



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



www.OperaVolunteers.org

The Opera Volunteer Voice

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**The official quarterly
newsletter of
Opera Volunteers
International**

**Publication dates:
March, June,
September,
and December**

**Save the Date
Just announced
November 16-18
OVI Fall Focus
In New Orleans
French Quarter**

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Creative Resurgence at Opera Conference 2012 Reconnect With your passion in the city of brotherly love

CREATIVE RESURGENCE is the perfect theme for **OPERA CONFERENCE 2012** and **Philadelphia** is the perfect venue. We begin from a place where current challenges meet past traditions. Changing circumstances and concerns draw and propel us toward growth and transformation. New results require imaginative views. As creative resurgence moves us forward, it infuses us with life and reconnects us to what we value.

This year's event will be unique in that we are collaborating with **OPERA AMERICA**. This will give **OPERA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL (OVI)** members an exceptional opportunity to interact with and hear from the artists and industry forces who are shaping, creating and expanding our musical experiences of the 21st century. As the conference materials suggest, "we are literally rethinking conventions...By combining rich traditions with inventive energy, opera is responding to new opportunities with flexibility and agility. Innovative artistic and administrative practices are re-envisioning the art form and increasing opera's impact in the larger cultural community." Volunteerism is integral to that process.

If you are looking for creative resurgence in your opera company, in your personal life, in your goals, hobbies and cultural horizons, then plan to be in Philadelphia this June. *(more details on page*

I Look Forward to Seeing Many of you in June



OVI President, Julie Benson
Photo: Larry Lapidus

OVI celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. We are the premiere advocate and resource for the advancement and development of volunteers in support of opera.

In 1970 **Opera America** incorporated with 20 charter members representing 17 opera companies. The plan was to form a national service organization for opera. When the group first met in Seattle there were less than 50 opera companies in the United States. Today there are hundreds of companies that Opera America services.

On behalf of OVI, I am thrilled to announce the OVI/OA partnership in Philadelphia on June 13-16 for:

Opera Conference 2012: Creative Resurgence

You are invited!
Warm regards,
Julie Anne Benson, President



Frederick Burchinal

University of Georgia
Director of Opera
and Professor of Voice
Athena Grand Opera
Artistic Director

“I think Opera Volunteers International is key in the most important development of opera nationwide and in Georgia’s grass roots effort of introducing opera to the pub-

If we do not have your email address, please let us have it in order to keep you up-to-date between newsletters.

OVI Welcomes University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Frederick Burchinal - on education and volunteerism

In joining Opera Volunteers International Frederick Burchinal has set a precedent. He knows that developing student volunteer organizations is crucial.

“Opera is a form of entertainment rather than an obscure art form. Opera as a not-for-profit art form takes a village working together to produce a quality product and experience. If the audience is not there, no one can enjoy opera. Our goal is to elevate audience awareness that opera is entertainment to occupy our leisure hours.”

From the University of Georgia website: “Renowned international baritone Frederick Burchinal, with a twenty-two year presence at the Metropolitan Opera since his debut as Macbeth in 1988, was named the first recipient of the Wyatt and Margaret Anderson Professorship in the Arts at the University of Georgia’s Hugh Hodgson School of Music in 2006.”

A Central City Opera House performance gave a six-year-old Wichita native career direction. His sister’s husband was singing. A church organist and music teacher, his mother taught him piano at five. He became a soloist in the choir at eight. His direction was divided by a trombone. A scholarship brought a conscious decision to sing. A degree in education supported him while dreams were pursued. Frederick Burchinal’s professional debut came in 1970. New York afforded access to American opera, Julliard for post-graduate work. Metropolitan Opera Studio’s Young Artists Program brought more training and his first performance on the Metropolitan Opera stage as a back up singer in a cast of a thousand in Britten’s *Death in Venice*.

He is not unique in his desire to prepare voice students to perform well, nor is he unique in wanting to prepare his students to support themselves. With those sometimes contradictory goals his thoughts concentrate on opera and opera volunteerism.

“I think Opera Volunteers International is key in the most important development of opera nationwide and in Georgia’s grass roots effort of introducing opera to the public. We know that once the public is at an opera they want to come back. How do you get those people notified of new operas? How do you contact them?”

“Opera Volunteers International educates to change the concept of opera. Volunteers educate the public, donate funds to keep ticket prices low and cover the cost of performances in a collective effort. Volunteers help to bring in audience members who become our future.”

article by Southeast Region Coordinator, Gloria Jackson

Welcome to Our Newest Members

University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music,
Frederick Burchinal, Director of Opera, fpbopera@uga.edu

Thomas Simpson, Glimmerglass Opera Guild, tlullsimpson@msn.com

Ed Brodzinsky, Glimmerglass Opera Guild, tlullsimpson@msn.com

David Ryan, Washington DC area opera, david.ryan@metronets.com

Stella Varvis, Edmonton Opera Guild, stella@ualberta.net

Debbie Frank, Sarasota Opera Guild, debandersonfrank@verizon.net

How to Contact Our Membership Vice-President:

Changed your address? Moving soon? Make sure you let Rhonda know at:

membership@operavolunteers.org

(713) 522-1669

Early-Bird Deadline is April 13 Register now to save 40%

OVI members save **40% off** the Early-Bird rate of **\$495** (\$595 for non-members).

For members, that's just \$297 — a savings of \$198 per person!

Register by **April 13** to take advantage of Early-Bird pricing and the fantastic group discount.

(On-line registrants use discount code **OVIOPERACONF** in all caps)



Academy of Music by B. Krist for GPTMC



Photo by G. Widman for GPTMC



Kimmel Center

Conference Highlights

Opera Conference 2012 kicks off with a **welcome reception** on the stage of the legendary Academy of Music, hosted by the Opera Company of Philadelphia! Built in 1857, it is the oldest opera house in the U.S. still used for opera performances. Meet up with old friends and make new ones while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. See you downstage, center!

Great **speakers, discussions, seminars** and fascinating people will provide the fresh approach you need to meet the challenges you find most daunting. Hear what has worked, and what has not, from other volunteer leaders throughout the country. Our OVI **awards dinner** will honor those who have been awarded OVI's highest honors.

Doubletree Center City Hotel is located in the heart of the Philadelphia cultural area. **Explore the history and architecture** of Philadelphia. Walk to the oldest opera house in the US. See the newly commissioned *Dark Sisters* by Nico Muhly. Nearby attractions include Independence National Historical Park and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. More information on OVI and Opera Conference 2012 cultural events will be listed on the conference website. Click on 'Special Events' on the registration website for more information.

Join the OPERA America and Opera Company of Philadelphia staff for a **hosted reception on Saturday evening** and **free admission to Philadelphia cultural and historical sites** throughout the weekend.

OVI Conference Schedule

Wednesday 6/13/12 OVI Board Meeting 1-5 pm

Thursday 6/14/12

7:00 am Yoga
 8:00 am OVI silent auction
 9:00 am Keynote
 10:00 am Networking Break
 10:30 am Professional Skills, Volunteer Service
 12:00 pm Lunch Doubletree
 2:00 pm In Conversation with Michael Kaiser –Doubletree
 2:45 pm Networking Break
 3:00 pm Work Group Session:
 7:00 pm Network Dinner – OVI Awards Celebration
 10:00 pm Women of Opera -Standing O Bistro and Bar

Friday 6/15/12

7:00 am Yoga
 8:00 am OVI Silent Auction
 11:00 am Volunteer Highlights moderated by Gerald Elijah
 12:15 pm Lunch on own
 1:30 pm Strategic Visions & Decisions Part 1
 3–5 pm Strategic Visions & Decisions Part 2
 From Analysis to Action
 5:00 pm Exhibitor Happy Hour
 8:00 pm Opera Company of Philadelphia – *Dark Sisters*
purchase tickets separately
 10:00 pm Grantor Reception

Saturday 6/16/12

9:00 – 10:15 Roundtable Award Winning volunteer Projects
 10:45 – 12:15 Company & Volunteer support group successes
Further cultural/tour activities TBA

OVI members were mailed brochures with conference details, including registration information. Visit **OperaAmerica.org/conference** for more information or to register.

If you have questions about registration contact: Anne Earnheart 212-796-8620

MATCHING GRANTS Member support groups are eligible for up to \$2,000 in matching grant money for projects that further volunteer involvement in opera. Guidelines and how to receive application materials can be found on the OVI website <http://operavolunteers.org/matching/>. The next deadline is January 1.

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE, PROJECTS OF SPECIAL MERIT - deadline extended to April 15
We want to show off your super volunteers, your innovative and successful programs and projects, your major milestones and minor miracles. OVI believes that these efforts deserve to be celebrated throughout the opera volunteer community and we're going to do just that at our awards dinner at Opera Conference 2012.

All you need to do is submit an application by April 15. Read more about these awards at <http://operavolunteers.org/awards-recognition/> Contact memberservices@operavolunteers.org to have application material sent to you.

PLEASE HELP WITH OUR SILENT AUCTION AT OPERA CONFERENCE 2012

The Silent Auction raises funds to support Opera Volunteer International volunteer group projects and grants and we invite your participation to make our auction a success. Each day will feature a new selection. We would love your help securing items for this event. We welcome donations from opera companies, support groups and individuals. And if you would like to be part of the auction committee, please let us know. Contact Susan Malott for details: smalott@sfopera.com



**Early Bird
Registration
40% Discount
Ends April 13 !**

Opera Volunteers International

PO Box 7032
Evanston, IL 60201-2284

Address Correction Requested

Newsletter Editor and Publisher:
Rick Greenman

newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Find us on the internet at
www.OperaVolunteers.org