



In residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University,
Madison, NJ
Presents

35th Anniversary Gala
Concert Reception & Dinner

Program: 2:00 pm



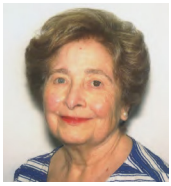
JAMES MORRIS, BASS BARITONE, MET OPERA STAR
SUSAN QUITTMAYER, MEZZO-SOPRANO,
FACULTY AT RUTGERS OPERA INSTITUTE
HOST: MIDGE WOOLSEY, PBS/WQXR COMMENTATOR
Mary Pinto, Artistic Director and Accompanist, Maria Natale, Soprano
Fanyong Du, Tenor, Ricardo Rivera, Baritone

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Lenell Hall -The Mansion
Fairleigh Dickinson University
285 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940

For More Information Contact Opera at Florham:
P.O. Box 343, Convent Station, New Jersey 07961
973-443-8620 • www.operaatflorham.org





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OPERA AT FLORHAM

Welcome & Celebrate

Welcome to All as we celebrate our 35th year bringing wonderful music and song to Opera lovers like you. We are indebted to our founders, benefactors and many others who had the vision, dedication and tenacity to establish OAF in 1982, especially our beloved benefactor Violetta DuPont.

We extend our thanks to our board members, Stephen DeMaio and the Gerda Lissner Foundation for their continued support of OAF and their assistance sponsoring this event. Additional thanks to board member/artistic Director and Accompanist, Mary Pinto and Karl Michaelis of the Lissner Charitable Trust.
Joan Del Giudice, President

Board of Trustees, Opera at Florham

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35 Years & Beyond Opera at Florham

**“Music is The Speech of Angels”
Al & Pat Wickens**

History of Opera at Florham in residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University,

"Opera at Florham (OaF)," founded in 1982 at the College of Florham, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ, Campus, initially as an extension of its Music Department under the guidance of its Chair, Charles Del Rosso, Ph.D. During those early 'golden' years, they presented Musicales and other events in Lenfell Hall, in The Mansion. In addition to these programs, OaF annually performed two Operas at the Dreyfuss Campus Theater. These Operas featured FDU students both in vocal roles and as orchestra members, performing alongside local and NYC opera professional artists. Later, OaF became a separate, incorporated, non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization. It continues to be affiliated with the University.

Annually, OaF presents four to five Musicales performed by three professionally trained artists from the operatic stage in the historical Lenfell Hall. These Musicales cover famed operatic arias along with excerpts from America's great Broadway musical theater repertoire. In keeping with OaF's mission, the Musicales may feature former OaF competition winners or other undiscovered singers on the cusp of a professional careers. An added key element to the Musicales are the educational aspects of the selections which are presented by a "Master of Ceremonies." These "MC's," through explanation and direct dialogue with the audience place the selections in their historical, cultural and emotional context. OaF maintains an ongoing relationship with several senior citizen facilities and coordinates resident transportation to its performances and offers discounted tickets to those attendees. Since 1987, OaF sponsors the annual Opera at Florham Vocal Competition, honoring Violetta DuPont, named in honor of its late co-founder and its benefactor. OaF proudly boasts that many previous Vocal Competition contestants now appear on international Opera theater stages. The Competition is directed by OaF Board Member, Stephen DeMaio. Auditions are held in early April at the Kosciuszko Foundation, New York City and the Finals take place on the last Sunday of April in The Mansion. Generally, there are ten finalists who compete for three prizes: First Prize of \$5,000 is donated by the Gerda Lissner Foundation, Second Prize of \$3,000 and Third Prize of \$1,500 funded by various supporters including the DuPont family. Encouragement Awards of \$200 are given to all non-winners. The jurors include notable New York Opera scene individuals and former opera singers.

'THE MANSION-Florham,' was the original estate of Heiress Florence Adele Vanderbilt, granddaughter of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, and her husband financier Hamilton McKown Twombly. The name Florham is a combination of their first names. Over 900 acres behind the Mansion, was developed into a working farm and 18 hole mini golf course. It extended across what is now Park Avenue and where currently the Exxon Research Center, BASF headquarters and the New Jersey Jets' Training Park are located.

In 1890 the couple purchased 1,200 acres due to the appeal of the area's exclusive atmosphere of "Millionaires Row" and the rural charm of Morris County countryside. Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park, was commissioned to transform about 150 acres into a park of lawn, terraces, fountain and Italian Gardens with pergolas and parterre alongside the Mansion. In 1894 they commissioned the renowned architectural New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, the architects of many neo-Gothic and Renaissance structures in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to design The Mansion.

The Mansion was completed in 1897. Most of its interior decorations (such as staircases, columns, floors and fireplaces) are in Italian Carrara marble, by Italian 600 immigrant craftsmen. Thomas Edison, a friend of Hamilton, designed the heating system; 125 servants were employed including grounds keepers with 25 living in The Mansion.

The Mansion's current 100 rooms and its outer buildings were converted to academic purposes. The Mansion's first floor now houses the administrative offices of the President, Provost and other Deans' offices. The Great Hall with marble ionic columns capped in gold leaf on marble tiled floor remains.

The recognition of the historical significance of The Mansion began with its restoration in 1994 and continues to the present. The Mansion was recently featured on NJ's TV Channel 23 program "Treasures of NJ." The 30 minute video is available on their website.



TIMELINE OF OPERA PRODUCTIONS

35 YEARS OF A COMMITMENT TO OPERA

Cavalleria Rusticana	Mar	2015	Il Trovatore	May	1993
La Cenerentola	Dec	2014	Rigoletto	May	1992
Hansel and Gretel	Dec	2013	La Traviata	Jun	1991
Aida	Oct	2013	Las Golondrinas	May	1990
L'elisir d'amore	Jun	2012	The Marriage of Figaro	Nov	1989
La Traviata	Jun	2011	Madame Butterfly	May	1989
Rigoletto	Jun	2010	Rusalka	Nov	1988
Tosca	May	2009	La Navarraise	May	1988
*****			Il Segreto di Susanna	Nov	1987
Die Fledermaus	Jun	2000	La Serva Padrona	Nov	1987
La Rondine	Jun	1999	Turandot	May	1987
The Magic Flute	Oct	1998	L'Heure Espagnole	Nov	1986
Lucia di Lammermoor	May	1998	Leoncavallo's La Boheme	May	1986
Carmina Burana	Oct	1997	Il Tabarro	Nov	1985
Gianni Schicchi	Jun	1997	Carmen	May	1985
La Voix Humaine	Jun	1997	Pagliacci	Mar	1985
Aida	Jun	1996	Cavalleria Rusticana	May	1984
Puccini's La Boheme	Jun	1995	Tosca	Nov	1982
The Barber of Seville	Jun	1994	*** archival research needed		

OPERA AT FLORHAM IS IN RESIDENCE AT
FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY, FLORHAM CAMPUS
P.O. BOX 343, CONVENT STATION, NJ 07961

WWW.OPERAATFLORHAM.ORG ❖ (973)443-8620

Introductions

Joan Del Giudice • Fairleigh Dickinson University

Marty Jeiven-“A Personal Recollection”

Al Wickens-Congressional Record Citation

Joe DuPont-“Memories of my Mother,” Violetta DuPont • Stephen DeMaio

Midge Woolsey, Host

Concert Performance

Honorees James Morris and Susan Quittmeyer

Silent Auction

Dinner

Opera at Florham Souvenir Mugs



35th Anniversary Season 2017-2018

From Opera to American Songbook

Musicale Series
Sundays at 2pm

Verdi's Heroes & Heroines
September 17, 2017

Mingle and Jingle in
Celebration of the Holidays
December 3, 2017

Puccini's Bel Canto Lyricism
May 20, 2018

Regular \$30 – Seniors \$25
Groups of 10+ \$20/person
Children are always free

35th Anniversary Gala
Concert & Reception
honoring

James Morris and
Susan Quittmeyer
Sunday, October 15, 2017

Concert, Dinner & Reception
\$50

30th Opera at Florham
Vocal Competition
honoring Violetta DuPont
April 22, 2018

*All events are handicap accessible
We offer van shuttle service from the parking lot to the venue*

All events are held at Lenfell Hall
Fairleigh Dickinson University
285 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940



For Information, tickets, and membership
OperaAtFlorham.org (973)443-8620

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P.O. Box 343, Convent Station, NJ 07961



Funding has been made possible in part by funds from Morris Arts Council thru the New Jersey State Council of The Arts Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Opera at Florham Presents
35th Anniversary Gala Concert

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ
The Mansion (Lenfell Hall)

Featuring:

Maria Natale, Soprano
Fanyong Du, Tenor Ricardo Rivera, Baritone
Mary Pinto, Artistic Director and Accompanist

Arias

W. A. Mozart “Se vuol ballare” - *Le nozze di Figaro* Charles
Gounod “Avant de quitter ces lieux” - *Faust*
Ricardo Rivera

Giuseppe Verdi “Come in quest’ora bruna” - *Simon Boccanegra*
Giacomo Puccini “Si, mi chiamano Mimi” - *La bohème*
Maria Natale

Vincenzo Bellini “A te, o cara” - *I puritani*
Georges Bizet “Je crois entendre encore” - *Les pêcheurs de perle*
Fanyong Du

Art Song

“Pastoral” - *A Mongolian Art Song*
Fanyong Du

Pepe Martínez “Mamá” Pasado - *Nunca Se Termina*
Ricardo Rivera

Francesco Paolo Tosti “*L'alba separa dalla luce l'ombra*”
Maria Natale



Legendary bass-baritone **James Morris** is world famous for his performances in opera, concert, recital, and recording. With a repertoire including works by Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Offenbach, Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, Mozart, Gounod and Britten, Mr. Morris has performed in virtually every international opera house and has appeared with the major orchestras of Europe and the United States. He is considered one of the greatest interpreters of Wagner's roles as Wotan in *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, *Der fliegende Holländer* and Hans Sachs in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* performing at the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and San Francisco Opera.

In the 2016-2017 season, James Morris will sing the new production of *Lulu* as Dr. Schön in a return to the English National Opera. He will also be heard at the Metropolitan Opera as Ramfis in *Aida* and Don Fernando in *Fidelio*. In the summer of 2016, Mr. Morris was highly praised for his performance of the Doctor in Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* at Santa Fe Opera. He returned to the MET in the 2015-2016 season for one of his signature roles: Scarpia in *Tosca*. He was also seen as Timur in *Turandot* and as Lodovico in the new production of *Otello*. Metropolitan Opera audiences once again saw his critically acclaimed performance as Hans Sachs in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with James Levine conducting in the 2014-2015 season. He also was also seen at the company as The Grand Inquisitor in *Don Carlo* and the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*. He appeared with Edo de Waart and the Milwaukee Symphony as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* as well.

Mr. Morris's extensive discography includes two complete Ring cycles, one for Deutsche Grammophon under James Levine and one for EMI under Bernard Haitink, and other operas of Wagner, Offenbach, Mozart, Massenet, Verdi and Gounod. He has recorded operas by Donizetti, Puccini, Bellini and Thomas with Dame Joan Sutherland, and his orchestral recordings include Haydn's *Creation*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 "Choral"* and the *Requiems* by Mozart and Fauré. James Morris was nominated for the 46th Annual Grammy Awards in the 'Best Opera Recording' category for his performance in Thomas' "*Desire Under the Elms*" with George Manahan conductor and the London Symphony on Naxos. He also holds a Grammy Award for his recording of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony. A recording of arias by Verdi and Wagner by Mr. Morris is available on the Angel/EMI label.

Born and educated in Baltimore, Maryland, James Morris studied at the Peabody Conservatory and studied with Rosa Ponselle. He continued his education at the Philadelphia Academy of Vocal Arts where he studied with basso Nicola Moscona.



Mezzo soprano **Susan Quittmeyer** has appeared regularly with the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Opera companies and has sung not only in the United States, but in Europe and Japan as well. In 1987, Quittmeyer made her Metropolitan Opera debut portraying the role of Nicklausse in *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, which was telecast on PBS. Among the other roles she sang at the Metropolitan Opera were Dorabella in *Così Fan Tutte*, Idamante in *Idomeneo*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Siebel in *Faust*, and Varvara in a new production of *Katya Kabanova*. She also toured with the company to Japan.

She made her European opera debut in 1985 as the Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Opera du Rhin in Strasbourg. After that, she sang principal roles in many major European opera houses, including the

Vienna Staatsoper, Opéra de Paris, Netherlands Opera, Hamburg Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Munich, and Grand Théâtre de Genève. At the Salzburg Festival, Quittmeyer made her debut as Idamante in Mozart's *Idomeneo* with Seiji Ozawa conducting.

Quittmeyer started her long association with the San Francisco Opera in 1979 and sang over 25 roles with the company. She also sang with the Los Angeles Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Canadian Opera Company (Toronto), Opéra de Montréal, San Diego Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Dallas Opera, Portland Opera, Mobile Opera, Denver Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Cincinnati Opera, and Miami Opera. Throughout her career, Quittmeyer also appeared internationally in concert and in recital. Her diverse repertoire has included works by Monteverdi, Mozart, Beethoven, Berlioz, Stravinsky, Strauss, Dallapiccola, and Harbison. She won special attention for her performances of Judith in Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic with Pierre Boulez conducting.

Quittmeyer can be heard on recordings of Verdi's *Falstaff* with Sir Colin Davis conducting, on the BMG label, and Wagner's *Das Rheingold* with Bernard Haitink conducting, from EMI.

Raised in Port Washington, New York, Quittmeyer attended Illinois Wesleyan University, School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music.



For over thirty years, **Midge Woolsey** enjoyed a surprising and remarkable career as broadcaster for the nation's flagship PBS station, Thirteen/WNET in New York and the city's premier classical radio station, WQXR. She worked on-air with some of the most talented and fascinating people in the world and also had a solid track record in her behind-the-scenes work life as a production executive, administrator and writer. Midge recently retired as a broadcaster and is now actively involved in development work for the concert series at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue.

She is a longtime member of the Advisory Boards of the Martina Arroyo Foundation, Opera Index and the Interschool Orchestras of New York. She also serves on the Board of Governors of the Off the Record foreign policy lecture series and the Board of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function founded by the late Dr. Oliver Sacks. In her spare time, Midge loves to travel with her husband, Jerry Stolt.



Mary Pinto is an acclaimed accompanist and vocal coach who has worked with international opera singers and major American opera companies for the past 25 years. Ms. Pinto is a student of John Wustman, the renowned accompanist for Luciano Pavarotti. She began her professional career as a rehearsal pianist for Dayton Opera, Omaha Opera, and August Opera. While at Omaha Opera, Mary privately coached many singers, including a young Susan Graham. She went on to coach for the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center, preparing performances of Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, and the world premieres of Bright Sheng's The Song of Majnun and Bruce Saylor's Orpheus Descending working under Don Palumbo, Richard Buckley, Stewart Robertson, and Daniel Beckwith. Later, she worked as a rehearsal pianist and coach at Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Opera San Antonio, and

Dallas Opera, where she played for Carmen with Denyce Graves. During her time at Opera San Antonio, she played for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Auditions, an honor she later repeated in Chicago. In 2012, Ms. Pinto had the pleasure of coaching for Metropolitan Opera star and international soprano Deborah Voigt. As Ms. Voigt prepared the three Brünnhilde roles for the Met's new production of Wagner's Ring Cycle during the 2011-2012 season, she served as lesson and rehearsal pianist, as well as a private coach. Ms. Pinto can be seen in the documentary Wagner's Dream: The Making of the Met's Ring Cycle which premiered at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival. Ms. Pinto's musical travels have also taken her across the globe. In 2014, she traveled to Russia to perform with Opera Noire's Ensemble in the American Embassy in Moscow and St. Petersburg. She has spent her last two summers in Ischia, Italy on the coaching staff at Masterclass d'Ischia, a summer program for emerging professionals studying vocal technique in an intensive environment. She has also worked as an accompanist for the 2016 Martina Arroyo Foundation Prelude to Performance program, playing for the La Bohème production. Having returned to her home state of New Jersey, Ms. Pinto has worked as a private coach and accompanist on the faculty of Montclair State University since 2007, playing lessons, giving private coachings, and preparing students for opera productions. She has played for several NJ opera companies including New Jersey State Opera and Light Opera New Jersey. Since 2014, she has acted as the Vice President and Assistant Music Director for Opera at Florham. She also maintains an active coaching studio at her home in New Jersey and in New York City. In 2018, she will play on the recording of a new song cycle by Michael John Trotta with baritone Kenneth Overton, which will be recorded in January for Naxos. Ms. Pinto will also be the official accompanist for the Deborah Voigt International Competition with Vero Beach Opera in March.



Stephen De Maio Born in Newark NJ. His father was an avid musician and he saw to it that his son received extensive instructions in piano and choral music. He also studied music and drama at New York University, Fordham, Kean College and Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Was Director of American English Program and Opera Master Classes for Marymount Manhattan College. Founder of The Mayo Theater and Music Workshop in New York presenting shows and concerts at Off Broadway Theaters. Elected President of the Gerda Lissner Foundation and it was cited by Opera News as one of the most prestigious Foundations fostering the careers of young artists with very generous financial awards . He serves

as Administrative and Artistic Director of the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, Artistic Adviser of The Giulio Gari Foundation, Loren L. Zachary Society for The Performing Arts, Opera At Florham NJ, Assistant to Director Musician Emergency Fund and is on the Advisory Boards of the Martina Arroyo Foundation, Opera Index, American Center For Musical Arts. Through his association with the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, he has brought back to opera loving audiences favored retired artists including Virginia Zeani, Leyla Gencer, Inge Borkh, Jon Vickers, Giorgio Tozzi, Evelyn Lear, Teresa Stratas, Brenda Lewis, Thomas Stewart, Franco Corelli, Carlo Bergonzi, Alfredo Kraus, James King, Fedora Barbieri, Marta Eggerth and countless other great artists. He continues to serve on numerous juries for world renowned international vocal competitions and has received a number of awards which include: The New York Crystal Apple for outstanding service to the New York Community and the world of music presented by Our Town newspaper. Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, The Loren L. Zachary Society for The Performing Arts, The Martina Arroyo Foundation and Opera Index.



Praised by The New York Times for her “plummy, penetrating voice,” soprano **Maria Natale** is quickly becoming a star in the opera world. Ms. Natale is the recipient of many awards and grants from some of the most prestigious vocal competitions nationwide including as a finalist in the Loren L. Zachary Vocal Competition; grant recipient from the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, Giulio Gari International Vocal Competition, and the Gerda Lissner Foundation; and the second prize winner of the Opera At Florham Vocal Competition.

Most recently, Ms. Natale made her Opera Maine début as Violetta in *La traviata* under conductor Stephen Lord where Opera News claimed, “her powerful soprano easily filled the house.” Other recent engagements include her Sarasota Opera début portraying the role of Liù in *Turandot* where she was hailed as having an “unequivocal Italian sound” (New Outpost).

Ms. Natale’s other repertoire includes Micaëla in *Carmen*, Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*, Marguerite in *Faust*, Nedda in *Pagliacci*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mimì and Musetta in *La bohème*, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Desdemona in *Otello*, and Gilda in *Rigoletto*.

As a concert soloist, Ms. Natale has performed with the New York City Master Chorale, Opera at Florham and Knoxville Opera. In 2015, Ms. Natale was selected by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to sing in their masterclass with Maestro Plácido Domingo.

Domingo in Bruno Walter Auditorium.

Ms. Natale is a recent graduate from the Manhattan School of Music, where she received a professional studies certificate. Whilst attending school, Ms. Natale sang the role of Lady Macbeth in Ernest Bloch's only opera *Macbeth* and was praised for her "high voltage vocal thrills" and "merciless stage presence" (Opera News).



Ricardo Rivera, baritone was a semi-finalist in the Met Opera National Council Auditions and had major debuts at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and San Diego Opera in the world premiere of *El pasado nunca se termina*, in the leading role of Acalán.

Other performance highlights include Washington Concert Opera as Hérode in *Hérodiade* with Michael Fabiano and Joyce El-Khoury; Opera San José as Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*; as Escamillo in *Carmen* with Musica Viva Hong Kong, El Paso

Opera, and Heartbeat Opera; as El payador in *María de Buenos Aires* with Des Moines Metro Opera.

Operatic performances of recent past seasons include: Mathieu in *Andrea Chenier* with the Opera Orchestra of NY; Marcello in *La bohème* and Escamillo in *Carmen* with El Paso Opera; Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* with the Opera Company of Middlebury; and Le chat in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and Spinelloccio in the Opera Company of Middlebury; Gianni Schicchi at the Castleton Festival with the late conductor Lorin Maazel.

Concert performances include New York appearances at the Eve Queler and Friends Concert and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation Gala.

He won 1st Prize in the Eastern Region of the 2012 Met Opera National Council Auditions (MONC); 2nd Prize in the Gerda Lissner Competition, 1st Prize in the NY Lyric Opera Competition, Ricardo is a graduate of Mannes College the New School for Music where his B.M. M.M. and PDPL were conferred. Ricardo was an apprentice singer with Santa Fe Opera, a young artist with Opera North, and an Eva and Marc Stern Fellow at SongFest.



Fanyung Du, tenor, a native of Inner Mongolia has sung the title role in *Eugene Onegin*; Rodolfo in *La bohème*. In 2015 he was reviewed by Opera News for his performance at Mannes School as Nemorino in *L'Elisir D'Amore*, "real sense of bel canto style with fine gradations of dynamics and tone color culminating in a really admirable 'Una fortiva lagrima'". He has also performed as a soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*; in concert at Carnegie Hall with Opera Orchestra of New York, conducted by Eve Queler. He appeared at the Licia Albanese-Puccini Gala. Previous awards include 2nd prizes in the Gerda Lissner Foundation (NY); Giulio Gari Foundation (NY)

and the Anita Cerquetti International Competition (Italy).

He attended the Mannes and Manhattan Schools of Music. He received his BA, MA and DMA from the Odessa State Academy of Music, Ukraine.

SILENT AUCTION

- Two acacia serving boards with cocktail treats: nuts, spreads, olives, dipping oil, crackers, napkins and coasters in a wooden crate. (Value \$85.00)
 - Lenox Vase, blue perle ceramic with silk roses. (Value \$25.00)
 - Champagne Flutes: 4 boxed set, decorated. (Value \$30.00)
 - Cake Stand by Valhori Home; Dessert Plates (4) Royal Stafford, on pearl mosaic tray. (Value \$60.00)
 - Italian Gourmet Food Basket –Harvest motif: Imported Italian Pasta and Sauce, olive oil, pesto spread, salad dressing, bread sticks, dish towel and scented candle. (Value \$85.00)
 - Crystal Dish with gardenia soap, hand towel, candle on a tray. (Value \$30.00)
 - Placemats (4), napkins with napkin rings in a basket. (Value \$35.00)
- Special thanks goes to Opera at Florham's Board Member, Rhoda Wolin, for donating these items.

Thanks also to Jane Schrader for organizing this fund raising event and providing all floral arrangements.

Hot Buffet Dinner

Tossed Green Salad

Choice of Entrée

Penne a la vodka

Marinated Sliced London Broil

Chicken Marsala

Cod with Lemon Butter Sauce,

Capers and Tomatoes

Sautéed Green Vegetable

Wild Rice

Dessert

Celebratory Cake

Beverages including wines



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, 11th District of New Jersey

Honoring the Opera at Florham 35th Anniversary

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Opera at Florham, located in Fairleigh Dickinson University, in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey, on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary. From humble beginnings, this organization's mission is to educate and provide affordable operatic and related musical performances.

In 1982 Violetta Dupont co-founded the organization as an extension of Fairleigh Dickinson University's Music Department. Since then Opera at Florham has been providing outstanding operatic and other vocal selections from the American Song Book. Each performance features three outstanding vocalists who have performed across the country. To this day Opera at Florham is New Jersey's only long running opera recital series.

Part of Opera at Florham's mission is to provide stage and role opportunities to young and upcoming artists. The inaugural Violetta DuPont Vocal Competition was held in 1987. This annual competition provides young operatic talent an opportunity to compete for cash prizes in front of judges and a live audience. In 1995, Opera at Florham became a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and continues to be affiliated with Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Opera at Florham is most known for its staged opera. Each season four musicales are performed in Lenfell Hall at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in the former residence of the Vanderbilt's and Twombly's. These musicales are priced affordably, yet feature high artistic excellence. These events showcase the drama, passion, music, and story that good opera is known for.

Mister Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Opera at Florham on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary.

Since its inception, the mission of Opera At Florham has been the development of the emerging artist offering opportunities to compete in our annual vocal competition, opera performances and concerts. OAF proudly lists noted Met stars Michael Fabiano and Angela Meade as prior vocal competition winners.

Stephen DeMaio, President, Gerda Lissner Foundation and member of
Board of Trustees, and Director of OAF Vocal Competition

“IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE GREAT TENOR
EUGENIO FERNANDI AND HIS UNFORGETTABLE
WIFE GLORIA!”
FROM NABUCCO.....”VA PENSIERO SULL’ALI
DORATE” Leo Piovano

VIOLETTA POLLARA DUPONT (2012)

BRUNO DI PAOLO (2014) • GLORIA FERNANDI (2015)

THERESA DI PAOLO (2016) • RICHARD KOPP, Ph.D. (2017)

Remembering Co-founder & Benefactor

Violetta DuPont

James Thurmond Smithgall

Congratulations

President

Joan Del Giudice

35 Year

Anniversary

Opera at Florham

Cognoscenti Amici

Marie Bosco

Dorothy Moxley

Betty McColgan

Dee Robertson

CONTRIBUTORS

Angels

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Mary Pinto, Organizer & Piano Accompanist of OAF Musicales
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Dee Robertson • Drs. Maureen & Noel Testa
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Special appreciation to Gerda Lissner Foundation and its President, Stephen DeMaio, a leader in the discovery and support of young opera singers for your dedication, knowledge, compassion, loyalty and countless other incredible contributions to many foundations and companies like Opera at Florham.

Opera at Florham is grateful and honored to have you as a Board of Trustees member, valued Advisor, Narrator at our Musicales, and Director of OAF's Annual Vocal Competition.

BRAVO STEPHEN!

With Admiration Opera at Florham



*To Opera at Florham
Best Wishes For Another
Successful Year!*

*Drs. Noel and Maureen Testa
Barbara Ann Testa*

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1912-2012

Violetta Pollara DuPont

No area of this competition remains untouched by her determination. Everyone who has participated in any of the Company activities has learned lessons in the values of work, cooperation, acceptance and patience. She has honored this campus, this community, and those happy participants in the cultural atmosphere which she has greatly helped to make possible here.

Violetta Pollara DuPont celebrated her 100th birthday April 7, 2012 and attended the 2012 Vocal Competition. She passed away June 8, 2012. Her legacy continues with Opera at Florham.

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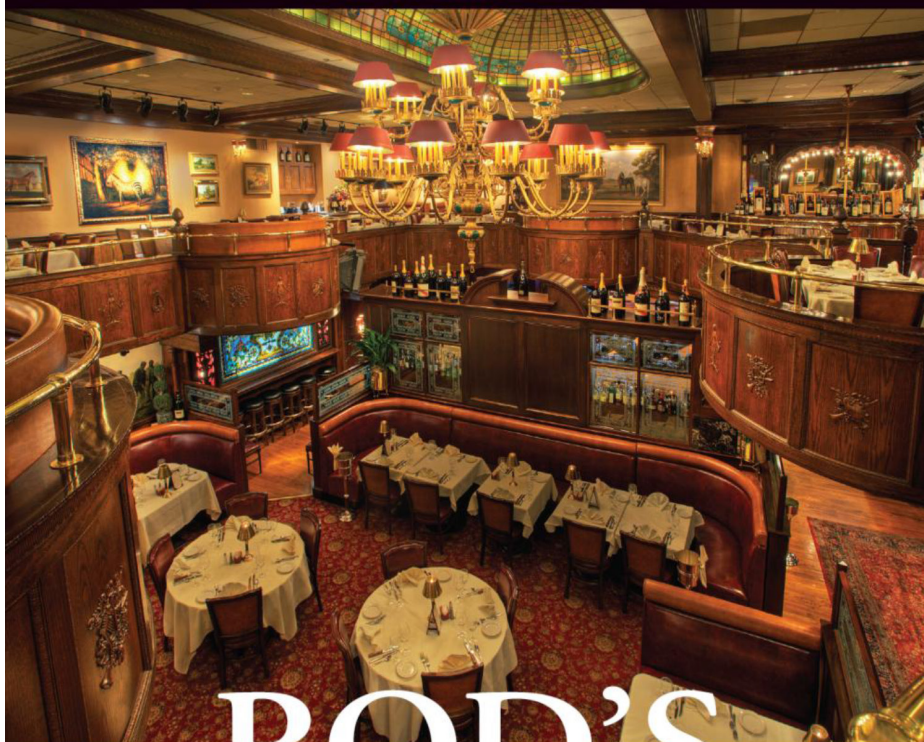
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The Gerda Lissner Foundation was created by Mrs. Lissner, a Metropolitan Opera subscriber for 77 years, to provide young opera singers with the financial support they need to pursue their craft and excel in the world of Opera. We believe that the encouragement and assistance to young artists toward achieving their goals are imperative for the continuation of this demanding art form. Foundation gives away prizes at their annual Competition plus supporting other Opera groups like Opera at Florham.



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