

Cabaletta

Newsletter of Hawaii Opera Theatre

HOT

50th 1960 - 2010
HOT

SPRING 2010

HOT Artistic Sights Set on 2011

FAUST

LUCIA
di
LAMMERMOOR

LA
TRAVIATA



The repertoire committee chose three classic operas for the 2011 Season, offering popular appeal and diversity with primary figures who are misunderstood and underestimated by the world around them. Their solutions to this predicament yield powerful food for thought on the human condition. One French and two Italian operas give insight into the passion of the human soul. Here's more insights about the 2011 season from a Q & A session with HOT's General and Artistic Director, Henry Akina.

Q: How did you choose which operas to stage and why?

A: HOT is fortunate to have two accomplished stage directors on staff between myself and Karen Tiller. I will be directing *Faust* and *La Traviata*, two of my favorite operas. Karen is going to stage *Lucia di Lammermoor*, an



opera she has done before with much success. I have staged *La Traviata* before and will be expanding my ideas on it to the HOT stage. It will be my first *Faust*, which seems like a natural for me with my background of things German. It was actually the first opera I was an assistant director on, but I have never done a production of my own. The last *Faust* at HOT was in 1994 so it is high time for another look at the work. The same is true of *Lucia*, which was last done here in 1995. It goes without saying that we hope to improve upon the production values of those efforts.

Q: What can we look forward to most with the 2011 Season?

A: The contact with these works will be great. The orchestra demands are more modest in all three operas but the dramatic values are high all around. We also have been able to engage very wonderful artists for our ensemble which should make these offerings even more exciting.

Q: What principal artists are confirmed already?

A: We are excited to welcome back many artists who have appeared in past HOT productions early in their careers and have since come into their own. Of particular note are heroines: Nancy Allen Lundy and Luz del Alba. Nancy was a fabulous Gilda for HOT's 2006 *Rigoletto*. She will be our Lucia. Luz del Alba, who was our very fetching Donna Anna in the 2007 *Don Giovanni* will appear as Violetta, a role she has done for the Venice Opera and other great Italian houses. For the principal male roles we have Kelly Anderson singing Lucia's brother. He was last here for *Abduction* and *Carmen* in 2009. Another artist who is a HOT box office success is Jamie Offenbach. He was the Grand Inquisitor in *Don Carlo*, the title role in *The Mikado*, and has appeared many other times for HOT as well. This coming year he will be Mephistopheles in *Faust*. It's going to be a great season!



Top: Jamie Offenbach in HOT's 2004 The Mikado will appear as Mephistopheles.

Middle: Nancy Allen Lundy as Gilda in the HOT 2006 Rigoletto, will appear in the title role of Lucia.

Bottom: Luz del Alba as Donna Anna in HOT's 2007 Don Giovanni will appear as Violetta.

HOT Lover Sweepstakes Winner



(L-R) Kelvin Bloom, Aston Hotels & Resorts President; sweepstakes winner Joanne Watanabe; and HOT's Executive Director Karen Tiller.

Congratulations to Joanne Watanabe, Grand Prize Winner of tickets to *La Bohème* and an overnight stay at Aston's Waikiki Beach Hotel. Join the HOT e-news mailing list for your exclusive invitation to enter E-contests in the future. Visit www.hawaiiopera.org.

In addition to the HOT Lover Sweepstakes for opera patrons, Aston Hotels & Resorts also is a season sponsor and hosted HOT artists at Waikiki properties.

50th 1960 - 2010
HOT

Lend your Support

Critically-acclaimed productions and a dedicated audience of HOT Lovers made history this past season, participating in hallmark events commemorating HOT's 50th Anniversary Season. Help continue the momentum with a special gift to support HOT's mission in artistic excellence.

The company's national prominence for outstanding fiscal management recognized by Charity Navigator for the past three consecutive years is further evidence that HOT will be an excellent steward of all charitable donations. A special gift in celebration of HOT's 50th anniversary is fully tax-deductible. On-Line donations can be made at www.hawaiiopera.org. Click "Lend Support" or call the HOT Box Office at (808) 596-7858 to make a gift by phone.

Opera
LEGACY SOCIETY

Legacy Society gifts help to secure the artistic and financial strength of Hawaii Opera Theatre for future generations. If opera has been a part of your life, make it a part of your legacy. Ask your financial advisor about the significant tax benefits of including HOT in your estate plans.

HOT staff can also recommend confidential consultation with an estate planning expert who can answer your questions about planned giving.

Opera Legacy Society benefits include:

- Exclusive Annual Legacy Society Brunch and other special programs and event invitations.
- Recognition, with your approval, in the HOT annual report and in season programs, *Aria*.

For more information, contact Karen Tiller, Executive Director of Hawaii Opera Theatre at 596-7372 x201.

Opera Studio Artists to Perform with University Music Dept.

Artists of the University of Hawaii Music Department, will partner with members of the HOT Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio to perform *The Mahagonny Song Play* on April 30, May 1 & 2 at the UH Kennedy Theatre. Henry Akina will stage direct the production as a curtain raiser to the UH presentation of Bertolt Brecht's *The Judith of Shimoda*. Encore presentations are scheduled for May 21, 22 and 23 as part of an International Brecht Conference hosted by UH.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
KENNEDY
THEATRE

Mahagonny Song
Play April 30,
May 1 & 2

Pauline Taumalolo, Kawika McGuire, Nick Walters, Bambi Brock and Chad Williams perform with special Guest Star John Mount. Musical direction is provided by Eric Schank with orchestration by the UH Music Department. Set and light designs are by students of the UH Theatre Department. For more information, including ticket sales, visit www.hawaii.edu/theatre or call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655.

MAHALO TO THE GRAND OPERA 2010

Season Sponsors:

Alexander & Baldwin Foundation
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 Continental Airlines
 First Insurance Company of Hawaii
 Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki
 The Honolulu Advertiser
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 The Wine Stop

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Die Walküre Sponsors:

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 Anela Kolohe Foundation, Suzanne B. Engel
 Lawyers for Opera
 SSI Investment Management
 Wagner Society of Hawaii

La Bohème Sponsors:

AIA Architects for Opera
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Artists and HOT members at the Sponsor Level (\$1200+) enjoyed exquisite events at premiere locations this past season, including *The Marriage of Figaro* Meet the Stars Party hosted by Salvatore Ferragamo. (L-R) Peter Christman, Valerie Sylvester, Karen Tiller and Shane Matsuda.



Guest Artist Valerian Ruminski enjoyed the festivities at Salvatore Ferragamo with HOT supporter Jeannine Cowles.



HOT's 50th Anniversary Grand Opera Season concluded with its finale of *La Bohème* and Louis Vuitton helped draw the season to a stylish close. Artists and opera supporters enjoyed a "Meet the Stars" Party hosted by Louis Vuitton at its Ala Moana location. It was serendipitous to hold the festivities here since Louis Vuitton opened its first store in Paris in 1896, the same year *La Bohème*, also set in Paris, premiered!

(L-R) Etienne Dupuis (*Marcello*) and HOT Board President Jim McCoy

(L-R) Alice Robinson, Larry Paxton (*Benoit*) and Dale Ruff of Louis Vuitton



Sweet Delights

HOT Members at the Patron Level (\$2500+) and VIP guests were treated to desserts during VIP Intermissions of Friday and Sunday performances of *Die Walküre* and *La Bohème*, compliments of The Kahala Hotel & Resort. VIP Intermissions are among many benefit options offered to HOT members. A complete list of membership levels are on-line at www.hawaiiopera.org or call Suzanne Watanabe, HOT Director of Development at (808) 596-7372 ext. 202 about joining today! Corporate sponsorships for the 2011 Season are also now available.

ANNIVERSARY SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

50th 1960 - 2010



DIE WALKÜRE

The centerpiece of the Season, *Die Walküre*, marked the first time in its 50-year history that HOT staged an opera from Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. A significant undertaking for an opera company of its size, HOT debuted a critically-acclaimed production of *Die Walküre*, staged by Henry Akina.



A Gala Chorus Concert showcasing HOT artists from Hawaii, including its spectacular chorus, launched HOT's 50th anniversary season.

Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* continued the celebration, opening the Grand Opera Season.

Le Nozze di Figaro





Memorable events throughout the season created a festive atmosphere from start to finish of HOT's landmark celebration this Grand Opera Season. An unforgettable *La Bohème*, staged by Karen Tiller, delivered the ideal finale to this milestone anniversary year.

La Bohème



SEASON 2011

FAUST

by Charles Gounod
Jan 28, 30 & Feb 1

A chance to live life over as a young man with power and wealth? Sounds like heaven to Faust, an aging philosopher in despair over leading an insignificant life. He summons the power of Satan to deliver all his desires. Instantly he has it all: youth, social power, money and a young beauty's heart. But debts are due and evil always collects.

LUCIA di LAMMERMOOR

by Gaetano Donizetti
Feb 11, 13 & 15

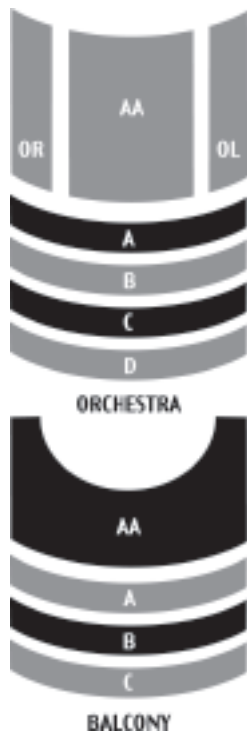
In the Scottish highlands of the mid-to-late 1600s, a power-hungry lord tricks his sister into an arranged marriage to settle political disputes. Her secret lover, also deceived, believes Lucia no longer loves him. The dark emotions and deadly sins offer only cruel fate. Lucia is forced to murder, then falls into madness as her only relief.

LA TRAVIATA

by Giuseppe Verdi
Feb 25, 27 & Mar 1

Violetta, high society's most desirable courtesan, is ill and slowly dying. She finally finds true happiness with Alfredo only to learn from his father that the relationship will ruin his family's honor. Persuaded to leave Alfredo without revealing her altruistic reasons, Violetta resigns herself to living her last days with a broken heart. Learning the sorrowful truth, love rushes to her deathbed too late.

3-OPERA TICKET PACKAGES Best Seats. Best Price. Better Hurry.



Great Subscriber Seats Open June 1

(TICKETS TO SINGLE 2011 OPERAS
GO ON SALE FALL 2010)

Orchestra Level		3-opera price
D	Rows Y-Z	\$81
C	Rows W-X	\$120
B	Rows S-V	\$150
A	Rows P-R	\$240
OR	Rows A-O Sides	\$240
AA	Rows A-O Center	\$333
Balcony Level		
C	Rows R-S	\$120
B	Rows O-Q	\$150
A	Rows L-N	\$240
AA	Rows A-K	\$333

Improve Your View for Next Season

Seats for the Season are assigned on a basis of "First Come/First-Renewed" (and membership/support history). Now is the best time to secure your seats for the 2011 season to ensure the best possible seat assignment since all unrenewed seats are released June 1.

To request a seat change, please contact the HOT Box Office as soon as possible to place your name on the Seat Assignment list. Love your 'great seat' already? Never want to give it up? To guarantee your seat for next season, renew under HOT's Same Seat policy. This offer is available as a benefit to HOT Members at the Supporter Level of \$100.

In addition to the 'same seat assurance' benefit, this membership level also includes

- Name recognition in *Aria*, HOT's performance magazine
- Pre-sale ticket offers on opera productions
- Subscription to *Cabaletta*
- Complimentary opera preview events at the Honolulu Academy of Arts
- Invitation to Annual Meeting & Dinner
- 10% off ShOPERA merchandise

In Memoriam

Our heartfelt condolences to the Hotoke family for the passing of Shigero Hotoke, a legendary music artist in Hawaii since the 1950s. Honored earlier this year by the Hawaii Music Association as a Lifetime Achievement Honoree, Hotoke's talent and contributions to Hawaii Opera Theatre, as well as many other musical arts organizations, was far-reaching. In addition to his significant contributions as the revered choral master for much of HOT's early history, he was founder of the Kailua Madrigals from Kailua High School.

HOT Box Office: (808) 596-7858

Opera Education Programs Thriving in Hawaii Public Schools

Even as “Furlough Fridays” continue to impact Hawaii’s public education system, opera remains an important part of the fabric at a number of schools. The Hawaii Opera Theatre Residency program may have the most significant effect among HOT’s many education programs.

The HOT Opera Residency takes a population of students and guides them through the process of producing and performing an opera. HOT is working with three schools this year which are taking three very different approaches to the program.

Roosevelt High School elected to produce *Carmen* this year. (See photos). While rehearsals took place for 70+ students participating in the school’s Arts and Communications Academy, HOT’s education staff conducted related programs at the school, teaching students the music from the opera, classical-style singing and served as resources for creating basic physical elements of the production. The school presented *Carmen*, entirely student-produced on March 4 for one performance.

The second graders of Waikele Elementary School decided to move in another creative direction, writing their own original opera. The production is centered around their second grade curriculum on the topic of recycling. Each class wrote two poems which were then set to famous opera music by HOT’s education staff. Even before the dialogue had been completed



for the show, the students started learning the music. This collaborative learning experience about recycling, music and opera will culminate in the children’s performance of their opera on April 29.

This year Aina Haina Elementary will produce the opera *Cinderella* by Rossini. The students here have enjoyed a long tradition of incorporating opera into school programs. Some students have seen opera throughout their years of attending this public school, which created the model for entirely student-performed residency productions.



HOT’s Opera Express, the company’s touring program, created its own version of Rossini’s *Cinderella*, presenting it to schools around the state last Fall, cast with members of the HOT’s Mae Z. Orvis Opera Studio program. Having just completed an exciting round of auditions, HOT’s education team is looking forward to exciting performances for its Spring tour, beginning in early April.

For more information about HOT Education programs, or to sponsor a program for a school, please contact Erik Haines at 596-7372 ext. 207.

Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday, May 26

Please RSVP by May 14 to 596-7372 ext. 200
or email t_jefferson@hawaiiopera.org

6:00 pm
7:00 pm
8:00 pm



Mauna Kea Ballroom
Registration & Reception
Dinner & Program Cost \$75 (No-host cocktails)
Live Entertainment
Valet parking available

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 Hawaii Opera Plaza
 848 S. Beretania St. Suite 301
 Honolulu, HI 96813
 www.hawaiiopera.org

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Great American Voices on Maui

Hawaii Opera Theatre and the Maui Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) will present a special evening of entertainment featuring HOT's popular program, *Great American Voices*. Scheduled for Saturday evening, May 1, on Maui at the MACC, the program showcases local artists who have performed in many Grand Opera productions and Broadway musical theatre shows in Hawaii. Tickets and more information is available at the MACC Box Office, 808-242-SHOW (7469) or online at www.MauiArts.org.



"It's great to bring this wonderful program to Maui," said Karen Tiller, HOT executive director. "When we were last on Maui with *Madama Butterfly*, it was standing-room-only so we know opera is well-received by Maui's eclectic arts community. We look forward to sharing this special program with them."



Some of the most beloved arias of opera and favorite showtunes from Broadway musicals will be performed. "So many people have asked 'when are we bringing opera back to MACC?' We are delighted to partner with HOT on this special program," said Teri Freitas Gorman of MACC. A special grant from the National Endowment for the Arts supports this production.



Featured artists (Top to bottom right)
 Beebe Freitas, Buz Tennent,
 Mary Chesnut Hicks, Erik Haines, Kristin
 Stone, Jacqueline Quirk and Elika Santos.



NATIONAL
 ENDOWMENT
 FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
 deserves great art.

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We Want to Hear Your Voice!

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Help HOT \$ave!

Register to receive *Cabaletta* via email. It's easy! Just go to www.hawaiiopera.org home page and sign-up for the on-line version of this newsletter. Mahalo.