion - Gerda Ruckerbauer, Maureen Donnelly

Bulletin de Nouvelles - Gilles Patry, John Clegg

Publicité - Gilles Patry, Maureen Donnelly

Voyages - Jeffrey Morgan

Films - Helen Morgan, Ruth Davis

CNA Liaison - Bobbi Cain

Opéra Lyra Ottawa Liaison - Gilles Patry

Liaison, Autres - Jeffrey Morgan

Parrainage/Bourses D'Etudes - Bobbi Cain,
Helen Morgan, Gilles Patry

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Bobbi Cain - Membre à vie

Suivant huit années de présidence à la Société d'opéra de la capitale nationale, Bobbi Cain, présidente sortant, s'est vue décernée une plaque commémorative. Elle devient donc membre à vie de l'SCON. Monsieur Jeffrey Morgan présenta ce témoignage en reconnaissance du dévouement total de Bobbi et de ses qualités à la direction de l'SCON. Félicitations Bobbi. Cette présentation a eu lieu lors de l'Assemblée annuelle de l'SCON, le 27 mai dernier. A cette occasion le renommé pianiste et pédagogue Jean-Paul Sévilla nous a entretenu de son amour pour l'opéra. Jean-Paul Sévilla a su nous divertir pleinement. Merci Jean-Paul.

Opéra Lyra Ottawa - Nota Bene

L'SCON a décidé après maintes réunions et discussions de franchir une autre étape dans l'histoire de son mandat: assurer la présence de l'opéra dans la région. Ceci dit, l'SCON recherchera un Modus Operandi avec Opéra Lyra Ottawa dans le but d'établir une collaboration et un "pont culturel" entre la direction de la Société et l'Opéra Lyra Ottawa (OLO) dans la capitale nationale.

En conséquence de ce projet, le Conseil d'administration a choisi Mr. Gilles Patry de l'SCON. Mr Patry assumera donc la position d'agent de liaison entre Opéra Lyra Ottawa et la Société. Cette collaboration sera assurément un "pont culturel" pour les deux organisations.

D'ici quelques semaines probablement lors de notre prochain bulletin, nous vous ferons part de plus de détails. Soyez assurés de notre dévouement total à ce projet. Cela promet!

Félicitations Trudi

Nos sincères compliments à Trudi LeCaine, maintenant membre de l'Ordre du Canada!

Brava Marjorie

Hearty congratulations to our new president Marjorie Clegg. Marjorie, who has been a member of the Society for eight years in various capacities, was elected at the AGM as the successor to Bobbi Cain. She brings a wealth of experience to the office of president. Marjorie was profiled in the January 1991 Newsletter.

Congratulations Trudi

Congratulations are also extended to Trudi LeCaine on her appointment to the rank of Member of The Order of Canada.

Memberships

Just a quick reminder that membership applications are always accepted. If our records show that you have not renewed for this year, you are receiving an enclosed reminder. For those of you who choose not to renew, this will be your last newsletter, and Counterpoint Classics will not honour any outdated cards after July 1. We thank you for joining us. For those of you who are members, please keep up the good work. Perhaps you can talk a friend into joining us as well. Our Society is only as strong as its membership. Give us a chance.

Films

We are now setting up the film schedule for the 1991-1992 season. Bizet's *Carmen* and Verdi's *Macbeth* (with Leo Nucci and Shirley Verrett) are on the program, subject to confirmation. We have two as yet to be decided—if you have any suggestions, drop us a line. Of course those operas presented have to be in 35 mm form, and available from a Canadian distributor (that's the hard part). Watch for details in the fall newsletter.

Ticket Outlets

• Pflug Optical	Merivale Road	723-2766
• Continental Music	Montreal Road	741-5505
• Domenic's Music Academy	Carling Avenue	722-1021
• Counterpoint Classics	Murray Street	567-3267
• International Musicland	St Laurent Blvd.	746-3913
• Morgan Tours	Richmond Road	722-7572
• NCOS/SOCN	Marjorie Clegg	594-2988

Montréal Opera Tours

We enclose with this Newsletter information on our tour attending the 1991-1992 season at *L'Opéra de Montréal*. There are a few spaces remaining on the subscription option (that guarantees your seats), and we are now accepting individual performance requests for those of you who wish to attend for part of the season. Details are included in the tour bulletin.

Our first performance is Puccini's *Tosca* on 14 September. Under the baton of Joseph Rescigno, and sung in Italian, the cast includes Diana Soviero, Tonio di Paulo and Harry Dworchak. During the day we will take those people who wish to attend the exhibition *The 1920's: Age of the Metropolis* to the *Musée des beaux-arts*. This exhibition probes the fast, loose decade associated with flappers, *Great Gatsby* lifestyles, and the stock market crash. The result is a 700-work exposition ranging from a Bugatti Royale automobile to the exquisite watercolours of Paul Klee. (\$12 adult / \$5 students and seniors.) Those wishing to join the group for dinner at the restaurant *François et fils* before the opera may do so. You may order from the menu and settle your own account. We will return to Ottawa after the performance.

For further details, call *Morgan Tours* at 722-7572. Come and support live opera, and the NCOS!

Autres Félicitations

En qualité de rédacteur en chef du bulletin de nouvelles et au nom des membres du Conseil d'Administration, je désire souhaiter à notre nouvelle présidente, Marjorie Clegg la plus chaleureuse des bienvenues à son nouveau poste. Pour ceux d'entre vous qui sont intéressés Marjorie Clegg fut le sujet du Profil - de l'édition de janvier 1991. Bravo Marjorie!

Note: Tel que promis, la rédaction tracera le profil de John Clegg et d'autres dans les bulletins à venir.

Meilleurs voeux à tous pour la saison estivale.

Films

Notre dernière saison 1990 - 1991 s'est avérée un franc succès. Merci à tous! Nous sommes en préparation pour la prochaine saison 1991 - 1992: les opéras déjà assurés sont *Carmen* de Bizet et *Macbeth* de Verdi (Shirley Verrett et Leo Nucci). Les autres à négocier, vous seront connus dans le prochain bulletin.

BILLETS			
	• Pflug Optical	chemin Merivale	723-2766
	• Continental Music	chemin Montréal	741-5505
	• Domenic's Music Academy	avenue Carling	722-1021
	• Counterpoint Classics	rue Murray	567-3267
	• International Musicland	Centre d'Achats St Laurent	746-3913
	• Morgan Tours	chemin Richmond	722-7572
	• NCOS/SOCN	Marjorie Clegg	594-2988

Tours

Vous trouvez ci-inclus un dépliant, saison 1991 - 1992 de l'*Opéra de Montréal*. Il nous reste quelques places (souscription) qui vous assurent un siège! Cependant nous acceptons maintenant les demandes individuelles pour ceux de vous qui désirent seulement certaines productions de la saison.

La première production aura lieu le samedi 14 septembre: le *Tosca* de Puccini: Diana Soviero dans le rôle-titre. Pour ceux d'entre vous qui sont intéressés, il y aura une visite au Musée des beaux-arts. L'exposition en montre portera sur *Les années 20: L'âge de la Métropole*. Vous pouvez voir les aquarelles de Paul Klee, et une série de tableaux illustrant la grande dépression, de ces années malheureuses de notre histoire. Plus tard, le restaurant *François et fils* recevra ceux d'entre vous qui aimez "la bonne bouche".

Pour plus amples détails, composez 722-7572 (*Morgan Tours*).

The Barber of Seville at the NAC

As you no doubt know by now, Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* is being presented at the National Arts Centre on July 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27. This is a co-production of the NAC, the Vancouver Opera and the Edmonton Opera. The NCOS has decided that July 18 (opening night) is the best night for our attendance. We were to have sponsored the Opening Night Reception; however, the NAC forgot their agreement with us and made a similar agreement with the National Arts Centre Orchestra Association, for the same night. NACOA are inviting us to attend their reception at a cost of \$27.50 per person.

The Board of the NCOS does recommend attendance at the opening night (July 18) for NCOS members. Please make your own ticket arrangements to obtain tickets.

We have reserved 25 places in the Café for dessert after the performance for NCOS members attending opening night so that we can meet and enjoy the "aura of the evening" in a social atmosphere. You may order what you like from the menu, and settle your own account. We do need to know quickly of your intention to attend. Please request a reservation by calling 722-7572 (Helen or Jeff Morgan) to confirm your place.

Again, we must stress that we would like to include you in the NCOS group, but in order to do so we need to hear from you by 14 July.

Opera Lyra Ottawa

Members have a choice of two arrangements for seats in the NCOS block of tickets for Opera Lyra Ottawa productions for the 1991-1992 season:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | <i>The Magic Flute</i> only | 11 September 1991 | \$48.15 (GST included) |
| (2) | <i>The Magic Flute</i> | 11 September 1991 | |
| | <i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i> | 20 December 1991 | series of three |
| | RSVP | 12 January 1992 | \$85.00 (GST included) |
- (RSVP is a pot-pourri of favourites—make your opera request when ordering a ticket. If you're lucky, you'll hear it performed.)

If you are interested in purchasing tickets through either arrangement, please call Opera Lyra Ottawa at 233-9200; be sure to mention that you are an NCOS member in good standing and wish to be part of the special seats reserved for us.

The NCOS is also sponsoring a reception after the 11 September performance of *The Magic Flute*. Here is your chance to meet the members of the cast. Tickets are \$12 each and cover a cheese and pâté buffet; there will also be a cash bar. If you are interested in joining us, please complete the form below and return it to Gilles Patry, 203-1100 Ambleside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 8G6; telephone 829-4762.

Please send me _____ tickets for \$12 each for the reception after *The Magic Flute* on 11 September 1991. I have enclosed my cheque for \$_____.

Don't forget to give your name, address, and telephone number on the reverse of the cheque. See you at the opera!

Il Barbiere di Seviglia au CNA

Figaro! Figaro! Figaro! Tiendra l'affiche au CNA lors des représentations du *Barbier de Séville* les 18, 20, 23, 25 et 27 juillet, une co-production du Centre National des arts, du Vancouver Opera et du Edmonton Opera. La Société a décidé d'être présente le 18 juillet pour la 1ère représentation.

Si vous désirez, réservez vos billets vous même au CNA . Nous avons choisi un espace de 25 places au café du CNA pour ceux d'entre vous qui assisteront le soir d'ouverture. Vous avez le choix du menu et devez régler l'addition peersonnellement. Nous soulignons l'importance d'agir dès maintenant si vous êtes intéressés. Si vous voulez prendre part à la réception, veuillez réserver en téléphonant Jeffry Morgan au 722-7572, avant le 14 juillet.

Opera Lyra Ottawa

Deux options existent pour le bloc de billets de l'SCON de la saison 1991 - 1992.

A) <i>La Flûte Enchantée</i>	11 September, 1991	48.15\$ (TPS incluse)
B) <i>La Flûte Enchantée</i>	11 September, 1991	
<i>Amahl</i>	20 December, 1991	85.00\$ (TPS incluse)
<i>RSVP</i>	12 Janvier, 1992	

Pour vos billets composez 233-9000 (OLO). Faites sûr de mentionner que vous êtes membre de l'SCON et que vous désirez un billet dans la section réservée pour la Société. L'SOCN vous invite aussi à une réception suivant l'opéra où vous pourrez rencontrer les artistes. Le prix du billet est de 12\$, comprenant fromage et pâté. Il y aura aussi un bar payant. Intéressés? Remplissez le pli ci-inclus et retournez à:

Gilles Patry, 203-1100 Ambleside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 8G6 Telephone: 829-4762

SVP voici mon chèque pour _____ \$ comprenant _____ billets de 12\$ chacun pour la réception suivant *La Flûte Enchantée* du 11 Septembre 1991.

Note: N'oubliez pas d'inscrire votre nom et adresse plus le numéro de téléphone au verso du chèque.

Merci et Rendez-vous à l'opéra!

Presidents's Message, NCOS General Meeting

How large a part does opera play in your life? As a member of the National Capital Opera Society you have committed yourself to making opera a major part of your existence, whether you manage to see only one or two performances a year and remain glued to the Saturday afternoon Met broadcast, or are one of those fortunate people who can travel to distant cities and obtain your "opera fix". Here in the National Capital Region we battled long and hard to see mainstage opera production restored to our National Arts Centre. For the past three summers we have enjoyed at least one production and yet we wish to persuade the NAC to accept a greater challenge and to diversify into more ambitious undertakings. Within today's economic and funding restraints, developments at the NAC suggest that the luxury of a *Eugene Onegin* or *Bartered Bride* or perhaps a *Midsummer Night's Dream* is one that we may have to forgo for the near future.

The plans for the production of all art forms on the stages of the NAC are severely threatened by perceived financial cutbacks, and by the aura of pessimism and conflict that pervades so many areas of our country's life. The Society has already made representations to the new Minister of Communications, Perrin Beattie, and to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Director General of the NAC. I urge you to add your individual voices to this campaign: opera is seriously threatened. We are told that there is no money, that it is too expensive, but "Where there is a will, there is a way". Write to the Minister—it's free postage to the House of Commons; write to the National Arts Centre. We are very worried and share concerns of NAC employees about the loss of the "glory" of the NAC's vision.

In the meantime, we will again support this year's NAC production of *The Barber of Seville* through a Production Apprenticeship Scholarship. This sum of money, though reduced this year to \$500, helps the NAC Music Department to hire a stage management apprentice for the duration of the summer opera production schedule. This year we will augment the salary of a student from the National Theatre School, a trilingual young lady who will be invaluable in assisting Paolo Peloso from Italy, the conductor of this year's performances. We enjoyed last year's magical production of *Così fan tutte* with its fanciful birdcages and beautiful ensemble singing, and were delighted to award our \$1250 production apprentice scholarship to Eric Feeley who so eloquently described his duties to you in the Newsletter. We now look forward to the NAC, Edmonton, and Vancouver Operas' production of the story of the scheming barber.

As was the case in our recent fundraiser, an "Evening of Mozart Magic", Mozart's *Magic Flute* again takes centre stage in NCOS activity as we endow the role of Tamino, sung by Mark Dubois, in Opera Lyra Ottawa's September production at the NAC, in the amount of \$1100. On Wednesday, September 11th, we will have a "Magic Evening" when the NCOS will have a block of tickets available for that performance, and will hold a "recession reception" afterwards. At that time we will present our grant to Opera Lyra Ottawa, and publicly recognize the contribution made to this region's operatic life by Brian Law.

Brian has been a staunch supporter of the work of the Society, and many of you will remember his participation in Fête Opera in 1986, when we demonstrated to both the public and private sectors that opera was an important business and that we had appreciated the Summer Opera Festival at the NAC. We are happy to announce to you, our members, that Brian has just recently consented to the establishment of the Brian Law Vocal Opera Scholarship in recognition of his many contributions to opera in the National Capital Region. We perhaps envy his departure for New Zealand in December, but at the same time we are saddened to have a good friend move so far away. A small subcommittee of the Board of Directors will meet to write the terms and conditions of this scholarship; an endowment fund has been set up, and contributions will be gratefully received by the Treasurer. I'm sure that you will hear more about this at a later date.

Having discussed the disposition of our fundraising revenues to three areas of opera activity, I now turn to the source of these revenues and to your part in the generation of them. Over the past year, movies have

been a valuable source of both enjoyment and funds. We have also discovered a seemingly immutable fact that it will inevitably be a beautiful day if we pick it for a movie showing. Our thanks go to the Bytowne Cinema and to the manager, Bruce White, for their co-operation in these fundraising ventures. In October, a tense (and sometimes shocked) gathering explored the loves and anguish of Tchaikovsky in *The Music Lovers*, perhaps one of the few musical films to be rated less than PG. In December, Mario Lanza again set hearts a-throbbing in *The Great Caruso* as we relived that glorious period early in our century when one of the greatest tenors reigned supreme in Europe and in North America. To celebrate Mozart's birthday in February, we enjoyed Ingmar Bergman's masterful interpretation of *The Magic Flute*. Finally, on a glorious day in April we basked in the love of Violetta and Alfredo, alias Teresa Stratas and Plácido Domingo, as a good-sized crowd enjoyed *La Traviata*. These film afternoons are preceded by coffee and goodies; if you have not yet joined us, why don't you try it?

Another source of fundraising has been our opera tours to L'Opéra de Montréal. With the capable guidance of Morgan Tours, a busload of opera enthusiasts has taken in the sights of Montreal, enjoyed its cuisine, and relished its opera. We were thrilled by the tender devotion of *Adriana Lecouvreur*, and the glorious soprano voice of Diana Soviero. This masterpiece was a delight to all. We were intensely disappointed that labour-management difficulties cancelled what was a highly acclaimed production of *The Tales of Hoffman* in December. The twin productions of *Pagliacci* and *Gianni Schicchi* were visually stimulating and the torn emotions of the sorrowful clown and the scheming connivance of the town promoter were masterful. In April, we were captivated by the tale of the silver rose in *Der Rosenkavalier*, following a most interesting tour of the backstage of Place des Arts, thanks to the co-operation of the Montreal Opera Guild. Everyone got a chance to step out through that great curtain and experience the thrill of the opera stage. Next weekend we will see a sparkling performance of *The Merry Widow*. We are now looking forward to next year's exciting series of productions. The season is especially appealing and I urge you to register early for your tickets to *Rigoletto*, *Nabucco*, *Eugene Onegin*, *La Belle Hélène*, and *Tosca*, the latter featuring Diana Soviero.

Many people worked hard on "An Evening of Mozart Magic" and the starry forest (which gradually drifted to the floor) enchanted all who saw it. The "magic flutist" set the tone for the evening and ingredients of the *Magic Flute*, conveyed by our young singers, complemented a genuine Viennese meal. Dancing to the strains of the Palm Court Orchestra and a generous selection of door prizes and auction items rounded out the evening. We were disappointed with the attendance: every person is important and your support is all the more necessary in these recessionary times.

Your fees, donations, and contributions of time are all part of the Society's stock of assets. That stock has been greatly enhanced this year by the lively debates of the Board of Directors. I want to thank the members of the board for their hard work and co-operation. These are First Vice-President and Tour Chairman Jeffry Morgan; Second-Vice President, Marjorie Clegg; Secretary Val Donnelly; Treasurer Murray Kitts; Membership Chairman Gerda Ruckerbauer; Newsletter Managing Editor and French Public Relations Gilles Patry; Film Chairman Helen Morgan; English Public Relations Anne Marie Smith; Gala Ticket Convener John Clegg; and Pat Adamo, Ruth Davis, and Frank Fitch. In connection with the Gala, I must thank Bob and Peg Pflug who helped Gerda manufacture those enchanting pan pipes. I want you to realise that all the committee chairpeople could use some assistance—even a few hours a month would be appreciated.

The work of the National Capital Opera Society continues and is far from over. The Society's mandate as stated in our Letters Patent is "to promote the production of and interest in opera in the National Capital Region and, thereby, to enhance the appreciation of opera throughout Canada". Over the past year we have been examining our rôle within that mandate and its possible directions. We ask you, our members, to give us your opinions about the dimensions of that rôle. It has been my privilege to be associated with this mandate and to help the Society to fulfill it in as many ways as possible.

Bobbi Cain