

**GUILD OF GLIMMERGLASS
FESTIVAL**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

September 19, 2021

5:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Annual reports of Guild officers
3. Annual reports of committees
4. Nominating committee report and election of Board members
5. Other business
6. Program

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom; link details will be shared by email.

The Nominating Committee proposes Hillary Cote and Renee LaFond as new members of the Board. The Committee also proposes to re-elect the following members whose terms are expiring: Walter Ashley, Jane Grastorf, Rhonda King, Mary Margaret Kuhn, Win Olsen, Janet Vinyard, and Laura Wetzel.

After the business meeting, our speakers will be Abby Rodd, Director of Production, and Joel Morain, Audio Engineer, reflecting on *Glimmerglass on the Grass*. Abby and Joel will bookend their presentation which opened the Guild's 2021 Talking Opera series.

MARY MARGARET KUHN

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2021 SEASON

From Guild President Mary Margaret Kuhn

I had the opportunity to see each production offered by *Glimmerglass on the Grass* and enjoyed every one of them. I thought that Kelley Rourke, dramaturg and librettist, did an amazing job of adapting Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and making it accessible to the audience. I also really enjoyed 90 minutes of Mozart far more than the original.

My best memory of the season was visiting so many of my Guild friends prior to the performances. Many I had not seen in person for two years and it just felt like a real homecoming.

The most unforgettable part of 2021 was lending my grandfather clock for Glimmerglass' filming of *The Knock* which will premiere this fall. Coming from a military family it was a privilege to contribute to telling the tale of loss so many military families experience.

From Guild Vice President Laura Wetzel

Our group arrived ready for the excitement of the opera seeing *To The World!* It was absolutely wonderful to be there, outside was gorgeous, people were excited and so happy and in great spirits, and wine was flowing. Halfway into the performance, it was rained out, and although disappointing, it did not matter because Glimmerglass had returned. We were lucky enough to attend three more performances, hot and hazy but no matter, we loved every production we attended. We are so grateful to have had our beloved opera return, seeing the spectacular Young Artists, and sharing the camaraderie of others. I actually loved sitting in my own square. We are so hopeful for next season, whatever it brings. Thanks to Francesca for pulling it together!

From Guild Board member Abby Kreh Gibson

That the Glimmerglass Festival is a totally unique company and in a class by itself I've known since my first experience here with Mozart's *Il Re Pastore* in 1991. For 30 years I've had the joy of seeing each production multiple times but what the Festival accomplished in this difficult, difficult period with *Glimmerglass on the Grass* was unbelievable and truly amazing.

To have live music and to see Company members you haven't seen for almost two years was very emotional for me and heartfelt. But I never expected to be so moved by the performances—this mixture of sound between the singers on the outdoor stage and the orchestra in the Alice Busch Opera Theater. The Company's work in reducing major operas to 90 minutes, the challenges of rehearsals, the anxiety of weather conditions, the logistics of handling the audiences would all seem overwhelming, yet everyone working on campus was welcoming and helpful. And I as a ticket holder was thrilled to be back and once again listening to live Glimmerglass Festival music and being enveloped by its magic.

From Guild Board member Kate Johnson

I hope to never forget the feeling of absolute joy I felt when the orchestra began to play on the opening night of *The Magic Flute*. The familiar music made clear to me that it didn't matter that we were on the grass; what matters is the music, the art, the bond that is created between the many individuals who

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
 P.O. Box 491, Cooperstown, NY 13326
www.glimmerglassguild.org

Officers

President.....Mary Margaret Kuhn
 Vice President.....Laura Tansey Wetzel
 Secretary.....Mary Brodzinsky
 Treasurer.....Joanne Tobey

Committee Chairs

CommunicationsJane Grastorf
 Education/Community Engagement Kathy Eisele
 Fundraising.....Christine Weiss
 Grounds (ad hoc).....Janet Vinyard
 Hospitality.....Cynthia and William Goertemoeller
 Membership Winifred Olsen
 Nominating..... Walter Ashley
 Volunteer Services Rita Emanuel
 Website Committee (ad hoc).....Mary Brodzinsky

Board Members (at large)

Abby Kreh Gibson	Rhonda King
Kate Johnson	Jean Kohler
Sally Jones	Carol Steigelman

Guild Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Mary Margaret Kuhn

Company Representative

Brittany Lesavoy

Trustee Liaison to the Guild

Thomas Simpson

Member of



OVI Liaison

Rita Emanuel

News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of
The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

So much has transpired since I last wrote to you. This is my last President’s Message as I will be stepping down in October. It has been an honor to serve as your President, and a joy to work with you. I look forward to when we can once again physically work alongside one another for the benefit of our beloved Glimmerglass Festival.

The Festival season was simply outstanding: the voices and the music, the adaptations, the setting. What a moving experience to be back at Glimmerglass after a long hiatus.

The celebration of Paul Kellogg’s life, held on the terrace bearing his name in front of the house on Saturday, August 7, was a moving tribute that captured Paul’s spirit beautifully.

The return of the Guild’s Annual Gala, chaired this year by Laura Tansey Wetzel, was an elegant affair and there was such happiness as so many old friends in the Guild were reunited. Carol Steigelman and her committee ably executed the Gala Auction and together the dinner, auction, and Wine-by-Chance raised over \$17,700. Bravi for making a successful and memorable evening in such a short time! Their efforts together with your generous donations throughout the year enabled the Board to approve a gift of \$30,000 to the Festival.

The new look to Guild e-blasts is thanks to Communications chairperson Jane Grastorf and her hard work at learning MailChimp. Thank you, Jane, for the professional and eye-catching look.

Your invitation to explore the Guild’s new webpage should have arrived in your inbox. Take some time and enjoy the wonderful photos and plethora of information. This represents months of hard work by the committee chaired by Mary Brodzinsky, who along with Janet Potter and Rhonda King have worked with designer Patti McAvoy to produce something we can all refer to regularly.

Finally, let me offer my sincere gratitude to Carol Steigelman, Gala Auction Chairperson, and Mary Brodzinsky, Secretary, who have submitted their resignations from the Board. Carol took on the 2021 auction with almost no lead time and did a terrific job. Mary headed our Website Committee and persevered through many challenges to bring it to fruition, as well as producing the Board’s agenda and minutes each and every month with great attention to detail. Thank you both for all you have done on behalf of the Guild.

MARY MARGARET KUHN

GUILD BOARD MEMBER REMINDER

*Don’t forget to send your volunteer hours to
 Rita Emanuel by
 September 30, 2021*

Email to rfe3975@yahoo.com

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stage an opera and the audience who come to receive it. I saw *Flute* three times this summer (was rained out of what would have been a fourth chance) and that joy never left. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

From Guild Board member Christine Weiss and Albert Weiss

We purchased box seats and invited friends to share performances of *The Magic Flute*, *Il Travatore*, and the musical *To the World* over one weekend. WOW! The weather was superb, the music different but welcome, and the singers excellent. All was magical and magic! Great combination for a binge weekend of Glimmerglass!

We were privileged to experience and share such wonderful talents on the grass at Glimmerglass Festival. Job well done by all! Thank you!

From Guild Board member Kathleen Eisele

The beautiful sound coming from the orchestra in the Alice Busch Opera Theater for *Glimmerglass on the Grass* this season was remarkable, but I wanted to *see* at least some of its members. I was able to do that on August 11 at the annual Pierstown Grange Florence High Chamber Music Concert, held this year at the Meadow Links Golf Course due to renovations at the Grange.

For this concert, orchestra members were invited to play whatever music they *wanted* to play. Their selections were eclectic, covering a wide swath of music history and genres, and featuring unusual instrumental ensembles (e.g., a violin and tuba duet). Ubaldo Valli, a knowledgeable and witty MC, predicted we would like some pieces more than others. I have searched my music streaming sources to listen to some of the pieces again and to relive the memory of the concert.

The Glimmerglass Festival Orchestra is versatile and skillfully performs a wide variety of music every season. While I always look forward to the Pierstown Grange concert, I found it especially gratifying this year. On that evening, the musicians could hear my applause and see me stand in appreciation.

Editor's note: If you, our readers, would like to share YOUR reflections on the season, I would be delighted to receive them by October 25 for the November *News & Notes*.

CELEBRATING PAUL KELLOGG

As world-class soprano Christine Goerke filled the terrace of the Alice Busch Opera Theatre with *Climb Every Mountain*, over 180 colleagues, and friends gathered to honor Paul Kellogg on Saturday, August 7. That song was perfect for him, and also for Christine! Her journey from a young artist at Glimmerglass to world class opera was a product of the artistic magnitude that Mr. Kellogg achieved during his 85 amazing years. Christine also sang two favorite French opera pieces by Richard Strauss and Gluck, with Christopher Devlin, Glimmerglass Head of Music, at the piano.

Accolades and memories were shared by a number of people who worked closely with Mr. Kellogg over the years. Artistic and General Director Francesca Zambello opened

continued next column

with thankful praise for Paul's Glimmerglass contributions including the oversight of our 914-seat theatre. Other keynote speakers included Jane Forbes Clark, President of the Clark Foundation and Chairman of the Baseball Hall of Fame; Robert Schlather, Glimmerglass Board of Trustees; Abby Rodd, Glimmerglass Director of Production; and Martin Kagan, former Executive Director of OPERA America who is now Director of Development at Ridgefield Playhouse in Ridgefield, Conn.

Educated in French and English literature, Mr. Kellogg had no real musical training and little managerial experience. Envisioning what a summer festival could become, he took on increasing executive and artistic leadership over the years. Under his leadership Glimmerglass became a leading summer opera festival with a strong Young Artists Program. Between Glimmerglass and City Opera, he had a consistent record of fostering new works. The two companies became creative partners, both demonstrating a commitment to innovative contemporary productions and overlooked 20th century works. Both welcomed emergent singers, with fresh voices and youthful stage appeal. This summer, our innovative *Glimmerglass on the Grass* festival season has been a great tribute to Paul Kellogg's amazing contributions to Opera.

CYNTHIA AND BILL GOERTEMOELLER

A FABULOUS AUGUST EVENING

The quick assembly of committee volunteers and their hard work created a highly successful 2021 Guild Gala on August 3. Committee members Carol Steigelman, Laura Tansey Wetzel, Christine Weiss, Joanne Tobey, Rita Emanuel, Karin deWaal, Winnie Olsen, Mary Brodzinski, Mary Margaret Kuhn, and Bill and Cynthia Goertemoeller were among the 89 people who attended the Gala evening. The lovely Otesaga Resort Hotel once again provided incredible support. It was an ideal evening to hold the fundraising silent auction outside on the veranda. Dinner, music, and a live auction followed in the ballroom.

Merchants, artists, and individuals from the greater Cooperstown area and beyond were very generous in donating items for the auctions. Items featured in the live auction included an Italian feast for 24 donated by Patricia Reller, a unique and beautiful handmade necktie quilt donated by Rita Emanuel, and a week in a lovely, spacious London flat donated by Erna Morgan McReynolds and Tom Morgan.

The 2021 Gala evening's entertainment was provided by Young Artist performers Helen Huang, soprano, Stephanie Sanchez, mezzo-soprano, Kameron Lopreore, tenor, and Armando Contreras, baritone. Their stunning operatic arias were enthusiastically received by the audience. We thank Young Artists Program Director Allen Perriello who arranged for their appearances and accompanied them on piano.

A special moment occurred when Guild President Mary Margaret Kuhn was announced as the Volunteer of the Year and gifted a lovely orchid by the Glimmerglass Festival. Congratulations and thank you to Mary Margaret!

We are also grateful to the following members of the company

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who attended the Gala this year: Joseph Colaneri, Joan Desens, Brittany Lesavoy-Smith, Caryn Reeves, and Amy Tompkins. It was so gracious of you to join us during such a busy time for everyone.

CAROL STEIGELMAN

DONORS TO THE GALA AUCTIONS

The Gala Committee urges members to support these businesses who donated items to the 2021 Gala auctions:

Andre's Lakeside Restaurant, Sparta, NJ
 Beekman 1802 Mercantile, Sharon Springs
 Brewery Ommegang, Cooperstown
 Canal Side Inn, Little Falls
 Catskill Symphony Orchestra, Oneonta
 Coco and Cordelia, Cherry Valley
 Cooperstown Distillery, Cooperstown
 Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown
 Fort Plain Coffee Shop, Fort Plain
 The Glimmerglass Festival, Cooperstown
 Hawkeye Spa, Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown
 The Horned Dorset Inn, Leonardsville
 Hyde Hall, Cooperstown
 The Inn at Stone Mill, Little Falls
 J. Gorman Jeweler, Cooperstown
 Jerry's Place, Hartwick
 Karen Katz Designs, Cooperstown
 Kevin's Royal Ford Motors, Cooperstown
 LJ's Sassy Boutique, Cooperstown
 Mel's at 22, Cooperstown
 Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica
 Origins Café, Cooperstown
 Otsego 2000, Cooperstown
 The Pink Squirrel, Cherry Valley
 A Rose is a Rose Florist, Cherry Valley
 Sam Smith's Boatyard & Blue Mingo Grill, Cooperstown
 Sunflower Café, Springfield
 Susan Jones Kenyon, Artist, Cooperstown
 Toscana Italian Fusion and Grill, Cooperstown
 Upstate Steakhouse and Grill, Cooperstown

Also, please join us in thanking these Guild members who donated to the auctions:

Karin and Hans DeWaal
 Rita Emanuel and John Anagnost
 Abby Kreh Gibson
 Bill and Cynthia Goertemoeller
 Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds
 Winnie Olsen
 The Rellers
 Thomas Lull Simpson
 Carol Steigelman
 Laura Tansey Wetzel
 Matthew Zwissler and Mitch Owens

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**TREASURER'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021¹**

The Guild began fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020–September 30, 2021) with a cash balance of \$11,451.55, which had been raised during the previous year. In fiscal year 2021, an atypical season for the company with performances held outdoors and no opening night dinners, meet-and-greets, etc., the number of Guild activities was reduced and therefore expenses were low. Total expenses were \$8,265.36—largely attributable to our newsletter and our one major fundraising event, the Gala. Prior to the pandemic, expenses ran around \$20,000 per year.

The Guild received more than \$11,000 in gifts this year to support our general operations as well as \$4,590 for the Tribute Fund and \$7,500 in membership dues. These numbers do not reflect the many in-kind gifts and unreimbursed expenses contributed by Guild members. The Gala netted \$17,789.19, driven by a successful auction and sold-out dinner. Revenue in total was \$47,437.37.

Therefore, our net gain this year was \$39,172.01. At its August meeting, the Guild Board voted to contribute \$30,000 to Glimmerglass Festival, leaving \$20,624.01 on hand at the time of this report.

In addition, in 2021 the Guild registered with the IRS to be recognized as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This status, once granted, will enable donations to the Guild to be receipted as tax-deductible donations.

JOANNE TOBEY

¹ Data as of September 6, 2021.