



## President's Message

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership in PPOL for another year. Your membership enables us to accomplish our mission to encourage and support aspiring and professional opera and musical theater artists and to support Opera Theatre of the Rockies and other regional opera, classical and vocal arts organizations. This past fiscal year we were able to provide grants, awards and scholarships of over \$30,000 to individuals and organizations. Benefits of membership ensure full participation in League meetings and events.

Our opening program in September featured soprano Margaret Ozaki Graves from the Central City Opera in the beautiful setting of Peel House and included a scrumptious appetizer buffet provided by PPOL Board members and coordinated by League member Victoria Boswell. Ms. Graves will return to Colorado Springs December 11th in a production of Amahl and the Night Visitors at Armstrong Hall. Details will be available on the PPOL website at [pikespeakoperaleague.org](http://pikespeakoperaleague.org).

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Our 6th annual Fall Fest celebration was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) as part of "October is Arts Month" and held at Gold Hill Mesa. It was sponsored by Stephanie Edwards of Gold Hill Mesa, the Tiemens Private Wealth Management Group at Wells Fargo Advisors, and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Mr. Tom Trainer. The evening, "A Night In Italy," featured an Italian Buffet catered by Summit Catering followed by a wonderful program of Italian arias and traditional Neapolitan songs performed by PPOL's 2021 Fall Career Advancement Award winner and rising opera star, baritone Armando Contreras, accompanied by our very own Dan Brink. Our special thanks to Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Mr. Tom Trainer for donating the wine.

Our November program at Broadmoor Community Church featured our Fall Career Advancement Award winner, Phoenix Gayles. Light refreshments were provided by PPOL's Hospitality Team headed by Victoria Boswell.

Photos from the above events will follow in this newsletter as will information on our holiday luncheon scheduled for December 7th at Cheyenne Mountain Country Club. Please get your reservations in for the holiday luncheon as soon as possible. It is one of our most popular events of the year, and we don't want you to miss out!

If you have not already renewed your membership in PPOL, it's not too late! Membership ensures that you will be first to know about our upcoming events, and you will receive our email blasts to keep you informed. Just go to our website at [pikespeakoperaleague.org](http://pikespeakoperaleague.org) to join or call me at 719-481-0426, and I will be happy to help you. Thank you for your interest in PPOL, and I look forward to seeing you soon at one or all of our upcoming events. Warmest regards to all!

*Nicole*



## Holiday Luncheon | Dec 07

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cheyenne Mountain Country Club

9 Lake Ave, Colorado Springs

The holiday luncheon is one of the most anticipated events of the year, featuring Martile's Merry Singers and is held at the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, thanks to our sponsors Dr. Darryl and Terry Thatcher. The menu includes three courses (broccoli cheese soup, choice of pork or chicken schnitzel with lemon caper sauce, mashed potatoes, roasted brussel sprouts, and peppermint ice cream wth chocolate ganache for dessert). To register by mail, please fill out the form below.

Name :

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Email :

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Street Address:

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City, State, Zip:

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Guest Name	Chicken/Pork	\$45/pp	Total

**Cost is per person inclusive of three course lunch, gratuities, and program. Wine will be available at \$8 per glass with ticket purchased at the wine table at the event.**

**Reservations can be made on [www.pikespeakoperaleague.org](http://www.pikespeakoperaleague.org) (add \$5 service charge) or mail this form with check to PPOL, PO Box 38478, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8478.**

## Upcoming Events

### Program at the Conservatory | Feb. 1

2-4 p.m.

Colorado Springs Conservatory  
415 S. Sahwatch

Program with mini-concert from our Conservatory scholarship winners and a special appearance of Deborah Anderson, soprano, in concert, Celebrating Black History in Song. There will be a reception with dessert bites and decaf coffee.

Program Sponsors: Nicole de Naray and Nancy & Toby Anderson.



### About Soprano Deborah Anderson

Deborah Anderson is a native of Colorado who has spent the majority of her life performing on stage. As a second-year Graduate vocal performance student at the Lamont School of Music, Deborah performed the lead role of Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Most recently, she made her professional chorus debut in Opera Colorado's production of *Carmen* and CD recording of Gerald Cohen's *Steal A Pencil For Me* as chorus role. Since taking a leave from her graduate

studies in 2021, Ms. Anderson has been seen on stage with The Eagles on their "Hotel California" Tour in addition to singing with the Evan's Choir for United Way Fundraiser featuring keynote speaker Renée Elise Goldsberry.

Deborah also had the opportunity to sing in the Colorado Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* with the Evan's Choir. She was also recently selected to sing the National Anthem for Colorado Remembers 9/11: Commemoration & National Security Forum hosted by the Governor of Colorado. As an undergraduate at Nyack College, Deborah performed at Lincoln Center, Steinway Hall, and she starred in the role of Dorothy in an Off Broadway production of *The Wiz* at the American Theatre of Actors. Deborah also toured throughout Asia as a vocalist with the Nyack College Chamber Choir. When she is not on stage, Ms. Anderson substitutes for elementary school teachers and enjoys interacting with the students gaining invaluable life lessons applied both on and off stage.



### Save the Date

### Winter Wonder Fest | Feb. 17

5-8 p.m.

Patty Jewett Club House  
900 E. Espanola St.

"Can't Help Lovin'...Jerome Kern," this concert will feature Marcia Ragonetti (mezzo soprano), Travis Yamamoto (piano), and Steven Taylor (baritone) in a tuneful exploration of a very special chapter in The Great American Songbook. Marcia and Steve take on the legendary composer Jerome Kern, once hailed by a joint Congressional resolution as "the father of American musical theatre." Expect to be intrigued by historical insights while being serenaded with a musical feast of iconic songs including highlights from the celebrated musical *Showboat*. This showcase of "life upon the wicked stage" could not be more heavenly and will leave you humming all the way home. There will be an elegant appetizer buffet and cash bar. All proceeds will go to our PPOL scholarship and Career award funds. *Program Sponsors: Tiemens Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen and Tom Trainer.*



\*\*\*SPECIAL GROUP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE\*\*\*

### Amahl and the Night Visitors | Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.

The story of a magic star, a shepherd boy, and how unselfish love and good deeds can work miracles.

Colorado Springs Performance - Armstrong Hall

\$33 tickets for PPOL Members.

Call (303) 292-6700 for purchase.

Opening Program  
Soprano Margaret Ozaki Graves Concert on Sept. 7 at Peel House



Soprano Margaret Ozaki Graves



Sue Anselmi and Elizabeth Leslie



Elizabeth Bond and Gloria Wendt



Dr. Fran Pilch and Dr. Susan Rae Jensen



Trudy Fennewald and Tom Trainer

Fall Fest-A Night In Italy  
Baritone Armando Contreras on Oct. 7 at Gold Hill Mesa



Nicole de Naray and Eve Tilley



Martile Rowland and Mary McKinley



Baritone Armando Contreras



Denise Young and Dayle MacCormack



Susan Loring and Sol Chavez

Career Advancement Award Winner Concert  
Soprano Phoenix Gayles on Nov. 2 at Broadmoor Community Church



Soprano Phoenix Graves and Accompanist Daniel Brink



Judy Warren and Robyn Hamilton



Evelyn Kwaak and Elizabeth Bonds



Mary McKinley, Libby Rittenberg and Nasit Ari



Lu Benning, Carol Bernstein and Barbara Gazibara

# Ways to Give in 2022

The mission of the Pikes Peak Opera League is to support aspiring and professional vocal artists and vocal arts organizations in the region. We do this in various ways, including our Career Advancement Awards, Career Enhancement Awards, Scholarship Fund, Young Voice Program and grants to the Summer Vocal Arts Festival and Opera Theatre of the Rockies. During the fiscal year ending August 31, 2022, PPOL was able to provide over \$30,000 in awards, scholarships and grants to local and regional artists and organizations. Last year we provided support for students in the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, the Colorado Springs Conservatory and the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony, in addition to individual support for our Young Voice contestants and others who needed a little extra help for lessons to improve vocal and performance technique. We also provided a grant to the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs to assist with their plans for an opera production, and we provided significant support for the Opera Theatre of the Rockies' Summer Vocal Arts Festival and their production of *The Music Man*. In order to do this, we depend on the generosity of our members and others who believe in our mission.

This is the time of year when we begin to think about making donations to our favorite charities, and we hope Pikes Peak Opera League will benefit from your generosity once again. To assist you with your donations, here are several ways you can make your gift to PPOL:

## **1. Count Me In Fund (now through December 31, 2022)**

This is SO easy: just send your check to PPOL, PO Box 38478, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80937-8478 with a note in the memo field: CMI

## **2. Colorado Gives Day (now through December 6, 2022)**

Go online to [coloradogives.org](https://coloradogives.org) between now and December 6th and click on the button "Find a Cause" and use the filter to select location (Colorado Springs, CO) and category (Arts, Culture and Humanities), and select Pikes Peak Opera League. This will open a window that allows you to select a donation amount or fill in your own.

## **3. Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from your IRA**

This one requires that you follow the rules as set forth by the IRS. Each IRA custodian has its own form and procedure. Please check with your IRA custodian (bank or investment broker) for their rules for QCDs. The benefit is that charitable donations made directly from IRAs may count towards your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) without paying taxes on the withdrawal.

Regardless of how you choose to donate, rest assured that your donation will allow PPOL to continue to accomplish its mission. Many of our Career Advancement Award winners are now working for major opera companies throughout the US. Most recently, we were delighted to learn that Maire Therese Carmack, who most recently performed for our June 2022 event at Peel House, received a 3rd place award at the international Operalia 2022 competition in Riga, Latvia. That competition was started by Placido Domingo 29 years ago, and all participants selected to compete end up working for major opera companies throughout the world. Maire received 3 offers following the competition and will be working for the San Francisco Opera. We can all take pride in the part we shared to make these dreams come true. Please give today to help us continue our legacy of encouragement and support for aspiring and professional vocalists and to support Opera Theatre of the Rockies and other regional opera, classical and vocal arts organizations.