

Spring 2013

# UConn Opera Guild Newsletter Spring 2013

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# UConn Opera Guild NEWSLETTER

2012-2013 SPRING EDITION

February 1, 2013

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**Dr. Constance Rock**

Area Coordinator

**Dr. Jeffrey McEvoy**

Stage Direction

**Meredith Ziegler**

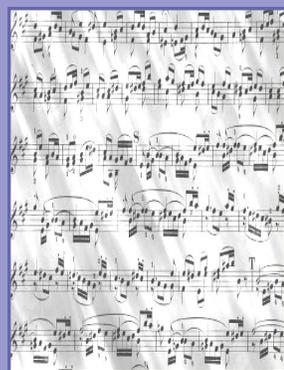
Voice

**Matthew Cimino**

Voice

**Jan Zimmerman**

Guild Graduate Assistant



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## Happy New Year!

### *A Message from the Coordinator of Vocal Studies*

Dear Friends of UConn Opera,

Happy New Year! I can't believe that February is already upon us. This is the month when we start transitioning from winter into spring. I'm sure you're all looking forward to sunnier days as much as I am! On behalf of everyone at UConn Opera I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our program and share with you some highlights of our 2012/2013 season.

This academic year has been an exciting one for UConn Opera! Last fall we took a trip back in American history with the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *The Crucible* by Robert Ward. This ambitious undertaking was heralded a huge success by enthusiastic audiences. I couldn't have been more proud of our UConn singers, who delivered tastefully acted and beautifully sung performances. Besides learning and performing this difficult music, they spent a good deal of time exploring the actual events that inspired the story. To help prepare, our students took a trip to the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers, Mass., and were treated to an in-depth discussion of historical facts surrounding the Salem witch trials. I want to thank all of you who came

to *The Crucible* and, as always, for your support which makes it all possible. Our cast enjoyed meeting many of you at the post-show reception. A special thank-you goes out to Chuck and Lisa Eaton, not only for "sharing" their son, Chuck, who sang the role of Thomas Putnam, but also for their generous contribution which made the reception possible.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I would like to invite you to join us for our first event of the spring semester. On Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in Von der Mehden Recital Hall, we will present our love-inspired Songfest, "Love in any Language." Bring someone special and warm your hearts as you listen to our beautiful singers serenade you with these delightful love songs from countries around the world.

I am thrilled that, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our students and faculty, as well as the generous contributions of donors like you, our 2012/2013 season includes two main stage operatic productions. What better way to usher in spring than with our second production one of the most beloved works in the operatic repertory, Mozart's

timeless favorite, *Die Zauberflöte*? We are pleased to return to the Nafe Katter Theatre for four performances, April 4, 5 and 6 at 7:30pm and April 7 at 3:00pm. We are also delighted to welcome guest conductor Dr. William Halpin to the podium for this production. A UConn graduate, Dr. Halpin hails from Dublin, Ireland, where he most recently held the post of Head of the Conservatory of Drama and Music at the Dublin Institute of Technology. A specialist in Mozart opera, Dr. Halpin brings an exciting perspective to this production. Our star-studded cast will feature students from our undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as some of our alumni who will return to the UConn stage as guest artists. Please see the attached UConn Opera Spring 2013 Challenge. UConn Opera needs your help! We need to raise \$4000 to help cover costs for this innovative, new production. You will be enchanted by this fresh interpretation of Mozart's classic opera, infused with Hindu imagery and the rich jewel-toned colors of Indian culture. I can't wait for you to join us for this fabulous journey.

I sincerely thank each of you for your faithful support of UConn Opera. Without your generous contributions we would not be able to provide these promising singers of tomorrow with such meaningful and necessary performance experiences today. I want to encourage you to continue your membership by completing the enclosed enrollment form and returning it with your contribution. I look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

With thanks and gratitude,  
Connie Rock



The cast of *The Crucible* at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead, Danvers, Mass.

## W.A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*

UConn Opera Theatre is pleased to be presenting four performances of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Nafe Katter Theatre. Sung in German with English dialogue and surtitle translations, our production features two separate casts as student involvement reaches new heights! In addition to the nearly fifty singers from the voice division, we welcome a few alumni from our program to round out our production of one of Mozart's greatest works.

Once again, we are looking forward to working with the Drama department's divisions of Costuming Design and Production Design. Additionally, we are excited to welcome the addition of UConn's own Symphony Orchestra as we continue to expand our collaborating efforts.

The allegorical and fantasy elements prevalent in the libretto lend itself to telling the story from many angles. There is seldom found the same concept and staging between any two productions. It is this

versatility that makes *Die Zauberflöte* such a standard in the operatic repertoire. This year, we are influenced by the beauty and richness of the Hindu culture and present our production embracing Indian aestheticism. *Die Zauberflöte* contains some of Mozart's most charming and memorable musical moments. The accessibility of the score, the number of roles available, and the timeless and challenging melodies of Mozart make the work a favorite of academic venues and perfect for all ages.

We hope to see you there!

### Take Note

#### FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 10 at 7:30pm

*Songfest: Love in Any Language*

von der Mehden Recital Hall, UConn Storrs Campus

Admission Free

#### APRIL

Thursday, April 4 at 7:30pm

*Die Zauberflöte*

Friday, April 5 at 7:30pm

Nafe Katter Theatre, UConn Storrs Campus

Saturday, April 6 at 7:30pm

Tickets will be available at the CRT Box Office 860-486-2113

Sunday, April 7 at 3:00pm

Our Spring schedule is always full of student recitals and we hope you are able to join us

For up-to-date information, please visit our calendar <http://bit.ly/uconnvoicecalendar>

For more information email [operaguild@uconn.edu](mailto:operaguild@uconn.edu) or call (860)486-2684

### Alumni Spotlight: *Stella Roden*

This semester our alumni spotlight features Stella Roden. Stella received her bachelor's degree from James Madison University and her Master's degree from the New England Conservatory before entering the doctoral program at UConn. Here is what Stella has to say about her achievements since graduating from UConn in 2008!

I was fortunate to have been hired by the University of Central Missouri in 2005, before completing my final DMA requirements at UCONN in 2008. As a new faculty, I continued to perform alongside my full teaching schedule. Both are very important components

to successful promotion, and even more vital to the promotion with tenure which I was awarded in 2009.

In the past seven years, my students have become winners or finalists in such competitions as the Kansas City National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the Missouri State and West Central Divisions of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City Collegiate Concerto Competition, and the Naftzger Young Artists Auditions

Apart from my teaching, I regularly serve as soprano soloist for mass and oratorio performances. I also served as Resident

Artist with the Wichita Grand Opera 2011 season, singing smaller roles and as a member of the opera chorus.

This past August, I gave a solo voice recital in Florence, Italy performing the works of Bernstein, Bizet, Debussy, Duparc, Fauré, Gounod, Poulenc, and Verdi with pianist Cristiano Manzoni. The invitation came from the director of the Accademia Europea di Firenze (AEF), a young, but thriving avant garde school for language, social science, arts and humanities, to include intensive music study. In addition to my faculty voice recital this coming April at the UCM campus, I will perform the same program this summer in Florence, Italy.