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# HIGH NOTES

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

2018/2019 SEASON

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Resident Artists from left to right: Brent Michael Smith, Piotr Buszewski, Claire de Monteil, Alice Chung, Pascale Spinney, and Ethan Vincent in *Così fan tutte*. Photo credit: Don Valentino

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AVA

ACADEMY OF  
VOCAL ARTS

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# ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

The mission of the Academy of Vocal Arts is to be the world's premier institution for training young artists as international opera soloists. With its rigorous instruction and coaching, as well as performance opportunities in concerts, recitals, and fully-staged operas, the Academy trains the most promising young singers from around the world, while also contributing to the performing arts community in the greater Philadelphia region.

Founded in 1934, the Academy of Vocal Arts is the only tuition-free institution dedicated exclusively to the study of voice. When Resident Artists graduate from AVA, they are prepared to share their gifts with audiences around the world, fulfilling not only their own hopes and dreams, but those of AVA's wise and generous founder, Helen Corning Warden.

Gifted singers come to Philadelphia from all over the world to seek the exceptional guidance and training that the Academy of Vocal Arts offers. Admission to the tuition-free program is determined yearly by competitive auditions. While hundreds of hopeful singers apply, only 8-10 are accepted into the four-year program.

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Voice Science

\*In memoriam





Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present High Notes, the annual report of the Academy of Vocal Arts. This report covers our most recent fiscal year, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Aside from working on the four fully-staged operas and singing in frequent concerts, recitals, lectures, and informal gatherings, the Resident Artists were busy preparing for the demands of their future professional careers. They receive many hours of vocal training and coaching each week, in addition to lessons in languages, stage combat, stage interpretation, and professional development. Behind the success of each AVA Resident Artist is the outstanding AVA faculty.

2018-2019 was another successful year of accomplishments at AVA, and our Resident Artists won many major awards: Piotr Buszewski, Meryl Dominguez, Gabriela Flores, Mackenzie Gotcher, Rebecca Gulinello, Ethan Vincent, and Hannah Ludwig (AVA '18) were 2018 Philadelphia District Winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Meryl Dominguez advanced to the Semi-Final round, and Piotr Buszewski was named a 2019 National Finalist. Mr. Buszewski also won 1st prize in the Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition and was named an Encouragement Award winner at the Operalia World Opera Competition. Ethan Vincent won 1st place, the Audience Choice and the Ava Franchi Music Awards at the Vero Beach Opera Rising Stars Competition, and he was the Second Prize Winner of the 2019 Nicola Martinucci Competition in Lucca, Italy. He also won the YAVI Concert Series Grant, awarded by the Gerda Lissner Foundation.

We also graduated eight Resident Artists to promising careers. Piotr Buszewski, Meryl Dominguez, Gabriela Flores, Roy Hage, John Matthew Myers, Ethan Vincent, Matthew White, and Anthony Whitson-Martini graduated with Artist Diplomas, and we wish them all well!

We hope that you had the opportunity to join us this past season to see our Resident Artists in action. Please consider supporting us in the upcoming season, by attending AVA performances and contributing to the tuition-free training of these outstanding young artists. Thank you for being a valuable member of the AVA family. It is through your support that the Resident Artists and the Academy of Vocal Arts continue to enjoy great success!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "K. James McDowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

K. James McDowell

President and Artistic Director

## THE 2018/19 SEASON

**The Academy of Vocal Arts presented over forty concerts and performances with approximately 10,000 attendees during the 2018-2019 season.**

The Opera Theatre season began with a black-tie Opening Night Celebration, which featured a double-bill of Puccini's one-act operas: *Le Villi*, conducted by Richard A. Raub, and *Suor Angelica*, conducted by Maestro Christofer Macatsoris. Directed by David Gately, this unique two-part production lent itself beautifully to a celebratory evening of hors d'oeuvres, a seated dinner, dessert and a Champagne toast to the 2018-19 season! In addition to Center City performances, this double-bill was performed in Haverford, Bucks County, and at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University.

This winter, Antonín Dvořák's *Rusalka* was performed for the very first time at AVA! The production, which was directed by K. James McDowell, featured beautiful lush greenery as the backdrop for wood sprites and water nymphs in this fairytale-inspired opera, and Music Director Luke Housner accompanied at the piano.



Aubry Ballarò, Rebecca Gulinello, and Gabriela Flores in *Rusalka*.  
Photo credit: Paul Sirochman



Claire de Monteil and Alice Chung in *Suor Angelica*. Photo credit: Paul Sirochman



From left to right in the background: Abraham Bretón, Eric Delagrang, Aubry Ballarò, Oliver Sewell, and Brent Michael Smith. In the front, from left to right: Meryl Dominguez, Rebecca Gulinello, Ethan Vincent, and Mackenzie Gotcher, in *Le Villi*.  
Photo credit: Paul Sirochman

The spring production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* was conducted by Maestro Christofer Macatsoris and directed by Dorothy Danner, and it was performed in Center City and Haverford.

The season's final opera was Charles Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Conducted by Steven Mosteller and directed by Jeffrey Marc Buchman, it was staged in Center City, Bucks County, and Haverford.

Resident Artists also sang in the annual Giargiari Bel Canto Competition, which was held at the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater. Rebecca Gulinello won 1st Prize, Brent Michael Smith won 2nd Prize, and Meryl Dominguez won the Audience Favorite Award. Following the competition, audience members were treated to a special surprise performance by AVA alumnus and newly-named Vice President of Global and Artistic Outreach, Bryan Hymel.

AVA subscribers and patrons were invited to Opera Previews throughout the season. These free and informal lectures have continued to be very popular with our audiences, as they are a great way to get a behind-the-scenes look at the rehearsal process while learning more about the opera.

Other concerts this season included the New Artist Recital, Russian Romances, *Jubilate!*, a program of German song repertoire, a program of French song repertoire, and the Farewell Recital.



Matthew White and Meryl Dominguez in *Roméo et Juliette*. Photo credit: Paul Sirochman



From left to right: Irini and Bryan Hymel, Meryl Dominguez, Bailey Dalton-Binion, Brent Michael Smith, Rebecca Gulinello, Sam Cimino, Alice Strine, and Rick Pitcairn. Photo credit: Don Valentino



## CLASS OF 2019

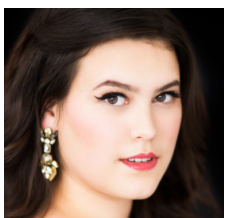
AVA bid a fond farewell to eight Resident Artists this year. We will miss these talented singers, but we look forward to following their promising careers around the world.

**PIOTR BUSZEWSKI, TENOR****Memorable AVA**

**Roles:** The Prince, *Rusalka*; Loge, *Das Rheingold*; Monostatos, *Die Zauberflöte*; Edgardo, *Lucia di Lammermoor*;

Courier, *The Demon*; Guccio, *Gianni Schicchi*; Tinca, *Il tabarro*; Brühlmann, *Werther*; Flaminio, *L'amore dei tre re*.

**Upcoming:** Nemorino, *L'elisir d'amore* with Oper Leipzig; Faust, *La damnation de Faust* with Filarmonica De Stat Transilvania; Camille, *The Merry Widow* in Hong Kong with Musica Viva; Duke, *Rigoletto* with Florida Grand Opera, Rinuccio, *Gianni Schicchi* with San Diego Opera, *Il Cappello di Paglia* with Opera Graz; The 10<sup>th</sup> International Stanislaw Moniuszko Vocal Competition; The Loren L. Zachary Society Anniversary Celebration Grand Finals Concert.

**MERYL DOMINGUEZ, SOPRANO****Memorable AVA**

**Roles:** Juliette, *Roméo et Juliette*; Suor Zelatrice, *Suor Angelica*; Violetta, *La traviata*; Zerbinetta and Naiad, *Ariadne auf*

*Naxos*; Woglinde; *Das Rheingold*; The Queen of The Night, *Die Zauberflöte*; Lucia, *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Nella, *Gianni Schicchi*; Sophie, *Werther*; Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni*.

**Upcoming:** Adina, *L'elisir d'amore*, and Naiad, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, both with Festival of the Aegean; Soprano Soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* in Vienna and Lisbon with Mid-America Productions.

**GABRIELA FLORES, MEZZO-SOPRANO****Memorable AVA**

**Roles:** Stéphano, *Roméo et Juliette*; Dorabella, *Così fan tutte*; Maestra delle Novizie, *Suor Angelica*; Wood

Sprite, *Rusalka*; Annina, *La traviata*; Dryad, *Ariadne auf Naxos*; Erda, *Das Rheingold*; Azucena, *Il trovatore*.

**Upcoming:** Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist at LA Opera.

**ROY HAGE, TENOR****Memorable AVA**

**Roles:** Alfredo, *La traviata*; Tamino, *Die Zauberflöte*; Arturo, *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Duke, *Rigoletto*;

Roméo, *Roméo et Juliette*.

**JOHN MATTHEW MYERS, TENOR****Memorable**

**AVA roles:** The Prince, *Rusalka*; Bacchus, *Ariadne auf Naxos*; First Armored Man, *Die Zauberflöte*; Prince

Sinodal, *The Demon*; Duke, *Rigoletto*.

**Upcoming:** Ravinia Festival's Steans Music Institute; *Das Lied von der Erde* with Gretna Music; covering roles in *Pique Dame* and *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Metropolitan Opera; tenor soloist in Beethoven's *Mass in C Major* and *Choral Fantasy* with the Santa Barbara Symphony.

**ETHAN VINCENT, BARITONE****Memorable AVA**

**Roles:** Guglielmo Wulf, *Le Villi*; Alberich, *Das Rheingold*; Count di Luna, *Il trovatore*; title roles in

*The Demon*, *Rigoletto*, and *Don Giovanni*; Pinellino, *Gianni Schicchi*; Albert, *Werther*.

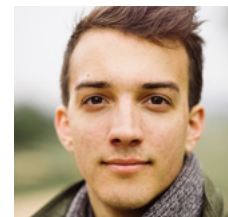
**Upcoming:** Count Tomsy (cover), *Pique Dame* with Lyric Opera of Chicago; The Imperial Commissioner, *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Philadelphia; Belcore, *L'elisir d'amore* with Indianapolis Opera.

**MATTHEW WHITE, TENOR****Memorable AVA**

**roles:** Roméo, *Roméo et Juliette*; Roberto, *Le Villi*; Commissionario and Un uomo, *La traviata*; Scaramuccio,

*Ariadne auf Naxos*; Second Priest, *Die Zauberflöte*; Edgardo, *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Courier, *The Demon*; Gherardo, *Gianni Schicchi*; title role, *Werther*; Avito, *L'amore dei tre re*.

**Upcoming:** Duke, *Rigoletto* with Edmonton Opera; tenor soloist in Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with Dallas Opera; Lt. Pinkerton, *Madama Butterfly* with Tulsa Opera.

**ANTHONY WHITSON-MARTINI, BARITONE****Memorable AVA**

**roles:** Paris, *Roméo et Juliette*, Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte*, Wig Maker and Harlequin, *Ariadne auf Naxos*; Papag-

eno, *Die Zauberflöte*; Usher & Cepreno, *Rigoletto*; Spinelloccio and Ser Amantio di Nicolao, *Gianni Schicchi*; Johann, *Werther*; Masetto, *Don Giovanni*.

**Upcoming:** Engagements with San Diego Opera.



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## OPENING NIGHT OF THE 2018-2019 SEASON



- 1 Dr. Mae Pasquariello with Anthony and Sally Jannetta
- 2 Drs. Bruce and Toby Eisenstein, with Leon and Fran Levy
- 3 Allen Black, Randy Appgar, I. Gail Howard, and Paul Murray
- 4 Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio, Franca Warden, Diane Ahl, and Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio
- 5 Theresa and John Rollins, with Chair of the Opening Night celebration, Dr. Suzanne Root
- 6 Dr. Elias Packman and Kay Bossone

*All photos by Philly ChitChat and Don Valentino*



**April 28, 2019**

Nearly forty Angels and Benefactors gathered at the Haverford home of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Broudy in anticipation of the 2019 *Viva la Voce!* Gala. Guests enjoyed an intimate program of arias and duets by AVA Resident Artists Gabriela Flores, Renée Richardson, Timothy Murray, and Oliver Sewell, with an appearance by AVA alumnus and Vice President, Bryan Hymel.

## ANGELS AND BENEFACTORS PARTY



- 1 Bryan Hymel sings, accompanied by José Meléndez
- 2 Myke Rogers and Carol Haas Gravagno
- 3 Judith Broudy with her granddaughter (left) and Dr. Elias Packman
- 4 Rick Pitcairn, Dori Broudy, and Bryan Hymel
- 5 Drs. Ruth Ryave and Warren Herbst
- 6 Timothy Murray, Gabriela Flores, Bryan Hymel, Renée Richardson, and Oliver Sewell
- 7 Albert DiSanto, Dr. Claire Boasi, JoAnne DiSanto, and Peggy Lyon



- 8 Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio and Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio
- 9 Joshua and Dori Broudy

*All photos by Don Valentino*



# VIVA LA VOCE!

MAY 11, 2019

AT THE  
THE BARNES FOUNDATION



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The Academy of Vocal Arts commemorated 84 years of operatic excellence at the 2019 *Viva la Voce!* Gala. Over 300 guests attended this spectacular celebration at the Barnes Foundation. The evening began with a cocktail hour, during which guests were invited to bid on a variety of items in the silent auction while also exploring the Barnes' famous collection.

Dinner was served as Resident Artists sang a program of arias and ensembles, accompanied by Master Vocal Coach, Richard A. Raub. The musical program included a variety of operatic favorites, including a show-stopping three-tenor rendition of "Nessun dorma" from *Turandot*. AVA alumnus Richard Troxell led a live auction, where guests eagerly bid on items including week-long getaways to destinations such as Paris, St. Lucia, and Tuscany!

The evening concluded after guests enjoyed dessert and dancing with the Rich Posmontier Ensemble.

We give our most sincere thanks to everyone who supported this Gala, under the leadership of Gala Co-Chairs, Judith Broudy and Elias Packman.

AVA Emeritus Board members, Lucinda S. Landreth and Ann R. Stephenson were honored with the AVA Board of Directors Outstanding Service Award. Peter Benoliel and Willo Carey were honored with the AVA Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award.

The Gala Committee of the AVA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended for making the event such a spectacular success! Approximately \$260,000 was raised for the AVA Scholarship Fund.

AVA would like to extend a special thank you to our corporate and foundation sponsors: Mike Paolone and Merrill Lynch; The Rose Group; First Priority Bank; KDI; Quaker Chemical; Pitcairn; WRTI 90.1FM; Francis Ford Coppola Winery; and Liberty Business Strategies.



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**1** K. James McDowell and Rick Pitcairn with Mary Ogden and Lee Bender as they accept the AVA Board of Directors Outstanding Service Award on behalf of their mother, Ann R. Stephenson  
**2** Charles Landreth, Lucinda Landreth, Tom Brown, Missy VanBuren-Brown, Ted Snowdon, and Duffy Violante  
**3** Rick Pitcairn and K. James McDowell present the AVA Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award to Peter Benoliel and Willo Carey  
**4** Timothy Murray, Gabriela Flores, Drs. Emmeline and Romeo Abella, Meryl Dominguez, and Alice Chung  
**5** Chelsea Laggan and Meryl Dominguez sing the famous Flower Duet from *Lakmé*  
**6** Gala Co-Chairs, Judith Broudy and Elias Packman  
**7** Chairman Emeritus, Mackie MacLean, Jr.  
**8** Recent AVA graduate, Ethan Vincent

All photos by Philip Flynn

**BR**AVA  
PHILADELPHIA!  
AVA'S 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**MARCH 28, 2020**  
THE MET PHILADELPHIA

Mark your calendar for the 2020 *BrAVA Philadelphia!* Gala, which will take place on March 28, 2020 at the beautifully restored opera house, "The Met Philadelphia"! AVA's star alumni will take the stage with full orchestra, conducted by Maestro Macatsoris.



## NIGHT AT THE OPERA



All photos by Don Valentino

### THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2019.

AVA welcomed over 130 of Philadelphia's Young Professionals (ages 40 and under) into the Helen Corning Warden Theater for an exclusive performance of Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, before it opened to the public. At intermission, Young Professionals enjoyed wine and light bites in the front hall and in the courtyard. Following the performance, they were invited to a Champagne toast, where they congratulated the singers.

This inaugural event was a great success, and we look forward to inviting Young Professionals back to AVA in the 2019-2020 season!

*This performance was generously underwritten by Charlotte H. Watts.*

The 2018-2019 Opera Outreach program engaged students from twenty-seven public, private, charter and home school groups across the greater Philadelphia region. Many long-time participants attended the performances, along with several new participants. Over 1,300 students, teachers, and chaperones attended special matinee performances of Puccini's *Le Villi* and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

Prior to each matinee, students and teachers received comprehensive study guides, which outlined the history of the specific opera, while also providing general information about opera as an art form.

Following each performance, the Resident Artists remained onstage to answer questions from eager audience members.

**To learn more about the Academy of Vocal Arts' Opera Outreach program or to help offer Opera Outreach to a school near you, contact Rebecca Carr at [rcarr@avaopera.org](mailto:rcarr@avaopera.org)**

## OPERA OUTREACH



All photos courtesy of Rebecca Carr



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## AVA ALUMNI NEWS 2018/2019



Bryan Hymel, Luke Housner, Latonia Moore, Ethan Vincent and Gabriela Flores at the House of the Redeemer in New York City for an AVA fundraiser event in May 2019. Photo courtesy of Luke Housner

**ZACH BORICHEVSKY** will sing the role of Cassio in *Otello* with the Washington National Opera, as well as the Duke in *Rigoletto* with Nashville Opera.

This past season, **STEPHEN COSTELLO** made his role debut as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* in his first opera performance in Japan. This summer, he sang the role of the Duke in *Rigoletto* at the Bregenz Festival, and Alfredo in *La traviata* in the Arena de Verona. He will sing the roles of Rodolfo in *La bohème* in Dresden, the Prince in *Rusalka* in both Mulhouse and Strasbourg, Leicester in *Maria Stuarda* at the Metropolitan Opera, and Le Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon*, as well as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* in Paris.

**ANDRÉ COURVILLE** appeared as the Jailer in *Tosca* with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Vail Music Festival this summer. He will sing the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Kentucky Opera, as well as the role of Bartolo/Antonio in *Figaro* with the Opéra National de Bordeaux and with Les Musiciens du Louvre in Israel.

**ELLIE DEHN** will sing the role of Mimi in *La bohème* with Arizona Opera and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Michigan Opera Theatre.

Bryan Hymel and Ailyn Pérez in Bizet's *Carmen* at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in June 2019. Photo credit: Bill Cooper and ROH Press Office

Highlights of **JOYCE DIDONATO'S** upcoming season include the title roles in *Agrippina* and *Semiramide* with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Gran Teatre del Liceu, respectively. She will return to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the role of Charlotte in *Werther*, and she will also continue on her worldwide tour with Il Pomo d'Oro to present her album, *In War and Peace*. In September, Joyce was named "Female Singer of the Year" for her new album "Songplay" by OPUS KLASSIK.

**JOYCE EL-KHOURY'S** debut solo album, "Écho," received a Juno Nomination for Classical Album of the Year. She was also listed in Operawire's "Best of 2018" list. This season she will return to the Canadian Opera Company to sing the role of Liù in *Turandot*.

**MICHAEL FABIANO** will sing many roles this season, including the role of Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon* at the Metropolitan Opera this fall. He will return to the Opéra National de Paris to sing the title roles in both *Don Carlo* and *Les contes d'Hoffmann*. He will sing the role of Don José in *Carmen* at the Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin, Alfredo in *La traviata* at the Teatro Real de Madrid, and he will return to the title role in *Don Carlo* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He recently released his debut solo recording of arias by Verdi and Donizetti.

**OTHALIE GRAHAM** will sing the role of Lady Macbeth with both Toledo Opera as well as Opera Carolina. She will appear as a soloist with the Sacramento Choral Society and the Reading Symphony Orchestra for the Verdi *Requiem*, and she will also appear as the Soprano Soloist with the Mississippi Symphony and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's Ninth.

**PATRICK GUETTI** sang the role of Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Opera Philadelphia last season. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sarastro in the Julie Taymor production of *The Magic Flute*. He will also join the ensemble at Deutsche Oper Berlin, where he will sing in *Aida*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, *La traviata*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *La forza del destino*, and *Adriana Lecouvreur*.

**JONAS HACKER** made his main-stage debut as the Novice in Britten's *Billy Budd* with Central City Opera this summer. This fall, he will make his debut with Arizona Opera, singing the role of Timothy Laughlin in *Fellow Travelers*. He will join the Philadelphia Orchestra as the Tenor Soloist in Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, as well as the Tenor Soloist in Handel's *Messiah*.

In addition to stepping into the role of AVA's Vice President of Global and







Latonia Moore in *Tosca* at the Washington National Opera in May 2019. Photo credit: Scott Suchman and WNO Press Office

Artistic Outreach, **BRYAN HYMEL** sang the role of Don José in *Carmen* this summer at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. His upcoming season includes the role of Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Philadelphia, Faust in *La Damnation de Faust* at the Metropolitan Opera, and the title role in *Don Carlo* with the Greek National Opera.

Highlights of the coming season for **MARINA COSTA-JACKSON** include the roles of Mimì in *La bohème* with LA Opera, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* with Seattle Opera, Leonora in *Il trovatore* with Oper Köln, Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra* with the Washington Concert Opera, Nedda in *Pagliacci* with Michigan Opera Theater, and Mimì in *La bohème* with the Opéra National de Paris.

**ALASDAIR KENT** will sing the roles of the Count in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Theater Basel, Fenton in *Falstaff* with the Opéra National de Montpellier, and Don Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, with the Opéra National de Bordeaux.

This season, **SYDNEY MANCASOLA** made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Frasquita in *Carmen* (HD Broadcast) and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. She sang the role of Bess McNeill in *Breaking the Waves* in Scotland, and she will sing the roles of Pamina and the title role in *Semele* at the Komische Oper Berlin.

**ANGELA MEADE'S** upcoming season includes the title roles in *Ermione*, *Anna Bolena* and *Aida*, in Naples, Bilbao and Barcelona, respectively. She will also sing the role of Elisabetta

di Valois in *Don Carlo* in Coruña, Spain, as well as the soprano role in Verdi's *Requiem* in Hamburg.

**LATONIA MOORE** will open the Met's 2019-2020 season as Serena in *Porgy and Bess*, and she will return to the same role, for which she has received rave reviews, with the Washington National Opera later this season. She will perform the title role of *Tosca* with the Opéra de Rouen Normandie.

**JAMES MORRIS** will sing the role of Timur in *Turandot* at the Metropolitan Opera this season.

This summer, **ZACHARY NELSON** sang the role of Marcello in *La bohème* with the Santa Fe Opera, and he will return to the role next spring with Fort Worth Opera. He will sing the role of Ping in *Turandot* with Palm Beach Opera later this season.

**DANIEL NOYOLA** will sing the role of Soldat in *Salome*, Laurentino in *The Miracle of Remembering*, and Il Conte di Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, all with the Houston Grand Opera.

**MUSA NGQUNGWANA** will sing the role of Leporello in *Don Giovanni* with Pittsburgh Opera, Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* with the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, as well as with the Washington National Opera and with Atlanta Opera. He will sing the role of the King in *Aida* with Houston Grand Opera.

**AILYN PÉREZ** was celebrated this spring in New York City for her outstanding achievement in the opera world, as she was honored with a prestigious Opera News Award. She also made her role debut as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Houston Grand Opera. She recently sang the role of Micaëla in *Carmen* (alongside Bryan Hymel) at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. This season, she will sing the role of Nedda in *Pagliacci* with the Dutch National Opera, and Antonia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (alongside Michael Fabiano) at the Opéra National de Paris. She will return to the Met to sing Mimì in *La bohème*, as well as Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*. Other

upcoming roles include the title roles in *Manon* and *Rusalka* in Vienna and Santa Fe, respectively.

**GALEANO SALAS** was selected as one of Mexico's most creative people of 2018, and he joined the ensemble of the Bayerische Staatsoper, where, this past season, he sang the roles of Abdallo in *Nabucco*, Harry in *La fanciulla del West*, Pong and Il principe de Persia in *Turandot*, Rinuccio in *Il Trittico*, Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Gaston in *La traviata*, and Rodrigo in *Otello*.

**TAYLOR STAYTON** will sing the roles of Chevalier Belfiore in *Il viaggio a Reims* in Dresden, Count Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Palm Beach opera, as well as in Dresden.

**VANESSA VASQUEZ** made her Opera Philadelphia debut as Mimì in *La bohème*. She returned to the same role to open the Santa Fe Opera season this summer, and received rave reviews. She sang the role of Violetta in *La traviata* with Arizona Opera. This season, she will sing the roles of Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with the Washington National Opera, and Liù in *Turandot* with the Canadian Opera Company. She will return to the role of Violetta in *La traviata* with Seattle Opera.

This summer, **CORINNE WINTERS** sang the role of Leïla in *The Pearl Fishers* with Santa Fe Opera. This season she will sing the title role in *Rusalka* in Luxembourg, as well as with the English National Opera. She will also sing the title role in *Halka* at the Theater an der Wien.



Joyce DiDonato onstage with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Verizon Hall. Photo courtesy of the Philadelphia Orchestra

## OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENTS



**SCOTT GUZIELEK** was named the Vice President and General Manager of the Academy of Vocal Arts. Mr. Guzielek has served as Director of Artistic Operations at Palm Beach Opera, as well as Artistic Administrator at Washington National Opera.

“The Board and I look forward to working closely with Scott. Not only is he a skilled leader, he is passionate about the training and support of the next generation of great operatic talent. Scott will be a vital member of the arts community in Philadelphia and we are delighted by his appointment.”

—Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II, Chairman of the Board of Directors

“It is with great enthusiasm that I will join the leadership team of AVA in this newly-created role...I look forward to embarking on this exciting new opportunity to ensure that AVA continues to be an indispensable part of Philadelphia’s rich cultural offerings and institutions.”

—Scott Guzielek

“We are thrilled to welcome Scott to the Academy of Vocal Arts,” “I look forward to working with Scott in this new role at the Academy. We feel fortunate to have found Scott, who will bring an energizing combination of administrative and artistic talents to the AVA family.”

—President and Artistic Director, K. James McDowell



**BRYAN HYMEL** (AVA '08) was named the Vice President of Global and Artistic Outreach. Mr. Hymel has been enjoying a successful international career as one of the world’s top tenors, and AVA is thrilled to welcome him back to 1920 Spruce as he steps into this new role, where he will serve as AVA’s global ambassador.

“I know that the AVA approach for training singers is unique in the world and the best way to show singers how to successfully navigate a career in opera. I look forward to bringing these wonderful aspects of AVA to future generations of singers and opera lovers, alike.”

—Bryan Hymel

“Bryan has always been an ardent supporter of AVA’s mission to train young singers...his understanding of the AVA legacy and his optimism about the future of opera make him the perfect addition to our team.”

—Harold F. (Rick) Pitcairn II, Chairman of the Board of Directors

“Bryan Hymel will be a valuable addition to the Academy of Vocal Arts’ administrative staff, while continuing to sing at the world’s most important opera houses.”

—K. James McDowell, President and Artistic Director



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## OUR AVA FAMILY

Please join us in welcoming our New AVA Board Members



**DR. DANTE CERZA** was born in Philadelphia and has been practicing pediatric anesthesiology in an academic setting for eleven years. Medical education has been an important focus in his career, and he takes great interest in the process of learning. His current learning efforts include understanding cognitive science and pursuing fluency in Italian. Dante is excited for the opportunity to support and follow along with the career development of so many talented, passionate artists as they receive mentorship and direction at AVA.



**MARLENE MILNER** is a Philadelphia native, having attended Friends Select School and Drexel Institute of Technology-College of Business. Her professional experience includes over thirty-five years as a paralegal in the areas of litigation and estates work. She is currently the Treasurer of the Main Line Opera Association of the Academy of Vocal Arts, and she is involved with organizations including the Pocono Mountains Music Festival, Church of St. Asaph, The Cosmopolitan Club, and the Philadelphia Country Club.



**NEAL KROUSE** has a great passion for the arts, particularly opera, ballet, and theater. He is an active member of the arts community in Philadelphia, as he serves on the Board of Directors of both the Philadelphia Orchestra and BalletX. He worked for the United Elevator Company for many years, eventually becoming the company's President. He also worked as a consultant for ThyssenKrupp Elevator Company. A resident of the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, Neal also enjoys traveling and boating.

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Please join us in remembering members of the AVA family who passed away this year. We will miss them dearly.

JOAN O. CAHAN  
DR. RAYMOND T. FRIDAY

JOANNE T. GREENSPUN  
MELISSA PARKS (AVA '96)

LAREN PITCAIRN  
SAUL SILVERMAN



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## SUPPORTING AVA



*Photo credit: Don Valentino*

### ANNUAL GIVING THROUGH THE FRIENDS OF AVA

The Friends of AVA are a dedicated group of supporters who, by investing in AVA's mission through annual gifts, nurture and launch the world's most promising vocal artists. Friends of AVA members have the rare opportunity of getting to know the Resident Artists and artistic team personally through intimate and exclusive parties, concerts, and opera trips.

### FELLOWSHIPS

AVA is the only tuition-free school in the world devoted exclusively to operatic training. While the program has always been tuition-free, AVA now also offers fellowships to assist Resident Artists with the costs of living in Philadelphia during their training at AVA. Resident Artist fellowships can be endowed or funded on an annual basis. Our Comprehensive Scholarships start at \$350,000. Please contact the Development department for additional information.

AVA continues to thrive thanks to the valuable support of its many donors and patrons. If you love opera, a gift to the Academy is a wonderful way to invest in this vital art form. You can take pride in knowing that you are doing your part to ensure the success of the art form by supporting the Resident Artists who are the voices of opera's future.

There are a number of ways that you can make an impact by supporting the AVA Resident Artists and the future of opera.

### THE HELEN CORNING WARDEN SOCIETY—PLANNED GIVING

The Helen Corning Warden Society recognizes the patrons who have made a bequest or other deferred planned gift arrangement for AVA in their estate planning. Gifts can be made in a variety of ways and allow donors to make meaningful gifts that they might not otherwise be able to commit to currently. In addition to bequests, AVA accepts charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, and retirement plan designations. The AVA Development department will work with you to identify the best Planned Giving option for your needs.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may match your gift to AVA, either entirely or in some portion. In some instances, this may double or even triple the benefit of your gift to the Academy of Vocal Arts and its Resident Artists! Please check with your employer's benefits office to determine their matching gift requirements.

### THE UNITED WAY

AVA's Opera Outreach program is eligible to receive individual contributions made through the United Way Specific Care Program. All you need to do is complete the top portion of your United Way form, and then find the line for SPECIFIC CARE and enter AVA's code **#3164**, the amount of your gift, and the eligible agency name: **Academy of Vocal Arts Opera Outreach**.



Resident Artists Gabriela Flores and Renée Richardson with patron George Milner.

*Photo credit: Don Valentino*



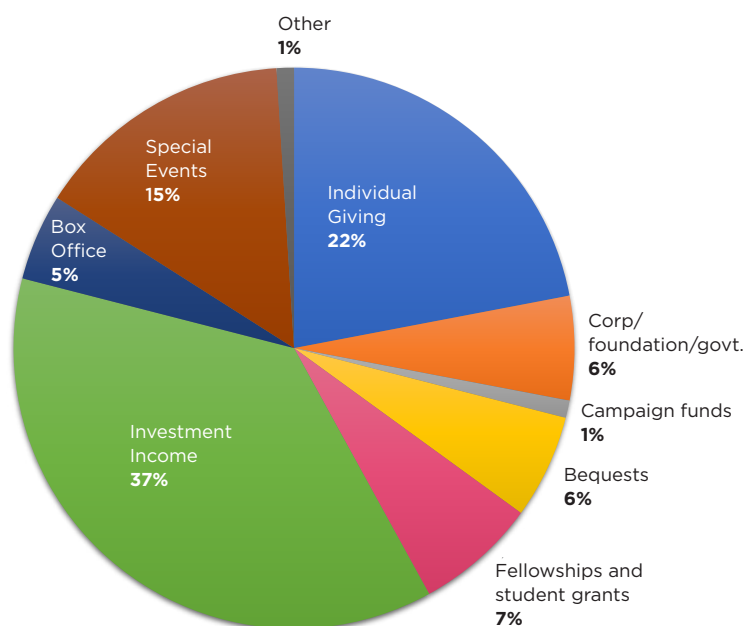
AVA patrons with alumna Stephen Costello in Barcelona.

*Photo courtesy of Robert Lyon*



Joyce DiDonato with patrons from left to right: Gordon Wase, Neal Krouse, Allen Black, Randy Apgar, and Alice Chase. *Photo courtesy of Robert Lyon*

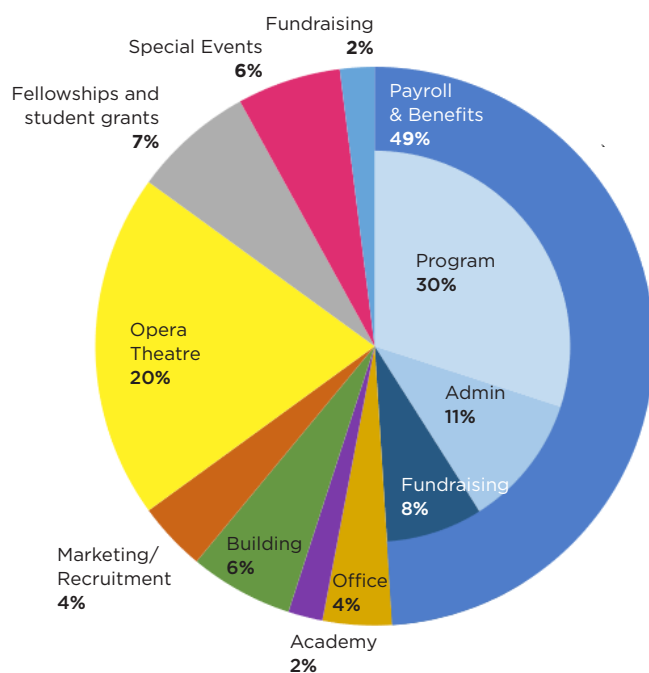
## FINANCIALS



### OPERATING INCOME

**\$4,208,653**

Operating income consists of revenue from a variety of sources. Like many schools, the largest single revenue source for AVA is the investment income from its endowment. Unlike other schools or conservatories, AVA receives no income from tuition, and therefore must rely on support from our loyal patrons. Individual contributions, ticket sales, and special events, including the annual Gala, provide most of the remainder of our budget. In recent years, planned gifts and bequests are providing ever more important revenue support. Thank you to all who share our love for opera and want to help us train the voices for opera's future!



### UNRESTRICTED OPERATING EXPENSES

**\$4,156,629**

The two largest expenditures in AVA's budget, program payroll and benefits, along with opera theatre expenses, are directly related to the training program. Three fully-staged orchestra operas with orchestra are included in the opera theatre expenses. Other costs are associated with recitals, concerts and piano productions.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to extend our thanks to all our donors and contributors. No matter the size of the donation, you are doing your part to ensure the future of opera by donating to the Academy of Vocal Arts and supporting talented Resident Artists. We would like to extend a special thank you to our generous 2018-2019 season sponsors.

### 2018-2019 SEASON SPONSORS:

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Photo credit: Don Valentino