

Letter from the President

What an incredible honor and privilege to follow in Bill Wallace's footsteps as President. I would like to thank Bill, as well as the entire board, for their dedication and hard work during a very difficult past season. I am delighted to be part of this wonderful group of individuals who represent Austin Opera and what it stands for.



Bruno Brunner
Guild President, 2021-2022

Some 6 years ago, when my partner told me that we were moving back to Austin from Munich because of his job, I confess my reaction was less than enthusiastic. I had so grown to love Munich, its vibrant arts scene, its proximity to the Bayreuth and Salzburg festivals, and especially the famous opera house, closely tied to the Wagnerian operatic tradition. Perhaps to soften the surprise, my partner quickly added: "But Austin has a great Opera!"

I was open... but just a bit skeptical. Candidly, the associations in my mind were more along the lines of the Driskill rather than Dell Hall (I was thinking Longhorns, not Lohengrin). When I went to my first Austin Opera performance, *the Flying Dutchman*, one Sunday afternoon, I was not even sure if I would stay through the entire opera. But I wasn't disappointed. In fact, I was delighted—so much so that I went to see it again the week after. Since then, and over the past five years, I have seen and heard numerous memorable performances in Austin.

And not just of the Wagnerian variety! There's certainly been plenty of traditional fare, with high-quality productions such as *La Boheme*, *Tosca* and the concert version of *Otello*. But there have also been highly innovative new productions like *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Everest*. During this time of prolonged social isolation, we especially appreciated being able to pack a picnic and head to the Blue Starlight drive-in for the *Lauren and Mark Digital Concert Event*. In difficult times great art reminds us what it means to be human and connected to one another.

The saying "Keep Austin Weird" very much applies to its Opera. It offers high-quality and deeply innovative opera in a uniquely accessible and unpretentious way, and this combination is hard to resist. We can be proud of what is happening here. And we can be excited for the upcoming season, with performances of *The Marriage of Figaro* (in November), *The (R)Evolution of Steve Jobs* (in February) and *Fidelio* (in April). The season will surely have its challenges, but — as always — Austin Opera will not disappoint. Our company will delight.

It is a privilege and responsibility to support Austin Opera, and the Opera Guild continues to have an important role in doing so. Members can expect to enjoy traditional Guild events such as the Kick-Off Party, the Holiday Event and numerous other opportunities to come together. In addition, we are already beginning to focus on our annual Serenata Gala. This year the organizing committee for Serenata will be chaired by Mary Ellen Borgelt and Sylvia Jabour. Both co-chairs will provide strong leadership for this important Guild event.

Many thanks once again, and here's to a fantastic 2021-22 Season with Austin Opera!

Austin Opera

2021-2022 season

**MOZART'S
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**

November 6, 11 & 14, 2021
The Long Center

**BATES AND CAMPBELL'S
THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS**

February 3, 5 & 6, 2022
The Long Center

**BEETHOVEN'S
FIDELIO:
A CELEBRATORY GALA PRODUCTION**

April 29 & May 1, 2022
The Long Center

SINGLE TICKETS START AT \$39

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Serenata 2022 – Save the date!

The Austin Opera Guild is very excited to announce that it will host the *Serenata Gala: A Celebration of Stars* on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. We invite you to join us for this magnificent fine wine dinner and auction as we honor our tremendous friends and philanthropists, Gail and Jeff Kodosky.

The Kodoskys are long-time Austinites who have graciously and generously supported arts programs across the city for decades. As major arts patrons, they have given their time, talent, and treasure to a plethora of organizations, including Austin Opera, Ballet Austin, Austin Symphony, and many more. The impact of their contribution to our community is immense, and the Guild is overjoyed to honor and celebrate them as true Austin stars.

Guests of the gala will partake in an elegant and nostalgic Hollywood evening filled with a beautiful operatic performance, unique wines, tantalizing auction items, and great friendship. The Four Seasons' Executive Chef, Elmar Prumbs, will curate this celebratory dinner which will include exquisite, hand-picked wine-pairings for each course provided by our dear friends, Twin Liquors.

We hope you will join us for this special evening. Tickets are limited and will be on sale soon!

For more information, please contact Rhanda Luna
737.228.1442 or rluna@austinopera.org.

Call for Volunteers:

The return to live performances at the Long Center means the return of Volunteer Opportunities! We need YOU more than ever. Here is what's coming up:

- Nov. 4 Figaro Dress Rehearsal
- Nov. 6 Figaro opening night
- Nov. 11 Figaro Thursday showing
- Nov. 14 Figaro Sunday matinee showing

Reach out and sign up to volunteer at one of the following stations:

- Will Call (box office)
- Mingle and assist
- Check-In Desk at West Pincer Terrace (mezz lvl)
- Intermission timer
- Reminder @ Parking Garage
- Check-In Desk at Pre-Opera Dinner

Sign up to receive volunteer requests with Rhanda Luna: rluna@austinopera.org / 737.228.1442



FOR INDOOR EVENTS: UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST WITHIN 72 HOURS (3 DAYS) OR VOLUNTARY PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

The safety of our patrons, artists, and staff is always our top priority. As such, we have implemented new health and wellness protocols to allow the community to continue to enjoy live performances and shared creative experiences safely.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the Long Center will be requiring the following to attend all INDOOR events:

- A printed or clear digital copy of a negative COVID-19 test result obtained within 72 hours (3 days) of the event for all patrons aged 12 and older.
- In lieu of a negative test, a patron can voluntarily provide printed or clear digital proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, with final vaccine dated at least 14 days prior to the event.

For more questions or information, email us at info@austinopera.org

ACCESS Opera is back

It was a long road getting the opera back into Dell Hall, much less hundreds of area students, but thanks to the superpowers of our Director of Education, Debra Erck, this is really happening! On Thursday, November 4th nearly 500 students will join us for the final dress rehearsal of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Check out Austin Opera's website for an incredible peek at what the Education department has already cooked up for this season. Whether virtual or in-person, Austin Opera's educational offerings continue to inspire growth and critical thinking skills in today's students.

<https://austinopera.org/education/>

ACCESS OPERA



New at *The Marriage of Figaro*

Saturday, November 6

Even before we will all thrill to hear those very distinctive opening bars of the overture for *The Marriage of Figaro*, we'll be offering you yet another **Opera Overtures** on Saturday, November 6th. Join us in the theater an hour before the opening night performance for a special talk by mezzo-soprano and Austin Opera favorite Liz Cass that will give you a sneak peek into Mozart's life and the historical and social context of his operas. The talk is free to all ticketholders and will be a fascinating pre-show addition to the evening for both opera aficionados and first-time operagoers alike.



Thursday, November 11

If you have Thursday tickets for *Figaro*, then why not come and test your opera knowledge with our pre-show **Trivia & Toasts** in the Kodosky Lounge. Hosted by our resident quizmaster, Julie Fiore, you can compete to win not only a prize basket, but some serious bragging rights. This is a free event for all ticketholders with a cash bar and a happy-hour vibe.

Sunday, November 14

Come along before the Sunday matinee for some **Conversations & Coffee** with General Director & CEO, Annie Burridge, and her Special Figaro Guest Star, Stage Director E. Loren Meeker. There'll be complimentary pastries along with coffee in this free pre-show presentation in the Kodosky Lounge.

Austin Opera Guild's Mentorship Program

Austin Opera is pleased to continue this program during the 2021-2022 Season! Guild Members may request a complimentary ticket to *The Marriage of Figaro* for a friend, and a complimentary ticket for themselves to attend with and introduce a friend to the opera for the first time.

For years, research has indicated that the best way to generate new audience members is through personal introduction to the art form, and how better to achieve this than with the help of some of the organization's most enthusiastic ambassadors?

To learn more or reserve a ticket through the Mentorship Program, please contact Rhanda Luna at rluna@austinopera.org or 737.228.1442.

Community Partnerships

By Rhanda Luna

We're gearing up for an exciting season of live, in-person events after far too many days spent staring at the computer screen.

This season, we are starting with *The Marriage of Figaro*! On October 1, 2021, Austin Opera presented for Fort Hood's Traumatic Brain Injury center for the NEA's Healing Arts program, alongside our friend and Music Therapist, Andrea Lockard. Soprano Kathryn Grumley began the program with an a cappella "America the Beautiful", and performances from An All-Star Concert were streamed to attendees. Information was provided for all active duty and retired veterans on how to join us for more Austin Opera performances and free community events.



The Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM) have become regular partners since the inception of the partnership for *La Boheme* in 2019. On a regular basis, Austin Opera helps push HAAM's message and services out to its musicians and artists who are local to Austin. Musicians from HAAM will be making appearances at **each performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*** to raise awareness of the programming and assistance they offer for our local musicians.

A new partnership has come to fruition with Mozart's Coffee Roasters! **Saturday, October 30th** at 6:30 p.m. Austin Opera will present a 20-30 minute program outside on the musical stage at Mozart's, by the lake. Local couple Lily Guerrero and Jake Skipworth present Mozart arias, accompanied by our very own Nyle Matsuoka. Join us for **Mozart @ Mozart's**, and enjoy a musical pre-ambule to the opera that will re-introduce us to the Long Center in grand fashion November 6, 11, & 14.



On **Friday December 17th**, join us for a little shopping with champagne at Kendra Scott @ Domain. Kendra Scott is an Austinite whose business has grown into a huge success. Through the Kendra Gives Back program, the jewelry artisan provides mini-fundraiser events, which give 20% of proceeds from a shopping party back to the nonprofit. If you have any upcoming jewelry or holiday gifting needs, perhaps save a little to join us that evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.!



KENDRA SCOTT

#You do Good



Austin Opera and the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin are thrilled to announce a new collaboration with the creation of a new performance series—Concerts at the Consulate—designed to spotlight Latinx composers and artists and celebrate Hispanic culture.

Renowned Mexican mezzo-soprano Claudia Chapa joins Austin Opera’s team as Artistic Curator of the new series. Concerts at the Consulate events will include musical performances, discussions of the artistic and social context of the program, programming for families and children, and the promotion of cultural and social organizations doing important work in Austin’s Latinx community.



Upcoming Concerts:

November 1, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. Dia de los Muertos (SOLD OUT)

December 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. Holiday Concert

For more information about the series and featured artists, visit: <https://austinopera.org/concerts-at-the-consulate/>

Thanks to our Sponsors at Strait Music for donating a piano for every one of these exciting new concerts!



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November 6, 2021	Pre-Opera Dinner Opening Night of <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	5:30 p.m.	Long Center
Friday, December 10, 2021	Guild Holiday Party Our Holiday Membership Party	6:00 p.m.	Home of Cindy Wilson
Wednesday, January 26, 2022	Enrichment: <i>The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs</i> Interview with the Assistant Director	6:30 p.m.	TBD