

## FRANCESCA ZAMBELLO AT SUNY ONEONTA

The Departments of Theatre and Music at SUNY College at Oneonta in collaboration with the Guild's Education Committee will present a program with Francesca Zambello, Glimmerglass Artistic & General Director, on the SUNY campus, Wednesday, January 26, 2011. She will conduct a master class for music students at 3:00 pm, to be followed by a "Conversation with Francesca Zambello" at 4:00 pm. Both events are free and open to the public.

These events will be held in the Goodrich Theatre, located in the Fine Arts Building. Since visitor parking on the SUNY campus can be difficult, special arrangements have been made for visitors to park in the large commuter lot (yellow signs) to the right of the Alumni Field House on Ravine Parkway. The Fine Arts Building is across the road from the commuter lot.

ABBY KREH GIBSON

## E-MAIL NOTICES

To speed up communications among Guild members and to notify them quickly of special events, the Guild with leadership from Mary Margaret Kuhn has developed a new e-mail service. If your e-mail address does not appear in the Guild membership directory, and you would like to receive e-mail notices from the Guild, please send a message with your e-mail address to:

[glimmerglassoperaguild@gmail.org](mailto:glimmerglassoperaguild@gmail.org)

If your e-mail address changes, please notify the Guild.

## GLIMMERGLASS CHORISTERS OFF SEASON

The Schenectady Light Opera Company recently completed a run of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Included in the cast were past and present Glimmerglass choristers: Nancy Stone as Ruth, Alan Angelo as Samuel, Bill McColl as the Sergeant of Police, and Megan Culbert as Kate. In addition, in May 2011, Sherri Strichman will become Music Director for the company's production of *Carousel*. This show may be presented in SLOC's new opera house.

BILL MCCOLL

## OPERA SARATOGA

Lake George Opera has a new name: Opera Saratoga. This change recognizes the fact that for a number of years this opera company has held its performances at the Spa Little Theater in Saratoga Springs.

This year the company celebrates its 50th anniversary and features two productions in its 2011 Festival Season, June 29 through July 10: Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* and Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*. Emily Pulley, remembered at Glimmerglass for her Minnie in *La Fanciulla del West*, 2004, will sing Rosalinda in the Strauss work. For more information check their Web site,

[operasaratoga.org](http://operasaratoga.org), or phone 518-584-6018.

## A CARMEN TANTALIZER

The credo of Bizet's fiery, often predatory, gypsy is, "love has never known any law...if I love you, beware." Carmen never apologizes for the choices she makes. Her romantic indulgences and savage murder at the hands of her lover Don José is a death she foretells and, indeed, almost welcomes. See page 4 for the whole "banquet."

## GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2011, JULY 2 - AUGUST 23

BIZET/MEILHAC & HALÉVY

*CARMEN*

CHERUBINI/HOFFMANN

*MEDEA*

BERLIN/FIELDS

*ANNIE GET YOUR GUN*

MUSTO/CAMPBELL

*LATER THE SAME EVENING*

&

TESORI/KUSHNER

*A BLIZZARD IN MARBLEHEAD NECK*

**GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD**

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

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*News & Notes* is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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Member of

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome these new members to the Glimmerglass Opera Guild:

Reba and Dave Williams  
 Joann Anagnost

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It was just recently I discovered that this marvelous wood carving, which hangs in the Glimmerglass administrative offices, was done by the Guild's longtime treasurer Don Fenner. "Opera Makes Me Happy" proclaims this musical eagle from his perch above the door of the Company's board room. I smile each time I see this bird because, yes—opera does make me happy! This magical musical art form makes an awful lot of people happy, and that's one of the main reasons why I, like so many other members of the Guild, commit so much of our time and effort to Glimmerglass year after year.



At its meeting on November 30, 2010, the Guild board voted to make an additional contribution to Glimmerglass so that the annual gift for 2010 from the Guild totals \$20,000. Just before the Christmas holidays, Treasurer Don Fenner and I identified another \$1,000 available, and so the Guild's gift for the year totals \$21,000. Francesca Zambello quickly responded:

*Dear Ed:*

*Please convey my gratitude and thanks to all in the Guild for this additional gift. A welcome discovery under our Glimmerglass Christmas tree.*

*Warmly,  
 'Cesca*

At the November 30 meeting Don Fenner also pointed out to the Board that the Guild has also in essence made an additional contribution in 2010 of \$7,516.67 for expenses related to opening performance receptions and change-over suppers. Congratulations and thanks to all Guild members for their major efforts in 2010.

ED BRODZINSKY

## GLIMMERGLASS IN NEW YORK CITY



What a pleasure it is to take a seat in one of New York City's great opera houses or concert halls, open the evening's program, and find names familiar from summers at Glimmerglass among the list of performers.

The opening night of *Carmen* at the Metropolitan Opera was just such an occasion and felt more than a little like a Glimmerglass reunion. Brandon Jovanovich (*The Mines of Sulphur* '04) sang Don José, Eve Gigliotti (*The Consul* '09) was Mercedes, and Michael Todd Simpson (*The Pirates of Penzance* '06), Morales. Malcolm MacKenzie (*La Traviata* '09) made his Met debut as El Dancairo.

In addition to these fine singers, the Met roster boasts many other Glimmerglass alums. Obviously a favorite at the Met, Tamara Mumford, so moving as Dido in '09, floated above the stage as the Rhinemaiden Flosshilde in *Das Rheingold* and also appears in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Nixon in China*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *The Queen of Spades*. In this, her debut season, Julie Boulianne (*Cenerentola* '09, *Tolomeo* '10) will appear in *Roméo et Juliette* and *Iphigénie en Tauride*. Adam Diegel (*Tosca* '10, *Carmen* '11) debuted as Froh in *Das Rheingold*. Michelle DeYoung, Nathan Gunn, and David Daniels need no further introduction.

Also on the roster are Oren Gradus (*La Bohème* '00), John McVeigh (*Acis and Galatea* '00), David Adam Moore (*Dido and Aeneas* '09), Christopher Schaldenbrand (*The Marriage of Figaro* '01), Claudia Waite (*Das Liebesverbot* '08), Wendy White (GO's first *Carmen* '84), and Kevin Burdette (*L'Étoile* '01). And, while not on stage but very near it, conductor Joseph Colaneri (*La Cenerentola* '09), stepped up to the podium mid-performance of *Don Pasquale* this fall to replace an ailing James Levine.

Across the Lincoln Center Plaza at the New York City Opera, Mary Dunleavy (*La Traviata* '09) won praise from critics for her stunning portrayal of Christine in Leon Major's production of Strauss's *Intermezzo* (Glimmerglass '90). Another alumnus in the cast was David Kravitz (*The Consul* '09). Also at City Opera, Patricia Risley (YAP '93), Jake Gardner (*Orpheus in the Underworld* '07, *Annie Get Your Gun* '11), and Joshua Hopkins (*Little Women* '02) were featured in Bernstein's *A Quiet Place*.

At Juilliard, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* starred a vocally and visually radiant Haeran Hong (YAP '10) as Poppea. Cecelia Hall (YAP '09) lent her "rich-voiced mezzo-soprano" to the role of Nero. In featured roles were Liam Moran (YAP '06) and Will Liverman (YAP '10). Harry Bicket (*Partenope* '98, *Agrippina* '01) conducted.

Downtown at the Green Space, American Opera Projects presented selected scenes from *Our Basic Nature*. The libretto for this chamber opera-in-progress is by Glimmerglass dramaturg Kelley Rourke. John Glover (Dramaturgy Staff '06, '08) is the composer. Andrew Wilkowske (YAP '06) was the solo performer, and Jocelyn Dueck (Music Staff '10) was the Music Director. The work was enthusiastically received by a standing room only audience.

The title role of Gotham Opera's production of *El Gato con Botas* was shared by three mezzos with Glimmerglass connections—Leah Wool (*The Consul* '09), Karin Mushegain (*Cenerentola* '09, *Tolomeo* '10) and Ginger Costa-Jackson (*Carmen* '11). Glimmerglass alums Kevin Burdette and Steven LaBrie (*Tolomeo* '10) lent baritone heft to the evening.

This is by no means a complete listing of alumni appearing in New York this fall. Apologies to those not mentioned. And thanks to all for many hours of wonderful music.

THOMAS SIMPSON

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## A GLIMMERGLASS FIRST

Among the many exciting firsts at Glimmerglass in 2011 will be a public performance of *Carmen* in which all roles will be sung by members of the Company's acclaimed Young Artists Program. Returning Young Artists J'nai Bridges and Dominick Rodriguez will take the stage as Carmen and Don José. Last season Ms. Bridges covered the role of Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*. This winter she will perform Elgar's "Sea Pictures" with the New Jersey Symphony under the direction of Neme Jarvi. Mr. Rodriguez, who covered Cavaradossi in 2010, recently appeared with Oberlin in Italy as Ruggero in *La Rondine*. See page 4 for all the details.

## CARMEN

The 2011 Glimmerglass Festival opens on July 2 with a new production of Georges Bizet's *Carmen*. There will be 14 performances of this opera.

### The Cast and Production

Ginger Costa-Jackson makes her Glimmerglass debut as Carmen. A native of Palermo, Italy, and graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, she has appeared on the Met stage in *Lulu*, *Thais*, and *Cavalleria Rusticana*. She recently sang the title role in Gotham Opera's production of *El Gato con Botas* for which her "silvery, dark-hued mezzo" was praised by the critics.

Tenor Adam Diegel returns to Glimmerglass as Don José. He is remembered for his passionate portrayal of the painter Cavaradossi in last season's *Tosca*. This fall, he made his Met debut as Froh in Robert Lepage's new production of *Das Rheingold*.

Debuting as the toreador Escamillo is baritone Keith Miller. Met HD audiences will be familiar with his work from the broadcasts of *Carmen*, *La Fanciulla del West*, and *Rigoletto*. In addition to Glimmerglass, Miller will debut this season with Seattle and Washington National operas.

Frasquita, Carmen's confidante, will be sung by Young Artist Lindsay Russell, who delighted audiences last summer as Laurie in *The Tender Land*.

The production will be directed by Anne Bogart, whose most recent Glimmerglass credit was 2008's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. Music Director David Angus will conduct.

### The Opera's Beginnings

*Carmen* premiered in 1875 at the Paris Opéra Comique. It may seem odd that a work as decidedly unfunny as *Carmen* should be staged at the Comique. However, a prerequisite for appearing at this venue was not that the work be humorous, but rather that it have spoken dialogue which Bizet's original version used. Given its current popularity, it is hard to imagine that, like *La Traviata* and *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*'s first performance was met with disapproval from audience and critics alike. Neither was prepared for Bizet's fiery, often predatory, gypsy. Her credo, "love has never known any law...if I love you, beware," might have fared better with the Comique's audience had she realized the error of her ways, finding salvation by opera's end. But Carmen never apologizes for the choices she makes. Her romantic indulgences and savage murder at the hands of her lover Don José—a death she foretells and, indeed, almost welcomes—were too much for the audience's sensitivities.

Bizet's score, with its sensual, pulsating rhythms, its use of leitmotifs and "Spanish" themes also ran contrary to the audience's conservative artistic tastes—there was nothing in this work to please them. Happily, other, more enlightened, impresarios, audiences, and critics felt differently, and *Carmen* soon became, and remains, a favorite of opera audiences world-wide.

Suggested reading: Prosper Merimee's novella *Carmen* on which the opera is based. Suggested viewing: DVD of London's Covent Garden production starring Anna Caterina Antonacci and Jonas Kaufman, directed by Francesca Zambello. Both are available at Amazon.com.

THOMAS SIMPSON

**Glimmerglass**  
OPERA GUILD

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