

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

March 2016 Program

Date: March 20, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 (617) 972-6431

This month's talk:
Beloved Arias and Duets, Beloved Voices
Speaker: Maria Iantosca



Operatic comfort "food" is the focus of this month's presentation. Familiarity does not have to breed contempt. Drinking in loved arias and duets can be so gratifying.

We'll listen to classic and contemporary singers. Gifted voices obviously bring such unique perspectives to this treasured music: Bjoerling, Pape, Flagstad, Price, to name a few.

Enjoy!

Directions and parking:

From the West: Take Route 20 East (Main Street) to Watertown Square.

From the East: Take Rte. 16 (Mt. Auburn St.) west. Turn right on Main Street.

Public Transportation: The library is accessible via MBTA Bus routes Express 502, Express 504, 52, 57, 59, 70, 70A, and 71. It is less than a five minute walk to the library from the buses that arrive at Watertown Yard.

Parking: There are plenty of metered (free on Sunday) parking spaces at the rear of the Library, from which you can access the Library through the back door. Drive in on the passage just before the Fire House.

The Library is fully handicap-accessible.



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2016 NEOC Programs

(listings are subject to change)

March 20: *Beloved Arias and Duets,
Beloved Voices*

Maria Iantosca, speaker

April 17: Angelo Mammano, speaker

May: TBA

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
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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
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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

The Reminiscences of an Operafile: Our February meeting

Richard Feffer never disappoints when he presents a program for the New England Opera Club! On Sunday, February 21, he reminisced about our previous events, often with video excerpts. We smiled while watching Norman Kelley (1998 Peri Honoree) reflect on his role as the magician in "The Consul," Shirley Verrett stretch her tight schedule to speak eloquently at our 2004 Jacopo Peri Award Banquet in honor of Sarah Caldwell, and Stephen Loftus rush to get the soprano to the airport.

Well done, Richard, for refreshing our memories on past operatic happenings.

Charlotte Wolfe



Ana María Martínez and Robert De Biasio in “Madama Butterfly.”
Credit: Marty Sohl/Metropolitan Opera

Review:

Madama Butterfly Showcases Ana María Martínez

By ZACHARY WOOLFE
FEB. 21, 2016 | NY TIMES

Half an hour of intermission separates the first and second acts of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera. But in the libretto that gap covers three years of suffering for the title character, a betrayed young geisha waiting in vain for the return of her American husband.

The soprano Ana María Martínez, appearing in her first leading role at the Met on Friday, made you disbelieve your watch. Yes, you’d returned to your seat after just 30 minutes, but in that time years seemed to have gone by onstage. Ms. Martínez’s Butterfly had transformed, in both manner and sound, from a demure, besotted girl to a weary, hardened woman. She seemed, quite simply, to have aged.

It was a bit of theatrical magic in a beautiful performance: modest and delicate, yet rising to glimpses of the epic in her final aria of self-sacrifice. (She would do well to drop a single false note: a cartoonish moment of pummeling Sharpless, the American consul, with her fists.) While Ms. Martínez’s voice has a low, dark center of gravity that makes the more conversational passages of the score really speak, once she had settled into her upper register, her high notes came out like Butterfly herself: reserved yet movingly clear.

Her artful restraint was matched by those around her, including the conductor Karel Mark Chichon, who made his company debut with a performance that kept the drama flowing inexorably forward, cutting the saccharine without stinting on Puccini’s lushness. Another new Met artist, the baritone Artur Rucinski, sang Sharpless with an easy, mellow tone, if also a blandness that made too little of this crucial, conflicted character.

Roberto De Biasio’s soft-focus tenor made the caddish Pinkerton a mild, ineffectual presence. The mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak, who reigns in New York as Suzuki, Butterfly’s maid, was, as ever, dependably affecting in Anthony Minghella’s vivid production, one of the triumphs of the Met’s past decade.

But it was Ms. Martínez’s evening. Now in her mid-40s, she has had an active career, but not at the Met. She appeared as Micaela in a 2005 run of *Carmen*, then disappeared until a few months ago, when she played Musetta in *La Bohème*.

She wasn’t originally scheduled for Butterfly, one of her signature roles, but jumped into the first two performances — the second is on Monday evening — as a replacement for the ill Met veteran Hei-Kyung Hong. It would be wonderful to see Ms. Martínez on the company’s roster more often.

Madama Butterfly runs through April 12, with several cast changes, at the Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center; 212-362-6000, metopera.org.

This review was sent by Jack Sauer, our Opera Friend.

Opera Diary

Local Opera and Classical Music, March 2016

March 3, 5 @ 8:00 pm, March 4 @ 1:30 pm

Boston Symphony Orchestra: *Rapsodie espagnole, Nights in the Gardens of Spain, L'Heure espagnole* (Ravel & Falla) | Charles Dutoit | Symphony Hall: 301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston | More: Call SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200, or bso.org

March 3-5 @ 8pm, March 6 @ 5pm

Yamawaki Art and Cultural Center, Lasell College | 47 Myrtle Avenue, Newton, MA

Friday, March 11 @ 8pm

Frank L. Wiggin Auditorium, Peabody City Hall | 24 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA

MetroWest Opera Company: *Little Women, Adamo* | More: 978 210 2709 | metrowestopera.org/mwo/

March 4 @ 8pm

Music Worcester/Worcester Chorus: Mozart: *Requiem* / Poulenc: *Gloria*

Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester | More: 508-754-3231 | bostonsingersresource.org/postings/events/show/8466/

March 4 & 5 @8:00 pm

Boston Baroque: *Symphony No. 5, Piano Concerto No. 2*, Beethoven

NEC's Jordan Hall | More: 617.987.8600 x113 | www.bostonbaroque.org/concerts/all-shows

March 5 @ 12:55 pm

The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD

Manon Lescaut, Puccini | More: eventbrite.com/e/met-live-in-hd-puccinis-manon-lescaut-tickets-19863898455

March 6 @ 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera/ WHRB Sunday Night at the Opera: *A Celebration of Two Opera Icons: Julius Rudel & Kiri Te Kanawa* | More: 99.5 FM /95.3 FM | www.wgbh.org/articles/Sunday-Night-Opera-9978/

March 11, 16, 18 @7:30 pm; March 13, 20 @ 3:00 pm

Boston Lyric Opera: *Werther*, Massenet

Citi Performing Arts Center Shubert Theatre | More: (617) 542-6772 | blo.org/werther/

March 12 @ 1 pm

Metropolitan Opera Saturday Broadcasts: *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti

WHRB 95.3 FM | More: www.metopera.org/Season/2015-16-Season/

March 13 @ 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera/ WHRB Sunday Night at the Opera: *La Forza del Destino*, Verdi

99.5 FM | More: www.wgbh.org/articles/Sunday-Night-Opera-9978

March 19 @ 1 pm

Metropolitan Opera Saturday Broadcasts: *L'Elisir D'Amore*, Donizetti

WHRB 95.3 FM | More: www.metopera.org/Season/2015-16-Season/

March 23*, 25, 26, 30, April 1, 2 @ 8:30 pm

* followed by black tie reception.

Lowell House Opera: *La Grotta di Trofonio*, Antonio Salieri

10 Holyoke Place, Cambridge | More: 617-495-2283 | lowellhouseopera.com/la-grotta-di-trofonio/

March 26 @ 1 pm

Metropolitan Opera Saturday Broadcasts: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart

WHRB 95.3 FM | More: www.metopera.org/Season/2015-16-Season/

March 27 @ 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera: *Parsifal*, Wagner

More: 99.5 FM | www.wgbh.org/articles/Sunday-Night-Opera-9978

March 30 - April 2 @ 8:00 pm

The Boston Conservatory: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart | The Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston, More: (617) 912-9222 | www.bostonconservatory.edu/event/le-nozze-di-figaro-marriage-figaro