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## UConn Opera Guild Newsletter Spring 2012

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# UConn Opera Guild

## SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

News and Events for Members and Friends of UConn Voice and Opera



Opera Studio's 2011 production of  
*The Fairy Queen* by Purcell  
photo by Kathryn Bowden

### The Grand Duchess of Gérolstein by Jacques Offenbach

If you were one of the privileged audience members who enjoyed our sold-out production of *Candide* last year, you will not want to miss this year's production of *The Grand Duchess of Gérolstein*.

Dr. Jeffrey McEvoy returns to direct this fantastically incisive satire of militarism, diplomatic maneuverings, and the caprices of the ruling class. The opera tells the story of a spoiled and capricious, but petty tyrant, as her army prepares for a war that is devised solely for her amusement. The Grand Duchess becomes infatuated with a young soldier who she rapidly promotes to General, but then just as quickly, demotes. She then joins in his assassination plot when he marries his sweetheart. Come see how the rest of the story unfolds!

Once again, we are delighted to have Maestro Willie Anthony Waters join us as musical director. Maestro Waters and Dr. Constance Rock collaborated this summer on *The Grand Duchess of Gérolstein* during their residencies at the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Perigueux, France. It is a great honor to have Maestro Waters bring his authentic French experience to the University of Connecticut community.

### A Message from the Coordinator of Vocal Studies

January 30, 2012

Dear Guild Members,

At this time last year, we found ourselves piled under mountains of snow. I hope you're all enjoying this year's calmer winter weather and ready to warm yourselves with some hot offerings from UCONN Opera!

Spring 2012 brings an exciting line-up of events! First, we bring you the 4th annual American Songbook Songfest on February 11 at 7:30pm at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, what better way is there to celebrate than with an evening of classic songs from the 1920s to the 1950s? This well-loved event has sold-out for the past few years, so don't miss the fun – reserve your tickets now!

Your contributions are vitally important to the life of our opera program and to the future successes of our singers. If you were among our enthusiastic audience members at last season's *Candide*, you know what magic your donations and our students can make together! This March, we are thrilled to present Offenbach's hilarious operetta *The Grand Duchess of Gérolstein*, under the musical direction of Maestro Willie Anthony Waters and stage direction of Dr. Jeffrey McEvoy. This light-hearted comedy takes a satirical look at the military and ruling class in the fictional land of Gérolstein, with the delightful melodies we always find in Offenbach's beloved operettas.

You won't want to miss seeing our younger singers in the Opera Studio's double bill coming this April. Our productions of Isabelle Aboulker's *Les Fables Enchantées* and Dan Shore's comedic one act opera, *An Embarrassing Position*, are sure to put a smile on your face and provide you with a wonderful evening of entertainment.

To highlight the real impact your contributions make to the lives and careers of our singers, I want to share with you some exciting news from one of our recent graduates, Kathryn Guthrie. You may remember that Kat was one of our featured UCONN alumni in a UCONN Opera Guild Newsletter. Next month, Kat will be performing the role of Marie in the American premiere of Rufus Wainwright's opera, *Prima Donna*, with New York City Opera! Your support helps us to provide all of our students with enriching performance experiences, giving them the wonderful foundation that leads to such prestigious achievements.

We are all so proud of our talented students and excited to show them off in the season to come. We thank you for your support of our opera and voice programs. We want to encourage you to continue your Guild membership by completing the enclosed enrollment form and returning it with your contribution today. We look forward to seeing you soon as we all share in the performances of our fantastic UCONN singers.

With sincere thanks,  
Connie Rock



"Carmen Quintet"  
Opera Theater's 2011 Scenes Program  
photo by Kelly Davis

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2012

## AMERICAN SONGBOOK SONGFEST IV

It's back! Our annual American Songbook Songfest is celebrating its 4th year in 2012. Come and hum along to classic tunes from the 1920s to the 1950s at one of our most popular events.

**Saturday, February 11 at 7:30pm**

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts

General Admission: \$20

UConn Students with ID: \$7

Non UConn Students with ID: \$10

## *Vocal Honors Recital*

Please join us at the Benton Museum of Art to celebrate some of our most talented freshman and sophomore singers.

**Sunday, February 19 at 5pm**

Benton Museum of Art

Free Admission

## *Les Fables Enchantées*

This fantastic collection of children's fables by Isabelle Aboulker is based on the work of Jean de la Fontaine and is as fun as it is...enchanting! This production is not to be missed. Save the date!

**Friday, April 27, 2012 at 7:30pm**

Storrs Congregational Church Auditorium

Free Admission

## THE GRAND DUCHESS OF GÉROLSTEIN

This fun-filled operetta by Jacques Offenbach will leave you in stitches and humming catchy tunes from its most beloved arias. Reserve your tickets today!

**Friday, March 23 at 7:30pm**

**Sunday, March 25 at 3pm**

Nafe Katter Theatre

General Admission: \$20

Seniors: \$14

Students with ID: \$10

## AN EMBARRASSING POSITION

*An Opera in One Act by Dan Shore*

We are thrilled, once again, to be working with Dan Shore on one of his spectacular operas. Come see this charming opera based on a sketch by Kate Chopin and set in New Orleans in the 1890s. Don't miss it!

**Friday, April 27, 2012 at 7:30pm**

Storrs Congregational Church Auditorium

Free Admission

## *UConn's Student Recitals*

As recital season approaches, we encourage you to check out von der Mehden's website for information regarding student recitals. Undergraduate, Masters and DMA recitals are plentiful this season and provide excellent opportunities to enjoy performances by our amazing students!

[www.sfa.uconn.edu/vdm.htm](http://www.sfa.uconn.edu/vdm.htm)