

DON GIOVANNI



James Shaffran (Masetto) with Joseph Diaz, Jon Ellis, Peter Madsen and Noah Devin Dopkins - *Don Giovanni*, May 2006. photo credit: Jared Flood

THE BETTINA BARUCH FOUNDATION RENEWS FUNDING

After our successful 2006 Amahl project, the Bettina Baruch Foundation followed up with a new \$5,000 grant for the 2007-2008 season. Trustee Robert C. Edmonds wrote, "I canvassed the board and we are 100% behind your work." We couldn't be happier and plan to expand and personalize our outreach to twenty-five 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Bx206 participating in an after school program run by Good Shepherd Services. Chelsea Opera company members will present 3 one-hour classes to introduce the basic elements of opera in preparation for the students' attendance at a performance of *Gianni Schicchi*.

Join the Bettina Baruch Foundation as one of our treasured supporters by sending your gift to **Chelsea Opera - PO Box 277, Old Chelsea Station, New York NY 10011**. Or visit www.NYCharities.org to make a secured on-line credit card donation.

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Chelsea Opera, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is registered with the New York State Charities Bureau.

CHELSEA OPERA JOINS CHELSEA CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Chelsea Opera joined CCP, founded in 2003, as its 21st member. A unique cultural and small business marketing collaboration, CCP will promote the Chelsea district's rich cultural and entertainment life to locals and tourists. Other members include The Joyce (Dance) Theater, The Ruben Museum of Himalayan Art, The Atlantic Theater Company, and many profit and nonprofit art galleries. We look forward to being involved with like-minded arts organizations for our mutual benefit. To learn more, visit www.DestinationChelsea.org.

FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Deborah Stone, a native New Yorker, studied ballet at the Metropolitan Opera School. Her dance career has been varied and rewarding, and includes being one of the few women in the LA cast of *La Cage Aux Folles*. Deb has since become a regular actor, dancer and ensemble singer, appearing in four operas; *Amahl* (twice), *Pagliacci* and *Don Giovanni*. "My most memorable experience was playing a major part in the *commedia dell'arte* portion of *Pagliacci*. Simply being in the same room with wonderful principal singers and hearing them sing is extraordinary. And everyone has been an exceptional human being."

David Bell (tenor) was a much-welcomed addition to last year's Amahl ensemble. This summer, Chelsea Opera joined David at the 92nd Street Y where he was the lead counselor for the Yaffa Arts Camp. Chelsea Opera presented a scene



from *Don Giovanni* and involved the "campers" as the scene's villagers. He has since volunteered to serve as a consultant on our educational outreach project with Good Shepherd Services.

Lucille Gruber recently volunteered as Chelsea Opera's very own and much needed grants writer. She studied music, completing her DMM at Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University. As a successful harpsichordist, she has given recitals in New York, nationally and in Europe. Her path also led her in another direction. Living in Cleveland, she spent the last 21 years as an arts administrator, creative artist/producer, and grants writer while continuing her own performance career. Retirement brought her back to NYC. Following our first meeting, Lucille wrote: "I am excited by the potential of your young company. I came away feeling as if there was already a kinship in terms of values, style and artistic goals. I hope my words will have the magic to locate and unlock the treasure that the company needs to grow."

Jessie Puccini, living in Southern California, has offered her services as a graphic artist and web designer. She has spent the summer redesigning our website and it looks fabulous. "My personal style is sophisticated

and contemporary, while portraying the narrative, message and emotion that the piece commands." See her wonderful work at www.ChelseaOpera.org. Oh...and although she is not related to Giacomo Puccini, she tells us her husband is, distantly!

GIANNI SCHICCHI - A WORD FROM DIRECTOR LAURA ALLEY

"Since Puccini had an undeniable 'flair for the dramatic' and was successful at it, he only wrote one comedy. Hence, *Gianni Schicchi* could be considered his comic masterpiece. This delightful one-act from *Il Trittico*, set in 13th century Florence, pits the greedy, snobby relatives of the deceased Buoso Donati against one of the greatest con artists of all time: Gianni Schicchi. He outsmarts them in grand lyric fashion, securing his own future and that of his daughter Lauretta and future son-in-law, Rinuccio." **Tickets are now on sale!**

COMING: 2007-2008 SEASON

Quartet San Francisco appears in concert, presented by Chelsea Opera, on Sunday, October 21 at 7PM at Christ and St. Stephen's Church, 120 West 69th Street (Broadway/Columbus Ave.) offering selections from their new CD, "Whirled Chamber Music." QSF plays a genre of string chamber literature which gathers its material from popular music elements of recent decades while maintaining the integrity and spirit of traditional chamber music. **All proceeds from this performance will benefit Chelsea Opera.**

Chelsea Opera Presents



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