

# New England Opera Club



*New England Opera Club Newsletter*

*Logo by Barbara Winston*

## December 2016 Program

**Date:** December 11, 2016  
**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Place:** Brookline Coolidge Corner Library  
31 Pleasant St, Brookline, MA (617) 730-2380

### *Eleanor Steber*

Jack Jarzavek, speaker



The career of the great American soprano Eleanor Steber encompassed 22 seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, where she premiered three works this country as well as a world premiere. She also sang to great success in Bayreuth, Vienna, and Munich.

Steber was trained at the New England Conservatory, and was catapulted to fame as a winner of the 1940 Met Auditions. She was known for her mastery of Mozart's operas, but she was equally at home in works by Strauss, Puccini, Verdi, Berg, and Schoenberg as well as in an extensive repertoire of art songs. Jack Jarzavek will explore the full range of her operatic repertoire, using off-the-air broadcast material. His talk will also cover the high points of her life and art.

### *Directions and parking:*

The Coolidge Corner Branch Library is located a block and a half from Coolidge Corner on Pleasant St., which is the street directly across Beacon St. from the Post Office.

**From the west:** Take Beacon St. toward Boston. After the intersection of Harvard and Beacon take first left across trolley tracks and left on Beacon St. and immediately get into the right lane. Take first right onto Pleasant St. (You'll see the Boca Grande restaurant straight ahead as you begin to turn right). The library is a short distance on the right.

**From the east (Boston):** Take Beacon St. west through Kenmore Square. You will pass a Holiday Inn at the corner of Beacon St. and St. Paul St (about 1.2 miles after Kenmore Square). After this intersection, the second right onto Pleasant St. (You'll see the Boca Grande restaurant straight ahead as you begin to turn right). The library is a short distance on the right.

**Parking:** In addition to metered street parking, there are several parking spaces under the building in the rear. The driveway is to the right of the building as you face the front. Please do not park in the private lot directly across from the front entrance: you will be towed — we keep the phone number of the tow lot at the Coolidge Corner circulation desk for precisely that reason. The closest public lot is on John St. about two blocks away.

**Handicapped access:** There is one handicapped space on the street directly in front of the main entrance. There is another handicapped space near the parking bays under the library, with a long ramp/sidewalk up to the street and the entrance. This space, however, is near the entrance to the meeting room in the basement, so it should be used for handicapped access to events.

*The Library is fully handicap-accessible.*

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**2016-17 NEOC Programs**

*(listings are subject to change)*

**December 11: Eleanor Steber**  
Jack Jarzavek, speaker

**January 22: Pietro Mascagni**  
Angelo Mammano, speaker

**February 12: Rigoletto**  
Sara Bellini, speaker

**March 26: Guillaume Tell**  
David Collins, speaker

**April 9: The Abduction from the Seraglio**  
Luis Luis, speaker

**May 7: Angelo Mammano, speaker**

**June 4: Erika Reitshamer, speaker**

**July 6: Matskin Award**

**Letters or Articles to the Editor:  
NEOC**

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**Annual Membership Dues:**

\$35 Single, \$40 Double  
*(Two persons at the same address)*

Mail check, payable to NEOC, to  
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**To contact NEOC**

[operainfo@neoperclub.org](mailto:operainfo@neoperclub.org)

**Jacopo Peri Award**

*Each year the NEOC honors  
a person who has made a  
significant contribution to the  
local opera scene.*

1982 Eunice Alberts  
1983 Schuyler Chapin  
1984 Boris Goldovsky  
1985 Phyllis Curtin  
1986 Donald Gramm  
1987 Eleanor Steber  
1988 John Moriarty  
1989 Ernest Triplett  
1990 Ron Della Chiesa  
1991 Patricia Craig and  
Richard Cassilly  
1992 John Balme  
1993 Richard Conrad  
1994 Susan Stone  
1995 Robert Honeysucker  
1996 Scott Brumit  
1997 William Miranda  
1998 Norman Kelley  
1999 D'Anna Fortunato  
2000 Jan Curtis  
2001 Roland Hayes  
*(Posthumously)*  
2002 Bradley Pennington  
2003 Sharon Daniels  
2004 Sarah Caldwell  
2005 Jeffrey Rink  
2006 Stephen Lord  
2007 Randolph J. Fuller  
2008 Janice Mancini Del  
Sesto  
2009 John M. Tischio  
2010 Carole Charnow  
2011 Federico Cortese  
2012 Martin Pearlman  
2014 Esther Nelson

**November meeting:**

Meredith Palmer has a thorough knowledge of her favorite German tenor--Jonas Kaufmann. Meredith clicks into private international Facebook pages, where public information is posted. Her audiovisual presentation tracked Herr Kaufmann's life from his early childhood influences, vocal crises, and glorious triumphs. We hope that Meredith will keep us updated on worldwide Jonas happenings, and return to NEOC to share her operatic enthusiasm.



## ANDRIS NELSONS DELIVERS DOUBLE SNUB TO BAYREUTH

*November 18, 2016 by Norman Lebrecht*

The Boston Symphony conductor won't be back in Bavaria any time soon after last summer's disastrous falling out with the powers-that-be.

Nelsons has committed twice as much time to Tanglewood in 2017 and – adding insult to injury – he will put on a first Rhinegold with the BSO, possibly the start of a Ring. He will spend four weeks in Tanglewood, and they look jam-packed.

From the press release:

*In what promises to be one of the highlights of the 2017 Tanglewood season, and a significant event in the world of opera, Mr. Nelsons will lead the first BSO concert performance of the complete Das Rheingold, the first of the four dramas that make up Wagner's masterpiece Der Ring des Nibelungen.*

*The performance will feature Thomas J. Mayer as Wotan, Sarah Connolly as Fricka, and Jochen Schmeckenbecher as Alberich, among other eminent and prestigious singers known the world over for their acclaimed performances of Wagner's music.*

*Mr. Nelsons will also conduct BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès's Three Studies from Couperin, on a program with music of Haydn and Ravel, and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 with Daniil Trifonov as soloist. Kristine Opolais joins Mr. Nelsons and the BSO for a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 4 on a program with Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 in A, with teenaged violinist Daniel Lozakovich in his BSO debut; Ms. Opolais will also be featured in a Nelsons-led opera gala program with baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky.*

*For his first Tanglewood Opening Night concert, Mr. Nelsons will lead the BSO in Mahler's Symphony No. 2, Resurrection, with soloists Malin Christensson and Bernarda Fink.*

*Mr Nelsons leads the BSO's season-closing concert, beginning the program with Ives's The Housatonic at Stockbridg, from Three Places in New England, prior to the traditional performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Ode to Joy.*

It's Andris's birthday today. He's 38.

Way to go.

*Article provided by Jack Sauer*



**Opera Diary**  
*Local Opera and Classical Music, December 2016*

Dec 02 to January 1, (varied times - see web site for details)

**New Repertory Theatre** | *Fiddler on the Roof*, Bock

Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472 | 617.923.7060,  
[www.newrep.org/productions/fiddler-on-the-roof/](http://www.newrep.org/productions/fiddler-on-the-roof/)

December 4, 11, 18, 25 at 8 pm

**WHRB, 95.3** | Sunday Night at the Opera

December 3, 12:55 PM

**Metropolitan Opera Live in HD** | *The Magic Flute*, Mozart | *At theaters near you* |  
[www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/](http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/)

December 4, 9 pm

**WCRB, 99.5** | *Judas Maccabaeus*, Handel

December 9, 8pm

**Boston Early Music Festival, The Tallis Scholars, Peter Phillips, director** | *O splendor gloriae*: Festive Music of Josquin, Victoria, Taverner, and more. | St. Paul Church, Bow & Arrow Streets, Cambridge | 617.661.1812, [www.BEMF.org](http://www.BEMF.org)

December 9 - 23, Sundays & Sundays at 2 PM; Wednesday-Thursday-Friday at 7:30 PM

**North Shore Music Theatre** | *A Christmas Carol*

62 Dunham Road, Beverly, MA | [nsmt.org/a-christmas-carol-16.html](http://nsmt.org/a-christmas-carol-16.html)

December 9 & 10, 7:30 PM

**Boston Baroque** | *The Messiah*, Handel | Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St, Boston, MA | 617.585.1260, [www.bostonbaroque.org/](http://www.bostonbaroque.org/)

December 10, 12:55 PM

**Metropolitan Opera Live in HD** | *L'Amour de Loin*, Kaija Saariaho | *At theaters near you* |  
[www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/](http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/)

December 11, 2:00 pm

**Lincoln Free Library** | *Let's bring on the Operatic Baritones!* Enjoy an audiovisual potpourri of operatic baritones in each voice category, illustrated with arias and scenes by famous singers of the past and present. Speaker: Erika Reitshamer | 3 Bedford Road, Lincoln, MA | 781.259.8465.

December 11 (Berlioz's birthday), 9 pm

**WCRB, 99.5** | *Roméo et Juliette*, Berlioz

Dec 15, 7:30 pm; Dec 18, 3:00pm

**Handel+Haydn Society** | *The Holidays Are Back, Bach Christmas*, Ian Watson, conductor | NEC'S Jordan Hall. | 617-266-3605, [handelandhyd.org](http://handelandhyd.org)

December 18, 9 pm

**WCRB, 99.5** | *La Bohème*, Puccini

December 25, 9 pm

**WCRB, 99.5** | *Hänsel & Gretel*, Humperdinck