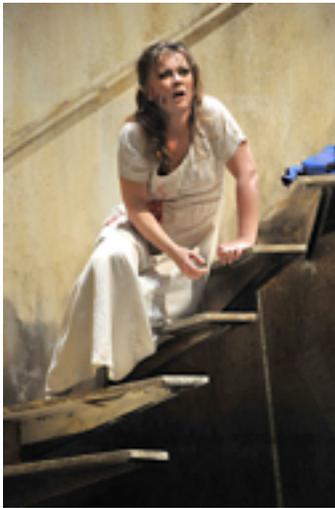




LIBRETTO

Lucia di Lammermoor

with Mr. and Mrs. Maestro



Lyubov Petrova amazed the audience as Lucia.

The Austin Lyric Opera demonstrated its force and vitality with an amazing production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Our very own Richard Buckley and Molly Anderson, known fondly as “Mr. and Mrs. Maestro,” provide us with a brief glimpse of their history with this opera:

Molly: I thought this production was beautifully staged and more importantly, beautifully executed. Lyubov gave me goose bumps. My only other experiences with *Lucia* were watching a few rehearsals when you were conducting it in Baltimore, and when you conducted it in Santa Fe. The Lucia in Santa Fe was a bit on the

wild side off-set and was often found swimming “au naturale” in the campus swimming pool. What was your first experience with *Lucia*?

Richard: I first conducted it in Nashville when I was Artistic Advisor for the newly created Nashville Opera Company.

Molly: What are some of the things that you get from conducting this score?

Richard: From a musical point of view, I cherish the finale of Act II after the sextet – it’s the driving momentum that I find thrilling. And of course, finding the collaborative spirit in accompanying the coloratura during her mad scene. You saw it twice and heard part of the sitzprobe – what were some of your favorite parts?

Molly: The sextet and mad scenes were riveting for me, as well, and I’m still absolutely blown away when someone can sing so softly, so delicately, and with so much expression in the extremely high tessituras. I could never do that as a singer so I secretly kind of covet being able to do that.

Continued, Page 7

WINE DINNER AND AUCTION

Austin Lyric Opera Guild hit an out of the ballpark home run with its second Wine Dinner and Auction held at the **Four Seasons Hotel** in downtown Austin on Saturday February 25th. The event brought in an estimated profit of over \$115,000.00 for the Opera.

Attendance was high and diners were animated and supportive. The live bidding was in fact, thrilling! Battles raged between smiling friends over well heeled Dinner party lots, some bringing in over \$6000. Wine Lots brought in prices double and more the asking price. The 109K Kunzite stone donated by **Martino Jewelry** garnered \$23,000 in total for the Opera.

Revelers were welcomed to Prosecco and a silent auction before entering the Four Season’s Ballroom. Event Co-Chair **Susan Gatlin** announced the raffle winner, a \$500 gift card from **Julian Gold**, and the festivities began. **Wendi Kushner**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees spoke, followed by Maestro Richard Buckley who thanked and inspired the crowd to continue their support of Opera in Austin.

The event was in honor of **Gay Ratliff**, founding President of ALO’s Board of Trustees. Co-chairs Susan Gatlin and

Continued, Page 4

Katharine Shield's Fun Facts

A performance of Verdi's *Aida* in 1876 convinced Puccini that he would compose opera. From 1882-1924 he created ten operas.

Many are audience favorites and consistently rank in the opera "Top Ten Performed" lists.

Yes, you do pronounce the final "t".

Librettists for Puccini's *Turandot*, Adami and Simoni, based the libretto on a dramatic fairy tale of a Persian legend by 18th century Italian poet and dramatist Carlo Gozzi.

Puccini wore a hat most of the time.

Puccini was working on the music for *Turandot* by 1921 using some folk music from his publisher, Ricordi, and a Chinese music box loaned to him by a friend.

Calaf's aria "Nessun Dorma" (None Shall Sleep) was made famous when Pavarotti performed it in Italy 1990 at the World Cup.

Turandot was Puccini's last opera, premiered in 1926. He died in 1924 before completing the final scene. Toscanini arranged for Franco Alfano to compose a conclusion using a few of Puccini's last sketches.

TURANDOT, HERE THE MAESTRO LAID DOWN HIS PEN

It was Sunday, April 25, 1926 at La Scala in Milan. It was the world premier of the opera *Turandot*, by Giacomo Puccini. Arturo Toscanini was conducting. In the middle of Act 3, the orchestra stopped playing, the conductor turned to the audience and said "Here the Maestro laid down his pen."

Perhaps anticipating that he might not make it all the way to the end, Puccini had left behind 36 pages of sketches, along with instructions on who should do the completion. His editor did not follow his exact completion instructions, but assigned the task to Franco Alfano, who did the job, assisted by co-composers.

Read the Synopsis!

[Turandot](#)

Puccini had been a chain-smoker and had contracted throat cancer. Shortly after having surgery, he suffered a heart attack and died. He had almost finished an opera that he had been working on for four years. The name of the opera was *Turandot*, which is a Persian word meaning "the daughter of Turan." Turan was a region in the Persian Empire.

Check out Lise Lindstrom in *Turandot*

["In Questa Reggia" at the Met](#)

[Lisa Lindstrom Met Debut Interview](#)

View the Videos!

[Promotional Video](#)

[A Modern Re-imagining of Turandot](#)

Three Riddles

The opera involves the young Prince of Tartary, named Calaf, who falls in love with a cold Chinese princess, Turandot. Turandot seems to have had problems of screening out suitors in the past and has instituted a routine for all to follow. To seek her hand, the suitors must submit to solving three of her riddles. If they do so, they get her hand. If not, they lose their heads.

Also, as a part of this routine, the potential suitor enters the contest by striking a gong three times, and

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!

then shouting her name, which Calaf did. Turandot's first riddle to him was "What is born each night and dies each dawn?" Calaf's answer was "Hope"—the correct one. Undaunted, Turandot asks "What flickers red and warm like a flame, but is not fire?" Again, the correct answer: "Blood." Unblinking, Turandot asks the third riddle: "What is like ice, but burns like fire?" After pausing to think, and being taunted by Turandot a bit, Calaf responds "Turandot."

That was another correct answer. Now Turandot is in a tight spot. She might be forced into an unplanned marriage. Being the good sport, Calaf gives her a way out and tells her "Since you do not know my name, if you bring it to me before sunrise, I will die."

To mark the passage of night, the orchestra plays the beautiful *Nessum Dorma* ("Nobody shall sleep! Even you, O Princess"). As sunrise approaches, when it is clear that Turandot does not know the prince's name, he takes her in his arms and kisses her.

Admitting that she has had warm feeling for him all along, Turandot tells the prince that he is free to leave. Instead, he tells her his name—Calaf. She approaches the

Emperor's throne and tells him that she knows the prince's name. She says. "It is...love."

Turandot in Verona

In 2003, Carolyn Wright and I saw *Turandot* in the ancient Roman Arena in Verona. It was quite a spectacle. Before the opera began, everyone participated in the *passeggiata*, the evening stroll and the people-watching, in front of the outdoor cafes surrounding the Arena. Then, we all filed into the Arena, finding our seats in the upper levels and on the Arena floor. The entire Arena was full except for the end that was devoted to the stage. Before the opera began, everyone lit candles. Then the show started. Salvatore Licitra was the Prince, and I can

still hear him singing *Nessum Dorma*.

Turandot in Austin

I can't wait to hear it again. And, I won't have to go back to Verona, although that is far from a bad option. Rather, I only have to go to the Austin Lyric Opera production on April 14, 20, and 22. Don't miss it.

Don't have tickets?
Get them [here!](#)

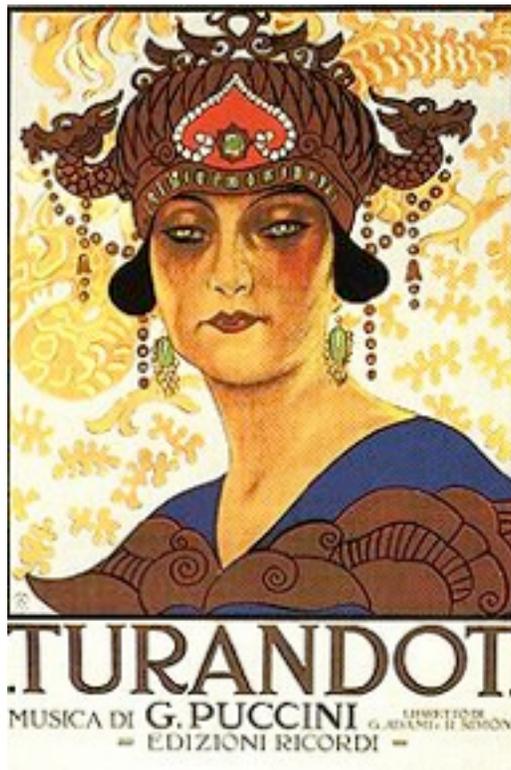
Two Riddles

"How do you pronounce *Turandot*?" If you've ever been unsure, you might be interested in knowing that Puccini never pronounced the final "t".

However, his granddaughter Simonetta Puccini says that it should be pronounced. Here in Austin we are following Simonetta's advice.

"How do you get to Verona?" If you are interested in enjoying a Verona opera experience, contact Robert Schweitzer at mail@robert-schweitzer.com. He has handled the arrangements (tickets, hotel, between-the-acts champagne, and post-opera parties) for Carolyn and me twice, always with excellent results.

-- Ray McLeod



WINE DINNER AND AUCTION



Joyce Hunt, Diane Ingram, and Susan Gatlin celebrate the evening after a lot of hard work!

Continued, Page 1

Catherine Wildermuth managed a large coterie of volunteers over the last several months with pre-event frenzy building through the evening before the dinner.

Austin's exceptionally talented darling, Liz Cass, sang selections from *Carmen* and Saint-Saëns and finished by moving into our hearts with a soulful rendition of Piaf's "La Vie en Rose". This, while diners feasted on a sumptuous four course menu consisting of tomato basil soup, baby iceberg wedges with three different dressings and an entrée of Beef Tenderloin, Bobwhite Quail breast stuffed with Savory Cornbread Stuffing (sooo good...), smoked Portobello, potato, onion hash broccolini, and OMG dessert! **Elmar Prams** and the Four Seasons outdid themselves. Plus!... plus... – wait for it... – wine pairings... absolutely scrumptious. For this alone, you all should make sure you cop a ticket for next year!!

Let the Auctioning begin!

Harvey Kronberg – master auctioneer and controller *par excellence* – held the crowd at bay, deftly acknowledging, accepting and striking the

gavel to say "SOLD!" for the bid winners. Wine babes strolled out the 'lots'. What a thrill to hold up a sample in a wine lot listed for \$400 and have it bid up to \$1700!! Ca-ching! That means so much for the arts in Austin!

This wine babe broke out the orthopedic stilettos but, despite that is still dealing with raging bunions!!

Thirty-seven live auction lots and some seventy-eight silent auction lots were available. More importantly, the camaraderie, excitement, astonishment and determination that filled the air, was palpable and well worth the price of admission.

It would be so far amiss not to acknowledge the profound level of volunteerism that accompanied this event. The ALO Guild is spectacular in its incredible support of Austin Lyric Opera.

The Live Auction was co-chaired by **Gretchen Woellner, Jerry and Susan Gatlin, Marilyn Rabkin Davis and Catherine Wildermuth.**



Wendi Kushner and Michael Barnes enjoy the festivities at the Four Seasons.



Jo Carol Snowden, Curby (Conoley) Tableriou, and Gretchen Woellner look stunning as they mingle with other guests.

Wine research was provided by **David Wildermuth** and **Megan Dugan**.

Wine babes were **Diane Ingram, Kelley Lightfoot** who wore the Kunzite all evening, **Carol Logan** and **Brenda Wendel**.

Spotters are critical to a Live Auction. These keen eyed gentlemen were **Roger Borgelt, Hudson Ingram, Travis Lightfoot, Jeff Rabkin** and **David Wildermuth**.

The silent auction was co-chaired by **Joyce Hunt** and **Jeff Rabkin** with deft expertise.

Glorious invitation design, mailing and catalogue design was provided by **Cindy Stone**.

Angie Bonnici, Lissa Anderson, Susan Gatlin, Jo Carol Snowden and **Gretchen Woellner** were key to RSVPs, Marketing and various and sundry other smaller incredibly important details.

Luscious table decorations and a functional Auction set-up was chaired by **Cindy Stone** and assisted by **Joyce Hunt, Craig Kuglen,** and **Curby** and **Nick Tableriou**.

Check-in and check-out were performed by **Angie Bonnici, Eric Brenner, Eva Kuhlman, Vicky Spradling, Diane Van Hulle** and **Jerry** and **Susan Gatlin**. These folks are such hardcore supporters, they deserve a standing ovation! Susan provided the Audrey Hepburn look-alike welcome upon entering!!

Polly Barbaro marvelously hawked the Julian Gold Raffle at the door hooking all the entrants with her beautiful smile.

Last, but far from least, we are honored and happy to thank and acknowledge our table sponsors:

Margaret and **Don Collis** (Santa Margarita Ranch), **Susan** and **Jerry Gatlin, Wendi** and **Brian Kushner, Deborah** and **Larry Peel, Marilyn** and **Jeff Rabkin, Gay** and **Shannon Ratliff** and **Eva** and **Marvin Womack**. The support of these folks allowed the Guild to proceed confidently forward with this event!!!

---Carol Logan



Kelley Lightfoot, with the Kunzite necklacc, Hudson Ingram, and Pat Evans are full of smiles during the pre-dinner festivities.

Check out the review!
Austin360.com

GUILD RETURNS TO HISTORIC BAUER HOUSE FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The ALO Guild's Spring Membership Party will be held Thursday evening, May 17, at the University of Texas System Bauer House. This official residence of the UT System Chancellor is the scene of the very first meeting of the ALO Guild when it was officially chartered in 1986. An estimated 400 people attended, including several who are still Guild members.

We plan to recognize the founding members of the Guild during a special part of our program that evening. If you are a founding member, please make sure event chair **Cindy Stone** has your name on the list. You can contact her at StoneMktg@aol.com.

Invitations will be sent in April.

Cindy and co-chairs **Paul Schoenfield** and **Jo Carol Snowden** would like to thank the

current Chancellor and his wife, **Francisco and Graciela Cigarroa**, for their generosity in allowing the Guild the use of this lovely venue.

-- Cindy Stone



The Bauer House - home of the first ALO Guild meeting in 1986.

LUCIA ENRICHMENT EVENT INFORMS, DELIGHTS

On Wednesday, January 25, Guild members met in the home of **Wendi and Brian Kushner** to learn more about the ALO's second opera of the season, *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The event, chaired by **Polly Barbaro** and **Kelley Lightfoot**, was a popular event with nearly 60 RSVPs. Guests arrived at 7:00 and were treated to wine, tasty snacks, and sweet desserts brought by Guild volunteers.

The excitement surrounding the upcoming opera was palpable, and Polly commented in her introduction on how energized the Guild felt now that the Opera is in a better financial situation. She

described the fighting spirit of the group, stating that "We won't be told we can't have an opera in Austin!"

Katharine Shields and Doug Scholz-Carlson talk was the true draw for the crowd, and



Guild President, Diane Ingram, with the gracious host, Wendi Kushner.

they did not disappoint! Their banter throughout the evening was entertaining, light, and educational even when then discussion turned towards the complexities of the plot and the fascinating historical references presented in the libretto. Even when the entire audience unanimously decided we were all confused, Katharine and Doug were able to reassure everyone that none of the extra details are important to love and appreciate Donizetti's *Lucia*.

Doug's background in the theater, specifically his work with the Great River Shakespeare Festival, was *Continued, Page 9*

LUCIA WITH MR. AND MRS. MAESTRO*Continued, Page 1*

You've conducted this opera in 6 productions and 43 performances. How do you refresh the intricacies of the piece and bring new perspectives to the interpretation?

Richard: The combination of coming back to a piece after doing it many, many times, and having lived more life, always provides new perspectives to my interpretation. And I'm always working with a different cast of singers and directors who bring their own interpretations to the characters so that adds to the overall mix, too. You typically sit upstairs for one performance and downstairs for another – how come?

Molly: I like seeing it from the balcony – it's a totally different vantage point. It's as if the stage opens to a wider perspective. It's like going to a dance performance. I can see the added dimension of whatever formations are being created. Being down in the Orchestra level I am closer to the singers and feel more a part of the

action, and the vibrations from the orchestra are that much more tangible. I love having that combination of sounds almost hit me. Plus, I can see the details of your conducting better, and you know I love watching you dance with your hands.

So, *Turandot* is coming up in a few weeks. We worked on it together in Minneapolis when I was stage managing for Minnesota Opera, and I worked on it at Los Angeles Opera a few years later. Besides some of the most beautiful arias and powerful chorus scenes, I love the comic relief that Ping, Pang and Pong provide. Do you have a section of the piece that you look forward to creating?

Richard: The death of Liu - the emotional colors, the choral statement, the sadness. And interestingly, that is what Puccini completed before he died. And people feel like that scene, that death is both Liu's and the death of the great Italian opera traditions.

– Mr. & Mrs. Maestro



Dr. Craig and Peggy Klugen are in the Scottish spirit!

Help Wanted!

Assistant cashier or t-shirt/book sales

Opera Boutique before and during *Turandot* performances
April 14, 20, or 22
Contact: Lissa Anderson
Lizbetlizbet@att.net or 416-0543

Food donations for Turandot artists dinner

Sunday, April 22, after performance
Contact: Laura Gutierrez-Witt
lauragw@mail.utexas.edu or 243-6382

Set-up assistance for 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Sunday, May 6, afternoon
Contact: Penny Powell - rrpowell@austin.rr.com or 327-4456
Leslie Thomas - l-thomas@att.net or 342-2802

Newsletter Reporters

Ongoing Contributions
Contact: Madeline Nash
madelinenash@ymail.com

OPERA AMERICA/OVI CONFERENCE

Opera America and Opera Volunteers International are holding a joint conference June 13-16 in Philadelphia, and our own Ernie Auerbach will be speaking and serving as a panelist. His topic is:

Strategic Planning and Organizational Assessment

Economic uncertainty and cultural change cause some organizations to go into lockdown, while others assess their current activities and undertake a strategic plan for success in the "new normal". What does your organization want to be, do, or become – and what are you willing to change in order to get there? Learn more about the strategic planning process and ways to create an environment of continuous improvement at your organization.

If you register before April 1, you can take advantage of being a part of an OVI Member Group and save 40% (\$295) off registration. Begin the registration process by visiting the [Opera America Conference](#).

LUCIA'S OPENING NIGHT DINNER

Lucia di Lammermoor opened on January 28 to impressive reviews by the [Austin Post](#), the [Austin Chronicle](#) and the [Austin-American Statesman](#). While praise heaped upon Lyubov Petrova for her performance on stage, we should also praise **Monica Hebert and Paula Damore** for organizing another memorable pre-opera dinner. Once again, they managed to provide a lovely setting perfect for the the opera - one that evoked a tragic love story with a Scottish twist. Thanks are also in order for **Sterling Affairs** and **Twin Liquors** who provided food and drink for the opera patrons.

Monica and Paula are working hard to make the *Turandot* opening dinner the best yet. If you want to attend, make sure you get your tickets early as this event is sure to sell out quickly!



Clockwise, from top: Harry Ullmann, Pete Schram, Earl Covington, Stuart Damore, and Hudson Ingram.
Middle: Mark Huggans, Sandra M. Wilkie, Walter J. Wilkie, and John A. Griffin.
Lower Right: Roger and Mary Ellen Borgelt, George Scott Christian, JoAnne Christian, Betsy Christian.
Lower Left: Stuart & Paula Damore, Don Eckols & Monica Hebert, and Diane & Hudson Ingram.
Middle: A beautiful centerpiece



Photography by Tony Spielberg,
www.spielbergphoto.com

GUILD BOUTIQUE FEATURES UNIQUE WARES

Do you have a hankering for hand-crafted items? Do you have a talent for talking people into buying things they didn't know they wanted? If so, you may want to volunteer at the Guild's boutique, which this year features jewelry, fabric handbags, glass art, and fine writing instruments. Also available are 25th-anniversary t-shirts and copies of *Avanti*, a handsome book with marvelous photos of ALO's first 10 years. The boutique is open before performances and during intermissions.

Boutique volunteers can help set up, work the cash register, assist the cashier with receipts and bags, and talk up the items for sale. Volunteers also have extra time to shop while the opera is going on inside. If you are interested in helping, contact **Lissa Anderson**, Merchandising Chair, at lizbetlizbet@att.net.

Paul's Membership Stats

Total membership - 168
 2011-2012 new members - 25
 Holiday party attendees - 125
 Members live in -

Austin	Pflugerville
Cedar Park	Georgetown
San Marcos	Dripping Springs
Washington-On-	Dallas
The-Brazos	

LUCIA ENRICHMENT EVENT

Continued, Page 6

evident as he sprinkled the evening with intriguing factoids. Our favorite? The famous "madness aria" was written to be accompanied by a glass harmonica. This instrument, which sounds much alike a synthesizer, is rarely used anymore. Ironically, glass harmonica players had a reputation for being insane in the 1800s, though no one knew why. We now know that they probably went insane from exposure to the lead crystal in their instruments!

Katharine, who was part of the ALO production in 1995, was able to offer a unique insight on Austin's previous *Lucia* production. She is thrilled that our 2012 production will not include a chorus of ghosts in shrouds and



pleased at the direction Doug and Maestro Buckley are taking the opera this year.

Left: Mimi Rhea, Katharine Shields, and Peggy Klugen chat before Katharine presents.

Right: Doug Scholz-Carlson and Paula Damore enjoy the evening.

At the end of the talk, the attendees - including the Kushner's dog who accompanied the recording of the sextet - were animated and excited to see the opera that weekend. Everyone commented on how well Katharine and Doug were able to play off of each other and engage the audience. We cannot thank them enough for their contribution that evening!



Pups likes to sing opera, too!

CELEBRATE THE MAGIC - 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Twenty-five years ago Maestro Walter Ducloux walked into the pit, raised his baton, and brought magic to Austin. This year we celebrate the magic that he started and that we all have worked so very hard to keep alive in central Texas.

At the end of this historic season the entire opera family is invited to kick up its heels and rejoice at what it has accomplished. The Austin Lyric Opera Guild is proud to present “Celebrate the Magic,” Austin Lyric Opera’s 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance,

to be held May 6, 2012 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas Campus.

Co-Chairs **Penny Powell** and **Leslie Thomas** and their fabulous, hard working committee have planned an event that is sure to be a fun and fitting celebration. The fun starts before you even arrive as you chose your own costume for the evening. Come as your favorite opera character or come in mask. (And yes, you can also come in cocktail attire.)

The evening will begin with a Champagne reception and an opportunity to share memories and stories. There will be a seated dinner with all the lovely wines that always punctuate our parties, courtesy of **Twin Liquors**. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be the affable and witty Claude Ducloux. Our own mezzo soprano Liz Cass and baritone Brett Barnes have a very special program planned for our entertainment. We’ll round out the evening dancing to “Doc and the Cruisers.”

Tickets are available at \$250 and \$350. Tables of 10 are available at \$2,500 and \$3,500. Parking at the AT&T underground parking lot and the Dobie parking structure are included in the price of the tickets.

The opera family is one of Austin’s great treasures and we all deserve this opportunity to be a bit self-congratulatory. So please join us for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. And leave your check books at home!

For reservations contact **Nell Dale** at 327.3576, ndale@cs.utexas.edu. For more information contact Leslie Thomas at 342.2802, LThomas@att.net.

—Leslie Thomas



Celebrate the Magic
Austin Lyric Opera's 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance
Presented by the Austin Lyric Opera Guild

Contributors

MADELINE NASH

Madeline is so grateful for all of the help provided by Guild members. Without everyone’s hard work, this wouldn’t be possible.

Other contributors include:

MOLLY ANDERSON

RICHARD BUCKLEY

PAULA DAMORE

MONICA HEBERT

DIANE INGRAM

CAROL LOGAN

RAY MCLEOD

PAUL SCHOENFIELD

JOE SPECTER

KATE SPECTER

KATHARINE SHIELDS

CINDY STONE

LESLIE THOMAS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Time is flying by. The 25th year is over halfway completed and many changes have come about. Change is not always easy, but knowing that we are all working together with a common goal makes it so much better.

I have enjoyed meeting new friends and working with familiar faces. We have accomplished much this year with the beautiful Pre-opera Dinners, the lovely Wine Dinner and Auction at the Four Seasons, and the wonderful Enrichment evenings and Holiday parties. All of the Guild Board Members have devoted much time and energy in making these events very special. We also have a beautiful Guild Membership Book that has been distributed and our newsletter, the Libretto, is once again in print for all to enjoy.

As we conclude the year, we look forward to Puccini's *Turandot*, the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance on May 6, and the final Guild party on May 17th, which will be our Awards Party to be held at the Bauer House. As many of you know, the Bauer House was the location for the first Guild Meeting 25 years ago. It is fitting that we hold our last party of the year at this beautiful old home. I hope

to see many of our Guild Members present at all three of these events.

So let's continue our commitment and enthusiasm and finish out our 25th year with great hope for the future of the Austin Lyric Opera.

-- Diane Ingram, President

Calendar

April 10, 2012

Enrichment Event
Home of Suzanne Breitbach

April 14, 20, & 22, 2012

Turandot
Long Center

May 6, 2012

25th Anniversary Party
AT&T Center

May 17, 2012

Spring Membership & Awards Party
Bauer House

Membership Yearbook

Have you received your copy of the 2011-2012 Membership Yearbook? **Paul Schoenfield** created this outstanding resource for Guild members. Please contact Paul at paul@psaaustin.com if you have not yet received a copy.

OPERA TERM OF THE MONTH

Gruppetto (groo-PEHT-toh, Italian: little group) A melodic ornament in which a main note is alternated with two subsidiary notes, the first a whole step above the main note, the second a half step below the main note (e.g., the series of notes C-D-C-B-C). Also called a "turn."



25 Things You Don't Know About Joe and Kate Specter

On February 24, [ALO announced](#) a new general director: Joseph (Joe) Specter. Joe, his wife Kate, and their two daughters, Sophie (4) and Charlotte (9 months), will relocate from New York in time for Joe to begin his new role on April 16. The entire Austin opera community is excited to meet the Specter family, and we are thrilled to have this charming couple as a part of the ALO family.

Here are 25 Things You Don't Know About Joe and Kate Specter:

1. Joe is a formal martial arts instructor and has a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.
2. Kate was raised in Portland, Oregon.
3. Joe grew up in Miami, Florida...
- 4...but he's lived in the northeast for the last 20 years, in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston.
5. Kate started an annual prom for all of the students while Joe was studying at the Academy of Vocal Arts.
6. Joe and Kate love to invite friends over for dinner.
7. Kate loves yoga. In fact, she's completed a 200-hour teacher training program.
8. Joe is a baritone.
9. Kate is a soprano.
10. Joe used to be a trumpet player.



Austin Lyric Opera Guild
901 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: (512) 472-5992
Fax: (512) 472-4143
<http://aloguild.org/>

Yes, they sing!

Check out [YouTube](#) for a great performance.

11. Kate originally studied ballet, before she began her training in opera.
12. Joe and Kate first sang together in the opera *Werther*.
13. Sophie and Charlotte--their daughters' names--are both names of characters in *Werther*, but that is purely coincidence!
14. If given the opportunity, Joe and Kate will happily enjoy a margarita.
15. Kate is looking forward to getting involved with local theater here in Austin. We can't wait to see her perform!
16. Kate once played a magical horse named "Felicity" in a children's video. We're looking for footage.
17. Joe auditioned to be Robin in the movie *Batman and Robin*. He did not get the job, but it was not a great movie.
18. Joe once worked the security detail at the MTV Video Music Awards when they were held at the Met.
19. Joe and Kate were married in 2004 in Gloucester, MA. They catered their own wedding!
20. Joe and Kate sang a recital at the mayor's house in Gloucester the week they got married.
21. Joe and Kate have promised their daughters a new puppy once their move to Austin is complete.
22. Their daughter, Sophie, has already named the new dog "Scout."
23. Joe hopes he can get away with only one new puppy - not two.
24. The new puppy will have to like cats - they've got an 18-pound feline who will make the move, too. (Does anybody need a cat?)
25. Both Joe and Kate think this opportunity at ALO is a perfect fit, and they can't wait to meet their new Austin opera family.