

Austin
LYRIC
Opera
GUILD

LIBRETTO

Pagliacci

Who's Laughing Now?



Carl Tanner was a good sport promoting ALO.

Maestro Richard Buckley

Conducting *Pagliacci* is always an exciting experience for me. It is the type of visceral, emotional roller coaster that I seem to gravitate towards. It is filled with quixotic emotions that require performers and audience alike to literally hang on to their seats and go for the ride. It is filled with dramatic *verismo* music. After premiering 120 years

ago in 1892, it has become a staple in the operatic repertoire.

I have done many productions of *Pagliacci*, both by itself or coupled with other operas. Most typically it has been paired with *Cavalleria Rusticana*, but it's also been a double-bill with *Gianni Schicchi* and even *Carmina Burana*. I feel that presenting it on its own without an additional story being told allows the listener to experience it in a totally different way. It intensifies one's involvement with the characters and story line, intensifying your involvement with the performance. Also, when you have financial resources that are supporting one production instead of two, you can present a much higher level of artistic product. I hope that you will both feel, hear, and see those results.

We are so fortunate to have the cast and director that we have. In rehearsals, I have watched with great anticipation and excitement at what you will get to experience because of their level of commitment and accomplishment, and what they bring to their art.
Continued, Page 2

Pre-Opera Dinner Extravaganza

Polly Barbaro

The excitement of Opening Night was palpable. The first opera of Season 26, *Pagliacci*, would soon begin. In keeping with the opera's theme, the Verismo Cosmo Reception was alive with men in all manner of tuxes and women in a glittering array of spectacular evening wear as they shared conversation and toasted to the success of the upcoming season. Signature cocktails and bubbly champagne, generously provided by **Twin Liquors**, along side creative hors d'oeuvres, added to the festive atmosphere. Upon proceeding into the Kodosky Lounge, elaborately decorated tables beckoned opera goers to partake of the evening's paired three-course La Commedia dell'Arte dinner expertly prepared and served by **Sterling Affairs**.

ALO Guild President, **Carol Logan**, offered welcoming comments and encouraged participation in other guild-sponsored events this season, including pre-opera dinners for *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Faust*, as well as the Guild's third annual Wine Dinner and Auction, to be held in February. She then acknowledged the evening's honorary co-chairs, **Peter Schram** and **Harry Ullmann**, who represent the heart and soul of our Opera family.
Continued, Page 3

PAGLIACCI

In addition, with great pride I have seen them realize what a great company we have. Rehearsing for the first time in our new rehearsal facility, hearing the fantastic ALO chorus, coming to The Long Center, and experiencing its incredible acoustics, and then being energized by the commitment that the ALO orchestra brings to their art; each step of the way I am reminded as to what we have accomplished and have continued to support through tough times.

The Guild has been one of the most important factors for ALO's continued organizational and artistic growth. Your continued involvement individually and collectively is paramount for our future. I want to thank you all, once again, for it can never be said too often. I hope that you continue to be as proud as I am, in what we do, who we are, and how we have gotten there.

Check out the reviews!
[Austin American-Statesman](#)
[Austin Culture Map](#)



Top: Danielle Pastin (Nedda) and the amazing Carl Tanner (Canio) **Middle:** Honorees for the evening, Harry Ulmann and Peter Schram. **Bottom Left:** David and Sylvia Jabour with Wendi and Brian Kushner **Bottom Right:** Polly Barbaro and Amelia Bullock enjoy the evening. Photos by Tony Spielberg.

PRE OPERA DINNER

Pete and Harry, founding members of the Austin Lyric Opera, are dedicated and generous supporters in all facets of the Opera, having served on the Guild Board, sponsored opera productions, co-chaired many opening night dinners, and in 2001 chaired the magnificent opera ball, “An Evening in the Orient”, for which they received the coveted BRAVO AWARD, the Guild’s highest award. Carol recognized the tireless efforts of **Paula Damore** and **Monica Eckols**, who cease to amaze us with their creativity and flair. **Wendi Kushner**, Chairman of the ALO Board of Trustees, added her thanks and reminded us that this year’s Wine Dinner will honor **David Jabour** and Twin Liquors. A special guest at this year’s event will be renowned opera tenor, Stephen Costello. Joe Specter, ALO’s General Director, thanked the opera family for being so gracious to him and his wife, Kate, since their arrival in Austin last spring. We thank you, Joe, and wish you every success in your role with Austin Lyric Opera!

Capping an evening of exquisite opera, the Kodosky Lounge was again the backdrop for the post-opera celebration party. An array of mouth-watering sweets, champagne toasts, and **Tony Spielberg** snapping photographs of good friends sharing a scintillating evening, greeted guests who mingled with the cast and Maestro Richard Buckley. This, truly, was an evening to remember.



Top: Anastasia and Bryan Bourgeois at the opening night dinner **Middle:** Peter Martino with two models for the evening, our own Kate Specter and Marcy Melanson. **Bottom Left:** A sample of the delicious desserts provided after the performance **Bottom Right:** Colleen Cole with Jim Halbrook Photos: Tony Spielberg. Please visit: www.austincandidates.com for photos.

THE GUILD LOSES A FAMILY MEMBER, EARL COVINGTON

Reprinted with permission from the family.

Earl Clifton Covington, Jr. was born in Nashville, TN on May 23, 1936 to parents Earl and Elizabeth. He had a younger sister, Dianne, who died several years before him.

Earl graduated from East Nashville High School, obtained his undergraduate degree from Belmont College and earned a Master's degree in Library Science from Peabody College in Nashville. Earl later joined the military and served as a librarian with the both the Army in France and with the Air Force in Germany.

In 1966, during a trip back to the states to visit his family, he met the man who became his life partner, Dr. Paul Glass, Jr. Earl and Paul shared 45 amazing years together, living for 25 years in Washington, DC and in Austin, TX since 1993. While residing in the Washington area, Earl was the librarian at a Jr. High school near their home in the DC suburb of Gaithersburg, Md. They enjoyed traveling and entertaining and were well known for their hosting hospitality. Upon arrival in Texas they became heavily involved in the Austin Lyric Opera Guild, meeting many wonderful friends. After Paul passed on

November 16, 2011 Earl dreamed daily of being with him again. On November 8, 2012 his dream came true.

In accordance with his wishes, Earl will be buried near Paul in Ft. Worth on Saturday. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made in his memory to Austin Pets Alive.



Paul Glass and Earl Covington, at the Opera Ball, 2007. Photo: Susan Gatlin.



Suzanne Breitbach, Jean Lefebvre, and Madeleine Aubry. Photo by Tony Spielberg

PAGLIACCI ENRICHMENT EVENT

Suzanne Breitbach

The Enrichment Committee (Marcia Toprac, Madeleine Aubry, Suzanne Breitbach) just completed their first Enrichment Event for *Pagliacci* at Eva and Marvin Womack's beautiful home, November 3rd. We had 61 happy attendees, once they were able to maneuver around the accident at Balcones & 2222.

Garnett Bruce and Katharine Shields gave us the inside story of past and present production styles of *Pagliacci*, the only opera Ruggiero Leoncavallo is known for despite its famous aria which Katharine played for the audience. The presentation was further invigorated by Joe Specter's insights. We were so blessed to have all three present for the evening.

Special thanks to Carolyn Wright and Carol Pierce Davis for your help at check-in and Paul Schoenfield and Vicki Spradling for your help as bartenders. Thank you Carol Logan for staying before and after to help us with setup and breakdown plus everyone who brought appetizers and desserts!

On to January 23rd at Paula and Stuart Damore's home for *The Marriage of Figaro* Enrichment Event.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD; ITS ALL IN THE FAMILY*Paula Kothmann*

*Don't ever question the value of volunteers.
Noah's Ark was built by volunteers;
the Titanic was built by professionals.
--Unknown*

In addition to the talented performers and outstanding staff, another group keeps ALO strong: its volunteers, affectionately know as “The ALO Family.” By working together on myriad projects, we volunteers support art while having loads of fun. Many Guild members are Founding Members of ALO and can reveal the rich history of the company’s successes and challenges. These challenges brought the Family together to donate their time, talent and treasure.

Austin Lyric Opera depends on its volunteers financially. Events such as the Guild-initiated and executed Wine Dinner and Auction and the festively themed Pre-Opera Dinners bring in much-needed funding to sustain opera as an art form in Austin. These events depend on an army of workers to produce. We need your help, and in return we will show you a good time.

Through volunteering Guild members have built lifelong friendships, a community that both celebrates its members’ successes and consoles them in times of sorrow. You don’t need to be an expert on opera to join our Family. You just need a passion to work to support art.

Whether you’re a “joiner” who likes the camaraderie of committee work or a “one and done” volunteer who can only commit to a single, short-term task, we have a place for you. Won’t you consider helping with some of these upcoming projects?:

Dec 8, **Guild Holiday Party** (sign up sheet available on our Web site, aloguild.org)

Jan 23, **Figaro Enrichment Event** (check-in, bartend, clean up, food donations)

Jan 31, Feb 2, 3, 2013: **Guild Boutique** (Set up, sell, check out, pack up)

Feb 2, **Figaro Pre-Opera Dinner** (invitation stuffing, promotion, execution)

Feb 23: **Guild Wine Dinner and Auction** (many opportunities for committee work prior, during, and after the event)

If you’d like sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Paula Kothmann, VP Volunteer Operations, at paula.kothmann@gmail.com or 512.470.2405, Member, ALO Family since 1996.

Join the Guild!

The purpose of the Austin Lyric Opera Guild is to encourage community involvement in the development and furtherance of the Austin Lyric Opera through volunteer service and to enrich its membership’s understanding and appreciation of Opera. Click [here](#) to join the ALO Guild!

CONTRIBUTORS

The *Libretto* is one of the many areas where volunteers make a difference. This newsletter is edited by
MADELINE NASH
and other contributors include:
POLLY BARBARO
ANGIE BONNICI

SUZANNE BREITBACH
RICHARD BUCKLEY
SUSAN GATLIN
PAULA KOTHMANN
CAROL LOGAN
MARILYN DAVIS RABKIN
TONY SPIELBERG

HELLO! FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

*President of the Guild, Carol Angela Logan,
at the opening night dinner for Pagliacci.*

This Season is such a winning, exciting one!

We have a brilliant new General Director in Joe Specter. Not only is he opera business savvy and hails from the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City, he's also a remarkable baritone! Along with his soprano wife, Kate, these two graced us with the love duet from *Pagliacci* at *Chez Zee* a few weeks ago. Needless to say, we were enthralled and thoroughly delighted.

The Guild Wine Dinner and Auction is coming up at the Four Seasons on February 23rd! The Guild is back in the business of fund raising for the Opera. Our very knowledgeable Wine Dinner chairs, Scott Ballew, Richard Hartgrove, Marilyn Davis Rabkin and Susan Gatlin are well on the way to success. They have put together a team of committed, hard working folks who are seeking auction donations which span trips to Trento, Italy to Black Onyx sculptures. I really hope you all can come and take part in the merriment. Even if you don't bid on anything, just hearing Steven Costello sing will be fabulous!

The ALO Guild Board is working with Wendi Kushner and the Opera Board of Trustees who give us mucho kudos for fundraising.

Guild events are enjoyable and informative.

The Kick Off party at Curby Conoley Tablierou's home allowed several new members to join. Over 100 people attended with Liz Cass singing and Cynthia Wilson playing piano.

At Eva Womack's enrichment event we sat with Garnett Bruce the stage director of *Pagliacci*, who told us the secret of staging a massive Italian set whose chief characteristic was that there were no real instructions on how to put the thing together! Joe Specter attended also, giving Guild members the opportunity to ask questions in an informal setting.

Opening night dinner for *Pagliacci* was a fun and sentimental affair. While we feasted on duck and fillet, we paid fitting tribute to Pete Schram and Harry Ullmann, our favorite opera goers!

The boutique made its debut and wowed 'em! Don't forget to buy your season 26 T-shirts (for yourself, your spouse, your kids and your grandkids!)

Remember: Bring your friends to the opera; get them to join the Guild. If you are a Guild member, become more active. Take a look at the Website (<http://aloguild.org/>) and offer your services. Come to the next Enrichment event for *Figaro* at Paula Damore's home. Bring your favorite dish!

So much to do and so many good people to do it with!
All for the love of the Opera in Austin.

Get active!

Carol Angela Logan, President Austin Lyric Opera
Guild Season 26, 512 796 6703,
cloganster@gmail.com

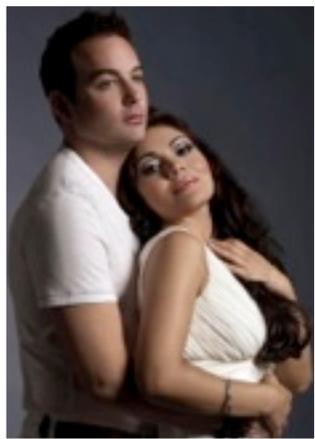
PREPARING FOR THE 2013 DINNER AND WINE AUCTION

Marilyn Davis Rabkin

The 3rd Austin Lyric Opera Guild Wine Dinner and Auction is scheduled for February 23, 2013, and will be held at the **Four Seasons Hotel Austin**. This year, we are honoring **David Jabour** and **Twin Liquors**. David Jabour is a longtime member of the Austin Lyric Opera Board of Trustees, and he has been a generous supporter of our events.

Since this is ALO’s main fundraising event, we need the help of all Guild members through volunteering, purchasing tickets or tables, donating items for the silent and live auctions, or making a contribution. Guild members donate to the live auction via an auction item called the “Guild’s Instant Wine Cellar.” All monies collected from Guild members go to purchase this live auction item, and it is a huge hit with bidders! Please consider making a donation of \$25 or more to the Austin Lyric Opera and specify that it is for the “Guild’s Instant Wine Cellar”. Your donation is tax deductible!

All committees are working hard to make this a memorable and successful fundraising event. Some auction items include fabulous gift baskets, wine dinners with amazing food, wine, and entertainment, a trip to an Italian vineyard, weekend getaways, spectacular wines, and much, much more!! In addition, entertainment will be provided by the amazing Stephen Costello. This is an event not to be missed! Call Diane Ingram at 512-259-1982 or Angie Bonnici at 512-610-7668 today to make your reservation!



Learn more about Stephen Costello and his wife, Ailyn Perez on their [website](#), on [YouTube](#), and in [Vanity Fair](#).

Austin Lyric Opera Guild
<http://aloguild.org/>
 3009 Industrial Terrace, Suite 100
 Austin, TX 78758
 Phone: (512) 472-5927

Calendar

December 8, 2012
 Holiday Party
 Parker Home

January 8, 2013
 Guild Board Meeting 4
 Trento

January 23, 2013
 Figaro Enrichment Event
 Damore Home

January 31, February 2 & 3, 2013
 Figaro
 Long Center

February 2, 2013
 Figaro Gala Dinner
 Kodosky Lounge

February 5, 2013
 Guild Board Meeting 5
 Trento

AustinOpera
LYRIC GUILD

SAVE THE DATE

SALUTE
BACCHUS!
WINE DINNER & AUCTION
Honoring David Jabour & Twin Liquors

Saturday, February 23, 2013
6:00pm - 10:00pm
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, AUSTIN

Entertainment by **Stephen Costello**,
International Leading Opera Tenor

Amazing Silent & Live Auction with Auctioneer,
Harvey Kronberg

Fabulous Wine Pairings & Gourmet Dinner

Event Co-Chairs
Scott Ballew | Marilyn Davis Rabkin
Susan Gatlin | Richard Hartgrove

AustinLyricOpera.org/Guild | 512.610.7668
Prices start at \$250 for single tickets
\$2500 for tables.

Wine & Spirit Sponsor
TWIN LIQUORS
FINE WINE & SPIRITS

Hospitality Sponsor
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
Austin

Grapes by Amanda Dunbar