

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Deborah Stone was born and raised in Manhattan. She studied ballet at the Metropolitan Opera Ballet School and thereafter with Nadine Revene, and jazz dance with Lynn Simonson. Deborah left for the West Coast in a production of *La Cage aux Folles* and stayed in California for the next 17 years, working, teaching dance and fitness, choreographing, and acting. She returned to New York in 2002 where she now has a “regular job”, studies voice and acts. She is a proud member of *The Snarks, Ltd.*, *The Lambs, Inc.*, and of course, *Chelsea Opera*.

When/how did you first become involved with Chelsea Opera?

I believe it was season two, 2005-2006. My first experience was with *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and it was joyful to sing such beautiful music with such accomplished singers. My voice teacher, Ingrid Zeldin, mentioned that she’d seen a concert Chelsea Opera had put on, and was impressed by the caliber of singers and by the intimate size of the group. She thought it would be a perfect fit for me.

You were a trained professional dancer. How did that prepare you for working in opera?

I had studied ballet at the Metropolitan Opera School of Ballet from the ages of 8 to 19. We students were regularly utilized as supernumeraries in the operas, so I was accustomed to being on the huge Met Opera stage and with many famous singers. I appreciated the grand scale of opera in general, as well as that famous house. Also, dance is a great and grand expression of a story and/or emotion, as is opera.

What has been your favorite Chelsea Opera experience so far?

There have been many, so I will mention a few. Our production of *Pagliacci* was outstanding and I got to use some of my comedic qualities as well as some dance. The *Don Giovanni* production was not only top-notch but successfully dealt with the challenging theatrics needed to send the Don to hell. I remember very well standing still as a Romanesque sculpture during an entire act, then surprising all by “coming to life”, stepping off the pedestal and taking the Don down! It was theatrical magic!! Finally, *The Ballad of Baby Doe* was so transformative and beautifully sung that I was brought to tears at every performance.

NEA GRANT AWARD

NEA ART WORKS GRANT AWARDED TO CHELSEA OPERA – A DISTANT LOVE – AND IS NOW A “STAFF PICK” ON KICKSTARTER

Chelsea Opera is the proud recipient of a \$12,500 grant, one of only 36 awards made to opera companies from among the 886 awards made nationally by the NEA - Art Works program! The grant will allow Chelsea Opera to take *A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams* by Gary S. Fagin and Terry Quinn for one performance to the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy MA on June 21, 2015 at 2PM.

We must match the grant by raising \$12,500. That is our challenge, and we have been pursuing several avenues to accomplish that.

MATCHING THE GRANT: 1) We began the effort with our fall 2014 appeal. 2) On January 24, 2015, we presented a gala benefit concert, *Quintessentially yours II*, featuring the written texts of Terry Quinn, the librettist for *A Distant Love*, set to music by six composers – Gary S. Fagin, Matthew Harris, Tom Wallace, Richard White, Stephen Paulus and Terry himself. More than a dozen talented singers and instrumentalists participated in the beautifully sung and played concert. The concert and champagne reception was attended by over 100 friends of both Terry Quinn and Chelsea Opera. 3) On President’s Day, February 16th, we launched a special Kickstarter campaign to raise the balance.

If you haven’t yet supported the NEA match, visit our Kickstarter page at www.kickstarter.com/projects/1628410661/a-distant-love-nea-art-works-grant-matching-campai and make a donation today to help us achieve our goal.

Giving to a worthy cause feels good and your support can literally help us bring John and Abigail home to Quincy MA.



Victoria Tralongo as Abigail Adams
Peter Kendall Clark as John Adams

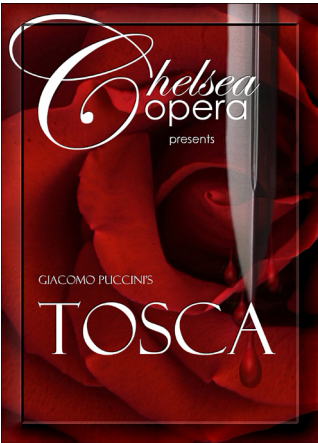


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for the Arts
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SEASON ELEVEN PRESENTS *TOSCA*

Puccini’s fifth opera, and one of his most opulent, has hints of great intimacy in its arias for the soprano and tenor, their wonderful love duet, and the scathing, lust-driven baritone! The entire first act is set inside a church...perfect for Chelsea Opera. Our production, however, will take a slight diversion from the usual.



“Know thyself” is a philosophy to which Chelsea Opera has lived by and adhered to for more than a decade. Our *Tosca* will be presented with concert-staging. You may wonder: will there be stage lighting? – yes, opulent costumes? – yes, an orchestra? – of course! Actually, *Tosca* will have an expanded Chelsea Opera Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Samuel McCoy. This configuration will allow us to bring you most of the action that is traditional and expected but without sets. Our audiences will be even closer to the action and the singers, creating a heightened experience of this most treasured gem.

We have lined up some outstanding singers who will tantalize your artistic appetites, featuring **Regina Grimaldi** as *Floria Tosca*, **Edgar Jaramillo** as *Mario Cavaradossi* and **Thomas Woodman** as *Baron Scarpia*, to name just a few.



Giacomo Puccini

Performances are on Thursday, June 4 at 7pm and Saturday, June 6 at 4pm at St. Peter’s Church in Chelsea (346 West 20th Street, between 8th & 9th Avenues). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.chelseaopera.org/season.html>.



Regina Grimaldi,
Floria Tosca



Edgar Jaramillo,
Mario Cavaradossi



Thomas Woodman,
Baron Scarpia



Samuel McCoy,
Music Director/
Principal Conductor





MOLLICONE ONE- ACTS – NOVEMBER 2014 WRAP UP

Flying in from San Jose, composer Henry Mollicone joined rehearsals mid-way to complete preparations for *The Face on the Barroom Floor* and the NY premiere of *Emperor Norton*. Audiences were delighted with these two one-act operas, both with stories that slipped between past and present.

From *The Classical Review*, George Grella wrote: *The scope of these pieces makes them eminently affordable for a small company, but there was nothing cheap in Chelsea Opera's staging. Anna Yates' sets were minimal in scope but full of details, and Lynne Hayden-Findlay's costumes were almost extravagant. Hayden-Findlay also directed, and kept the action lively on the small stage.*

From TheatreScene.com, Jean Ballard Terepka noted: *... the eleventh season of Chelsea Opera was opened with two one-act operas by composer Henry Mollicone and librettist John S. Bowman. It was a marvelous evening.*

From Opera, Ken Smith via Hong Kong said: *Last month's Klinghoffer at the Met sent me fleeing to a double bill at the considerably more modest Chelsea Opera.... And compared to the luxury cruise on offer at the Met, Chelsea Opera was much more manageable and a lot less threatening.*



Molly Mustonen (Isabelle/Madeline) and **John E. Calliston** (Tom/John)

John E. Calliston (Tom/John), **Benjamin Robinson** (Larry/Matt) and **Molly Mustonen** (Isabelle/Madeline)



Vira Slywotsky (Marla, aka Julie)



Rosa Betancourt (Diana, aka the Chinese girl)



The *Emperor Norton* cast with **Henry Mollicone**



David Gordon (Michael, aka Captain Macondry)

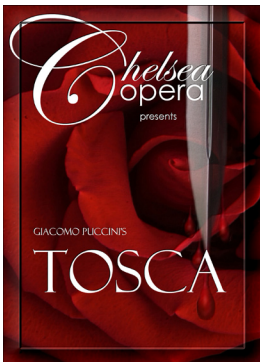


Justin Ryan (the Intruder, aka Emperor Norton)



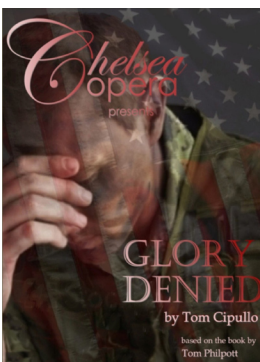
Chelsea Opera

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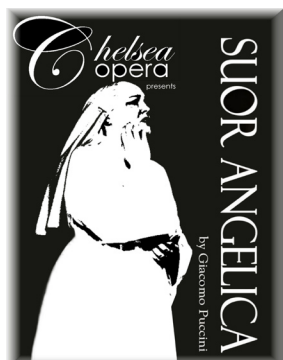
Tosca
by Giacomo Puccini
Thursday, June 4 at 7pm
Saturday, June 6 at 4pm
St. Peter's Church
in Chelsea
346 West 20th Street,
(between 8th & 9th
Avenues)

*A Distant Love: Songs of
John and Abigail Adams*
by Gary S. Fagin and
Terry Quinn
Sunday,
June 21, 2015 at 2pm
Adams National
Historical Park
Quincy, MA



Glory Denied
by Tom Cipullo
Friday,
November 13, 2015
at 7:30pm
Saturday,
November 14, 2015
at 4pm
St. Peter's Church
in Chelsea
346 West 20th Street
(between 8th & 9th
Avenues)

Suor Angelica
by Giacomo Puccini
Friday, May 20, 2016
at 7:30pm
Saturday, May 21, 2016
at 4pm
St. Peter's Church
in Chelsea
346 West 20th Street
(between 8th & 9th
Avenues)



PURELY PUCCINI



Join us on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 8pm at Christ and St. Stephen's Church for *Chelsea Opera and Project 142 present Purely Puccini...* an all Puccini concert with favorite arias and scenes including *O mio babbino caro*, *Vissi d'arte*, *E lucevan le stelle* and *Un bel di*, several from his less familiar operas including *Edgar* and *Le Villi*, plus ensemble scenes from *La Bohème*, *Turandot*, *Suor Angelica* and *La Rondine*.

Our talented cast includes sopranos Rosa Betancourt, Stacey Canterbury, Sonja Krenek, Megan Nielson (*Tosca* cover), Julia Rolwing, Jessica Sandidge; mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Moulton; tenors Aaron Blankfield, Taras Chmil (*Cavaradossi* cover), David Kellett, Jon Olson Thomas, Steven Wallace; baritone Scott Lindroth; and bass-baritone Bryan Glenn Davis (*Scarpia* cover). Christopher Cooley will accompany at the piano.

Tickets are available now at
<http://www.chelseaopera.org/events.html>

We'd like to know: what is your favorite Puccini opera and why? Write to info@ChelseaOpera.org and we'll send you a promo code for \$5 off a general admission ticket. We'll post the results on Chelsea Opera's Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!



Join us for
Midsummer Margarita Madness 8
at Caliente Cab Co,
in the West Village, NYC
on Wednesday, August 12, 6–8pm

Chelsea Opera Spotlight – Spring 2015

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For more information, write chelseaopera@aol.com or call 212-260-1796.
Visit www.ChelseaOpera.org for ticket information and to sign up for our mailing list.

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