



NEWS OF NOTE

SUMMER 2011

Introducing the 2011-2012 season and Intermountain Opera Bozeman's 34th year of bringing live, fully staged, professional opera and more to Montanans

Spectacular Main Events

October 14 & 16 - *Hansel and Gretel*

Join IOB for this classic Brothers Grimm folk tale set to music by Engelbert Humperdinck. Humperdinck was a prodigy whose work in his youth was influenced by Schumann and Mendelssohn. As a young man he worked closely with Richard Wagner, who was such an influence on Humperdinck, that it took him years to find his own voice. It was his sister Adelheid Wette who asked him to compose music for an adaptation of "Hansel and Gretel" that she was writing for her children. The original four songs he wrote were structured as German folk songs. Gradually more music was added and it turned into a full opera and Humperdinck's masterpiece. Humperdinck's work was always well received by critics who praised its "lush symphonic language and unaffected melodies."

Artistic Director Linda Curtis is assembling a stellar cast of professional singers. Hansel will be sung by mezzo-soprano Lauren McNeese. A graduate of the Ryan Opera Center, Ms. McNeese has performed with Chicago Lyric, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Philadelphia Operas just to name a few. Lisa van der Ploeg, who gave a spine-tingling performance as Azucena in our 2010 production of *Il Trovatore*, will return in the roles of Mother and Witch.

As Humperdinck's first and most popular opera, Hansel and Gretel premiered in 1893 to rave reviews and has never lost popularity perhaps because

Adelheid Wette's libretto is not nearly as grim as Grimm! Its familiar story grants a wonderful opportunity for you to introduce a friend to the opera. Our production will be sung in English (with English supertitles) and promises fun for all ages.

The chorus of gingerbread children has been cast! Twenty-three local youths ages 9-15 under the direction of MSU Music Education Professor Kristin Harney will be (spoiler alert!) saved from the witch's evil spell. IOB is also partnering with Montana Ballet Company. MBC's artistic directors, Elizabeth DeFanti and Amy Stoddart, in collaboration with IOB stage director Alan Fischer, will choreograph and prepare dancers as "angels" for the dream sequence. All of these components are brought together with the music performed by the IOB orchestra under the baton of Maestro Julian Dawson.

May 16, 18 & 20 - *Madama Butterfly*

Giacomo Puccini's beautiful music and tragic tale of love and heartbreak is one of the most popular operas in America. With Cynthia Clayton in the title role and Levi Hernandez as Sharpless, this promises to be another spectacular IOB production. Get your tickets now as a season subscriber. For up-to-date casting information, visit our website www.intermountainopera.org or visit us on Facebook.

New and exciting opera offerings

Sweet Pea Festival Again featuring our local professional vocal talent. IOB will present Mark Bucci's *Sweet Betsy from Pike (A Horse Opera)*, with Peggy Kohler, Catherine Savery and B.J. Otey, Kenneth Christensen accompanying. Sunday, August 7th at 12:00, Trees West Stage.

RUN! RUN! RUN! Hansel and Gretel's gingerbread children are getting a head-start. Opera Bozeman is putting on its first opera run, "It ain't over 'till the fat lady sings". Don't miss this exciting opportunity to get out and run while being serenaded. Get into the spirit and come as your favorite opera character or star. On Saturday, October 8th, there will be a one-mile children's run, a 5K and for the Wotan and Valkyre out there we will have a 10-mile. Watch the news, and IOB and running club websites for

details and sign-up information. Not a runner? Join us as a volunteer; we will have numerous options.

Bozeman's Got Opera In collaboration with Ilse Lee's Cultural Corner series held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, IOB will present its second production of Bozeman's Got Opera. This is the best opportunity to hear the depth of local talent in the region. Exact date and time are still to be determined, so stay tuned.

AUCTION! Don't worry! We're not going to have another "event" with auctions for fundraising. Throughout our 2011-2012 season we will be offering wonderful opera and some non-opera events and packages to the highest bidder. See details on page three.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD

Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Montana's oldest opera organization, is pleased to announce the election of two new board members. These two new members bring to the board experience and expertise that will help IOB fulfill its mission: to promote and share the joy of opera in Montana and surrounding areas by providing affordable, high quality opera performances to audience members of all ages, and to provide educational outreach to area schools and communities.

JAN CAPLAN is principal of Free-stone Strategies, a consultancy creating business partnerships that increase revenue stream.

During her twenty-plus years of client- and agency-side marketing experience, she has worked with the following clients: Los Angeles Opera, Nestlé USA, Verizon, Kia, Toyota, Universal Pictures, Pizza Hut, Goodyear and Baskin-Robbins.

Jan has a Bachelors Degree in Communications with an emphasis in Marketing from California State University Fullerton. Since arriving in Bozeman last year, she has worked with IOB on numerous projects.

DENNISK. WENTZ, MD is a Principal of WentzMiller Global Services, consultants in global Continuing Medical Education. A native of Napoleon, North Dakota, he received his MD degree from the University of Chicago and later graduated from the Program for Health Systems Management at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration. He served as Associate Dean at the medical schools of the University of Maryland, the University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University, where he was also Director of Medical Services for Vanderbilt University Hospital. He led the Division of Continuing Physician Professional Development at the American Medical Association (AMA) from 1988 to 2004. He is Editor of a major new historical work: *Continuing Medical Education: Looking Back, Planning Ahead*, published by the University Press of New England/Dartmouth College Press in June 2011.

Dennis previously served on the board of the Vail Valley Bravo! Music Festival and currently is on the Board of Directors of the Grammy Award-winning contemporary classical musical ensemble, eighth blackbird, based in Chicago and is serving as advisor to the Music Director of the Montana Chamber Music Society. He and wife Anne Colston Wentz, MD moved to Bozeman in 2010.



Intermountain Opera Bozeman, May 2011

The Barber of Seville

Photo by: Bruce Jodar/Will Jodar/Wildeye Photography

2011-2012

Intermountain Opera Bozeman

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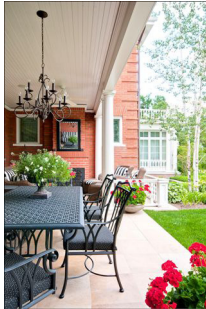
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It's Party Time!

Enjoy a spectacular party setting or a favorite outing with friends and support the arts at the same time. Generous supporters have created dining and entertainment packages, get-aways and sporting opportunities as auction items for Intermountain Opera Bozeman. No fundraiser to sit through— you can bid whilst in your jammies from the comfort of your own home. Check out these initial great offerings. More will be added throughout the year. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates. For all you Luddites who may be uncomfortable ordering on-line just call the office with your bid, 406-587-2889.

Bid on an auction item yourself or gather your friends to go in on a party you'll all enjoy together. Bidding on some of our Summer 2011 offerings will be closing in July so check out your options today!



Oui! Oui! Relax near home for an "Evening in Provence," at the historic South Willson home of Ileana Indreland and Michael Delaney. Musing on everything Français as you enjoy fabulous French appetizers and fine wine while gazing into the reflecting pool with your nearest and dearest. The evening includes arias from famous French operas, too! Parlez-vous Magnifique? Summer 2011

Big Sky Summer Get Away!

One week in a sixth-floor condominium at the beautiful Shoshone, located at Big Sky Resort in the heart of Mountain Village. Enjoy the Shoshone Fitness Center equipment, hot tub, sauna, and heated outdoor pool. Hike on Lone Mountain, just out the back door, or on any of the area's beautiful trails. Also included: four passes to the Big Sky Golf Course. Suitable for 1 or 2 couples or a family of up to six. Summer 2011 (Package donated by Jane and John Hodges)

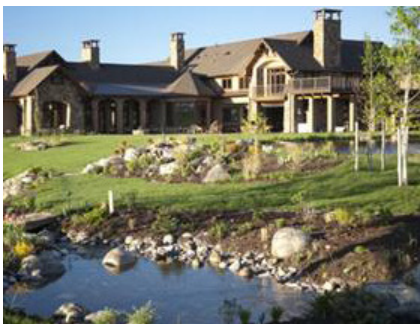


Golfing at Moonlight Basin.

Need we say more? A round of golf for eight at The Reserve. Killer course, amazing views and your best friends...what could be better? Summer 2011



An Evening in Tuscany! Transport yourself to Tuscany via the beautiful setting at Robert and Sally Uhlmann's home. Four lucky guests will start with a cooking class and will be joined later by their significant others, as all get to enjoy the culinary results. The cooking class will include making the traditional Tuscan pasta as a first course and will utilize 50-year-old Balsamic Vinegar and other treats from a recent trip to Italy. Music will be part of the evening. The event will take place at a mutually agreed upon date from late September through early November. If out-of-town musicians join us, then the evening will be scheduled for a specific date.



HO, HO, HO It's a private Christmas Stroll! Whether you've been naughty or nice we've got all the goodies for your VIP cocktail party AND you can enjoy the Bozeman Christmas Stroll too, by just stepping out the door of ERA Downtown! There'll be lots of yummy appetizers, savory and sweet holiday favorites to nibble on with eggnog, hot-spiced wine, champagne and local brews to sip on. The party can be adapted for children or adults. Hey, it's your party.

Travels with Linda

by Linda Curtis, Artistic Director

This Summer, Levi Hernandez (Shaunard in *La Bohème*) performed the role of Leporello in *Don Giovanni* for Opera Theater of St. Louis. I was in the audience opening night to witness Levi's success and had a chance to visit with him after the show. St. Louis patrons were excited to know that Levi will be joining us in May of 2012 for the role of Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*. From St. Louis, Levi is off to Opera North for *Cenerentola*, as Dandini. This is the role I first heard him sing at the Chicago Lyric when he was a member of the Ryan Center for young artists. Coincidentally, that performance also featured Mark S. Doss (Figaro in Mozart's *The Marriage*

of Figaro.) Mark has recently been at La Scala Milano and will be performing the role of Mephistopheles in *Faust* for Santa Fe Opera this summer. We look forward to attending and hope to have a chance to visit with Mark.

Utah Opera's spring production of Verdi's *Falstaff* brought together a number of talented alums from Intermountain Opera Bozeman. Soprano Cynthia Clayton (our Manon in *Manon Lescaut* and soprano soloist in our 2010 Gala) starred in the role of Alice and won rave reviews for her singing. The title role was sung by Steven Condy (our Mikado) who delighted the audience with his physical comedy and strong vocal

presence. The role of Pistole was performed by bass, Branch Fields (Colline in *La Bohème*). Branch can be seen this summer at Utah Festival Opera where he will perform in *Nabucco* and carry the lead role in *South Pacific*. It was great fun for me to see our artists performing so well and have a chance to visit with them. Other IOB singers in the news include Christopher Bengochea (Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and other comprimario roles) who placed third in the Irene Dallis Competition at San Jose Opera, held in conjunction with the West Coast Auditions. Those auditions are where we first heard Lisa van der Ploeg (Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, and the Mother/Witch in our upcoming *Hansel and Gretel*).

We want to stay in touch!

Unless you tell us differently we will continue to mail our semi-annual hard copy newsletter to you.

To unsubscribe call 587-2889. For on-going and up-to-date information sign-up to receive our e-newsletter by going to intermountainopera.org/iobsignup.php

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