

The Libretto

Newsletter of the Aiken Opera Society – Act I, Scene III

Mission of the Aiken Opera Society

Opera brings the joy and tragedy of life to us in an art form unrivaled in its beauty and spectacle. Unfortunately, many of us had limited exposure to opera in our youth and came to appreciate opera much later in life. The same remains true of most of the students in Aiken County Schools.

The Aiken Opera Society is dedicated to bringing the experience of live opera performance to students in our schools. Each year a group of Aiken County students in select schools is treated to presentations of opera by the Augusta Opera Society Outreach Group. The school principals and music teachers are contacted and their support solicited for these presentations. In recent years Opera in the Schools has visited J. D. Lever, North Aiken, Belvedere, North Augusta, Mossy Creek, Aiken, and St. Mary Help of Christians schools. In 2005 they were treated to Hansel and Gretel and in 2006 Alice in Wonderland. Students tend to be initially somewhat tentative, but warm up as the performances move along. Evaluations have shown the students, and the schools extremely appreciative of the enhancement this program provides to their arts and music curriculum.

The Aiken Opera Society funds this work through its membership fees and various fund raisers throughout the year. We also take trips to see live opera in various venues from Charlotte to Newberry to Augusta to Atlanta.

We invite you to join with us to support this work – enjoy opera and spread the experience to others. Please complete the attached form and return it with you check. We look forward to you joining us.

Annual Meeting Dinner and Entertainment of the Aiken Opera Society

The Aiken Opera Society

invites you for

Entertainment, Cocktails & Light Supper

At Beautiful Bankisia,

the recently refurbished, re-assembled & redecorated

Historical Museum & Gardens

At 7:00 in the evening of Saturday June 2nd.

\$50 each Person

To make reservations

Return the enclosed Membership/Reservation Sheet in the enclosed stamped envelope,

or

Call 803 215-6166

Performing at the June 2nd meeting will be a female trio from the University of North Texas (UNT). The trio is comprised of three Masters students, all studying for their degrees in vocal/opera performance.

Kristi Haney is a mezzo from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She has been involved with the UNT opera performing the role of Carmen and is also highly involved with the Baroque Choir at UNT. She and her husband will be finishing their degrees next year at the University of Kansas.

Leslie Marks is a soprano from Seattle Washington. She currently studies with Dr. Lynn Eustis and was Clori in the spring production of Cavalli's, "L'Egisto." She will be performing Donna Elvira and other roles in the Harrower Summer Program in Atlanta.

Heather Hanna is a soprano and native of Aiken who received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from USC Aiken. She was seen this year in UNT's production of "Die Fledermaus," where she performed the role of Ida. She currently studies with Dr. Joyce Farwell and is planning on working towards an Arts Administration degree in the near future.

The program for the evening will include trios, duets, and arias from "Lakme," "Rosenkavalier," "Tales of Hoffman," "L'Italiani in Algeri," and many more.