

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of PPOL,

I hope 2024 is off to a good start for all of you. We have some very fine programs planned for you, and we hope you will be able to join us for some or all of them.

Many of you attended our Holiday Luncheon at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, hosted by Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher. The food was wonderful as always, and we were entertained by Martile's Merry Singers: Soprano Kacie Kenton and Baritone Malcolm Ulbrick. Be sure and see the photos later in this newsletter. Nancy Pittman won the drawing for two free tickets to "The Met Live in HD" courtesy of our partners at KCME. Nancy was unable to use the tickets, so a second drawing was held and new member Briana Tillman was the winner.

We are very pleased to announce that the Thatchers have agreed to

host our May program and meeting at the Country Club as well! Please take note that there is a change of time and venue for this program: it will be a luncheon instead of a "soiree" as previously stated, and it will be at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, 9 Lake Avenue instead of The Pinery. We hope this will encourage more people to attend.

The February program was also a great success with standing room only. The program featured Conservatory students Evalin Gutierrez and Ella Illsley as well as Conservatory mentor, Nicole Cherecwich. Soprano Christiana Danaé made a guest appearance and performed songs in celebration of Black History Month. Attendees enjoyed dessert bites provided by the PPOL Hospitality team under the able leadership of Linda Silver and Helene Knapp, and the Conservatory provided decaf coffee. New member Jean Foran was the February winner of two free tickets to "The Met Live in HD" performances, courtesy of KCME.

Please note that there is a change of venue for our March 6th program, "Young Voice Experience." This will take place from 3-5 pm at First United Methodist Church, 420 S. Nevada Ave. Finger foods and nonalcoholic beverages will be served. PPOL Board member and music educator Trudy Fennewald has reinvented the Young Voice Competition to make it more of an educational experience for the participating students. Please see headshots and bios of the students and their coaches later in this newsletter.

Please take the time to RSVP to events. Sometimes seating is limited, and sometimes changes occur that are beyond our control. If we know you are coming, we can let you know of any changes. It is also helpful for our hospitality team to know how many people to plan for. When you RSVP for the program/event, please remember to click on the "SUBMIT" button. Once you are registered, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation email, repeat the process. We can always delete duplicates, but we cannot plan for those who are not registered.

We have 13 new members this year: Donna Donahue, Cindy Donovan, Jean Foran, Victoria Hansen, Christine Ruygrok, Charles and Robin

Schwartz, Peggy Shivers, Briana Tillman family, Jenny Trejo, Anna Maria Trupp-Hughes, Mark Warshaw, Diane Wengler, and the Keith Wood family. Please help me make these new members feel welcome. If you have friends who might be interested in our programs and events, please invite them to join PPOL.

Like all nonprofits, PPOL exists and thrives with the generosity of its member donors. Membership dues help to cover administrative costs, and donations help to cover program costs and scholarships. If you have not yet donated to PPOL this year, please consider doing so. Donations can be made on the website at pikespeakoperaleague.org or by sending a check to PPOL, PO Box 38478, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478. If you have a special area of interest, please indicate it in the memo line, i.e. "Programs" or "Scholarships" or for general use, indicate "Count Me In." We are grateful for all donations.

Read on to see more about upcoming events and photographs from recent events.

Nicole

Upcoming Events

Young Voice Experience | March 6

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 420 S. Nevada (NOTE Venue Change)

A fantastic program featuring participants and coaches of the reimagined Young Voice Experience. Finger Foods and Nonalcoholic Beverages will be served. **Program Sponsors:** Catherine Thompson, Joan Agee and Nasit Ari & Libby Rittenberg and Members of PPOL.



CHARLES TOMLINSON

My name is Charles Tomlinson and I am a senior at Sand Creek High School. I am Student Body President and participate in Theatre and Choir. I have starred in several musicals and plays and directed my first show recently. I also sing in the Chamber Choir at my school. I plan on serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints after

graduation. Charles will perform *Bright is the Ring of Words* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and *Where'er You Walk* by George Frideric Handel.



KYLIE BAKER

My name is Kylie Baker, and I am a junior at Sand Creek High School. I have been in many musical theatre performances since the start of high school, starring as Lily Larson in *Ranked* as a freshman and Lowbutt in *HONK!* as a sophomore. I have sung in choirs since the third grade, and I auditioned into my school's top choir as a sophomore and

continued through this year as well. I am incredibly grateful and excited to have this opportunity to perform for the Pikes Peak Opera League. Kylie will perform *O del mio dolche ardor* by Christophe Willibald von Gluck and *Pulled* from *The Addams Family Musical*.



KATIE PANIQUE

My name is Katie Panique, and I am a student at Widefield High School where I participate in the Varsity Women's Choir. I have sung in choirs since the third grade, and I have performed in three musicals. I plan to attend UCCS after graduation where I will study Nursing and Musical Theatre.

Katie will perform *Ich Liebe Dich* by Franz Liszt and *Music in my Mind* from *Miss Saigon*.



DELILAH MARTINEZ

My name is Delilah Martinez, and I am a sophomore at Sand Creek High School. I am passionate about singing, and it means everything to me. I have participated in choirs since I was in elementary school with the dream that one day I would become a singer. I love karaoke and singing with my friends because it makes me happy. Delilah will

perform *I Feel Pretty* from *West Side Story* and *Little Elegy* by John Woods Duke.



JOLYNE ANTISTA coaching Charles Tomlinson

Anista began her musical career playing organ for church services at age 10. After years as a keyboard player, she earned a BA degree from the U. of Northern Colorado in vocal/choral music, a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati, and completed coursework and exams for a DMA in Vocal Performance from the

University of North Texas in Denton. While living in Los Angeles Anista sang with the Roger Wagner Chorale who performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, Eugene Ormandy, Eric Leinsdorf, Robert Shaw, Carl Maria Giulini, Helmut Rilling, Jesus Lopez-Cobos. She also taught at Long Beach City College, Golden West College and Santa Ana College. Moving to Pennsylvania, she was on the faculty of Mansfield University for five years, teaching studio voice, choir, and directing musicals, and became chair of the vocal/choral department. She has taught voice at St. Louis University in Missouri, and was on the voice faculty of the U.of North Texas from 1999-2003 before returning to Colorado to become chair of the Music Dept. at Trinidad State College (03-06). She sang with USC Opera and the Dallas Opera Chorus in Texas, and a favorite was singing eight performances as Rosalinda (*Die Fledermaus*) in Pennsylvania. Back in Colorado her work included six summers as Musical Director for SCRT (So. Colo Rep. Theater), and she continues with Choral Conducting, Church Music, and Studio voice teaching in Colorado Springs.



LORI BAMMESBERGER coaching Kylie Baker

Lori Bammesberger has been a member of the vocal music scene in Colorado Springs for many years, as a soloist, choir member, choir director and voice teacher. A proud graduate of Colorado Springs School District 11 choir programs, she earned her Bachelor Degree in Music Education from Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX and her

Master of Music in Voice Performance and Opera from University of North Texas in Denton, TX. Lori has sung in Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble for over 20 years and has been a featured soloist with that ensemble as well as the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Colorado Springs Chorale, Colorado College choirs, First Presbyterian Church, and the Denver Brass, among others. Lori was a conductor of the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale choirs for nearly 20 years and currently serves as Vocal Coach for the organization. She also maintains a thriving private voice studio and is in demand as clinician for choirs throughout the Pikes Peak Region.



MEGAN PFEIFFER MILLER coaching Delilah Martinez and Katie Panique

Megan Pfeiffer Miller, soprano, has taught voice lessons for nearly two decades in the United States and Germany. She studied voice, music history, and linguistics at the College of William and Mary in Virginia and continued her studies with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Wichita

State University. You may have seen her on stage in the OTR Vocal Arts Festival, singing with the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble, singing and coaching German diction with the Colorado Springs Chorale, or singing and playing cello in recital. Megan has a thriving voice studio, teaching adults and youth healthy voice production and musicianship in classical, musical theatre, pop, and rock styles. She also directs adult and children's choirs at Ascension Lutheran Church and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Speech Language Pathology. When she's not working or studying, Megan loves spending time with her husband and two sons, often hiking or gardening together.

Mark Your Calendar

Career Advancement Award Recipient Concert | April 3

featuring Tenor Nathan Snyder

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 420 S. Nevada, Colorado Springs

Program Sponsors: Sue Anselmi and Members of PPOL



Praised for his "rich and nuanced" sound and "riveting" acting, tenor Nathan Snyder has built a reputation of excellence in all genres. His energy and impressive versatility make him an outstanding presence on any stage.

After premiering the role of Dewey Noyes in *Staggerwing* with Opera Kansas in 2021, Nathan has experienced great success in contemporary repertoire, including Clarence Elkins in *Blind Injustice* with Opera Theater of the Rockies, Miles in *Proving Up* with

Opera Steamboat, as well as covering the role of the Visitor in Phillip Glasses *In The Penal Colony*. Between contemporary works, he has also performed standard roles including Manrico in Verdi's Il *Trovatore*, Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Don José in *Carmen* and Sam Polk in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*.

Nathan is equally at home on the concert stage, singing the tenor solos in *Carmina Burana*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, and Stravinsky's *In Memoriam Dylan Thomas*, just to name a few. He recently sang the part of the archangel Uriel in Haydn's *Creation* with the Laramie Choral.

He has also achieved high praise for his work in musical theatre, most recently in Loveland Opera Theatre's production of *Brigadoon*, where Marlow's Musings said "Nathan Snyder's vocals in the role of Tommy Albright are Magnificent! His "*Almost Like Being in Love*," is worth the price of admission all on its own!" Nathan has performed, in concert, the role of Billy Early in *No No Nannette* and in Loveland Opera Theatre's *Rodgers and Hammerstein Jubilee*.

A Colorado native and University of Northern Colorado alumnus, Nathan competed as a finalist in both the Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition and the Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition. He is currently preparing the role of Young Jim Thompson in *Glory Denied*, and the role of Paco in Manuel De Falla's *La Vida Breve* for Opera Fort Collins in their first ever Spanish opera. This summer, Nathan is joining the chorus of *La Bohème* at the Bravo! Vail Music festival with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Some of Nathan's other roles have included King Kasper in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Ferrando in *Cosi Fan Tutte*, Cassio in *Otello*, Nemorino in *L'elisir D'amore*, both Eisenstein and Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, Frederic in *Pirates of Penzance*, Martin in

New Location and Time! SPRING LUNCHEON MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 1, 2024 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, 9 Lake Ave.

A Celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the Pikes Peak Opera League featuring stars from the Opera Theatre of the Rockies Vocal Arts Festival. Wine is available for purchase. Program Sponsors: Dr. Susan Rae Jensen & Mr. Tom Trainer, Nicole de Naray and Opera Theatre of the Rockies. Accompanist Sponsors: Elizabeth Bond and Chris Ruygrok.

SPECIAL EVENT, Family Friendly Opera, featuring the OTR Production of Little Red

June 26, 3 - 5 p.m.

Location TBA

Bring the entire family for a fun opera event that's a delight for all ages. Proceeds benefit OTR's Opera Theatre Goes to School. Tickets on sale Spring 2024. Ice cream will be featured as a refreshment. Event Sponsors: Dr. Susan Rae Jensen & Mr. Tom Trainer, Eve Tilley & Sol Chavez. Program Sponsors: Opera Theatre of the Rockies and Members of PPOL.

2023 Donors as of February 1, 2024

Joan Agee

Toby and Nancy Anderson

Sue Anselmi

Lu Benning

Carol Bernstein

Elizabeth Bond

Kent Borges

Victoria Boswell

Lynne Brown

Sol Chavez and Eve Tilley

Catherine Creppon

Linda Cummings

Nancy Daly

Lineah Davey

Nicole de Naray

Cherri Disque

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2023 Colorado Gives Incentive Fund

Cash Donations Received for Scholar-

ships

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Nasit Ari & Libby Rittenberg

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Nancy Daly

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Hope Mena

Christine Ruygrok

Robin Schwartz

Silas Shaw

Linda Silver

Catherine Thompson

Anna Maria Trupp-Hughes

Mary Waddle

Judy & Charles Warren

Allan & Gloria Wendt

Special Thanks

PPOL would also like to add a Special Thanks to: Broadmoor Community Church, MacKenzie Place Senior Living Community, St. Paul Catholic Church, Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, Colorado Springs Conservatory, Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association, First United Methodist Church, The Millibo Art Theatre, Sally Doyle and Patty Jewett Golf Club, Stephanie Horton and KCME 88.7, Dr. Darryl & Terry Thatcher, Herman Tiemens & The Tiemens Foundation, Martile Rowland and Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Daniel Brink, Catherine Creppon, Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and all the Members of PPOL, especially Victoria Boswell, Linda Silver and Helene Knapp who have managed our Hospitality Teams during the past year. We could not do it without your help!

The Virtuoso Fund of the Pikes Peak Opera League

The Virtuoso Fund of the Pikes Peak Opera League was started with an extraordinarily generous bequest in excess of \$50,000 from Celia Rasor. The bequest was received during Gloria Wendt's Presidency in 2014, and The Fund was established during the Presidency of Nancy Daly later that year. It has been managed by PPOL member Allan Wendt since its inception. It is invested with The Vanguard Group. Other members have donated to it over the years, notably a very generous donation by Collette Divine in 2018. In addition to member donations, it was decided that 10% of net proceeds from PPOL Special Events would be deposited to The Fund.

The Fund operates like an endowment. The governing policy states that the corpus of The Fund must reach \$100,000 before any withdrawals can be made. It also lays out the investment objectives and guidelines, asset allocations (which may change from time to time) and distribution policy. The initial spending rate (amount to withdraw) was set at 3.5% annually which means that The Fund must reach a value of \$103,500 before a withdrawal can be made.

In the last quarterly report of the Virtuoso Fund, the balance of The Fund as of 12/29/2023 had reached \$101,450.55. That means PPOL has achieved its first goal of exceeding the \$100,000 benchmark. Of course, The Fund, like any investment, is subject to fluctuations in the market. However, if the economy remains strong, we may soon reach the second benchmark of \$103,500 which would allow PPOL to make its first withdrawal. The PPOL Board of Directors would use withdrawals in a way that would be consistent with the Mission Statement of PPOL.

If you are interested in donating to The Virtuoso Fund, please contact Nicole de Naray, President, Pikes Peak Opera League at (719) 481-0426 or ndenaray@gmail.com.



As of February 2024 - Please check individual organization/venue for details - Subject to change without our knowledge

The Met: Live in HD (Tinseltown):

March 9, Saturday – La Forza del Destino

March 13, Wednesday - La Forza del Destino

March 23, Saturday - Roméo et Juliette

March 27, Wednesday – Roméo et Juliette

April 20, Saturday - La Rondine

April 24, Wednesday – La Rondine

May 11, Saturday – Madama Butterfly

May 15, Wednesday - Madama Butterfly

Opera Colorado Season

February 24, Saturday – Wagner's The Flying Dutchman

February 27, Tuesday – Wagner's The Flying Dutchman

 $March\ 1, Friday-Wagner's\ The\ Flying\ Dutchman$

March 3, Sunday – Wagner's The Flying Dutchman

May 4, Saturday – Saint-Saëns's Samson and Delilah

May 7, Tuesday – Saint-Saëns's Samson and Delilah

May 10, Friday - Saint-Saëns's Samson and Delilah

May 12, Sunday - Saint-Saëns's Samson and Delilah

November 9, Saturday – Donizetti's Daughter of the Regiment

November 12, Tuesday – Donizetti's Daughter of the Regiment

November 15, Friday – Donizetti's Daughter of the Regiment

November 17, Sunday – Donizetti's Daughter of the Regiment

February 22, Saturday – Puccini's La Bohème

February 25, Tuesday – Puccini's La Bohème

February 27, Thursday – Puccini's La Bohème

February 28, Friday – Puccini's La Bohème

March 2, Sunday-Puccini's La Bohème

May 3, Saturday – Verdi's II Trovatore May 6, Tuesday – Verdi's II Trovatore May 9, Friday – Verdi's II Trovatore May 11, Sunday – Verdi's II Trovatore

Central City Opera Tickets & Events

June 29, Friday – Pirates of Penzance

July 3, Wednesday – Pirates of Penzance

July 5, Friday – Pirates of Penzance

July 7, Sunday - Pirates of Penzance

July 6, Saturday - Girl of the Golden West

July 10, Wednesday - Girl of the Golden West

Juy 12, Friday – Girl of the Golden West

July 13, Saturday - Pirates of Penzance

July 13, Saturday - Street Scene

July 14, Sunday – Girl of the Golden West

July 16, Tuesday – Pirates of Penzance

July 17, Wednesday - Street Scene

July 19, Friday – Girl of the Golden West

July 20, Saturday - Pirates of Penzance

July 20, Saturday - Street Scene

July 21, Sunday - Girl of the Golden West

 $July\ 23, Tuesday-Girl\ of\ the\ Golden\ West$

July 24, Wednesday – Pirates of Penzance

July 26, Friday - Street Scene

July 27, Saturday - Pirates of Penzance

July 27, Saturday – Girl of the Golden West

July 28, Sunday – Street Scene

July 30, Tuesday - Street Scene

July 31, Wednesday - Girl of the Golden West

July 14, Sunday – Girl of the Golden West

August 2, Friday – Pirates of Penzance

August 3, Saturday – Girl of the Golden West

August 3, Saturday – Street Scene

August 4, Sunday - Pirates of Penzance

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

April 21, Sunday - Glory Denied

May 31, Friday - Opera Chorus Concert

June 30, Sunday and July 6, Saturday - Vocal Arts Festival Concerts

Santa Fe Opera Calendar

June 28, Friday – Opening Weekend Celebration; La traviata

June 29, Saturday – Don Giovanni

July 13, Saturday - Opening Night Dinners; The Righteous

July 17, Wednesday - The Righteous

July 19, Friday – La traviata

July 20, Saturday - Opening Night Dinners; Der Rosenkavalier

July 24, Wednesday – Der Rosenkavalier

July 26, Friday – The Righteous

July 27, Saturday - Opening Night Dinners; The Elixir of Love

July 29, Monday – Don Giovanni

July 30, Tuesday – The Righteous

July 31, Wednesday - The Elixir of Love

August 10, Saturday - La traviata

August 11, Sunday – Apprentice Scenes

August 13, Tuesday – The Righteous

August 14, Wednesday - The Elixir of Love

August 15, Thursday – Der Rosenkavalier

August 16, Friday - Don Giovanni

August 17, Saturday – La traviata

August 18, Sunday - Apprentice Scenes

August 20, Tuesday - La traviata

August 21, Wednesday – Don Giovanni

August 22, Thursday – The Elixir of Love

August 23, Friday – Don Giovanni

August 24, Saturday – La traviata



Welcome Lynne Lange to the PPOL Board of Directors

Lynne has been a resident since 2020 and was delighted to find Colorado Springs such a rich music and arts environment. Her management career in the public sector, followed by sales to the public sector, left little time to support live music but she's making up for lost time by attending as many events as possible, often with her two grandchildren. "When I discovered PPOL I found a coop-

erative group that welcomes everyone to share their love and support of the vocal arts, plus provides assistance and opportunities to the next generation of performers and audiences – all for the benefit of the community at large." Lynne hopes her energy will help PPOL continue to increase access to a wide range of opera and vocal arts lovers and even more importantly, to those who don't yet know they are.

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, and Art Song Colorado are eager to present **Glory Denied**, a Powerful, true Prisoner of War Story



Glory Denied tells the true story of America's longest-held prisoner of war - Colonel Jim Thompson - who endures a nine-year ordeal in the jungle of southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Through it all, he finds the strength to survive in the memories of his family.

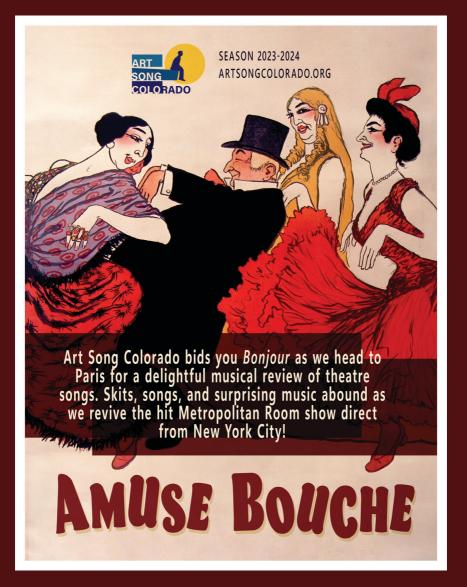
Upon Jim's liberation, however, he finds that his wife has begun a new relationship with another man, has told their children that their father is dead, and his country is forever changed.

Co-produced by Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Art Song Colorado, and the Air Force Academy.

This moving performance takes place on April 21st at 3 p.m. at Arnold Hall at the Air

Force Academy. Tickets are free but must be reserved online. A suggested \$10 per person donation will help the organizations involved continue to bring the arts to life.

You will need a valid Driver's License or Photo ID for those 18 or older to get on base. Please plan for extra time to get through base security. A pre-program by the USAFA Cadet Chorale will begin at 2:30 p.m. Visit https://www.chamberorchestraofthesprings.org/glory-denied for more details.



Colorado Springs Performance on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church of Colorado Springs Theatre

Join Art Song Colorado for a night of joyous and intimate French song, musical theater and operetta! Skits, silliness and celebration awaits!

Starring: Mallory Bernstein, Zeky Nadji, Kailyn Martin and more.
Special appearance by Eapen Leubner as MC and host!

Tickets at artsongcolorado.org



On Dec. 6 our Annual Holiday Luncheon was held at the elegant Cheyenne Mountain Country Club. Program/Artist Sponsor: Opera Theatre of the Rockies. Venue Sponsors: Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher. Accompanist Sponsor Kim Gunderson. Photos courtesy of Dr. Susan Rae Jensen.



Venue hosts--Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher



Stephanie Horton and Gloria Wendt



Nancy Pittman and Annabel Widney



Robyn Hamilton and Kim Gunderson



Robin and Charles Schwartz



Mary McKinley and Trudy Fennewald









Jeff Haney and Mark Dempsey



Nasit Ari and Libby Rittenberg



Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer



Dayle MacCormack and Phyllis MacDougall



Doug and Dianne Herzberg



Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Hope Mena



Diane Wengler and Linda Silver



Sol Chavez and Eve Tilley



PPOL President, Nicole de Naray presenting Martile Rowland a \$7500 grant from PPOL



Joan Agee, Helene Knapp, and Judy Rogers



Soprano Kacie Kenton and Baritone Malcolm Ulbrick.



Soprano Kacie Kenton, Martile Rowland and Daniel Brink



Black History Month Celebration

WITH
SOPRANO CHRISTIANA DANAÉ
AND
FEATURING CONSERVATORY
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

FEBRUARY 7

Pikes Peak Opera League honored Black History Month on February 7 with a mini-concert from our Conservatory scholarship recipients and a special appearance by Soprano Christiana Danaé Moldonado, who was accompanied by Daniel Brink. Scholarship student recipients receive funds from the PPOL donations made to the scholarship fund. Program Sponsors: Connie Raub, Anna Maria Trupp-Hughes, Mary & Jim Waddle and Annabel Widney. Photos courtesy of Dr. Susan Rae Jensen.



Christiana Danaé



Christiana Danaé with Dan Brink



Christiana's program



Ella Illsley, Conservatory Student



Evalin Gutierrez, Conservatory Student



Nicole Cherecwich, CSC Mentor



Mentor Nicole Cherecwich with CSC Students Ella Illsley and Evalin Gutierrez



Dr. Adam Haas



Audience at Conservatory Recital Hall



Trudy Fennewald, Susan Loring with Joan Whyatt Pierce guest of Dr. Susan Rae Jensen



Mike and Kaye Brabec



Mark Warshaw and Nasit Ari