

# New England Opera Club



*New England Opera Club Newsletter*

*Logo by Barbara Winston*

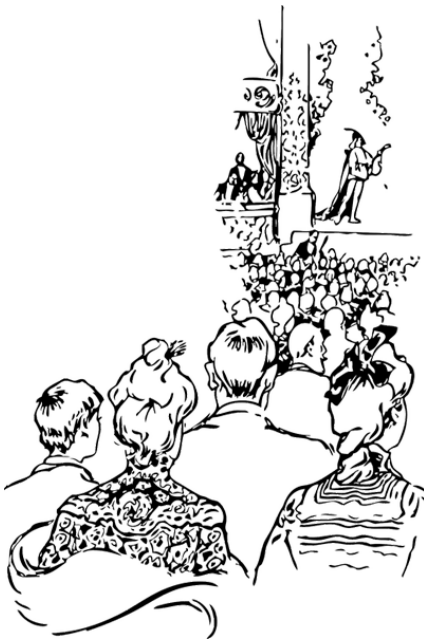
## February 2016 Program

**Date:** February 21, 2016  
**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Place:** Needham Public Library  
1139 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494

**Speaker:** Richard Feffer

### This month's talk: **The Reminiscences of an Operafile**



Richard J. Feffer, a long time member of the opera club, has been fascinated by opera for decades. He heard the Metropolitan opera broadcasts before the Texaco sponsorship. He marched in the Egyptian army at the Met performance of *Aida* at the old Boston opera house in 1938.

He has attended opera performances in all major cities in the USA as well as Europe and beyond. He has seen operas in such unique venues as La Paz, Bolivia, the highest capitol in the World (13,500 ft.), and in the fort of Savonlinna, Finland near the Artic Circle.

Richard has prepared a program for us featuring some of the unique experiences he has had with NEOC. They will include events with the opera luminaries Gian Carlo Menotti, Phyllis Curtin, Shirley Verrett, and others.

He will also show some rare archival videos.

#### *Directions and parking:*

**From Route 128:** Exit 19B, travel west on Highland Avenue. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Rosemary Street. The library parking lot and main entrance are on the right.

**From Route 135:** Proceed to Needham center and turn onto Highland Avenue. At the 2nd traffic light turn left onto Rosemary Street.

**Parking:** The library main parking lot is located off Rosemary Street behind the building. Additional library parking is available in the Christ Church parking lot on Highland Avenue. Handicapped parking and building access is available from both parking lots.

**More information** at [needhamma.gov/ndex.aspx?nid=3031](http://needhamma.gov/ndex.aspx?nid=3031)

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**2016 NEOC Programs**

(listings are subject to change)

**February 21: *The Reminiscences of an Operafile***

Richard Feffer, speaker

**March 20:** Maria Iantosca, speaker

**April:** Annual Boston Singers  
Auditions Series

**May:** Angelo Mammanno, speaker

**June 5: *What Makes a Great Tenor?***

Erika Reitshamer, speaker

**July: *Matzkin Award Dinner***

**August:** Bill Cotten, speaker

**September: *A Bel Canto Program***

Lew Schneider, speaker

**October: *Jacopo Pieri Award Banquet***

**November: *Tribute to Jonas Kaufmann***

Meredith Palmer, speaker

**December:** Jack Jarzavek, speaker

**Letters or Articles to the Editor:**

NEOC  
c/o Mr. John M. Tischio  
3105 Postgate Lane,  
West Peabody, MA 01960

**Annual Membership Dues:**

\$35 Single, \$40 Double  
(Two persons at the same address)  
Mail check payable to NEOC to  
Mima Leivi, Treasurer  
80 Paul Gore St., #1  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**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

**To contact NEOC**

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

**Nessun Dorma: Our January meeting**

At our January meeting we were treated by Erika Reitshamer to a wonderful and in-depth analysis of Puccini's final opera, *Turandot*. As usual, the program was thoroughly researched and professionally presented. We thank her for jumping in on such short notice and giving us this marvelous program.

We will see her again in June. Thank you, Erika!

- John Tischio

**FEBRUARY OPERATIC MILESTONES**

February 1	Renata Tebaldi	B.	1922
	<i>Manon Lescaut</i> (Puccini)	W. P.	1893
	<i>La Boheme</i> (Puccini)	W. P.	1896
February 2	Jussi Bjorling	B.	1911
	Martina Arroyo	B.	1940
	Luigi Dalla Piccola	B.	1911
	Giulio Gatti – Casazza	B.	1869
	<i>Semiramide</i> (Rossini)	W. P.	1823
February 4	Martti Talvela	B.	1935
February 5	<i>Otello</i> (Verdi)	W. P.	1887
February 6	<i>Tancredi</i> (Rossini)	W. P.	1813
February 8	<i>Boris Godunov</i> (Mussorgsky)	W. P.	1874
February 9	Alban Berg	B.	1885
	<i>Falstaff</i> (Verdi )	W. P.	1893
February 10	Leontyne Price	B.	1927
	<i>Les Contes D'Hoffmann</i> (Offenbach)	W.P.	1881
	<i>Snow Maiden</i> (Rimsky – Korsakov)	W.P.	1882
February 11	<i>I Lombardi</i> (Verdi)	W.P.	1843
	<i>La Fille Du Regiment</i> (Donizetti)	W.P.	1840
	<i>Asrael</i> (A. Franchetti)	W.P.	1888
February 13	Alexander Kipnis	B.	1891
	Feodor Chaliapin	B.	1873
	Eileen Farrell	B.	1920
February 15	<i>Giovanna D'Arco</i> (Verdi)	W.P.	1845
	<i>Mazeppa</i> (Tchaikovsky)	W.P.	1884
February 16	Geraint Evans	B.	1922
	<i>Werther</i> (Massenet)	W.P.	1892
	<i>Loreley</i> (Catalani)	W.P.	1890
February 17	Marian Anderson	B.	1902
	<i>Un Ballo in Maschera</i> (Verdi)	W.P.	1892
	<i>Madama Butterfly</i> (Puccini)	W.P.	1890
February 19	Adelina Patti	B.	1843
	<i>Francesca Da Rimini</i> (Zandonai)	W.P.	1914
February 20	Mary Garden	B.	1874
	<i>The Barber of Seville</i> (Rossini)	W.P.	1816
	<i>Giulio Cesare</i> (Handel)	W.P.	1724
February 21	Leo Delibes	B.	1836
	<i>Khovanshchina</i> (Mussorgsky)	W.P.	1886
	<i>A Village Romeo &amp; Juliet</i> (Delius)	W.P.	1907
February 23	George Frideric Handel	B.	1685
	Regine Crespin	B.	1927
	<i>Manon Lescaut</i> (Auber)	W.P.	1856
	<i>La Juive</i> (Halevy)	W.P.	1835
February 24	Arrigo Boito	B.	1842
	Renata Scotto	B.	1935
	<i>Orfeo</i> (Monteverdi)	W.P.	1607
	<i>Rinaldo</i> (Handel)	W.P.	1711
	<i>Susannah</i> (Floyd)	W.P.	1955
February 25	<i>The Maid of Orleans</i> (Tchaikovsky)	W.P.	1881
February 26	Donald Gramm	B.	1927
	Emmy Destinn	B.	1878
February 27	Enrico Caruso	B.	1873
	Mirella Freni	B.	1935

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

**February 2 @ 8:00 pm**

**Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall** | Overture to *Oberon*, Weber; *Symphony No. 8*, Henze; Incidental Music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mendelssohn; Andris Nelsons, conductor, Amanda Forsythe, soprano. More: [calendar.artsboston.org/event/andris-nelsons-conducts-weber-henze-and-mendelssohn/](http://calendar.artsboston.org/event/andris-nelsons-conducts-weber-henze-and-mendelssohn/)

**February 3, 4, 5, 6 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Harvard College Opera: *The Rake's Progress***, Stravinsky | More: [rdctheater.com/rakes-progress](http://rdctheater.com/rakes-progress)

**February 5 @ 9 pm; 6 @ 2 am; 6 @ 5 AM**

**WGBH live from NY, Richard Tucker Opera Gala** | More: [www.wgbh.org/programs/Live-From-Lincoln-Center-250](http://www.wgbh.org/programs/Live-From-Lincoln-Center-250)

**February 6 @ 8pm, Feb. 7 @ 3pm, Feb 8 & 9 @ 7:30pm**

**New England Conservatory: *The Cunning Little Vixen***, Janacek  
Cutler Majestic Theatre | 120 Boylston St, Boston, MA | More: <http://necmusic.edu/opera>

**February 7 @ 9pm**

**WCRB: *Fidelio***, Beethoven | More: [www.wgbh.org/995](http://www.wgbh.org/995)

**February 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 @ 7pm**

**Le Laboratoire Cambridge** | 650 East Kendall Street, Cambridge, MA, 02142: *Switch*, John Aylward  
Tickets: \$40 Students: \$20 | More: 617-945-7515 | [info@lelaboratoirecambridge.com](mailto:info@lelaboratoirecambridge.com)

**February 12 @ 7:30 pm, February 13 @ 10:30 pm, February 14 @ 2:30 pm**

**WholeTone Opera** | *La Zombiata* | Davis Square Theatre, 255 Elm Street, Somerville, MA, 02144  
More: [calendar.artsboston.org/event/la-zombiata](http://calendar.artsboston.org/event/la-zombiata)

**February 14 @ 9pm**

**WCRB: *Elixir of Love***, Donizetti | More: [www.wgbh.org/995](http://www.wgbh.org/995)

**February 21 @ 9pm**

**WCRB: *The Wedding of Camacho***, Mendelssohn | More: [www.wgbh.org/995](http://www.wgbh.org/995)

**February 25, 26, 27 @ 7:30 pm**

**Boston University Theatre, Mainstage** | 264 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA | *Così fan tutte*, Mozart  
More: [calendar.artsboston.org/event/così-fan-tutte-2/](http://calendar.artsboston.org/event/così-fan-tutte-2/)

**February 20 @ 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm; 21 @ 2:00 pm; 26 at 8:00 pm; 27 @ 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm**

***The Sorcerer* | Sudbury Savoyards** | Lincoln-Sudbury High School | More: [www.sudburysavoyards.org](http://www.sudburysavoyards.org)

**February 20 @ 2:30 pm**

**Boston Wagner Society: Commonwealth Salon**, Boston Public Library, Copley Square: Presentation, Nathaniel Meyer - *Wagnerian Ideals in a Digital Age* | Admission: **Free** | More: [bostonwagnersociety.org](http://bostonwagnersociety.org)

**February 26:** Request *The Jewish Art Collaborative* programs booklet. More: [www.jewishboston.com/resources/127-jewish-arts-collaborative](http://www.jewishboston.com/resources/127-jewish-arts-collaborative) or 617-531-4610

**February 28 @ 9pm**

**WCRB: *Semiramide***, Rossini | More: [www.wgbh.org/995](http://www.wgbh.org/995)