

*Expanding the future of Opera
through development, mentoring and advancement of volunteer service*

Opera Volunteers

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

www.OperaVolunteers.org



The Opera Volunteer Voice

The New York Meeting Issue

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International

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Soprano Desirée Earl Soteres

Former OVI Board Member, Ann Meschery, Welcomes You to New York City

I invite members of OVI to join all their friends, old and new, in my wonderful town on November 11, 12 and 13. In the city that never sleeps, you will find so much to do that you will literally find very little time to sleep.



Join the fun as board members and opera lovers spend the weekend in New York City November 11 to 13, 2011. If you would enjoy getting together with your OVI friends to attend a few operas, have dinner and visit some interesting sights, this may be the perfect trip for you. Combined are the freedom and flexibility of a custom itinerary with the comfort and companionship of enjoying opera related activities with friends.

Friday, November 11th

The OVI Board will meet at the Holiday Inn Midtown on West 57th Street. (See the hotel reservation information on page 4 for details.) The hotel was chosen for its 'relatively' reasonable room rate of \$239 plus taxes combined with the hotel's proximity to Lincoln Center. Those not attending the Board Meeting may want to relax or sightsee.

On Friday evening dine in the Burgundy Room of the Compass Restaurant on 70th and Broadway. The sumptuous meal includes: a salad or appetizer, main course and dessert. Make reservations early since we have limited seating available. Projects of Special Merit, Partners in Excellence, and the President's Volunteer Award, as well as OVI's 2011 grant winners will be honored. Details of these awards may be found on the OVI website.

Mary Earl's talented daughter, soprano **Desirée Earl Soteres**, will grace our gathering by performing several arias. She began her professional career as an apprentice with the Portland Opera in Oregon. On the concert stage, she has been a frequent guest soloist premiering new works with Pittsburgh's Alia Musica, Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Orchestra. Ms. Soteres is equally at home in concert, musical theater and on the operatic stage and has been praised for her superb characterization and powerful vocal ability.

**For questions or for more information, please contact Mary Sveta
at EventPlanning@OperaVolunteers.org**

Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org

OVI Members:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Guest Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postcode: _____

Cell phone where you may be reached when in NYC: () _____

Name of volunteer support group to which you belong: _____

Events Attendance Form

OVI Board Meeting (Holiday Inn at West 57th) No Charge /# attend. _____

Opera America's National Opera Center Tour No Charge /# attend. _____

Group Activities

	COST	# requested	TOTAL
Friday Dinner at Compass Restaurant:	\$105	x _____	\$_____

Dinner & entertainment in Compass' Burgundy Room
(Price is for meal, service and tax. Beverages not included)

Optional High Line Walking Tour:	\$ 25	X_____	\$_____
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Architectural walking tour of former elevated railway through the trendy Meatpacking District. Knowledgeable tour guide describes sites. (Minimum of 10 people needed for tour guide)

Metropolitan Opera Tickets purchases:

We are working with the Met Opera Group Sales department to obtain discounts on tickets for the November 12th performances of *Nabucco* and *Satyagraha*. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for these performances, please email Mary Sveta at eventplanning@operavolunteers.org to obtain further information. The deadline is September 14th for the group purchase.

Hotel Reservations may be made at the Holiday Inn at West 57th (See page 4 for details.)

Make your own hotel reservations directly by calling (212) 581-8100 or (800) 231-0405. Ask for the Opera Volunteers International Group Rate - XOP (\$239 plus 14.75% State tax and \$3.50 Occupancy Tax) for single or double occupancy. Deadline is October 10th for the OVI Group Rate.

Send Reservation form to: eventplanning@operavolunteers.org. Opera ticket inquiries can be made to Mary at that email. Make payments for dinner and/or the walking tour on the website through PayPal or send checks to:
OVI Treasurer, Evelyn Troughton, 2625 13th Avenue W, Unit 306, SEATTLE WA 98119.



OVI's November 2011 Meeting in New York

Saturday, November 12th



The day begins with breakfast on your own. Then, head out for a preview tour of **OPERA America's National Opera Center** led by **Marc Scorca** (photo left), President and CEO of OPERA America. The organization's current offices are being re-invented in a bold new plan to create a 'center of gravity' where OA members from across the country and around the world will benefit from the unique services never before available in a single, purpose-built facility, including a double-height, acoustically excellent Audition/Recital Hall. Hear Marc's vision for the facility and join in the discussion of OVI's participation in the upcoming OPERA America Conference in Philadelphia next June. For those who will be enjoying the Metropolitan Opera matinee performance of Verdi's *Nabucco*, lunch may be a quick bite to eat. But other tour members may want to linger over lunch at Affinia in the hotel across the street from the OPERA America offices.

Metropolitan Operas for Saturday, 12th

** *Nabucco* (Giuseppe Verdi) begins at 1:00 pm.

Verdi's rousing biblical drama stars Željko Lucic and Marianne Cornetti in the leading roles, with its famed *Va, Pensiero* (*Fly, thought, on wings of gold*) sung by the mighty Met chorus. With its powerful chorus, the opera established Verdi as a major composer in 19th century Italy. Marianne Cornetti is recognized internationally as one of the leading Verdi mezzo-sopranos.

Between opera courses, how about dining at Lincoln Center's stunning new restaurant, Lincoln?

** *Satyagraha* (Philip Glass) begins at 8:00 pm.

The Met's visually extravagant production is back for an encore engagement. Richard Croft appears again as Gandhi in this unforgettable opera, which *The Washington Post* calls "a profound and beautiful work of theater".

And for those, like me, who cannot get enough opera, if you stay through Monday, there is Handel's *Rodelinda* with super divas, Renée Fleming and Stephanie Blythe.



The Lincoln Center at night

Sunday, November 13th (Optional Tours)

* High Line Walking Tour

With a minimum of ten people participating, a walking tour of the High Line elevated railway will be conducted by a knowledgeable tour guide. The architecturally wonderful park provides spectacular views. The park was renovated by architects Diller, Scofidio and Renfrew, who are the same firm responsible for the Lincoln Center renovation.

* Informal Brunch

After working up an appetite, follow up the tour with Brunch at the nearby Standard Hotel Grill and then browse around the Chelsea Market and the boutiques and galleries of the trendy Meatpacking District.

* Lincoln Center Tours

Learn more about Lincoln Center's landmarks—including the Revson Fountain, the newly transformed Alice Tully Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera House. Each tour is unique, and you never know what might happen. You might sit in on a rehearsal, walk out onto a stage, or meet a star. Sunday tours available are 12:30 PM, 1:00 PM, 1:30 PM. Call 212.875.5350 for schedule, availability, and reservations. Reservations are recommended. \$15 / \$12 Senior.

And if all this is not enough there are plenty of Broadway shows or the Vienna Philharmonic in the afternoon. Heard enough ---- ready to pack your bags? GOOD, I hope to see you all on November 11th.

Ann

ANN MESCHERY is currently Director of In-Park Events with New York City's Carl Schurz Park Conservancy. She is responsible for producing the Summer Sounds Concert Series, Sunset Film Festival, Gracie Square Art Show, and the Holiday Tree Lighting and Caroling Celebration. Prior to her retirement in 2008, Ann was General Manager of the American Russian Youth Orchestra (ARYO), a cross-cultural collaboration with Russia, from 2001 until 2008. For 25 years she has participated in the NY City Opera Volunteer Corps, and is its immediate past President. For 10 years she served on the Board of OVI as Director of Governmental Affairs and Strategic Planning.



OVI Meeting in New York—Hotel Reservations

Make hotel reservations by contacting the **Holiday Inn Midtown – West 57th Street** at **(212) 581-8100** or **(800) 231-0405**. The rate is good from **November 10, 2011** and departing on **November 14, 2011** but this rate will only be offered until **October 10, 2011**.

To reserve rooms for any or all of those dates, you must ask for the **Opera Volunteers International** group rate using **group code XOP**. All reservations must be secured by a credit card or one night’s prepayment at the time of booking. One king or two double

beds available at \$239.00 per night.

Note: \$15.00 each additional guest **after** the second guest. To the rates ADD 14.75% State tax and \$3.50 Occupancy tax. Taxes are subject to change. Rates and taxes are per room, per night. Rates are based on existing bedding. Rollaway beds are \$15.00 each per night, plus taxes, limited to one per room and **subject to availability**. Maximum number of persons allowed to occupy a room is four. This is to include adults and children of any age.

Save the Date: June 13 to 16, 2012 in Philadelphia, PA

The OPERA America Conference will take place in Philadelphia from June 13 to 16, 2012. Mark your calendar!

OPERA America’s annual conference will be coming to the City of Brotherly Love, and OVI will participate there as we address the vital issues affecting opera and explore the city’s rich cultural offerings.

Opera Conference 2012 will take place in the **Doubletree Center City Hotel**.

The special conference hotel rate is \$166 per night. Additional conference details, including registration information, will be available after Labor Day.



Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org

Opera Volunteers International

c/o

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Copy should be sent to the address noted.

Address Correction Requested