

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

May 2016 Program

Date: May 22 2016
Time: 2:00 PM

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

This month's talk:

Young Siegfried - The Hero It's Hard to Like

Speaker: David Collins
Musician, musicologist, and opera lecturer



Jay Hunter Morris in the title role of Wagner's Siegfried.
Photo: Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera

Mime, Siegfried's foster parent, is often viewed as a humorous and somewhat sympathetic dwarf who is ill-treated by a thankless, mean-spirited Siegfried.

Who is this Siegfried character, and why is he viewed this way?

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#### *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.

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**2016 NEOC Programs**

(listings are subject to change)

**May 22: *Young Siegfried - The Hero  
It's Hard to Like***

David Collins, speaker

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

Erika Reitshamer, speaker

**July 17: *Matzkin Award Dinner***

**August 21:** Bill Cotten, speaker

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

Lew Schneider, speaker

**October 16: *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@neoperclub.org](mailto:operainfo@neoperclub.org)



SOPRANO AILYN PÉREZ was named as the recipient of  
The Metropolitan Opera's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Beverly Sills Artist Award



Pérez as Micaëla in the Met's *Carmen*

© Marty Sohl/Metropolitan Opera

Given annually to a young singer between the ages of 25 and 40 who has already appeared in a feature role at the Met, the Sills Artist Award carries a \$50,000 prize, making it the largest of its kind in the United States. Ailyn Pérez made her Met debut last season as Micaëla in performances of *Carmen*, and will sing her first Met Musettas in *La Bohème* performances this month at the Met.

Given in honor of the late soprano Beverly Sills, the award was established in 2006 through an endowment gift from the late Agnes Varis, who served as a managing director on the Met board. Past recipients of the award include baritone Nathan Gunn, Joyce DiDonato, Matthew Polenzani, bass John Relyea, soprano Susanna Phillips, mezzo Isabel Leonard, soprano Angela Meade, tenor Bryan Hymel, tenor Michael Fabiano and baritone Quinn Kelsey.

"I am so deeply honored to receive this year's Beverly Sills Artist Award, and also to have an artistic home at the Metropolitan Opera," Pérez said in a statement issued today by the Met. "For me and so many others, Beverly Sills's legacy is an inspiration. She presented the operatic voice as something we could be fascinated and awed by, and with her great sense of humor, she was 'Bubbles,' the diva we could all relate to. I also feel a great responsibility to be an active part of continuing that tradition, and to find innovative ways to engage new audiences through social media and working in our schools. Opera will survive and thrive if we embrace it as an important part of our collective culture."

This summer the soprano will sing Juliette in Santa Fe Opera performances of *Roméo et Juliette*, and next season, Pérez takes on the role of Tatiana in performances of *Eugene Onegin* at Dallas Opera in addition to singing the role of Mimì in Met performances of *Bohème*. Last month the Elk Grove Village, Illinois native sang the title role in performances of Massenet's *Manon* at Dallas Opera, and in February she took on the role of the Countess in *Figaro* performances at Houston Grand Opera. Earlier this season Pérez created the role of Tatyana Bakst in Dallas Opera's world premiere performances of Jake Heggie's *Great Scott*.

*This article was provided by Jack Sauer, our Opera Friend*

*The Operatic Stephen Sondheim: Our April meeting*

For years Angelo Mammano has been presenting programs at the N.E.O.C. meetings.

As most of us are aware, a presentation takes a lot of careful thought and hours of planning, even if the final results look casual. Angelo's talk this month was no exception.

He touched on Stephen Sondheim's background, and how his talents have matured.

Angelo went briefly over many of Sondheim's works, and then concentrated on what may be Sondheim's most memorable accomplishment: *Sweeney Todd*. We all enjoyed watching a remarkable video of the play.

Thank you once again, Angelo, for a job well done!

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Opera Diary

Local Opera and Classical Music, May 2016

May 1, 10 am

Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St, Brookline | Royal Opera House, *Boris Godunov*, Mussorgsky
More: (617) 734-2501 | www.coolidge.org/

May 1, 12 pm

WGBH TV: *Lulu*, Berg

May 1, 4, 6, 7:30 pm; May 8, 3 pm

Boston Lyric Opera, Schubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston | *The Merry Widow*
More: 1-855-502-6090, <http://www.ticketofficesales.com/venue/shubert-theatre-ma-tickets-for-sale>

May 1, 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera, *Tosca*, Puccini

May 7, 1 pm

WHRB Metropolitan Opera Special Concert.

May 8, 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera, *Apollo et Hyacinthus*, Mozart

May 14, 4pm; May 15, 2pm

New Philharmonia Orchestra, First Baptist Church, 848 Beacon St, Newton Centre | *Blockbuster Beethoven* concert | More: 617-527-9717, <http://www.newphil.org/>

May 15, 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera, *The Return of Ulysses to His Country*, Monteverdi

May 20- 22, 27, 28

Guerilla Opera, *Beowulf*, Lash | The Zack Box at the Boston Conservatory, 8 The Fenway, Boston
More: 617) 912-9222, guerillaopera.com/season/beowulf

May 22, 12 pm

WGBH TV: *The Pearl Fishers*, Bizet

May 22, 8 pm

WCRB Sunday Night Opera, *Tannhäuser*, Wagner