



Opera For All!

DECEMBER 2018

ISSUE NO. 85

Announcing our Annual Holidays Gift Offer to ONS Members



Cupid's Christmas Special

\$10.00 off each Reservation Ticket to
Opera Valentine 2019

“Songs of Love: *Anema e core*”

Friday, February 15, 2019, 6:00 for 6:30 p.m.

The Italian-Canadian Cultural Association Club
2629 Agricola St. Halifax

Five Course Italian Gourmet Dinner

Songs of Love Serenades

The Famous Silent Auction Diners Chorus

Regular Price \$90.00,

Cupid's Christmas Special \$80.00

YES!! Although dinner costs have required a slight increase in reservation price to \$90.00, amorous Cupid and jolly old Santa Claus have agreed to maintain last year's Holidays Special Price of \$80.00, so they are offering to Members Only a “double-the-love” discount of \$10.00!!

Regular Price \$90.00, Cupid's Special \$80.00

To order your Reservations at Cupid's Christmas Special price call Sheila Andrecyk at 902-445-5768

*We live, laugh, love, feast and sing with heart and soul,
“Anema e core”.*

Its Opera Valentine, 2019, our gala fundraising evening of delicious food and delightful song, the laughter of the Serenades, the lure of the Silent Auction, plus the chance to sing a favourite opera chorus

The Musical Team

Paula Rockwell, mezzo soprano, our genial Music Director and Host, once again setting the tone of warmth and wit so appreciated by our guests.

Jennifer Farrell, soprano, returning to ONS once again, having shared her vocal beauty and infectious comic acting in last Season's *La Finta Giardiniera*.

Leander Mendoza, tenor, whose endearing voice and personality have enriched our Informoperals and Valentine serenades.

Jon-Paul Décosse, bass baritone, who has become one of Nova Scotia's most indispensable and admired stage and concert male vocalists.

Shanice Skinner, New Glasgow soprano, Kiwanis Festival ONS Opera Class Scholarship winner and Rose Bowl recipient.

Tara Scott, piano, guiding our soloists with her collaborative sensitivity.

Menu

Antipasto:

Polenta con salsiccia, funghi, e mozzarella

Polenta with sausage, mushrooms, and mozzarella cheese

(continued on page 2)

Deadline for this offer: Monday, January 7, 2019

Cupid's Christmas Special (continued)

Pasta:

Lasagna Bianca con spinaci e besciamella

White lasagna with spinach and bechamel sauce

Main Course:

Petto di pollo con asparagi e formaggio di capra

Chicken breast stuffed with asparagus and goat cheese

Patate al forno, fagiolini e carote

Roasted potatoes, string beans, and carrots

Insalata mista

Spring Mix salad with Italian vinaigrette

Dessert : "from the pastry chef with love"

Italian Cake

Coffee and Tea

Italian wines will be available for purchase at the bar

If you have any dietary restrictions the chef is always willing to accommodate you as long as your needs are communicated via Sheila Andrecyk at least five days before the dinner.

Stan Salsman Awarded Sovereign's Medal

On October 25th at Government House, Stan Salsman was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, presented by His Honour the Hon. Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia. Stan has been a long-term active member and supporter of Opera Nova Scotia, last Season retiring from the role of Production Carpenter and Crew Chief. The Citation read in part: "Stanley Salsman has been involved with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program for the past 20 years, completing individual income tax returns for retired veterans and their families". He himself is a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, having served his country as a Sergeant in the Medical Corps in Germany, Cyprus, Uganda, and Jamaica. Also commended in the Citation were his practical gifts in props and sets not only for ONS but also for the Royal NS International Tattoo and the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, to which we can add his work with the NS Gilbert & Sullivan Society, his videography recording for Theatre Arts Guild, and his craftsmanship with the Atlantic Woodworkers Association. He continues as Director of Properties and Space on the ONS Board.

Congratulations, Stan, on a life of cheerful volunteerism that benefits so many spheres of our community's life.



Stan Salsman (at right) is presented with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. *Photo by Brian Salsman.*



The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

Holidays Prize Competition Opera Quiz

By Dappertutto



The next two original Live in HD transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera, straddling the Holidays in December and January respectively, will contrast two Romantic operas: a world favourite by Verdi and a fine but less frequently heard work by Giordano. Here are some questions to check out your references to the repertoire they each represent.

1. The plots of 19th century operas were laid primarily in historical, biblical or legendary times. No surprise that the producers of the first performances of *La Traviata* were afraid of the source play's contemporaneity, and so pushed the production's era back to the 17th century, much to Verdi's anger. General acceptance of the contemporary as subject matter suitable to the idiom of opera had to wait for Late Romantic Realism and the new aesthetics of the 20th century.

Match the listed opera to the clue description.

- a. Traditional Japanese family values encounter the looser morality of the "modern" Western male abroad.
- b. A Verismo depiction of the vicissitudes of life and love among the impoverished creative artists of Paris adapted from stories originally chronicled in print to remember a milieu 50 years before the operatic treatment was premiered.
- c. Contemporary Paris and its street people form the backdrop to a domestic tale celebrating a seamstress's fleeing her parental home to embrace a New Age's free love.
- d. The Realist/Expressionist opera tracing the fall of an enigmatic "modern woman" from the high societies of Vienna and Paris to the slums of London.
- e. Snapshots of the attempted rapprochement between Democracy and Communism.
- f. Probing the private anxieties and multiple persona of a modern serial thief and analyzing male dominance in the marital relationship.
- g. A chronicle of the mission of Mahatma Gandhi.
- h. Religious Faith in combat with the State Justice System, an opera of Post-WWII situational ethics.

List, with the year of the work's premiere in parentheses:

- Louise* (comp. 1896, prem.1900)
- Nixon in China* 1987)
- Madama Butterfly* (1904)
- Marnie* (2017)

- La Bohème* (1896)
- Dead Man Walking* (2000)
- Lulu* (1937,1979)
- Satyagraha* (1980)

2. Oddly enough, *Verismo* and certain works in its legacy took an interest in 18th century French history.

Match the List of titles with their clue descriptions.

NOTE: There e two "extra" titles to tease you.

- a. A nationally acclaimed revolutionary poet goes to the guillotine.
- b. Jealousy and death by poison characterizes the 18th century theatre world and its aristocratic patrons
- c. Catholic traditions and personal faith are resolved as the procession of women mount the steps to the guillotine one by one.
- d. A passionate woman leaves her aristocrat lover to join her Girondist husband on his way to execution, together becoming victims of the Reign of Terror.

List, by composer:

- Alfano, *Cyrano de Bergerac*
- Cilea, *Adriana Lecouvreur*
- Giordano, *Andrea Chénier*
- Massenet, *Thérèse*
- Message, *Madame Chrysanthème*
- Poulenc, *Dialogues des Carmélites*

The first respondent to submit the correct answers to the complete Quiz will win two free tickets to the ONS Spring Production 2019, performance of their choice. To enter, submit answers to the ONS Artistic Director, Walter H. Kemp:

Walter.Kemp@bellaliant.net

Deadline: January 7. 2019.

“Things are Seldom What They Seem”: Opera’s Ladies, Loves, and Loyalties

*Introductory talks to the Metropolitan Opera
‘Live in HD’ transmissions: Season 2018-2019*

Lecturer: Dr. Walter H. Kemp, Artistic Director
Opera Nova Scotia
Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.; The Keshen Goodman
Public Library, Lacewood Drive, Halifax

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| December | 11. Verdi, <i>La Traviata</i> |
| January | 8. Cilea, <i>Adriana Lecouvreur</i>
29. Bizet, <i>Carmen</i> |
| February | 26. Donizetti, <i>La fille du régiment</i> |
| March | 26. Wagner, <i>Die Walküre</i> |
| May | 7. Poulenc, <i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i> |

*Experience and appreciate opera on a whole new level. A reading
knowledge of music is not required to enjoy these talks.
Free admission, all welcome.
Presented in cooperation with Opera Nova Scotia.*

Paula Rockwell in January Recital for DCCA

Dartmouth Community Concerts Association will present mezzo-soprano Paula Rockwell in recital with pianist Jennifer King, Friday, January 18th, 7:30 p.m., Woodlawn United Church, Dartmouth.

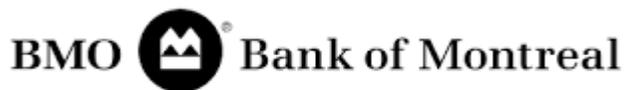
Paula has been a performer, supporter, and friend of Opera Nova Scotia over the years, starring as Baba the Turk in Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress*, in the title role of Holst’s *Savitri*, and in Informoperal concert versions of Massenet’s *Don Quichotte*, Thomas’s *Mignon*, Delibes’s *Lakmé* and Charpentier’s *Louise*. On February 15th she will be welcoming our Opera Valentine guests in her annual capacity as soloist, host, and music director. This will be a special opportunity to enjoy her solo artistry in the concert repertoire, and we are happy to draw this event to your attention.

Tickets are available by contacting DCCA, or at the door: \$25, \$20 (seniors 60+), and \$10 (students).

Opera Nova Scotia Board of Directors 2018-19

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Newsletter of Opera Nova Scotia
6199 Chebucto Road, Halifax NS B3L 1K7
Tel. (902) 425-8586

www.nsopera.org e-mail: info@nsopera.org