

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

March 2017 Program

Date: March 26, 2017
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Place: Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main Street, Watertown, MA (617) 972-6421

Gioachino Rossini's final opera, *Guillaume (William) Tell*

Speaker: David J. Collins, M.Ed.

Mr. Collins was Opera Boston's lecturer for 8 years and has given numerous opera courses at MIT, Regis College, Boston Center for Adult Education, Northeastern University, and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. He graduated from Lesley University with a Master of Education degree, and *cum laude* from Boston University with a Bachelor of Music Education. His last offering for NEOC was a fabulous lecture on Richard Wagner's hero "Siegfried," part of the *Ring des Nibelungen* cycle.



William Tell is best known for its famous overture. However, there are many gorgeous arias, ensembles and choruses to be found in it.

It tells the story of the legendary hero, William Tell, who led the Swiss rebellion against Austrian rule. In order to convey this struggle and its success, Rossini enlarged the scope of opera writing. In so doing, he established the form of Grand Opera, which influenced many other composers including Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi and Wagner

*Free to All – Bring your friends -
Come early, especially for Felice's luscious treats!*

Directions and parking:

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.

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

From the East: Take Route 16 West (Mt. Auburn Street). Turn right on Main Street.

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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Past Presidents

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& President Emeritus)

Jack Fiddler

Maria Iantosca

Charlotte Wolfe

John M. Tischio



2017 NEOC Presentations

(listings are subject to change)

March 26: *Guillaume Tell*

David Collins, speaker

April 9: *Rigoletto*

Sara Bellini, speaker

May 7: Boston Opera Collaborative

June 4: *Let's bring on the Operatic*

Baritones!

Erika Reitshamer, speaker

July 16: *Honoring John Tischio's life*

August 13: *Great Singers on Television*

Bill Cotten, speaker

September 17:

Kathleen McDermott, speaker



Letters or Articles to the Editor:

Richard Brunson

20 Grampian Way

Dorchester, MA 02125

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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To contact NEOC:

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Jacopo Peri Award

The following individuals were honored by NEOC for making significant contributions 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

More memories of John Tischio:

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of a true opera legend and dear friend John Tischio. A larger than life gentleman whose love for opera knew no bounds. He was equally at home talking about Wagner, Puccini, and Verdi as he was when we shared our mutual love for Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, or Yogi Berra. A wonderful raconteur and story teller who could always hold an audience captive with his charm and wit. The New England Opera Club will never be the same without him!

Rest in Peace John. I know you're sharing some wonderful times with Caruso, Callas, Tebaldi, Gobbi, Pavarotti, and all the other opera greats in that most heavenly of choirs.

-- Joyce and Ron Della Chiesa

I think his future will be as an opera director.....he has had several successes in Europe. He is fluent in German and spends a lot of time there, even having a TV program on the ARTE Channel (a cultural channel on German/French television). Its been running for several years now:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTs0MTBDFzE>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROLANDO VILLAZON!!! - Jack Sauer

On This Day: Rolando Villazón, Renaissance Man



(Credit: Villazón Official Website) The tenor has proven his versatility in a number of areas outside of the stage.

POSTED BY: DAVID SALAZAR
FEBRUARY 22, 2017
OPERAWIRE

Rolando Villazón turns 45 on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017.

The Mexican tenor has managed a strong career over the past decade, conquering numerous struggles and paving new ways that have allowed him to remain at the forefront of opera's diversification and development. He has reshaped his repertoire to suit his vocal and dramatic abilities, but today we recognize him for the things he has done outside of singing and acting that have made him such a unique figure in the opera world.

The Director

Villazón's acting abilities have been one of his major assets in his career and it is no surprise that at some point the intellectual thinker would set his sights on directing. He kicked that career off in 2011 when he created a new production of *Werther* for the Opera de Lyon. From there he has moved into a vaster repertoire, taking on Puccini's *La Rondine*, Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma* and Verdi's *La Traviata*. His next assignment is *Don Pasquale* in Dusseldorf.

The Author

The Mexican wrote the 2013 novel *Malabares*, which narrates the story of a clown who suffers an injury and rediscovers a story he had been writing about an alter-ego clown, who is adored by the public but is also going through his own rough patch in his career.

The Artist

Villazón is also a terrific cartoonist who draws and animates his own work. Many of his illustrations are subversions of opera's famous works. You can check some of them out on his website:
rolandovillazon.com/listen-watch/#tab-photo

The TV Host

Villazón stunned the world when he announced that he would be a judge and mentor on the TV show "Pop Star to Opera Star" in 2010 and 2011. He followed that up with his own TV series "Stars von morgen."

The Humanitarian

With the refugee crisis on the forefront of international issues, the tenor took to fundraising for the United Nations Refugee Agency, raising over \$13,000 to help and protect refugees around the world.

Opera Diary
Local Opera and Classical Music, March 2017

March 4, 1-5 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | **Metropolitan Opera** *Special Concert*

March 5, 8 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | *Sunday Night Opera*

March 5, 9 pm

WCRB, 99.5 | *Sunday Night at the Opera*

March 6, 3:00 pm

Weston Public Library | *La Traviata* lecture by Erika Reitshamer | free to all
87 School Street, Weston | 781.786.6150, www.westonlibrary.org/

March 11, 12:55 pm

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD | *La Traviata, Verdi* | *At theaters near you* | www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/

March 11, 7 pm

Musica Sacra | *Israel in Egypt*, George Frideric Handel

First Church Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge | 617.349.3400, www.musicasacra.org

March 12, 8 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | *Sunday Night Opera*

March 12, 9 pm

WCRB, 99.5 | *Sunday Night at the Opera*

March 12 & 19, 3 pm; March 15 & 17, 7:30 pm

Boston Lyric Opera | *The Rake's Progress*, Stravinsky

Emerson/Majestic Theater, 219 Tremont Street, Boston | 617.542.4912, <https://blo.org/the-rakes-progress/>

March 17 & 18, 7:30 pm

Odyssey Opera | *Wilde Opera Nights: The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Virginia Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston, MA | www.odysseyopera.org/upcoming-performances-2/

March 18, 1-5 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | **Metropolitan Opera** *Special Concert*

March 18 and September 23

Boston Singers Resource Open Auditions | www.bostonsingersresource.org/programs-and-events/bsr-annual-auditions/

March 19, 8 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | *Sunday Night Opera*

March 19, 9 pm

WCRB, 99.5 | *Sunday Night at the Opera*

March 24, 25, 30, 31, April 1 - 7:30 pm; March 26 - 3:00 pm

Boston Opera Collaborative | *The Dangerous Liaisons*, Conrad Susa

The Plaza Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St, Boston, MA | 617.517.5883
<https://www.bostonoperacollaborative.org/the-dangerous-liaisons>

March 25, 1-5 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | **Metropolitan Opera** *Special Concert*

March 26, 8 pm

WHRB, 95.3 | *Sunday Night Opera*

March 26, 9 pm

WCRB, 99.5 | *Sunday Night at the Opera*

