

Austin
LYRIC
Opera
GUILD

LIBRETTO

Turandot

Puccini's Final Opera



Lise Lindstrom wowed the audience as Turandot.

Joe and Kate Specter

Kate: The ALO performances of *Turandot*, put such an incredible exclamation point on the end of the Silver Anniversary Season. The performances of everyone—the cast, chorus, and orchestra under Maestro Buckley—were so wonderful on every level. In fact, all three operas performed by ALO this season hold a special place for both Joe and me.

Joe: But *Turandot* holds a particularly special place for us. Kate and I were both young singers making our way in the 90s,

and Pavarotti's performance of "Nessun Dorma" at the first Three Tenors concert was a kind of watershed moment for us, as it was for a lot of people. Some may discount the importance of that concert because of its commercial impact, but the truth is that that performance has played a big role in bringing people to the opera house ever since. It really captured so many people's imagination, and I think proved to a lot of folks who were less familiar with the art form that opera could really move them.

Kate: And the way that more mainstream performers have taken up "Nessun Dorma" since then reinforces that point. Aretha Franklin and Andrea Bocelli both sang the aria—not to mention a number of "America/Britain's Got Talent" hopefuls (including one we saw on TV just this week)—and that's helped to keep a spotlight on *Turandot* in pop culture which is unique.

Joe: But for Kate and me, *Turandot* played a very personal role in our lives as well. Years ago, while I was busy in New York working as a singer, I participated in a young artist program at Dicapò Opera, a small but

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25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

On May 6th, ALO commemorated 25 years of opera in Austin with a dinner and dance held at the **AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center**. **Penny Powell** and **Leslie Thomas** organized this celebratory event. Guild members decorated the Grand Ballroom under the watchful eyes of **Paula Damore** and **Monica Hébert** with memorabilia from many of the operas performed over the years. Posters, t-shirts, promotional material, and even some elaborate costumes filled the space. Guests were encouraged to dress as their favorite opera character or in masks. Upon arrival, servers passed champagne generously provided by **Twin Liquors** as the opera crowd caught up with friends and supporters.

Claude Ducloux, who's father, Dr. Walter Ducloux was the co-founder of the opera in 1986, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. He welcomed the diners and gave a special thanks to some of the long-time supporters of the opera who have been active for the past quarter century before introducing our new General Director, Joe Specter, and his wife, Kate.

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TURANDOT

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wonderful company on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Kate: I was working with Dicapò for my third season when Joe got there in 2001, and the two of us were both drafted into service in the company's education program, which included outreach performances of a reduced version of *Turandot*, performed for junior high and high school kids. I was singing the role of Liù, the slave girl who takes care of Calaf's father...

Joe: ...and I was singing the role of Ping, one of the three ministers in *Turandot's* court. Kate and I didn't know each other before meeting at Dicapò, but it's not difficult to fall in love when you are listening to Puccini all of the time. And so, history was written!

Kate: Given the meaning of that opera to Joe and me personally, it was so special for us that *Turandot* was the opera being performed here in Austin as we started our new life here with ALO. What a wonderful welcome to this great, great company!

Check out the reviews!

[Austin Chronicle >>](#)

[Austin 360 >>](#)



Top: Joe Specter as the Mandarin with Utah Festival Opera. Photo: Ken Howard **Middle:** Joe & Kate meet Austin's opera fans during intermission. **Bottom Left:** Carlos and Nicole Lowenberg with Sharon and Randy Kressler. **Bottom Right:** Which hat was referenced in the Austin 360 review? John Melanson or Jon Nash? Photos by Tony Spielberg.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND DANCE

Continued, Page 1

Joe and Kate had the fun job of judging the evening's costume contest. There were several Carmens floating around the room, as well as an impressive Madame Butterfly, but the award for the best costume went to Paula Kothmann and her fiancé for her Susanna from *Marriage of Figaro* and his Escamillo from *Carmen*. The best mask went to Mary Ann Heller. The Specters also presented a special prize to Dianne Van Hulle for her years of dedication on ALO's staff.

The best part of the evening was the 25th Anniversary Retrospective by Liz Cass and Brett Barnes. To the tune of "Gilligan's Island," they provided a humorous review of opera highlights. They mixed in snippets from some of the most popular operas, including *La Bobème* and *The Barber of Seville*. The performance was creative, fun, and thoroughly appreciated by the audience.

The night ended with dancing to "Doc and The Cruisers." Couples immediately went out onto the dance floor to have fun and show off their moves. With the vitality, dedication, and hard work of this group, we'll be celebrating another amazing 25 years in Austin in 2036!



Top: Costume winners Paula Kothmann and David Preston. **Middle Left:** Frances and Martin Blank. **Middle Right:** Claude Ducloux emceed the event. **Bottom Left:** Hudson and Diane Ingram go for a dip on the dance floor. **Bottom Right:** Terry and Jim Whorton dance the night away. Photos: Tony Spielberg. Please visit www.austincandid.com for photos.

ALO 2012-2013 SEASON

Katharine Shields

Laughter awaits you in ALO's 26th Season-- ironic and tragic in *Pagliacci* (Clowns); hilarious and boisterous in *The Marriage of Figaro*; and devilish and wicked in *Faust*.



I Pagliacci (1892) composed by Ruggiero Leoncavallo is an example of *verismo* opera dealing with stories of the common people.

Leoncavallo wrote the libretto based on a true story of a criminal case his father, a judge, had tried. Our characters are a traveling troupe of actors, giving us a play within a play. The opera opens with a prologue from Tonio, a hunchback, who tells

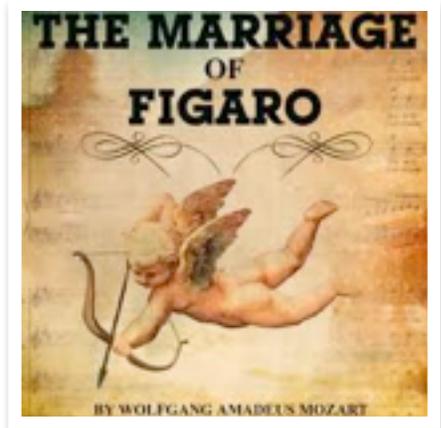
that the play and emotions the actors portray are real. They express the feelings common to all including the players. Off the stage there is jealousy and adultery between the players. Canio, having learned of his wife Nedda's unfaithfulness, sings the famous "Vesti la giubba" lamenting that he must laugh and play the clown on the stage while heartbroken on the inside. During the performance of the play Canio's true feelings of jealousy and heartbreak overwhelm him. He murders his wife and her lover. He cries, "the comedy is finished" as the curtain falls.

The Marriage of Figaro (1786) by Mozart is considered by many to be the best comic opera ever written. French dramatist Beaumarchais wrote a trilogy of

plays based on the character of Figaro. *The Barber of Seville*, the first of the three, is the basis for Rossini's masterpiece. *The Marriage of Figaro* is the second. The story was revolutionary for its time daring to showcase the behind the scenes realities of the aristocracy and servant society. Mozart's librettist was Lorenzo da Ponte, who had to remove the most "offensive" lines before the Emperor would allow the production to be performed. The French Revolution was brewing at the time.

Figaro and Susannah, servants of the Count and Countess, are to be married. The Count, enamored of Susannah, hopes to have one night with her before she marries. However, Susannah confides this to the Countess and they conspire to trick the Count and foil his plans. A young page, who has a crush on the Countess, gets involved in the trickery. To complicate matters further, housekeeper Marcellina has extracted a promise of marriage from

Figaro unless he pays her ten thousand francs. Working through this farce of tangles involves multiple moments of mistaken identity, being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, a long lost son, and more, until all end up happily paired and the audience is worn out from laughter.



Figaro unless he pays her ten thousand francs. Working through this farce of tangles involves multiple moments of mistaken identity, being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, a long lost son, and more, until all end up happily paired and the audience is worn out from laughter.

Faust (1859) is the enduring contribution to the world of opera by French composer Charles Gounod (1818-1893). The legend of Faust exchanging his soul with the Devil for knowledge, power, and youth is ancient in origin. Librettists Barbier and Carré based the Gounod *Faust* on part I of Goethe's *Faust*. Gounod focused on the creation of believable characters and the communication of emotion through melody and orchestral color. The opera has

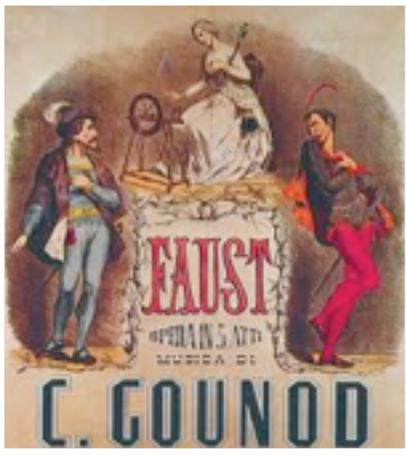
Learn More!

[Pagliacci](#)

[The Marriage of Figaro](#)

[Faust](#)

ALO 2012-2013 SEASON



romantic melodies, rousing choruses, and Mephistopheles’ mocking and satirical tunes. It has been and remains one of the most popular audience favorites and was chosen to open the Met in 1883.

Don't have tickets yet? Make sure to visit the [ALO webpage](#) to renew your subscription.

Telling this timeless story ALO will treat us to Arizona Opera’s new production by Bernard Uzan which sets the opera in a contemporary era and focuses on the universality of the characters, their feelings, and motivations.

Spread the word about another great season of ALO productions and enjoy the Opera, the pinnacle of performing art forms.

TURANDOT ENRICHMENT EVENT

Guild members gathered at the home of **Suzanne Breitbach** on April 4th to learn more about Puccini’s last work. Chairs **Kelley Lightfoot** and **Polly Barbaro** organized the event which featured Garnett Bruce, the Director, and our own **Katharine Shields** educating the crowd in an engaging and playful manner. Guild members provided ample food and desserts for the crowd, and **Twin Liquors** generously sponsored the drinks. A special thanks is in order for **Madeleine Aubry** for helping to make this evening come to life.

he first did in Kansas City for their inaugural performance at the new Kauffman Center.

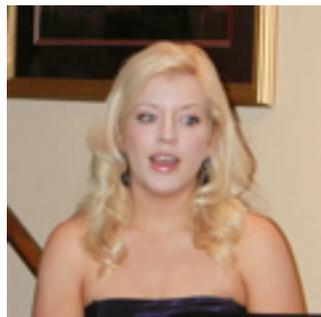
While Katharine and Garnett were excellent, the high point of the evening was **Mela Dailey**. She began Liu’s beautiful aria to try to win over Calaf, only to stop a few bars in as the music was transposed and she was “about to turn into the Queen of the Night.” Her grace and humor - and phenomenal performance - made her the highlight of the evening.



Suzanne & Madeleine created an evening to remember.

The audience was treated to a second performance by at the end of the talk. This time, she performed “Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man” from *Show Boat*. Garnett was sure to point out that *Turandot* was first performed in 1926, and *Show Boat* came out in 1927. The contrast in styles between the two pieces was truly remarkable, and this reflected the changing world that Puccini lived in prior to his death.

Katharine and Garnett dove into Act I, masterfully weaving together the synopsis with interesting facts about the characters and appropriate historical references while Garnett gave insight into different productions and his take on this production, which



Mela Dailey entertained the crowd.

Garnett and Katharine ended their presentation by highlighting that *Turandot* is ultimately a story about love conquering all.

2012-2013 GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On April 10 the nominees for the 2012-2013 ALO Guild Board were unanimously approved. Next year, the board will be:

Executive Board	
President	Carol Logan
President Elect	Polly Barbaro
Past President	Diane Ingram
Secretary	Gretchen Woellner
Treasurer	Steve Barbaro
Parliamentarian	Craig Kuglen
Advisors	
Curby Conoley Tableriou	Paula Damore
Marilyn Davis Rabkin	Susan Gatlin
Monica Hébert	Katharine Shields
Cindy Stone	

Vice Presidents	
Communications	Madeline Nash
Enrichment	Suzanne Breitbach Marcia Toprac
Membership	Paul Schoenfield Jo Carol Snowden
Merchandising	Vicky Spradling Brenda Wendel
Support Services	Laura Gutierrez-Witt Fran Langfitt
Volunteer Operations	Sue Ann Hoke Kelley Lightfoot
OVI Representative	Lissa Anderson

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

On April 24, Opera Volunteers International (OVI) Vice President, Roy Fisher, informed the Austin Lyric Opera Guild that the Guild Ambassadors Project was unanimously voted to receive OVI's Award of Special Merit.

Projects of Special Merit are submitted by member organizations. These projects must be entirely created, implemented, and successfully accomplished by the volunteer organizations for the opera company. Usually the entries focus on education, audience development, fundraising, membership, volunteer training, and artist services. All of the entries are vetted, then blindly judged.

The ALO Guild was recognized at the Award Dinner on Thursday, June 14 at the annual conference in Philadelphia. For more information on the conference and on OVI, please visit the [website](#).

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!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Opera Season is drawing to a close. July 1st begins our new fiscal year and Carol Logan takes up the baton as President of the Guild.

As I read over my first letter this year, it is evident that we had many challenges. Together we have met these challenges and have succeeded! Due to the Guild's efforts and commitment, we have brought in \$170,000 to the Opera. Congratulations!!!

We have made new friends, renewed old acquaintances, and brought excitement and fun back to the Opera and Guild.

I, personally, am looking forward to next year with the confidence that under Carol's leadership we will continue to build and grow and make the Austin Lyric Opera better than ever.

So rest up over the summer and we will see you all next Fall!!!!

-- Diane Ingram

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.. OPERA BAD BOYS HIT THE STAGE IN SEASON 26



Ok, that got your attention and yes, it will be *Pagliacci*, *Figaro* and *Faust*. for Season 26.

But first, many thanks are due to a long list of Guild Volunteers from Season 25. Diane Ingram was a great inspiration for her energy and dedication. Guild is back in fundraising mode for the Opera and it happened right on time! We went from the brink of collapse, to being in the black with major donations from our Trustees and great support for all Opera events from the Guild.

Events for next Season will be stellar. We are critical to the success of the Opera's signature fundraising event – the Guild Wine Dinner and Auction chaired by Richard Hartgrove and Scott Ballew. Last year the event netted \$133,000. We hope to exceed that this year.

Our new General Director Joe Specter, through his long time friendship with him, has succeeded in nabbing hot new Opera star and recipient of the Tucker award, Stephen Costello for the event. Stephen will be at the Wine Dinner on Feb 23 in 2013 at the Four Seasons. Make sure you get a ticket, or a table!!

The Guild is also sponsoring the pre-Opera Dinners for those Bad Boys, which is where to see and be seen this season. High up in the Kodosky Lounge the view of Austin is just right, and the companionship is excellent! Get your tickets to these dinners too, as they sell out!



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

Our Enrichment Events exceed all expectations. We have a small, intimate evening with the Directors of our operas and gain insight into their artistic choices. Nothing beats it.

We have a very HOT year this year. It's a new beginning forged on a very solid foundation. We'll branch out into the Arts community and make Austin's designation of live music capital of the world have many layered meanings.

--Carol Logan

SPRING MEMBERSHIP AND AWARDS PARTY - HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF*Ray McLeod*

The Spring Awards Party was held on a beautiful May evening at the historic Bauer House. The traditional Georgian/Federal style home is surrounded by three acres of manicured grounds with gardens and towering native Texas trees.

This setting was also the site of the very first meeting of the founding ALO members in 1986. Those **Founding Members** included Tom Anson, James Armstrong, Madeleine Aubry, Jo Anne Christian, Larry Connelly, Alicean Kalteyer, Chuck Kalteyer, Betty King, Ellen King, Mack Lindsey, Jeanette Nassour, Jane Parker, Penny Powell, Dotty Rutishauser, Peter Schram, Cindy Stone, Harry

Ullmann, Catherine Wildermuth, David Wildermuth, and Rose Betty Williams. Of these, the Founding Members who were at the Party included Tom Anson, Cindy Stone, Alicean Kalteyer, Chuck Kalteyer, Jane Parker, Ellen King, Madeleine Aubry, Jeanette Nassour, and Harry Ullmann.

The Founding Members were the bedrock upon which the Austin Lyric Opera Guild was built. Many were destined to hold positions of special responsibility. **Future Ball Chairs or Co-Chairs** included Alicean and Chuck Kalteyer, Betty King, Ellen King, Jeanette Nassour, Penny Powell, Peter Schram, Cindy Stone, and Harry Ullmann. **Future Guild Presidents** included Betty King, Penny Powell, Dotty Rutishauser, Cindy Stone, Catherine Wildermuth, and Rose Betty Williams.

Celebrating a Successful 2011-2012 Season

The Bauer House on a May evening was a wonderful way to close out the year. The peaceful setting was complemented by delightful music and delicious food and wine. Members brought the food, and Twin Liquors donated the wine.

Diane Ingram hosted the event and began with thanks to the staff of the Bauer House and to the Awards Committee—Chair **Cindy Stone** and Vice Presidents **Jo Carol Snowden** and **Paul Schoenfield**, and volunteers **Vicky Spradling**, **Marcia Toprac**, **Eric Brenner**, **Paula Damore**, and **Monica Hébert**. Past Presidents serving as Honorary Hostesses for the evening consisted of Betty King, Marilyn Davis Rabkin, Penny Powell, Katharine Shields, Leslie Stephen, and Cindy Stone.

Diane then introduced Joseph Specter, the new General Director, and his wife Kate. Joe comes to ALO from the Metropolitan Opera where he was the Director of Institutional Relations.

Special Recognition and Thanks

Special recognition was given to **Past Presidents** Betty King, Katharine Shields, Leslie Stephen, Marilyn Davis Rabkin, Penny Powell and Cindy Stone. Also thanked for their contributions over the years were **Past Ball Chairs**, **Past**

Certificates of Achievement

Suzanne Breitbach
Paula Damore
Susan Gatlin
Mack Lindsey
Laura Gutierrez-Witt
Paula Kothmann
Penny Powell
Paul Schoenfield
Leslie Thomas
Marcia Toprac
Catherine Wildermuth

Gina Ducloux Award

Madeleine Aubry

President's Award

Marilyn Davis Rabkin

Bravo Award

Monica Hébert

Sainthood

Don Eckols
Stuart Damore
Hudson Ingram

Guild Board Officers and Advisors, Past Opening Night Dinner Chairs, and Dinners, Divas, and Diversions Chairs Ellen King and Jeanette Nassour.

Awards Presentation

The Awards Presentation began with **Certificates of Appreciation** that were awarded to Suzanne Breitbach, Paula Damore, Susan Gatlin, Catherine Wildermuth, Leslie Thomas, Penny Powell, Laura Gutierrez-Witt, Paul Schoenfield, Paula Kothmann, Mack Lindsey, and Marcia Toprac.

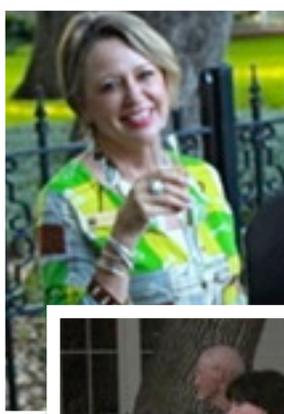
The **President’s Special Recognition Award** is awarded by the Guild President in recognition of the person who was the most supportive of the presidency throughout the year. The 2011-2012 award went to Marilyn Davis Rabkin.

The **Gina Ducloux Award** is in honor of Gina Ducloux, who was always enthusiastic and supportive of the Opera and the Guild. She was always there. This year’s award went to Madeleine Aubry.

The **Bravo Award** is the highest award. It is distinguished from other awards by recognizing sustained outstanding contributions to the Guild and the Opera over an extended period. The winner of the 2011-2012 Bravo Award was Monica Hébert.

A Team Effort

Everyone then settled back to reminisce about how we all had happily worked together, doing the jobs that had to be done to make Austin Lyric Opera a vital part of the social fabric and culture of Austin and Central Texas. Those first twenty-five years went by so fast! They always do when you are having fun. We can’t wait to meet the next challenges.



Top Left: Warren Nogle has been a great asset as photographer and webmaster for the Guild. Photo: Vicky Spradling **Top Right:** Marilyn Davis Rabkin presents Diane Ingram with a token of the Board’s appreciation. Photo: Vicky Spradling **Middle:** Jo Carol Snowden sips bubbly Photo: Warren Nogle **Bottom:** Lissa Anderson, Allan Nutt, Nicole Nutt, Suzanne Breitbach and Madeleine Aubry enjoy the party. Photo: Vicky Spradling **Left:** Board members are recognized for their hard work! Photo: Warren Nogle.



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Calendar

September 11, 2012

Guild Board Meeting 1
 Trento

October 9, 2012

Guild Board Meeting 2
 Trento

October 13, 2012

Kick Off Party
 Conoley Tableriou Home

November 3, 2012

Pagliacci Enrichment Event
 TBD

November 6, 2012

Guild Board Meeting 3
 Trento

November 10, 15 & 18, 2012

Pagliacci
 Long Center

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:

ANGIE BONNICI

DIANE INGRAM

CAROL LOGAN

RAY MCLEOD

WARREN NOGLE

JOE SPECTER

KATE SPECTER

KATHARINE SHIELDS

TONY SPIELBERG

VICKY SPRADLING

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