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- Gala Weekend planned in October

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Summer 2004

Bravos for the 2004 Prelude Party!

3rd Annual "Prelude" a Huge Success.

The third annual **Prelude to "It's a Grand Night for Singing,"** Lexington Opera Society's annual fund raiser, was a resounding success. A record 250 guests were treated to an exquisitely decorated New York theme at the Downtown Arts Center including fountains, park benches, street vendors and popcorn sellers, thanks to Deborah Drury Interior Design, Bryant's Rent-All, The Corman Marketplace, Gaylyn's Florals-Interiors-Gifts and Liquor Barn.

Wine, wine and more wine (including champagne) added to the levity of the evening. Lexington's present and past mayors and a state representative had a wonderful time as guest wine pourers, including Mayor Teresa Isaac, past mayors Pam Miller, Scotty Baesler and Foster Pettit and State Representative Cathy Stein. Twelve great wines were showcased in the wine tasting and for the few die-hard beer fans, Dr. Ray Garman poured 4 samples of beers and ales.

Thanks to the generosity of Rob Rosenstein and Roger Leasor of Liquor Barn, a wonderful selection of excellent, interesting wines were donated for purchase at the silent and live auctions, including a surprise addition of a huge magnum of Champagne. The Lexington business and arts communities were also very generous with donations for non-wine auction items. WLEX TV18 personalities Dia Davidson and Bill Meck were hits as and Mistress and Master of Ceremonies and added a wonderfully entertaining



WLEX-TV 18 personality Bill Meck encourages a bidder during the live auction at the LOS prelude Party.

atmosphere for the live auction.

The number of one thousand dollar sponsors this year were almost doubled and included Bryant's Rent-All, The Corman Marketplace, Deborah Drury, ASID, Interior Design, Elsbeth Johnson, Family Foot Care - Dr. Michael Morrill, Harp Enterprises, Inc., Lexington Diagnostic Center and OPEN MRI, Louise Shouse, CPA, Medical Vision Group - Dr. Jitander Dudee, National City Bank, Pain Treatment Center - Drs. Ballard and Peter Wright, Stites & Harbison, Attorneys, and Dr. Mona Hagyard.

Thanks to Bluegrass Airport, Liquor Barn, Tempur-Pedic Mattress, Lexington Furniture Company, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rice, Dr. Joe and Linda Bark, Gaylyn's Florals, Khazai Oriental Rug Gallery, L. V. Harkness & Co., & Lexington Diagnostic Center & OPEN MRI who donated large items for the live and silent auctions. One of the new and most exciting donors was Isaac Duncan, III, a UK graduate student in

(Continued on page 4)

BRAVO!

Spotlight on Noemi Lugo

Dr. Noemi Lugo, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Kentucky, might have spent her successful career in Poland rather than in the United States of America if her mother had not objected to her wish to study in Cracow, where she had friends. Professor Lugo had begun singing with the Caracas Opera Company in her native Venezuela in 1973 and had had a wide variety of experiences, such as being the conductor of a cadets' choir in a Venezuelan military academy, playing double bass, and establishing a choir for a Venezuelan insurance company, when she decided to apply for a scholarship to study abroad in 1976. Her acceptance by the University of Wisconsin enabled her to further her studies while still respecting her mother's request that she not go to Poland.

Professor Lugo's intention was to return to her home country after studying for awhile in the U.S., but while in Wisconsin, she met and married an American. "Now I am the single mother of a wonderful daughter, Claudia, who is a professional dancer in New York and holds a BFA from Alvin Ailey/ Fordham University," she says proudly.

Exposed to the arts as a child, Noemi always knew she wanted to be a full-time musician. It was only after she decided to remain in the U.S. that she realized that she would have to focus on a specific area of musical training due to the differences in the methods of training artists in the U. S. and Venezuela. Noemi, a mezzo-soprano who holds a Vocal Diploma from the Lamas Conservatory in Caracas, chose vocal performance, receiving her MM from the University of Utah and the DMA from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Professor Lugo now rarely visits her country. When asked if she misses Venezuela, she responded, "Yes, but happiness comes from within and I am happy here, although I do miss the warmth of the Venezuelan people."

Early on, Noemi's peers showed respect for her musical abilities and judgment. Thus, her teaching career actually began indirectly as she began to give advice to those who sought her counsel. She has taught a wide variety of students, from singers to actors to "voice users," those who want to improve their voices for their own pleasure. Professor Lugo says, "I love to teach because I love people." The one unpleasant aspect of teaching comes, she says, from the university structure in the U.S., where the school year is divided into relatively short semesters during which the instructor is expected to take students from point A to point B. She wishes for the time and flexibility of the Venezuelan system, where a student at a music conservatory might begin to study in October, yet not face an exam until July, nine months later.

Although she has never had to say to a student, "You just don't have what it takes," she is a firm believer in honesty. "When you really care, you tell the truth," she says with deep feeling. This conviction seems to have come to her naturally; however, she does add that the nuns who taught her during her early schooling never sugar-coated anything.

Noemi joined the music faculty at the University of Kentucky in August, 1991, where her primary assignment has been to work one-on-



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one with voice students in the field of vocal pedagogy. She has also performed internationally and been the featured soloist in many performances at UK.

Because her main research interest is the vocal music of Spain and Latin America, she was particularly thrilled to receive a travel grant in 2001 to research Cuban composers in Havana. There she had access to original scores by Cuban composers which are, unfortunately, not available in this country. Consummate artist that she is, Noemi Lugo is profoundly concerned about political conditions that too often prevent artists from sharing their works beyond their own borders.

She has had the pleasure of teaching with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies in Salzburg, Austria, where she enjoys standing in the middle of the bridge over the Salzach River and taking in the view of the old city and the fortress that towers above it.

This summer Noemi will teach an interdisciplinary graduate course called "From Poetry to Music" in the Spanish Immersion Program at Middlebury College in Vermont. Her love of poetry came from her mother and, as she says, "Music is, after all, poetry and poetry is music."

Professor Lugo is just completing a two year appointment as Director of UK's interdisciplinary Latin American Studies Program. Right-brained by nature and upbringing, she has relished the challenge to be both artist and administrator because, "I want to have opportunities to grow and learn until the day I die."

Noemi is impressed by the dedication and accomplishments of the Lexington Opera Society. She feels that this organization does an excellent job of making the public aware of the vital importance of opera to the cultural growth of a community.

Having Noemi Lugo's warm, creative, professional presence in the community is clearly Cracow's loss and Lexington's gain.

Sylvia Davis



Fall Gala Weekend Planned

Set the date on your calendars for October 29-31 and join us for a grand gala weekend!

Coming this fall, the Lexington Opera Society will present a gala weekend of events showcasing opera in the Bluegrass. Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 29-31 and plan to immerse yourself in a variety of musical activities. The festive weekend will kick off with the annual Stars of Tomorrow Opera Gala on Friday, October 29th. Join your friends at the Stars of Tomorrow Reception before the Gala and for a champagne reception after the curtain falls. On Saturday morning, October 30th join Tedrin Blair Lindsey at Joseph Beth for a lively workshop session on "The

History of the Metropolitan Opera" before heading off to the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions that afternoon in Memorial Hall on the UK campus. Cap off the weekend on Sunday afternoon by attending the popular and highly informative Master Class conducted by a well known vocal coach. All in all it promises to be an entertaining, enjoyable and educational weekend that you won't want to miss. Check our web site in August for more details.

www.lexingtonopera.com

Prelude continued from Page 1



Rising star Isaac Duncan III donated one of his exciting original sculptures to the live auction.

sculpture. His wonderful stainless steel metal sculpture brought \$1,200 for UK Opera Theater. And Isaac even carried it across the street to the apartment of a

very happy new owner, Prelude guest Janet Corum. Thanks also to Sheila Ferrell, of Liquor Barn, for her invaluable help with design and production of invitations, posters and programs.

If that wasn't enough, the guests were then treated to a wonderful taste of "It's a Grand Night for Singing." The entertainment was masterfully presented by members of the 2004 "Grand Night" cast, with stage direction by Jim Rodgers and music direction by Tedrin Blair Lindsay, and produced by UKOT Director Everett McCorvey.

Many happy and smiling guests left the event with their arms full of wines and other treasures and their hearts full of music. Prelude 2004 was a huge financial success and will make it

possible to further advance the successes and fortunes of UK Opera Theater. Thanks to all who participated in the event as guests, donors, entertainers, celebrity wine pourers, volunteers, and sponsors.

I would like to add my special thanks to all the members of the Prelude Committee who worked so hard and tirelessly to make this the best Prelude ever: Keitha Ames, Linde Couch, Jacalyn Carfagno, Becky Eblen, Sheila Ferrell, Ray Garman, Mary Hayden, Cora Hughes, Elsbeth Johnson, Everett McCorvey, Mary Nell McGary, Pam Miller, Michael Morrill, Mary Powell, Angela Rice, Rona Roberts, Louise Shouse and Marina Yarbro. We could not have done it without you.

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Prelude Party Scenes 2004



The Lexington Opera Society would like to thank all the individuals and businesses who so generously supported our third annual fundraiser "Prelude to It's A Grand Night for Singing" on May 8, 2004. Thank you for contributing to its outstanding success!

Event and Season Sponsor - Liquor Barn



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Mayor Teresa Isaac
 Former Mayors Pam Miller,
 Scotty Baesler,
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 State Representative Kathy Stein

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 Crystal on Vine
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Thank You!

Thank You!



Prelude Party Thanks cont'd

Organizations cont'd

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 Productions
 Elmwood Inn
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Half notes.....

Housing needed for performers in the LOS Outreach Program for the Fall semester. Individual cast members of "Three Billy Goats Gruff" are in need of housing for the Fall semester as they continue to bring this magical opera to schools throughout the Commonwealth. If you can help contact Cora Hughes at UKOT, 859- 257-9331, (email opera@uky.edu)

Don't forget to visit our
 web site
www.lexingtonopera.com
 for all the latest on what's
 happening.

LOS welcomes Joseph Beth Booksellers as our newest sponsor. Look for the special opera table coming soon to the Joseph Beth store in Lexington Green.

Joseph-Beth  Booksellers

New and Expanded Opera 101 Coming This Fall at Joseph Beth Booksellers

The cost of the 12-session course is \$225, or participants can pay \$25 for individual sessions. To sign up for the course, contact the UKOT office (phone: 859- 257-9331, email opera@uky.edu) and check the LOS website (www.lexingtonopera.com)

In Fall semester 2003, UK Opera Theatre and the Lexington Opera Society inaugurated a new non-credit course, "An Introduction to Opera", taught by Tedrin Blair Lindsay. The class (quickly nicknamed "Opera 101") included 8 lecture sessions covering the history of opera from 16th Century Italy to 20th Century New York City, as well as 4 live performances, one of them UKOT's production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. The response was so enthusiastic that Lindsay was persuaded to offer a second course (Opera 102) during Spring semester 2004 that focused on special topics in opera, such as "Women and Madness in Bel

Canto Opera" and sessions devoted to the composers Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi, and Giacomo Puccini. Both courses met on Saturday mornings in the John Jacob Niles Gallery in the Fine Arts Library on the UK campus.

Beginning on August 28, Lindsay will offer an expanded course in opera appreciation during the UK Fall semester, sponsored once again by UKOT and LOS. It will meet on Saturday mornings (10:00 am – Noon) in a new location: Joseph-Beth Booksellers, in Lexington Green. J-BB is a new season sponsor for UKOT/LOS. Parking will be much easier at Lexington Green than on the UK campus, and class

members will enjoy the special display of books and recordings 'themed' to go along with each class session.

Lindsay commented "We wanted to repeat the five "History of Opera" sessions from last fall, and I will use different operatic examples so that the people who attended Opera 101 last Fall will hear new music from the same historical periods." There will be seven new sessions, each one focused on a particular topic. For updated information. Registration for this course begins August 1, so don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the fastest growing art form in the US today!
Mary Powell

Opera 101 Schedule for Fall 2004

August 28	<i>History of Opera I (Baroque)</i>
September 11	<i>History of Opera II (Classic/Bel Canto)</i>
September 18	<i>The Three Tenors: The Careers of Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras</i>
September 25	<i>History of Opera III (Romantic)</i>
October 2	<i>The Callas/Tebaldi Rivalry: The Careers of Callas and Tebaldi</i>
October 9	<i>History of Opera IV (Post-Romantic)</i>
October 16	<i>History of Opera V (20th Century)</i>
October 23	<i>In Depth with AIDA</i>
October 30	<i>The History of the Metropolitan Opera</i>
November 6	<i>The History of the New York City Opera</i>
November 13	<i>In Depth with TOSCA</i>
November 20	<i>In Depth with CARMEN</i>

