

New England Opera Club



New England Opera Club Newsletter

Logo by Barbara Winston

Date: March 10, 2019
Time: 2:00 - 4:30

Place: Coolidge Corner Library
31 Pleasant Street, Brookline, Massachusetts

A Salute to Richard Tauber ***Geoffrey Riggs, speaker***



Tenor Richard Tauber, as the leading Mozart and operetta tenor of his own generation, is now widely viewed as the greatest such tenor of the entire century. He is also one of those rare artists who combine scrupulous musicianship with great theatrical flair. The illogical assumption is too often made that these two attributes are somehow mutually exclusive. Tauber shows us they're not.

His enormous celebrity as a household word and a true superstar was achieved in spite of his lack of classic "matinee-idol" looks or a powerful top. Certainly, he had perfectly good control of his upper register, but it was not the kind of extension that could overwhelm, at full voice, in either its beauty or its power, though it was always intrinsically musical. Ultimately, his vocal beauty lay in a staggering array of vocal color throughout the rest of his range. It lay in his capacity to vary dynamics on a dime, from full fortissimo to a pianissimo of ravishing quality, even at the top, a sound so dazzling it made up for the relative plainness of his top at full voice.

Many testify to his evident charisma on stage. Despite being short and stocky, he was somehow able to mesmerize through the sheer conviction behind his communicative genius. In a way hard to define, he "believed" whatever he sang, and so the audience believed along with him. Clearly, to do this, he needed to absorb the essence of every genre he tackled and to convey that essence whole to every spectator. Staggering as the range of genres in which he excelled are, he still succeeded in making every single composer he tackled, from Mozart to Kern, his own. Audiences sensed this and loved him for it.

On this occasion, we will hear a selection of some of his finest recordings, sampling the roles in which he was most famous, as well as a small handful of records in which he demonstrates an unusual mastery at repertoire he never performed on stage. We also get to hear him alongside a number of his most distinguished colleagues, including Lotte Lehmann, Georg Szell, Vera Schwarz and others.

Geoffrey Riggs, a Board member of the Vocal Record Collectors Society of New York (VRCS), the webmaster at Operacast - Opera Broadcasts on the Internet, and author of "The Assoluta Voice in Opera", will take us through Tauber's career and show why Tauber's recordings have become such treasures for record collectors everywhere. We look forward to having you for a special celebration of a very special musician.

Directions and parking:

- The library is located in the Coolidge Corner area, at 31 Pleasant St. There is free parking on Sundays at metered spaces, and on the side streets.
- The subway D line stops in Coolidge Corner, at Beacon and Harvard streets.

The Library is fully handicap-accessible.

The library features an elevator to get us to the lower floor, where the lecture will take place.

President
Peter McNamara

Vice-president
Wendy Mandel
info@neoperclub.org

Treasurer
Mima Leivi
617-983-0310
mleivi@msn.com

**Webmaster and
Newsletter Assistant**
Marion Leeds Carroll
marion@leedscarroll.com

Board

Andrew Altenbach

Maria-Pia Antonelli
617-527-1372

Felice Kahn
617-332-7230

Angelo Mammano
781-777-2178
operangelo@comcast.net

Erika Reitshamer
508-485-1214
erika@reitshamer.com

Noel and Deborah Rose
617-383-5045

To contact NEOC:
operainfo@neoperclub.org

**Letters or Articles to
the Editor:**

NEOC
Mima Leivi
80 Paul Gore St., #1
Jamaica Plain, MA
02130

Annual Membership:

\$40 for each individual
/ \$45 for a couple at
same address
\$15 student with valid
ID

Mail check, payable to
NEOC, to

Mima Leivi, Treasurer
(see address above)

2019 NEOC Programs
(listings are subject to change)

April 7, *In memory of Peter Sullivan*
May 5, *The second visit from the Berkshire Festival Organizers*
June 2, *Speaker Erika Retshamer*
July: *no presentation*



**Gabriella Reyes De Ramirez Wins 2019
Hildegard Behrens Foundation Humanitarian Award**

By David Salazar, OperaWire

Gabriella Reyes de Ramirez is the ninth winner of the Hildegard Behrens Foundation Humanitarian Award. The soprano was given the award on Feb. 11, 2019 at the Belmont Room at the Metropolitan Opera.



“It is an honor to receive an award from philanthropists who believe in my ability to illuminate people’s lives through opera. Support from foundations like the Hildegard Behrens Foundation help careers of singers tremendously, and I cannot be more grateful,” Reyes stated.

Reyes de Ramirez has had a whirlwind 2018-19 season that has seen her not only appear with The Met’s Summer Recital Series, but has also featured her on the very stage of the Met in a recent run of *Aida*, alongside Anna Netrebko and Anita Rachvelischvili; she appeared as the High Priestess. She also appeared in performances of *Gianni Schicchi* alongside Plácido Domingo.

Reyes is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory and Boston University and was a finalist at the 2017 National Council Auditions. Right after that, she was invited to join the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and then went on to perform with Domingo and Gustavo Dudamel in Los Angeles. She also recently appeared with the New York Choral Society at Carnegie Hall.

The soprano follows in the footsteps of such winners as Layla Claire, Emalie Savoy, Ying Fang, Michelle Bradley, Hyesang Park, Mario Chang, Kang Wang, and Alexey Lavrov.

In addition to the awarding of Reyes de Ramirez, the Foundation also announced the expansion of its Advisory Board, which will now include Ellington Management Group CEO Michael Vranos, Entrepreneur Richard Strother, and Met Opera Assistant Conductor Bryan Wagorn.

The Hildegard Behrens Foundation is a co-founder and principal sponsor The Global Leaders program, which is a nine-month Executive Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship, Cultural Agency, Teaching Artistry, Civic Leadership, and Organizational Management. Each year, the Foundation awards four of the most exceptional graduates with the distinguished Humanitarian Entrepreneur Prize.

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 3:pm 1689 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING for Chorus and Chamber Orchestra Music by Dan Forrest	<i>First Boston Performance</i> Dedham Choral Society, Jonathan Barnhart, Director Tickets: \$30 / Seniors: \$25 / Children: \$5 (ages 5-12) www.dedhamchoral.org
---	--

Past Presidents
William Miranda
NEOC (Founder &
President
Emeritus)
Jack Fiddler
Maria Iantosca
Charlotte Wolfe
John M. Tischio

The mission of this nonprofit association is educational: To promote appreciation of the art of opera; to support performances of quality opera in New England; to encourage talented students in their pursuit of operatic careers.

To subscribe to our newsletter or to join our mailing list, please send your name and email address to neoperclub@gmail.com

Jacopo Peri Award
The NEOC frequently honors a person who has made a significant contribution to the local opera scene.

Eunice Alberts
John Balme
Scott Brumit
Sarah Caldwell
Schuyler Chapin
Carole Charnow
Richard Conrad
Federico Cortese
Patricia Craig and
Richard Cassilly
Phyllis Curtin
Jan Curtis
Sharon Daniels
Janice Mancini Del Sesto
Ron Della Chiesa
D’Anna Fortunato
Randolph J. Fuller
Boris Goldovsky
Donald Gramm
Roland Hayes
Robert Honeysucker
Norman Kelley
Stephen Lord
William Miranda
John Moriarty
Esther Nelson
Martin Pearlman
Bradley Pennington
Jeffrey Rink
Eleanor Steber
Susan Stone
John M. Tischio
Ernest Triplett

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ **Opera Diary** ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Local Opera and Classical Music, March 2019

For up-to-date activities, visit FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/NEoperaevents/>
Join NEOC! Visit [operaclub.org/membership.html](https://www.operaclub.org/membership.html)

March 1, 1:30 PM; March 2, 8 PM

Boston Symphony Orchestra | *Stabat Mater*, Dvořák
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave. Boston | <https://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/96156>

March 1, 8:00 PM

Celebrity Series of Boston | *Songplay*. Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory of Music, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston

March 2, 12:55 PM

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD | *La Fille du Régiment*, Donizetti | [metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/](https://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/)

March 2, 8 PM, Cambridge; March 3, 3:30 PM, Lexington

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble | *Uccelli Barocco (Baroque Birds)* | [sarasamusic.org/events/uccelli](https://www.sarasamusic.org/events/uccelli)

- Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
- First Parish in Lexington, 7 Harrington Road, Lexington

March 2, 8 PM, *Pre-Concert Talk at 7:15 pm*

Melrose Symphony | *A Night at the Opera: Music You Know and Love*
Memorial Hall, 590 Main St, Melrose | [melrosesymphony.org/operanight](https://www.melrosesymphony.org/operanight)

March 2, 8 PM, Cambridge; March 3, 4 PM, Brookline

Meravelha Medieval Ensemble | *Alta Trinita Beata - music and art of the Italian Trecento*

- MIT Chapel, 48 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
- Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline | [meravelha.com/events/](https://www.meravelha.com/events/)

March 3, 10 AM

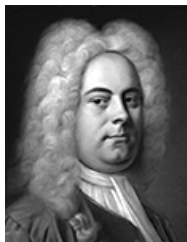
New England Classical Singers | *Golden Anniversary*, choral works by Perera and others | *Pre-concert lecture at 2:00 PM with noted musicologist Andrew Shryock*
Christ Church 33 Central Street, Andover | (978) 384-6327, info@newenglandclassical.org

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 10 AM

Emmanuel Music | Bach Cantata Series | 617.536.3356 x 5, [emmanuelmusic.org/calendar_tickets/18-19season/caltix18-19_cantatas.html](https://www.emmanuelmusic.org/calendar_tickets/18-19season/caltix18-19_cantatas.html)
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

March 8, 7:30 PM; March 10, 3:00 PM

Handel + Haydn Society | Mozart: Overture to *The Magic Flute*; Weber: Clarinet Concerto No. 1; Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 | <https://www.handelandhaydn.org/concerts/beethoven-symphony-no-5>
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston



Handel

March 8, 8 PM; March 10, 3 PM

Boston Baroque | *Jephtha*, Handel
NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St, Boston | (617) 987-8600, [bostonbaroque.org/concerts/all-shows](https://www.bostonbaroque.org/concerts/all-shows)

March 9, 3:30 PM

Cantilena + Voices Rising + The Women's Chorus | *We Make More than Music Here*, Concert to Benefit Homeless Women | First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 630 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington | 781.648.3799, <https://www.bostonsingersresource.org/vocal-music-calendar/concert-benefit-homeless-women>

March 9, 2:30 PM

Ensemble Lyrae | *Finding Home: Music of Adopted Lands*, works by immigrant composers: Bartok, Berlin, others
Harvard Epworth Church, 1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
<https://www.ensemblelyrae.org/20172018season>

New England Opera Club Newsletter

March 10, 11 AM

Commonwealth Chorale | *Out From the Shadows - In the Spotlight: Virtuosi Eclipsed by Genius*, works by Salieri and Kuhnau | 413.475.0582, <https://commonwealthchorale.com/node/2277>
Church of the Holy Name, 1689 Centre Street, West Roxbury

March 10, 3 PM

Greater Worcester Opera | *Opera in Concert*, featuring the The Seven Hills Symphony and soloists from GWO | <https://www.facebook.com/events/327946687931863/permalink/336097810450084/>
UMass Medical School, 55 Lake Ave N, Worcester |

March 11-17, 8 PM

Boston Lyric Opera | *The Rape of Lucretia*, Britten
Artists for Humanity EpiCenter, 100 West 2nd Street, Fort Point, Boston
617.542.6772, <https://blo.org/lucretia/>

March 14, 15, 16 - 8 PM

Boston Symphony Orchestra | *All-Strauss Program featuring Renée Fleming*
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston
<https://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/96161>

March 16, 4 PM

La Donna Musicale | *Venetian Baroque: Celebrating Barbara Strozzi*
Old South Church, Gordon Chapel, 645 Boylston St., Boston
<https://rumbarroco.org/show/venetian-baroque-celebrating-barbara-strozzi/>



March 16, 6:00 PM

Boston Singers Resource | *Libiamo* - Barbara Quintiliani and other BSR staff & members celebrate the new BSR web site with vocal music | Space is limited, so RSVP soon: info@bostonsingersresource.org | <https://www.bostonsingersresource.org/>
Taylor House Bed and Breakfast, 50 Burroughs Street, Boston

March 22, 8 PM *Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm*

Cantata Singers | *The Creation*, Haydn
NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St, Boston | 617.868.5885, cantatasingers.org/18-19-season

March 22, 8 PM

Henry Purcell Society of Boston | *The Tempest*, Purcell & Friends - music by Purcell and other composers
Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, 138 Tremont Street, Boston | contact@bostonpurcell.org,
<https://www.bostonpurcell.org/purcell--friends-the-tempest1.html>

March 24, 5 PM

King's Chapel Concert Series | *Esther*, Handel
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston
617.227.2155, <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3568663>

March 28-April 6, 8 PM

Boston Opera Collaborative | *Don Giovanni*, Mozart | Limited seating | <https://www.bostonoperacollaborative.org/don-giovanni-march-19>
Ben Franklin Institute of Technology, 41 Berkeley Street, Boston

March 29, 7:30 PM; March 31, 3:00 PM

Handel + Haydn Society | *Dido and Aeneas*, Purcell
NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St, Boston | 617.868.5885, handelandhaydn.org/concerts/purcell-dido-and-aeneas

March 30, 12 PM

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD | *Die Walküre*, Wagner | metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/

March 31, 2 - 4 PM

Seaglass Theater Company | *Me & Miss Jones*, music composed during the lifetime of philanthropist Amelia Hickling Jones (1849-1935)
Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, 396 County Street, New Bedford
(508) 951-7187, <https://www.seaglasstheater.com/>